

## DRAFT MINUTES

# Grafton Underwood Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Pat Bird  
Rosedale  
Twywell  
Kettering  
NN14 3AL

Tel: 07522 582251  
Email: [clerkgupc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgupc@gmail.com)

<https://graftonunderwood-pc.gov.uk>



---

### Minutes of the meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held at Grafton Underwood Village Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:00pm

**Present:** Cllr Penny Sneddon (vice-chair), Cllr Alastair Wildgoose, Cllr Sam Rees, Pat Bird (clerk), PCSO 7114 covering Kettering Rural, 9 members of the public

- 24/077 Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Corney (chair) and Cllr Rob Davies. Apologies from both were approved. In the absence of Cllr Rob Corney, Cllr Penny Sneddon took the role of chair of the meeting
- 24/078 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting, The minutes were subsequently signed by Cllr Sneddon, as chair.
- 24/079 The following matters arising from the minutes were noted:  
24/074 The Community Funding 2024/2025 grant application to NNC for funding for a community flood store was unsuccessful. A further application has been submitted via the Member Empowerment Fund with the support of Cllr Mark Rowley and Cllr Elliot Prentice.
- 24/080 No declarations of interests, in relation to any items on the agenda, were received from the members.

#### Public participation

- 24/081 PCSO 7114 introduced himself and gave a brief description of his role, the main purpose being to provide a visible presence. He explained how residents should report issues to the police and encouraged residents to sign up to Northamptonshire Talking to receive updates from Police Officers and PCSOs as to what is going on in their area.  
The clerk will publish contact details, etc, on the council's website, notice board, and on Facebook  
PCSO 7114 offered to provide a drop-in surgery for residents to discuss their own particular issues. He also offered to undertake speed monitoring with the speed gun  
On behalf of the council and residents in attendance, Cllr Sneddon thanked the PCSO for attending the meeting.

Residents, affected by the recent fire in Grafton Underwood voiced their concerns about the safety of their properties and themselves if they are required to replace their roofs with thatch and if the bridge remains as it is, i.e. preventing ready access to fire fighting vehicles. The parish council explained it's consultative role in helping NNC to determine planning applications and that its comments will be based on information presented in the planning application and associated documents.

## DRAFT MINUTES

A resident raised an issue that other properties were affected by the fire as their electric supply had been disconnected from the National Grid and further to this the outside electric wires linking the cottages have been deemed dangerous and need to be replaced

24/082 No report was received from the Unitary ward member(s)

### Planning Matters

24/083 It was **RESOLVED** that the submission of the Grafton Underwood Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying documents to North Northamptonshire Council under Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 be approved.

24/084 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's response to North Northamptonshire Council for planning application [NK/2025/0064](#) Acreland Farm (barn at), 50 Cranford Road, Grafton Underwood, be noted

24/085 It was **RESOLVED** that no objections be raised by the council, to North Northamptonshire Council for planning application [NK/2025/0055](#) Orchard Cottage, 40 Cranford Road, Grafton Underwood

### Village Matters

24/086 In advance of the meeting, Cllr Rob Davies had provided the clerk with some stats from the speed indicator device. The clerk reported that data from the speed indicator device on Grafton Road, approaching the village from the Slipton, Warkton, Cranford crossroads for the end of November to 25<sup>th</sup> February showed that 23,630 vehicles travelling under 30mph, 8256 between 30 and 35, 1966 between 35 and 40, and 239 between 40 and 50. There is a vehicle that travels between 35 and 37mph at 5:30am every week day. The clerk added that the speed indicator device is to be moved to the Brigstock Road end of the village and further data will be downloaded and shared.

24/087 Cllr Sam Rees reported that he had met with the Environment Agency's Catchment Coordinator for the Welland and Nene to discuss water management. Their conclusion regarding the small overflow pond was that its ability to help with flood alleviation would be limited but it could create a good wetland habitat for the enjoyment of the village. Their view on the brook was that the measures that have been put in place to hold the water back during the drier months, brick dams, sluice gates etc, are restricting the water flow during the high rainfall events. Holding the water back is also contributing to the silt build up and plant growth as the water heats up and lies stagnant in the sections its being held up in. Cllr Rees will meet with Cllr Corney, as the flood warden, to discuss these points in more detail.

### Finance Matters

24/088 It was **RESOLVED** that the

- Cash Book as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 showing a balance of £11,602.04, be noted
- Bank Reconciliation as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 showing a balance of £11,602.04 be noted
- Budget Spend as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 of £7,697.29 ex VAT be noted
- Anticipated Budget Spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 of £8,046.73 be noted

24/089 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments set out in the Schedule of Payments be approved.

### Governance Matters

24/090 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's updated Equality and Diversity Policy be adopted

## DRAFT MINUTES

## DRAFT MINUTES

- 24/091 Following a review of the council's Risk Management policy and Risk Assessment, it was **RESOLVED** that no changes were required.
- 24/092 Following a review of the council's Asset Register, it was **RESOLVED** that the identified changes be made.
- 24/093 The clerk outlined the process for the Elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May, as set out on the council's website, [Elections 1st May – Grafton Underwood Parish Council](#). It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.  
Cllr Alastair Wildgoose announced that he would not be standing for re-election  
Cllr Penny Sneddon announced that she may not be standing for re-election

### **Other Matters**

- 24/094 There were no further updates from the chairman to note.
- 24/095 The clerk reported that Nigel Searle had agreed to undertake the internal audit for the council. Cllr Rees reported that the white fence on the roadside of the brook is broken and he was concerned that this could be a safety issue. The clerk will investigate and raise the issue on Fix My Street
- 24/096 It was **RESOLVED** that the date of the annual meeting of the council, following the elections, be Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7pm, subject to the availability of the Village Hall.
- 24/097 The meeting was closed at 8:40pm