



Grendon Underwood Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.45pm

DRAFT Issue date 25th September 2024

E. Maker Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS & STAKEHOLDERS

Prior to the meeting being formally constituted for Council business, the Chairman may hold a discretionary Open Forum, for contributions from Parishioners and other stakeholders attending, (under adjournment): Items requiring decisions must be deferred for inclusion in the next agenda.

Councillors Present: Cllr Moloney (Chair), Cllr Maker (Vice), Cllr Benfield Cllr Scanlon, Cllr Jackman and 2 members of the Public

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Fealey and County Cllr McPherson
2. **Open Forum** – A scout representative took issue with an item on the draft minutes from July. The councillor who originally made the claim didn't have the moral courage to speak, and it was decided that as it was unsubstantiated it would be removed from the minutes. The website was criticised as being difficult for colour blind people. **Action** Clerk to check to see what could be done and feed back to the resident.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – None
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** – not signed as they are to be amended as spoken of in section 2.
5. **Matters from last meeting:**
 - 5.1 MVAS – Cllr Jackman asked that the email generated by the Chair, Cllr Moloney be put on the minutes as an appendix. Cllr Moloney put on record that speeding is not as prolific as some believe. Refer to appendix. Cllr Jackman said he felt the MVAS summary created by Cllr Moloney to be very good.
 - 5.2 Fix My Street – Cllr Maker has pursued many issues to good effect although some FMS are more than a year out of date. **Action** Cllr Maker to forward data to County Cllr Macpherson.
 - 5.3 Play Equipment update – Cllr Benfield confirmed he and others would remove condemned equipment and make good the ground. Cllr Moloney asked that he provide an emailed detail, timeline and works to be completed before the next PC meeting. **Action** Cllr Benfield
 - 5.4 The Clerk spoke of how she has applied for lottery funding to supply three items of play equipment. She will also apply for HS2 money and is currently awaiting prices from play companies before she puts a bid in. She also highlighted that FCC landfill site have grants available and we are eligible. Funding wouldn't be available before March.
 - 5.5 Grendon 800 – Cllr Maker will attend the debrief meeting on Wednesday evening. Cllr Scanlon asked when the meeting was. All donations from the Farming and Equestrian event had been paid in to Parish Council bank and will pay for the new village notice board to house the village map. The Swan had very kindly donated generously, and this will be used for a new bench to be sited opposite the village shop with a suitable plaque. Other local businesses had been very kind with their support. A list is available from G800.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 Rosefield Solar Farm – a lengthy objection was sent from Grendon Underwood Parish Council. Cllr Jackman said he felt it scandalous that 2,000 acres of productive land are to be lost. He felt windmills was a better solution to our need to create power. Cllr Scanlon said she thought all new houses should be fitted with solar panels.
7. **Biodiversity**
 - 7.1 Cllr Maker attended a Buckinghamshire Council Bio-Diversity Seminar and briefly shared his understanding. He spoke of how swifts are in decline. He wished to speak to the Village Hall to see if they could install bird boxes, especially swift boxes on the hall. Buckinghamshire Council are asking all communities to have more wildflowers, which would all feed into the bigger picture. Cllr Jackman vehemently opposed the idea and felt that Grendon Underwood was as biodiverse as it could be. Cllr Maker & Cllr Moloney disagreed.
8. **Finance**
 - 8.1 Expense Claims – Clerk - agreed
 - 8.2 Invoices to pay. - A T Benfield - agreed
9. **Agenda requests from Councillors:**
 - 9.1 Speedwatch – the Police would need to work with one person who could train the volunteers. Cllr Moloney to speak with volunteers **Action** Cllr Moloney
 - 9.2 Bank Access – Cllr Benfield has contacted the Bank so that Cllr Maker will be able to look at statements.



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9.3 New Noticeboard – Clerk has this in hand.

9.4 Bulb Planting – Cllr Maker spoke of how Marsh Gibbon had asked for us to order for them. Cllr Jackman said that wasn't necessary as they had already ordered, and he had them in his garage. He feels they don't flower for long and are unsightly for a long time after and we should not buy any more. Cllr Moloney and Cllr Maker were disappointed. Cllr Moloney brought the matter to a swift close by saying Grendon800 already have a donation earmarked for village bulbs and she will personally pay any shortfall. **Action** Cllr Maker and Cllr Moloney

9.5 Proposed Hedge Cutting Letter - Cllr Maker was concerned private hedges had overgrown the pavements and had drafted a letter he wanted to give to residents. Cllr Moloney, however, felt a softer approach by a polite Facebook post would be more suitable. Resident's overgrown hedges are not our remit but can be reported on FMS. **Action** Cllr Moloney to post a general appeal on Facebook regarding overgrown hedges, litter and parking of cars on the grass.

9.6 Risk Assessments – Cllr Maker & Jackman had met earlier to go through the Risk Assessments. In the evening there was concern and much debate raised by Cllr Jackman regarding the land to the rear of the Church and of the farmers perception as he has been grazing this land. It was agreed for Cllr Benfield & Cllr Maker to meet with the farmer **Action** Cllr Benfield to arrange meeting. In the meantime, the Playground Risk Assessment is to be adopted and uploaded onto the website.

9.7 Discussion of funding proposal by Cllr Jackman - Cllr Jackman repeatedly declared that Grendon Underwood Parish council were overspending declaring that no more money should be spent until the playground is sorted. The clerk has updated the website so all can see. When asked what we have overspent on Cllr Jackman said it's not the past, but future spend so effectively we are not overspending as Cllr Jackman stated he means in the future. Cllr Maker said that all spending by the Parish Council is always agreed in advance by Councillors and did not see a problem. Cllr Jackman reiterated that we need to save money for new play equipment.

9.8 Wreath for Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Maker said in light of 9.7 he will personally pay for this. **Action** Cllr Maker

9.9 Xmas Tree – private donor(s) are being sourced for this.

10. Reports from Stakeholders:

10.1 Village Hall - Cllr Moloney enquired what is happening about the Gigaclear signage and free workshops the village hall are supposed to be running in order to keep to their contractual commitments. Gigaclear had given £6000 free wifi to the village hall and the village hall had not yet honoured their side of the agreement. Cllr Scanlon requested a contact number from Cllr Maker to make enquires. Cllr Fealey left a detailed report, which was, in her absence, read out *Broken windows have been replaced and three that are misted over are in toilet areas and therefore not worth replacement at the moment.*

The external company who had been approved to undertake work to remedy dampness have said that they are now unlikely to be able to undertake the work as it is not a domestic building - this is contrary to what the company had previously said. Meanwhile temperature and humidity are being monitored.

Electrical works being undertaken by John Curzon are well underway

A review of the constitution taken place and local groups and organisations, that meet the criteria and are not represented, asked to consider and encourage appointing a representative trustee. Carol Scanlon appointed as a co-opted member as Andy Benfield now trustee representing the Football Club. Quorate for meetings is one-third of the total of appointed trustees.

Online booking system was revisited and discussed. No decision made to change manual diary booking at the moment.

Portrait of King Charles to be erected in the committee room and agreement for 2 W.I. pictures to also be hung - after the redecoration of the room, which is being arranged by the chair.

Car Park potholes to be filled before next meeting (schedule of meetings including AGM to be compiled by chair). NB AGM is a public meeting and needs to be advertised in advance of date.

Away changing room door to be replaced and fire doors checked - quotes being obtained.

Gigaclear promotion - open training session being arranged, and poster/banner erected but needs improved fixing.



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- 10.2 Saye and Sele - Cllr Jackman said they have received 5/6 applications from young people with hopeful approval
 - 10.3 School – none
 - 10.4 Springhill – Clerk confirmed she had contacted HMP regarding cutting of a small green area and will report to the Springhill Residents Association (SRA) upon reply. Cllr Scanlon reported there is to be a live band in the village hall that will be run by SRA. She did not know when the next meeting was and had not attended any recent meetings.
 - 10.5 Faith Beaumont – Cllr Benfield reported they are in the process of re-opening the charity and have had a startup meeting.
11. **Monthly Inspection**
 - 11.1 Playgrounds – Completed.
 - 11.2 Defibs. – Completed
 12. **Agenda requests from the public –**
 13. **Open Forum for Members Only** (under adjournment)

Date and time of next meeting Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

Note from the Clerk

Thanks go to all those who attended the Defib course and to Michael Hearn who delivered the training. I felt it was excellent, and good that we all were so involved.

Appendix 5.1 notes from the Chair

Speedwatch

A note to say you will have seen various posts regards Speedwatch in our village.

I want to be clear that we the PC will not be running the scheme, we are merely the conduit to bring the Volunteers together to action. There will be a Community Speedwatch Group. They will report directly to TVP not the PC. We will of course support them and welcome any reports to our PC meetings.

I will contact all of those that have come forwards to date (5) and set up a meeting. I will be asking for one of them to put themselves forward as the lead as TVP will liaise with only one of them. TVP will offer them training and loan equipment to capture the data (when the equipment is available). Any adverse data is reported to TVP who will consider setting up speed traps.

Regards Speedwatch at Springhill. I have spoken with Chair of Springhill Residents. If the residents want to set something up on the private areas they own, that is for them to sort. The prison already have their own RA in place together with 20MPH signage and a flashing speed sign on the main drag that they own. The Chair assures me it is almost impossible to speed around the estate and in fairness only two people have asked for Speedwatch on the estate. The Residents Association can gather their own volunteers.

MVAS data

I have spent an age on collating MVAS data, and I have to say we don't really have that much of a problem at the moment. Every now and then a real speeder (well over limit) but TVP will not consider involvement unless continuous offending occurs. In the past we had reports of 2 very serious offenders, village witnesses stated offenders were doubling the speed limit or thereabouts. They were very harsh on social media about the drivers. Number plates and times were taken, TVP got involved, one lady was doing 29mph and this was evidenced by her onboard computer that TVP downloaded onto their system. The other lady was a taxi driver, again, data was retrieved, and she was doing 27mph. TVP said perception is not evidence and must be supported by fact. I agree.

I will bring along data from the past three months for all village cameras. It's been a nightmare but we're in good shape now with the report and I am satisfied they are accurate, but it took some patience and analysing!

Cllr Maker can you help please? When next on your village travels, we have 3 units in the main village that have small padlocks on. The padlocks need to be cut off and replaced. We haven't got the keys! When they are cut off and before replacing, please let me know as we need to reboot the systems as they are bogged up with millions of data cells that is taking up precious memory. The only way we can reboot is by removing the battery and placing it back in again. I don't have any spare padlocks, but the clerk can claim on expenses.

Crime Prevention Grants

TVP will put out another round of grant funding early next year towards crime prevention. In order we don't miss the boat again can you have a draft grant applications ready please. My ideas would be for a speed gun (we can then loan out instead of waiting on TVP). There is a speed system up at Lawn Farm, but we do not receive any data. It is owned and operated by BC. Can you please make enquiries as to how we can obtain the data? if it is not doing a job can it be converted with a new system? If not, can we replace it with a TVP grant for another MVAS. They tend to speed there. Also on the wish list is CCTV but I have put that idea forwards to the MOJ as part of the new prison village incentive. (if it's ever built!). Councillors what ideas do you have for crime prevention?



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Date	Type	Description	Debit	Credit
30/09/2024	FPO	CLERK SALARY	£ 485.40	
30/09/2024	FPO	ST LIGHTING MAINTENANCE	£ 45.60	
30/09/2024	FPO	OFFICE EXPENSES	£ 57.11	
30/09/2024	FPO	HMRC	£ 34.60	
30/09/2024	FPO	VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING	£ 580.00	
17/09/2024	DD	ST LIGHT ENERGY SUPPLY	£ 84.51	
16/09/2024	DD	ST LIGHT ENERGY SUPPLY	£ 81.81	
13/09/2024	DD	ST LIGHT ENERGY SUPPLY	£ 166.32	
13/09/2024	BGC	PRECEPT		£ 10,425.50
02/09/2024	DD	REC BINS	£ 36.40	
02/09/2024	SO	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	£ 10.00	