

DRAFT MINUTES

Grafton Underwood Parish Council



Clerk: Mrs Pat Bird
Rosedale
Twywell
Kettering
NN14 3AL

Tel: 07522 582251
Email: clerkgupc@gmail.com
Website: www.graftonunderwoodparishcouncil.com

Minutes of the meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held at Grafton Underwood Village Hall on Thursday 29th February 2024

Present: Cllr Penny Sneddon (Chair, in the absence of Cllr Rob Corney), Cllr Alastair Wildgoose, Cllr Rob Davies, Pat Bird (Clerk), Sam Rees (Estate Manager, Boughton Estate), and 3 residents

23/076 Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Corney due to a work commitment and these were approved.

23/077 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 16th November 2023 be approved as a correct record and these were then subsequently signed by Cllr Sneddon, as chair.

23/078 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 21st December 2023 be approved as a correct record and these were then subsequently signed by Cllr Sneddon, as chair

23/079 The following matters arising were noted:
Once details have been confirmed to the clerk of what materials are needed to replace the broken timber posts on the green, these will be ordered by the clerk.

23/080 No declarations of interests were received in relation to any items on the agenda.

23/081 Two people, Sam Rees and Gary Gurney, had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the council. Following a vote by those councillors present, Sam Rees was declared co-opted to the council.

Public participation

23/082 The following points were raised by residents attending the meeting

- 2 or 3 dangerous ash trees on Warkton Road
- dead chestnut stump potentially a hazard – this is continually monitored by Boughton Estate
- verge on Geddington Road (about 50 yards down) is a mess – is there anything the council can do
- kerb at Geddington Road junction is becoming a mess – who owns this land
- plastic barriers are still on the side of the Warkton road

DRAFT MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES

- vehicles accessing the entrance to the village hall should be for those using the village hall, the residents who live at no.45, and the farmer

23/083 No report was received from the unitary ward councillors

Village Matters

23/084 Sam Rees stated that he has discussed the flooding issues with Cllr Rob Corney ,the flood warden for the village, and identified some possible actions which will be undertaken to help reduce the risk of flooding. Cllr Corney is arranging a meeting in March to listen to residents' issues and to provide advice and guidance.

23/085 Unfortunately Cllr Corney was unable to attend the meeting. At the flooding meeting in March, tasks, responsibilities, equipment needed, and volunteers will be discussed to establish a Community Flood Plan with the aim of increasing the village's resilience and reducing recovery times from flooding.

23/086 Cllr Rob Davies reported that he had contacted Scottish Power, and the Brigstock Solar Scheme is being sorted first, then they will look at the Grafton Underwood Solar Farm with the intention of connecting them. The proposal is to move the inverters towards Brigstock to mitigate the noise impact on Grafton Underwood and to achieve the permitted noise levels.

Cllr Davies stated that for community benefit funding, the council will be required to propose suggestions of what the community would like in terms of energy saving projects and opportunities. It had previously been estimated that the community benefit funding for Grafton Underwood would be £90K once the required amount of energy had been generated. Cllr Davies added that match funding can be pursued from local businesses and Section 106 applications to reduce the deficit of the community benefit fund (cbf) proposed project(s) costs i.e. a scheme costs £10K – the council can look to obtain say £2K from match funding therefore the value to the (cbf) is only £8K, allowing the pot of money for additional projects to be extended.

23/087 Cllr Alastair Wildgoose reported that the draft neighbourhood plan has been returned to Alison Gibson, (Planit X) with some minor changes. The next stage is for the neighbourhood plan to be sent to the referee to instigate a referendum. Cllr Wildgoose added that he didn't have any timescales for the referendum. Cllr Wildgoose believed that no extra neighbourhood plan funding was required.

Planning Matters

23/088 Regarding the alleged breach of planning control, the clerk reported that a recently appointed planning enforcement officer had taken on the case and that he had been in touch with the estate agents handling the sale of the property. The planning enforcement officer was intending to provide the council with an update in the next couple of weeks. As the original notice, received in August, advised that the case was being investigated and that North Northamptonshire Council would aim to respond within 20 working days, it was **RESOLVED** that a formal complaint be lodged with North Northamptonshire Council, following the conclusion of the investigation.

DRAFT MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES

23/089 Having considered the documents relating to planning application [NK/2024/0051](#) for the erection of a single storey side extension at 10 Cranford Road Grafton Underwood, it was **RESOLVED** that the council objects to this proposed development on the grounds that it would completely change the character of the property, which is in the middle of the village, taking into account the size of the proposed extension in relation to the size of the existing property. Also, the proposed development is contrary to the Grafton Underwood Conservation Appraisal.

Finance Matters

23/090 It was **RESOLVED** that:

- the cash book as of 29th February 2024 showing a balance of £11,912.73 including a £3900 grant from Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, £1000 in general reserves, and £5000 in earmarked reserves for flooding, be noted
- the budget monitoring report as of 29th February 2024 showing three overspends, and a number of underspends, be noted
- the anticipated financial position for 31st March 2024 showing an underspend of £954.93, subject to the payment for the Section 50 licence being made in March, be noted
- the schedule of payments, listed below, be approved

Schedule of Payments

Payments made

Payee	Description	Amount	Relevant Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	February Salary	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112

Payments to be made

Payee	Description	Amount	Relevant Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	March Salary (27 th Mar)	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112
NNC Highways	Section 50 licence	£440.00	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 30
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	April Salary (27 th Apr)	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112

23/091 Following consideration of the clerk's report entitled 'Council's website', it was **RESOLVED** that Parish Online, one of the Cabinet Office's Approved Registrars, be chosen to

- design and host a new accessible website for the council, as their costs were less than those of the others quoted

DRAFT MINUTES

- manage the council's move to a.gov.uk domain, and that the council's preferred name for its new website be <https://graftonunderwood-pc.gov.uk>

It was **RESOLVED** that if this is to be paid for before the end of March, underspend for this financial year will be used. If it is to be paid for after end of March, the website budget for 2024/2025 will be used.

23/092 Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that, rather than wait until the council meeting in May, the decision as to which speed indicator the council should purchase be delegated to Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Alastair Wildgoose, and the clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk seeks a quote from SWARCO as this is used by Weekley Parish Council and was recommended by Sam Rees.

Other Matters

23/093 The half page article for the Together magazine is still being drafted. It was **RESOLVED** that the article be agreed via email, in time for publication and that the half page be also published on the council's website and noticeboard.

23/094 After receiving updates from the clerk, it was **RESOLVED** that

- a) before ordering a copy of the King's portrait, the clerk to check with Paul Harris if it can be displayed in the village hall,
- b) the clerk to send the details of the Kier tree planting project to Richard Daykin, tree warden, for his advice on appropriate locations,
- c) the clerk to contact Nigel Searle to see if he would be available to undertake the council's internal audit, and if not, appoint another internal auditor

23/095 Cllr Penny Sneddon requested that the cut down ivy be removed from the bridge.

23/096 The date of the next meeting was set as Thursday 23rd May starting at 7pm. This will be the annual council meeting.

23/097 The meeting was closed at 8:15pm. Cllr Sneddon thanked the three residents for attending the meeting.