

## 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)  
Website: [www.graftonunderwoodparishcouncil.com](http://www.graftonunderwoodparishcouncil.com)

---

### Minutes of the meeting of Grafton Underwood Parish Council held at Grafton Underwood Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Present:** Cllr Rob Corney (Chair), Cllr Penny Sneddon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alastair Wildgoose, Cllr Rob Davies, Pat Bird (Clerk), Sam Rees (Estate Manager, Boughton Estate), 3 residents

23/048 Cllr Rob Corney welcomed Cllr Rob Davies to the council acknowledging that Cllr Davies' expertise will be a great asset to the council. Cllr Davies signed his declaration of acceptance.

23/049 Apologies received from Cllr Alex Medri were approved.

23/050 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved as a correct record and these were then subsequently signed by Cllr Corney, as chair

23/051 The following **matters arising** were noted:

23/027 The bottom light on the warning sign at the Grafton crossroads appears to be working but the top light does not appear to be working. The clerk to report this.

23/030 The streetlight at the access to the village hall has been repaired but the streetlight next to the telephone box is still not working. The clerk to report this to the street lighting team at North Northamptonshire Council

23/030 The plastic barriers still need to be removed from the Warkton Road. The clerk to chase this.

23/052 No **declarations of interests** were received in relation to any items on the agenda

#### **Public participation**

23/053 The following points were raised by residents attending the meeting

- The speed of vehicles travelling past the Grafton Underwood Memorial. The resident suggested that rather than a 60 mph limit immediately after the 30 mph ends in the village, a speed limit of 40 mph limit immediately after the 30 mph limit ends should be considered to reduce the risks to road users, including cyclists. This was supported by Sam Rees, Estate Manager, Boughton Estate, who commented that there have been a couple of near misses involving vehicles and farm machinery.
- Whether a Stop sign rather than a Slow Down sign could be placed approaching the Grafton crossroads as there was another accident there recently
- Overgrown vegetation in the area by the pumping station needs cutting back

DRAFT MINUTES

## DRAFT MINUTES

- Two dangerous trees on Warkton Road, Sam Rees will inspect.
- Whether an aerial map will be produced showing the areas of historic interest in the village
- Whether there was a map showing the green spaces around the village
- Overgrown vegetation at the crossroads, on the verge, where the two posts are for the Slow Down sign is hindering visibility. Sam Rees will investigate.

23/054 No report was received from the Unitary Ward Councillors

### Village Matters

23/055 Sam Rees stated that given the rain that we had had over the recent weeks, the brook has coped well and whilst Boughton Estate had been flooded, the brook hadn't, following the work undertaken last autumn. Sam added that work will continue with this.

23/056 Cllr Rob Corney reported that the community effort to clear the brook will continue, time and weather permitting. Sam Rees confirmed that his team will remove any cleared vegetation.

It was acknowledged that there is still more work to be done, e.g. near the schoolhouse, and from the sluice gate to the bridge near Whitehouse Farm and pruning of the trees alongside the brook. It was accepted that the flood prevention measures on the brook would not prevent flooding off the fields.

Cllr Rob Davies reported that Highways were scheduled to pick up the blocked manhole and the culvert to aid the water flow.

23/057 Dan Ferrier sent an update report regarding the Grafton Underwood Solar Farm project. Dan advised that minor works had been carried out in September, upgrading site drainage. The plan is to finish off works end of November / early December, with a small team working on site for about 1, maybe 2 weeks max.

Dan also sent through the Construction Environmental Management plan for the scheme. Cllr Rob Davies added that the reports being prepared are to discharge the remaining conditions of consent on the Solar Farm planning application. Cllr Davies, together with Cllr Alex Medri, will advise the council of any concerns arising from the reports.

In his report, Dan advised that Boughton Estate is developing another solar scheme, named Oakley Bush and sent the location plan for this scheme for the council's information.

23/058 Cllr Rob Corney had previously circulated the open letter regarding the proposed Kettering Energy Park to North Northamptonshire Council signed by thirteen parish/town councils. The main points of the letter are the proposal is not an energy park but a significant warehouse development; there is a lack of public support for the proposal; there has been inadequate public support; serious concerns regarding increased traffic volumes; and the overall impact of the proposed development on the rural landscape. The letter asked NNC to focus on alternative renewable energy solutions and suggested that all parties work together to find sustainable solutions that protect our environment and enhance the quality of life for current and future generations in our communities. The letter was included in the officer's report

## DRAFT MINUTES

## DRAFT MINUTES

presented to the NNC EAP Planning Communities meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November. The clerk reported that they attended the EAP meeting and felt that the points covered in the letter were recognised by the members at the meeting.

The EAP meeting details are available at [Agenda for EAP Planning Communities on Wednesday 15th November, 2023, 10.00 am - North Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/Agenda-for-EAP-Planning-Communities-on-Wednesday-15th-November-2023-10.00-am-North-Northamptonshire-Council)

- 23/059 Cllr Alastair Wildgoose reported that Alison Gibson, from Planit X is seeking to include the tourist implications of the airfield. Cllr Wildgoose added that the neighbourhood plan recognises Grafton Underwood's conservation area status and identifies buildings etc of special interest. Feedback on the draft neighbourhood plan is still being considered by Planit X.

### Planning Matters

- 23/060 The clerk reported that no update has been received regarding the alleged breach of planning control despite chasing the case officer. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk escalate the issue.
- 23/061 Having considered the documents relating to planning application NK/2023/0615 for the erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension at 45 Cranford Road Grafton Underwood, it was **RESOLVED** that the following objections be raised for this proposed development.
- contrary to the Grafton Underwood Conservation Appraisal
  - size and scale are disproportionate to the existing property
  - prominent position, highly visible from the public highway
  - one of the first properties you see as you enter the village
  - impact access to, and parking for, the village hall

### Finance Matters

- 23/062 It was **RESOLVED** that the 2023/24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement be implemented resulting in £1 per hour increase for the clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- 23/063 It was **RESOLVED** that:
- the cash book as of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 showing a balance of £8679.58 be noted, with £1000 held in general reserves and £5000 held in earmarked reserves for flooding
  - the budget monitoring report as of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be noted
  - acknowledging the cost of the Section 50 licence was £440, and not £341 as originally quoted, the payments presented in the schedule of payments, listed below, be approved.

## DRAFT MINUTES

### Schedule of Payments

#### Payments made

Payee	Description	Amount	Relevant Legislation
Geosphere	Parish Online digital mapping	£38.40	Localism Act 2011

#### Payments to be made

Payee	Description	Amount	Relevant Legislation
PM Bird Reimbursement	Poppy wreath	£27.25	LGA 1972, s.137
NNC Highways	Section 50 licence	440.00	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 30
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	Backdated national pay award	£70.00	LGA 1972, s.112
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	November Salary (27th Nov)	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	December Salary (27th Dec)	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112
PM Bird (Clerk) & HMRC	January Salary (27th Jan 2024)	£132.80	LGA 1972, s.112

23/064 The council's responsible financial officer presented the budget proposal for 2024-2025. Following consideration of the budget proposal, it was **RESOLVED** that the proposed budget of £4185 for 2024-2025 be approved.

23/065 Following consideration of the council's planned expenditure for 2024-2025, it was **RESOLVED** that the precept required by the council for 2024-2025 be set at £3800, supplemented by £385 underspend from the current financial year. The precept of £3800 represents an increase of 3.4% on the precept for the current financial year.

#### **Electoral Matters**

23/066 The clerk reported that following the Local Government Boundary Commission's electoral review of North Northamptonshire Council, the final recommendation was for Grafton Underwood be included in the Geddington and Stanion ward with Stanion, Little Oakley, Newton, Weekley, Warkton, Geddington and Cranford, with one councillor for the ward. If approved by Parliament the new arrangement will take effect following the elections in May 2025

#### **Governance Matters**

23/067 Following a review of the council's asset register, it was **RESOLVED** that the identified updates were incorporated in the asset register and that the updated asset register be published on the council's website.

23/068 Following consideration of the risk management policy and risk assessment, it was **RESOLVED** that both documents be approved, and that the risk management policy be

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

reviewed November 2024, and the risk assessment be reviewed as required, and no later than July 2024

### **Other Matters**

- 23/069 There were no further updates from the chairman, clerk or members.
- 23/070 The date of the next scheduled meeting was set for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, subject to the Village Hall being available.
- 23/071 The meeting was closed at 8:30pm.