

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 Thursday 2nd February 2023

Present: Cllr Rob Corney (Chair), Cllr Penny Sneddon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dean Baker, Cllr Alastair Wildgoose, Pat Bird (Clerk)
Sam Rees (Boughton Estate)
Rob Davies, Paul Harris, Jane Wildgoose

22/118 Apologies received from Cllr Alex Medri were approved.

22/119 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held on 22nd November 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

22/120 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held on 12th January 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising, not included on the Agenda, for report only

22/121 4. Ruby's name has been replaced on the Zurich insurance documents with the Clerk's name
6. The VAT 126 claim should be completed this month

22/122 No declaration of interests in relation to any items on the Agenda were made by any of the Councillors.

Public participation

22/123 Rob Davies has still not received any communication from Scottish Power Renewables regarding the Solar Farm. The Clerk responded saying that they received an email from Dan Ferrier of Scottish Power Renewables on 27th January and will share this with the Councillors and Rob Davies

Paul Harris raised the issue of the faulty streetlights, one on the path leading up to the Village Hall and the other next to the telephone box. The Clerk responded saying that these had been reported but in chasing progress was informed that the contractor had been to check the lights in Burton Latimer. The Clerk will chase progress with this

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Paul Harris welcomed the repainting of the 30 mph roundels

Cllr Penny Sneddon asked if the plastic barriers near the bridge on the Warkton Road could be reported as they seem to have been discarded and the brambles etc are growing through them. The Clerk will report these

22/124 No report was provided by the Ward Councillors who were unable to attend the meeting

Village Matters

22/125 Cllr Rob Corney, Chair, reported that the potholes were getting worse, especially along Cranford Road and asked the Clerk to report these

22/126 Sam Rees, Boughton Estate, reported that

- he would revisit cutting back the hedge at the crossroads to increase visibility along the road. Sam asked whether a fence to replace the hedge should be considered. It was agreed that Sam should look to see what could be cut back first to see if this improves the visibility
- the willows by the brook have been taken down, the debris has been removed and the soil regraded
- Glyn Davies from the Environment Agency has advised digging out a channel to allow water to flow through to the overflow pond. Sam reported that grass clippings etc have been dumped and there are tree roots in this area so clearing this will be a big job. Sam will continue to work with Glyn to get this sorted

The Parish Council felt that the work done in the Autumn had made a huge difference to the brook which coped well with the heavy rain over the last few months. However, it was noted that the plant life was beginning to grow again, and that further work will be required to clear this.

22/127 The Clerk reported that Dan Ferrier from Scottish Power Renewables would be on the Solar Farm site on February 7th and 8th if anyone had any particular issues they wished to discuss with him

22/128 The Clerk reported that NetCom have identified a problem with the control unit that controls the sign at the crossroads. NetCom stated that a replacement part has been ordered and will be fitted in the next 7 days. Until this is replaced the signs will not be operational.

22/129 Following discussions surrounding the role of the Parish Council in the village's celebrations to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, it was **RESOLVED** that £150 be donated to the Coronation celebration working group and that Cllr Penny Sneddon would represent the Parish Council on this.

Finance Matters

22/130 It was **RESOLVED** that the Cash Book as at 31st January and the Budget Spend as at 31st January be noted. Also that sufficient unspent money from this financial year be transferred to the Reserves for Flooding as £2,040 ex VAT had been spent this financial year from the Flooding Reserves.

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- 22/131 It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report be noted and that the Schedule of Payments be approved, including £207.14 to Cranford Parish Council as a contribution to the Clerk's administration costs (a breakdown of which was sent to the Councillors with the Agenda)

Approved Schedule of Payments			
Payments to be made			
Payee	Description	Amount (£)	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	January Salary	£122.80	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	February Salary (due 25th February)	£122.80	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	March Salary (due 25th March)	£122.80	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
Cranford Parish Council	GUPC's contribution to Clerk's administration costs as approved in Minute 22/109	£207.14	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
NCALC INV- 2418	VAT Recovery	£2.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
Payments already made			
Payee	Description	Amount (£)	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	December Salary	£98.40	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
Alastair Wildgoose	Reimbursement for timber post	23.98	Highways Act 1980 s 96(5)

Planning Matters

- 22/132 Following consideration of Planning Application NK/2023/0005 for a new permanent agricultural worker dwelling with associated works and parking at Stone Acre Farm, Grafton Road, Cranford, NN14 4JE, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supports the application but asks for two conditions to be considered.
Firstly, that the permanent agricultural worker dwelling replaces the temporary agricultural worker dwelling, i.e., the temporary one is removed.
Secondly, that lighting on the site is reduced, e.g., sensor based lighting rather than constant lighting is used

- 22/133 Cllr Wildgoose reported that Alison from PlanitX is currently working through the details of the non-listed buildings. Cllr Wildgoose confirmed that Grafton Underwood's Neighbourhood Plan aligns with the Northamptonshire Countryside Design Guide.

Other Matters

- 22/134 It was determined that the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be Thursday 11th May 2023

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- 22/135 It was determined that the date of the Parish Meeting would be Thursday 11th May 2023, before the Meeting of the Parish Council and that the Village Hall Committee, the Church, the Tree Warden, the Parish Charity, and Sam Rees be invited to attend the meeting to present reports alongside the Chairman of the Parish Council
- 22/136 The meeting closed at 20:05