

Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th September 2023

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland,
Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Chilver
and 2 members of the public

71. Apologies; Cllr Ellerton sent apologies due to a personal commitment.
Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier sent apologies.

72. Open Forum for Parishioners; No items were raised by members of the public.

73. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

74. Minutes;

Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 9th August 2023 as a true record.

At this point in the meeting, Item 76 was brought forward, returning to item 75 afterwards.

75. Battery Energy Storage System Proposal;

Cllr Oakland gave an update, including that the working party consists 3 residents and 3 councillors; Cllr Oakland, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Smedley, Steve Slater (chair), Richard Campbell and Paul Collins. Several meetings have taken place to confirm objectivity, and to sanity check the adopted approach whilst awaiting the planning application. The Parish Council has secured additional time from the Planning Authority to prepare a Consultee response, the application is delayed and not expected until October, giving Statera time to complete the required studies and to investigate a private approach to the site, with local Landowners. Once the Planning Application is received, the Parish Council will invite Statera to hold a question and answer session with residents, followed by a resident only session, to allow information and opinions to be shared.

Councillors are aware that a leaflet has been circulated to residents about the proposed BESS, from an anonymous source. It should be noted that the leaflet was not produced by, or in conjunction with the Parish Council or Working Party. The Parish Council is using the Parish Council Notices page of the Granborough website for sharing information.

Resolved: Cllr Fenwick will draft a communication asking Statera to take part in a Q&A with the village and requesting the opportunity for residents to visit a Statera BESS. Cllr Fenwick will also ask Statera to arrange a site visit in Granborough, for all councillors, Buckinghamshire's councillor Chilver and the clerk.

76. Resilience Planning;

The Parish Council received a presentation from Vince Grey and Beth Ruth about the benefits of preparing an emergency community resilience plan to bring together a set of instructions and helpful contacts and advice, should Granborough be subjected to an

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emergency event. The Resilience team at Buckinghamshire Council offer support in the development of community plans including templates, advice and running exercises to test any plans made. The Parish Council would act as the catalyst by putting together a working party with the community. The plan should be about pulling together and recording local skills and resources which could be called upon in an emergency.

Resolved: The parish council will consider the information delivered and reach a decision at the next meeting.

77. Finance;

- a. **Resolved:** To accept the accounts for July and August 2023.
- b. **Ratified:** Payments 36 to 51 inclusive were ratified and invoices over £200 were verified, please see Appendix A.
- c. **Confirmed:** NM&G Sportsfield have not responded further to emails, applied for a grant, or taken up the offer of help in applying to the Community Boards.
- d. **Confirmed:** A form to add Cllr Fenwick and Cllr Anderson and remove Cllr Marchant as signatories, has been raised. It must be printed and signed by both councillors, then signed off by 2 Signatories (Cllr Oakland and Cllr Smedley), before uploading to the bank.

78. Planning;

- a. **Confirmed:** A status update on current planning applications was obtained from the planning portal, please see Appendix B.
- b. **Confirmed:** There are no new enforcement issues.
- c. **Resolved:** The Parish Council formally agreed to delegated the power to request a planning surgery, to the clerk in conjunction with the chairman and/or vice chairman. This circumnavigates the requirement for a planning meeting to take place, prior to a surgery request.

79. Buckinghamshire Council Updates;

Cllr Chilver provided a brief update including that the budget process has started, the consultation is available online for anyone to have their say.

80. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

- a. The following new issues have been raised; None.
- b. Updates on outstanding issues;
 - i. Empty Salt Bin on Green End; enquiries have resulted in no progress, Cllr Chilver will follow this up with the LAT.

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Denham view pavement and kerb stones on Winslow Road have been repaired.
The roadway outside the church has been marked for resurfacing.

81. Play Area;

a. New issues

- i. An issue with closing the gate at the bottom of the play area was raised.

Resolved: This is a weather issue and will be monitored.

b. Updates on existing issues

- i. **Resolved:** To accept the quote of £70+VAT to remove brambles on the lower fence.
- ii. **Confirmed:** The toddler swing cradle has been replaced.
- iii. **Confirmed:** The bolts have been tightened on the log walk.
- iv. **Confirmed:** The bin key is tied on for now. Cllr de Niese will source a chain.
- v. **Confirmed:** Items will remain flagged on the system until the clerk or Cllr de Niese deems the issue resolved, following action agreed at a meeting.

c. To consider appropriate actions for the following flagged issues;

- i. The bird spikes on the swing have been snapped.
Resolved: Cllr Fenwick will replace them with cable ties.
- ii. Ripped basketball net. **Resolved:** Cllr Fenwick will remove the net; replacements are expensive and unfortunately are destroyed too quickly.
- iii. Tree Damage. **Resolved:** Cllr Oakland will prune the damaged branch.
- iv. Zip Wire, the soil has eroded under one leg. **Resolved:** Cllr Watson will circulate a picture for discussion at the next meeting.
- v. Fencing posts. **Resolved:** To be considered at the next meeting once the weather is less hot and dry.

d. The RoSPA recommendations report was discussed. Cllr de Niese will make a few amendments, then the report will be considered for sign off at the next meeting.

Resolved: The clerk will remind RTM that no strimming should take place around wooden structures in the play area.

82. Coronation Meadow Project;

a. The following updates on existing issues were provided;

- i. Wildflower proposals and grant. **Resolved:** To agree a spend of £1860 including VAT on preparing the ground for and planting wildflowers.

Cllr Ellerton has obtained a grant of £410.75 towards seed, the Council agreed a spend of £166 to enable two bags of seed to be purchased.

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- ii. **Confirmed:** The leak in the top pond has been repaired but there is still some water loss to be investigated. The pond will not be artificially topped up at present.
- iii. **Confirmed:** The additional notice for the pond has been installed.
- b. **Resolved:** The following new actions were agreed;
 - i. To Add Meadow inspection items to the play area inspection template. Cllr de Niese will circulate suggestions.
 - ii. Cllr Ellerton will arrange a Volunteer morning in September/October after the grass has been cut short. A good notice period of the event is requested.
 - iii. Bruce Clark has volunteered to provide and fit a pond liner in the lower pond.
 - iv. Cllr Ellerton will draft a notice for the website requesting donations of oxygenating plants for the upper pond.
 - v. The clerk will ask RTM for a quote to cut and drop the pathways on the meadow, once a month in the growing season.
 - vi. The meadow working party will prepare a three year project plan with costings including the rent payments, before the 2024/25 budget is decided in November.

83. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

- a. New issues requiring attention; A request has been received to consider a Street Light reflector. **Resolved:** The clerk will approach the maintenance company to see what options, if any, are available and at what cost. For discussion at the next meeting.
- b. Updates on outstanding issues; **Confirmed:** Street lights No. 7 on Green End and No. 2 on Denham View, have been repaired.

84. Devolved Services; No issues were raised.

Standing orders were suspended to allow the meeting to run over the 2 hour limit.

85. Website/Technology;

- a. Several websites have been under attack from a bot, resulting in Aubergine taking the website down for 24 hrs. Service has now returned to normal.
- b. The following updates were provided;
 - i. Website guidance **Resolved:** Cllr Watson will create a guide on what can and can't be published on the website, for agreement at the next meeting.
 - ii. Dedicated council email addresses. **Resolved:** To agree a cost of £479 per year for a basic plan, allowing for 7 additional council email addresses and secure storage, for data protection purposes. Cllr de Niese will arrange this.

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Resolved: Cllr de Niese will present a short session at the next meeting on data retention and the correct use of email.

iii. **Confirmed:** Anti-Virus software has been renewed on the PC Laptop.

86. Outside Bodies;

Resolved: The clerk will provide a list of upcoming meetings where possible.

a. The following meetings were attended;

i. Clerks Forum – the clerk has circulated updates from the meeting.

b. **Confirmed:** Joshua Walton-Taylor is the new PCSO for Granborough.

87. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

a. **Confirmed:** A response was submitted to the Town and Parish Council Survey.

b. **Resolved:** Cllr Fenwick will draft a response to the Buckinghamshire Council Spending Priorities Survey for consideration (closes 15/10).

c. **Resolved:** Cllr Fenwick will draft a response to the BALC survey for consideration (closes 29/10).

d. **Resolved:** Cllr Smedley will draft a response to Cllr Peter Cooper regarding 20mph limits in Buckinghamshire, for consideration.

e. **Resolved:** Cllr Fenwick will draft responses for consideration to the following;
Permitted development rights (25/9).

Local plans (18/10).

National important infrastructure projects (19/9).

88. **Items for the Next Agenda;** Budget review, community resilience, data retention training

89. **To confirm the date of the next meeting;** 17th October 2023

The meeting closed at 21:53

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Appendix A – Payments Ratified

Note: Invoices over £200 are checked and signed by two councillors.

Ref	Amount	Expenditure	VAT
36	£200.77	SSE Street Light Electricity – June	£9.55
37	£5.00	Reimburse Smarty Sim to V Firth	£0.00
38	£199.15	A.C. Kemp & Sons, Pond Fencing	£33.19
39	£550.44	RTM Grass Cutting #4218	£91.74
40	£252.00	PKF Littlejohn – External Audit	£42.00
41	£***.**	Clerks Pay July	£0.00
42	£53.45	Clerks Expenses July	£0.00
43	£178.80	Wicksteed Leisure, Toddler Swing Cradle	£29.80
44	£55.99	Reimburse V Firth Printer Toner	£9.33
45	£24.98	Reimburse V Firth ESET Antivirus for Laptop	£4.16
46	£30.00	P.R.A. Randles, fit toddler seat	£0.00
47	£182.86	SSE Street Light Electricity – July	£8.69
48	£5.00	Reimburse Smarty Sim to V Firth	£0.00
49	£***.**	Clerks Pay August	£0.00
50	£722.04	RTM Grass Cutting #4283	£120.34
51	£34.55	Clerks Expenses August	£0.00

Invoices 36, 39, 40, 41, 49, and 50 were verified and signed by Cllrs

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
23/02339/COUAR	Land Off Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
23/02239/CPE	Adjacent to 4 Winslow Road	Awaiting Decision
23/02001/COUAR	Farm Building Off Hogshaw Road	Refused
23/01887/APP	54 Winslow Road	Approved
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting Decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting Decision