

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Present: Cllr Rob Corney (chairman), Cllr Rob Davies (vice-chairman), Cllr Martin Leitner, Pat Bird (clerk), 11 residents, Dan Ferrier (Renewables Development Manager (Energy) Buccleuch), James Blythe and a colleague (Infinis)

- 26/032 Cllr Rob Corney welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 26/033 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sam Rees (away), and Cllr Gary Gurney (another commitment). It was **RESOLVED** that both absences be approved.  
Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore, NNC member for Geddington and Stanion Ward also sent his apologies.
- 26/034 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 be approved as being a correct record
- 26/035 The following matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda were noted.  
25/054 The rotting/damaged oak posts along the brook will be replaced, now that the ground is not so hard
- 26/036 No declarations of members' interests, in relation to any items on the agenda, were received
- 26/037 Dan Ferrier, Renewables Development Manager (Energy), Buccleuch provided an update regarding the Grafton Solar Scheme. Dan explained that Infinis will be taking over the delivery of the Grafton Solar Scheme. A decision on a planning application for the installation of a cable between the Grafton Solar Scheme and the Brigstock Solar Scheme is due soon. This would remove the need for a substation for the Grafton Solar Scheme. Infinis have started work on the substation at the Brigstock Solar Scheme. The existing tower will be dismantled, and a new tower built. Vehicles required for this work will use the existing road network on Boughton Estate.  
James Blythe of Infinis briefly introduced the company, which has its headquarters in Northampton. James explained how the Community Benefit Fund works and that it is managed by Grantscape. Dan Ferrier advised that the increased generating capacity from 38W to 49.9MW would result in an increase to the Community Benefit Fund for Grafton Underwood. James Blythe added that this would be circa £250K for Grafton Underwood. Dan added that the Grafton Solar Scheme will go live after the Brigstock Solar Scheme, but work is progressing on the Grafton one.

#### Public participation

- 26/038 No issues were raised by the residents attending the meeting.

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### Planning Matters

- 26/039 The council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council on the following planning applications, handled under the council's Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, were noted
- a) [26/01275/HFUL -10 Cranford Road Grafton Underwood NN14 3AA](#)  
Application has been approved by NNC
  - b) [25/01376/LBC - Orchard Cottage 40 Cranford Road Grafton Underwood NN14 3AA](#)  
Application has been withdrawn by the applicant
  - c) [26/00783/VAR - Grafton Solar Scheme, Brigstock Road Grafton Underwood](#)  
Application has been approved by NNC
  - d) [NK/2025/0167 – Kettering Energy Park](#)  
Application is still in progress
- 26/040 The Clerk reported that the Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026. In response to the question, 'Do you want North Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Grafton Underwood to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area', 35 residents said Yes and 7 said No. As the majority voted Yes, the Neighbourhood Plan for Grafton Underwood will now be used by NNC alongside its planning documents when considering planning applications in Grafton Underwood. Cllr Rob Corney thanked Alastair Wildgoose for leading the parish council through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Parish Matters

- 26/041 Cllr Rob Davies provided the latest speed data. Issues of speeding are a major concern to residents. Traffic calming measures such as chicanes and speed bumps are not considered suitable for Grafton Underwood. 20 mph zones could be considered but probably would themselves not prevent vehicles being driven at excessive speeds through Grafton Underwood. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk sends the speed data to the Road Safer Team at NNC and asks them for advice as to what other measures can be taken to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.
- 26/042 Alastair Wildgoose had sent an update on the situation regarding the overspill pond, which had been sent to the members. In summary, fencing removed at the time of the site clearance has not been replaced, which is a concern for the safety of anyone entering the site, particularly children, due to the proximity of the brook. The site that was cleared is now again overgrown and clearance work appears to have stopped. Alledge Brook adjacent to the bridge and especially extending north remains badly overgrown and may create an obstruction the free flow of the river. For the screening it was suggested that cricket bat willow and English native species be used. It was **RESOLVED** that the council supports the creation of an effective overflow to assist with flood prevention. It asks that Rob Corney, as the Flood warden, speaks to Sam Rees, Boughton Estate Manager to set a plan of action in place to create an effective overflow. First priority is the safety of the site, second priority is the clearance of anything hindering the creation of the overflow, third priority is the planting of the screening. Also, that Rob Corney ensures those affected by this are aware of what's happening. Rob Corney is to report back to the council on progress and outline any specific support required from the council. Rob Corney will also engage with the Flood Prevention Volunteers to undertake some clearing of the brook before the winter weather arrives.
- 26/043 Natalie Garratt had sent an update on the Growing Together project. The main points were the need to progress with the site preparation tasks around safety and security, i.e. fencing, gate

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and locks. Three allotments are in use, with two still available for use. A need to collect more water has been identified. It was **RESOLVED** that details of the site preparation tasks be sent to Sam Rees to co-ordinate these with support from Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Rob Corney and volunteers from the village. Invoices/receipts for Growing Together works will be managed by the clerk.

### Finance Matters

- 26/044 The September Finance Report, was noted, with
- a) Cash Book as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 showing a balance of £18,449.84
  - b) Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 showing a bank balance of £18,449.84
  - c) Budget Spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 showing spend of £1947.86 ex VAT
- 26/045 The clerk outlined the financial impact of the 3.3% increase for the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27, for the clerk, and the council. The increase in the clerk's pay is within the council's 2026/27 budget for the clerk's contracted salary. It was **RESOLVED** that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27 be implemented by the council
- 26/046 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be authorised
- 26/047 It was **RESOLVED** that the council purchases a poppy wreath to commemorate Remembrance Day, using money allocated to Section 137 expenditure

### Staffing Matters

- 26/048 Receipt of the clerk's resignation was acknowledged. It was **RESOLVED** that the council will advertise the vacancy for a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in October / November

### Other Matters

- 26/049 There were no further updates from the chairman.
- 26/050 There were no further updates from members or the clerk.
- 26/051 The date of the next scheduled meeting was set as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2027 or Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2027, with the budget setting and possible appointment of a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer being key agenda items.
- 26/052 Cllr Rob Corney closed the meeting at 7:55pm