

DRAFT MINUTES

Grafton Underwood Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held at Grafton Underwood Village Hall on Monday 4th August 2025

Present: Cllr Rob Corney (chairman), Cllr Rob Davies (vice-chairman), Cllr Same Rees, Cllr Martin Leitner, Cllr Gary Gurney, Pat Bird (clerk), Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore (NNC Member Geddington and Stanion Ward)

- 25/031 The chairman welcomed Cllr Gary Gurney, a new member of the council.
- 25/032 All members were present, so no apologies for absence were received.
- 25/033 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 19th May 2025 be approved as being a correct record
- 25/034 Matters arising
25/022 The clerk reported that they had continued to use Zurich for the council's insurance for 2025/2026. The cost was higher than anticipated as the rate that the council had been on for a number of years was no longer available. However, the new rate offered by Zurich was very competitive compared to other providers
- 25/035 No declarations of members' interests in relation to any items on the agenda were received
- Public participation**
- 25/036 The chairman welcomed Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore to the meeting.
Cllr Bendon Lovell-Moore introduced himself and outlined his aspirations for the local area, especially for the future generation. He offered his support to the parish council and to the residents to tackle any community issues.
A resident raised a question about the replacement oak posts along the side of the brook. It was agreed that the replacement oak posts will be stored in the Village Hall shed and used to replace damaged or missing oak posts positioned to prevent parking on the verge along the brook and also to help prevent cars from entering the brook.
Paul Harris reported that he had met with Rosie Wrighting the MP for Kettering and that she had expressed an interest in attending parish council meetings.
The issue of how to make people aware of the constraints of living in a conservation area in terms of planning development matters, parking, etc, was raised.
A "Welcome Letter" for new residents, welcoming them and encouraging them to support community activities, and ensuring that they and all existing residents have a common understanding of the constraints of living in a conservation area so that the benefits can be enjoyed by all, will be considered
A resident asked if a cigarette bin could be installed outside the Pig and Waffle.
A resident asked if new dog poop signs could be placed around the village. A resident offered to

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provide some new dog poop signs.

A resident reported that the footpath leading up to where the house fire was needs repairing.

A resident reported that they had been bitten by a dog which had escaped from its front garden. Whilst this incident had been reported to the Police, other residents expressed their concerns by the dog's behaviour especially if in the presence of children, or vulnerable adults.

A resident asked if anything can be done about restricting the use of drones in the area, as it was felt that these can invade the privacy of persons and their homes.

A resident asked what the plans were for the cherry trees alongside the brook.

Cllr Sam Rees, as tree warden, will look to remove any dead, dying, or dangerous trees, and suggest how they can be replaced. He will also look at maintaining the others.

A resident asked if anything can be done to help delivery drivers find the correct property when delivering parcels.

Planning Matters

25/037 North Northamptonshire Council's Notice of Refusal for planning application [NK/2025/0212](#) to remove existing windows and replace with doubled glazed windows at 4 Cranford Road was noted

25/038 The clerk reported that the submitted Grafton Underwood Neighbourhood Plan is currently being considered by NNC to check that it meets the necessary legal requirements. If the necessary legal requirements have been met, NNC will launch a formal consultation on the submitted neighbourhood plan.

Parish Matters

25/039 Cllr Rob Corney reported that following the last council meeting, the old allotment land which is to be leased to the council by Boughton Estate has been partially cleared and the intention is to continue to clear the land, divide the area into two, one for play area for children / social area for families, and the other for community allotment use.

Cllr Corney added that the community allotments would require a group of volunteers to undertake clearing work etc, and that whilst the council will govern the use of the community allotments and provide financial support (within its budget), it will be the responsibility of the local community to agree and abide by the rules of the community allotments.

A resident advised that historically there was a well located on the old allotment land, and that care would need to be taken to ensure the safety of all users of the area

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Corney and Cllr Martin Leitner initially lead on the community allotment project, supported by the clerk, and that Cllr Corney and Cllr Leitner engage with members of the local community who wish to get involved with the project.

25/040 The clerk reported that they had published the speed monitoring data on the council's website and published a link to this on the Grafton Echo Facebook site. The data confirms the residents' perception of speeding vehicles in the village, especially along Geddington Road.

The clerk added that an application has been submitted to the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Road Safety Community Fund, with the support of Cllr Lovell-Moore, to purchase a further moveable speed advisory sign.

The clerk added that whilst this project is led by Cllr Rob Davies, two or three volunteers to help to optimise the sign would be welcome.

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to a successful application to the Road Safety Community Fund, a moveable speed advisory sign be installed longer term at the location where there is the

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biggest problem with speeding and the existing speed sign be alternated between the other two locations, in effect having two speed signs to monitor the three roads.

- 25/041 Cllr Rob Corney reported that a number of items have been purchased for the community flood store including hydro sacks, gloves, waders and a chainsaw. Cllr Corney advised that the council is seeking a long-term plan for flood prevention and increasing wildlife habitation, working with the local community including landowners, and other external agencies such as Kier and the Environment Agency. Cllr Corney emphasised that proactive flood prevention measures are needed to help reduce reactive flooding tasks, and he wished to thank all those who have been actively involved in clearing overgrown vegetation and mowing.
It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Corney continues as the Flood Warden, until a replacement can be identified, and that the council continues to contribute financially to flood prevention measures, subject to its budget constraints.

Finance Matters

- 25/042 The clerk presented a brief report to the council, outlining the impact on the council's budget, i.e. the clerk's monthly salary for 2025/2026 would be £160.80, resulting in payment for the clerk's contracted salary for 2025/2026 of £1,929.60, and the council's budget for the clerk's contracted salary for 2025/2026 is £1,928.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/2026 be implemented

- 25/043 The August Finance Report was noted, i.e.
a) Cash Book as of 31st July 2025, showing a balance of £10,607.67
b) Bank Reconciliation as of 31st July 2025, showing the bank balance of £10,607.67
c) Budget Spend as of 31st July 2025, showing total spend (ex VAT) of £2721.19
The clerk referred to the overspends against budgets for Information commissioner registration (£7), Insurance (£34) and stated that these will be accommodated from underspends elsewhere in the budget.

- 25/044 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be authorised

Governance Matters

- 25/045 Following the council's review of its Standing Orders, no required changes were identified
25/046 Following the council's review of its Financial Regulations, no required changes were identified

Other Matters

- 25/047 The chairman reported that Officers from the local neighbourhood policing team will be holding a community surgery on Saturday 9th August 10:00 - 11:00 in Brigstock Road, Grafton Underwood.
25/048 There were no further updates from the members or clerk
25/049 The date of the next scheduled meeting was set for Monday 3rd November at 7pm, subject to the Village Hall being available. At this meeting the council will be setting its budget and required precept for 2026/2027.
25/050 The chairman closed the meeting at 8:35pm