



# GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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## **MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

*Pursuant to the LGA 1972, various sections, all parishes in England must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between 1 March & 1 June which may be convened by the chairman of the parish council or any two parish councillors or by six electors having posted a notice of time, place & agenda at least 7 clear days beforehand. Its sole purpose is to discuss "Parish affairs" which may extend to include any public matter of a parochial nature.*

*A parish meeting consists of the local government electors registered in that parish. The chairman of the parish council may attend whether an elector or not and, if attending, must preside.*

*This is not a formal Parish Council Meeting and is not governed by exactly the same rules as Ordinary Parish Council Meetings. Any resident of the Parish or Organisation either based in or operating in the Parish are welcome to contribute, make proposals and give an Annual Report, given appropriate notice.*

*The meeting is open to members of the public who are not eligible to speak.*

*Any Parish Councillors attending do so as residents or members of the public and their vote carries the same weight as any other parishioner.*

*The Chairman gives a Report on "parish affairs" over the previous year and will hear proposals & concerns of residents for the forthcoming year.*

*The Responsible Financial Officer gives a report on parish finances and any organisations receiving grants from the Council are invited to update residents on how their money is being spent.*

Draft Issue date – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*B. Martindale - Acting Parish Clerk*

**Note:** names are withheld under Data Protection legislation.

**In attendance;** the Chairman of the Parish Council, who duly presided, 22 parishioners, two representatives of local law enforcement and the AVDC District Councillor for the parish. The Clerk to the Parish Council took the minutes. The chairman confirmed by a show of hands no members of the public were present. (i.e. non-residents of the Parish).

**Apologies;** BCC County Councillor for the parish due to pre-arranged appointment.

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 19.30.

The following reports were heard and are attached to the minutes;

1. The Chairman conveyed a summary of County Council activity during the year on behalf of BCC Councillor A. Macpherson. (attachment)

**Minute:** Councillor Macpherson drew attention to an increased awareness (at County Council - Highways level) of speeding and traffic volumes through the village and she encouraged everyone to keep her informed of experiences. She provided timely advice of various methods of recording & reporting such anti-social behaviour. There is a pothole reporting system available to all residents (link on the Parish Council web site) and extra funding is available. She can be contacted directly using the details on the Parish Council web site.

2. Representative of Thames Valley Police community policing team gave a short summary of law enforcement in the Parish. (attachment)

**Minute;** our local 'bobbies' picked up on the speeding theme and reported their awareness and support for any initiatives residents may wish to develop. Let them have your feedback or use the contact form on the Parish Council web site to co-ordinate.

In answer to a query from the floor, the Parish Council web site address is <http://www.bucksvoice.net/grendon-underwood-parish-council/> or search for Grendon Underwood Parish Council (not the village web site)

3. The Chairman of the meeting gave an annual state of the parish address; (attachment)

**Minute:** she thanked Councillors present for their support over the year and stressed how much progress Council has made over the past few months in modernising financial and operational systems and improving accountability and transparency. She reported the new CCTV system is operational and the proposed MUGA is going to plan.

4. The RFO's gave an annual status report on Parish finances. (attachment)

**Minute:** the RFO gave a comprehensive breakdown of income & expenditure over the last financial year including HMRC & VAT, general & earmarked reserves, the precept, asset holding, subscriptions, grants and annual audit status. He reported that reserves are healthy and will allow for some limited increased expenditure next year

5. Grendon Underwood Village Hall was invited to give a summary of how their grant is being used. (attached)

**Minute:** VH trustee, Mr Jackman, tabled the charity's annual report expanding on expenditure over the year and plans for the future. He reported the VH reserves remained healthy and that income was in excess of costs, albeit not by as much as desirable. The VH has agreed to hold hire charges as last year but he warned of a potential risk to continuation due to the discretionary nature of part of its exemption from business rates. Should this not be continued, an increase would be inevitable. He advised and welcomed all to the bar now open in the VH on Friday

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evenings. He advised the VH car park continues to provide a vital community asset for 'school run' traffic to park far more safely than on road. He expressed the charity's thanks for its grant from the Council and projected how it intends to use it.

6. St Leonard's church was invited to give a summary of how their grant is being used. (attachment)

**Minute:** the chairman tabled a letter of thanks from the church treasurer confirming how well the grant had been received as a major contribution to maintaining the above ground visual aspect of the church grounds as a local amenity.

7. Continuing the themes raised in agenda items 1 & 2, a resident described her experiences with speeding down Main Street. This was immediately corroborated by almost all attending all with similar experiences of speeding, both down Main Street and Broadway, congestion at and dangerous negotiation of the A41 junction with Broadway, HGV kerb encroachment, parking on the kerb and numerous examples of near misses. There was extended discussion of what could be done and the police expanded on what is available legally and practically. Several residents offered their time and support in setting up an action group to also include school initiatives. A resident agreed to be the lead on a project to put speed limit signs on bins along Main Street. The contact form on the Council web site was suggested as a more formal channel to County as required. The Chairman moved a motion that the Council should fund the signs initiative from the reserves identified. This was seconded by another resident. The resolution was enthusiastically passed without dissent. The project lead (with others volunteering) will advise the Chairman how many signs will be needed and how best to involve the school and its pupils. The Chairman of the meeting agreed to liaise with the Parish Council in her capacity as its Chairman to release the funds. Police officers attending confirmed they will be pleased to support any village initiative.

8. A resident of the parish moved a motion that agenda items APM.01 through APM.11 would more appropriately be considered at the Annual Parish Council Meeting immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting. The motion was seconded by another resident and the Chairman called for a vote - there were no dissensions. The Chairman duly declared the motion passed by a majority of those present and voting.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 20.04.

**Signed Chairman of the meeting:** .....

**Dated:** .....