



## GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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### **MINUTES of a GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held remotely on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

DRAFT Issue date – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

B. Martindale - Acting Parish Clerk

*The Council maintains an 'open for business as usual' policy, during the Covid19 crisis in so far as this is possible under current Government guidance. Meetings will be held remotely until further notice subject to the usual quorum requirements for participating Members. Remote meeting dates and joining instructions are publicised on the Council web site & noticeboards and posted to social media in due time allowing residents to also participate remotely.*

The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 19.30 and, as a 1<sup>st</sup> order of business, confirmed the meeting would be recorded for minute purposes and participation is taken as consent to the meeting rules on the web site.

#### **Open Forum for Participants-**

The Chairman to confirm the Council is keen to hear from residents and summarised the necessary time constraints for contributions as detailed on the Meetings page of the PC web site.

Planning Application 20/04418/AOP, 5 dwellings adjacent to Ivy Cottage - A resident requested the Council oppose this application on grounds supplied by the resident prior to the meeting. The item is on the Agenda and will be debated as it arises. The Chairman declared an interest and Cllr Benfield & Jackman would progress the Council response.

#### **To Review the NO MORE PRISONS HERE campaign**

The Council held an open Preliminary Fact-Finding Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. All participant comments are posted to the public domain on the Notice Board of the Council web site without any editing or omission. There was an overwhelming opposition and the Council agreed to develop & prosecute a campaign of opposition using all legal means open to it and to tap into a major local resource of experience, expertise & qualification within the community.

A second meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Attendance was limited, under licence conditions, to 100 & many more were in the 'waiting room'. Local County Councillors and our MP attended. A resident gave a factual, real world presentation, drawn from numerous official sources, bringing home the devastating effect such an enterprise would visit onto the community. The MoJ gave a presentation which was obviously a stock presentation designed for urban locations & completely irrelevant to this prison and its proposed location. It was ill-prepared, ignorant & dismissive of local conditions and demonstrated a contempt for local people and communities. There were no fact-based considerations of location, HMG stated policy on 'levelling up' or its green space/ net zero carbon objectives. They were unable to answer queries on how Grendon was selected and what other locations had been considered. Overall, it was condemned by many as insulting to the intelligence, arrogant, full of misrepresentation and obfuscation & arrogantly dismissive of local concerns. Our MP, Greg Smith, advised his full support and our BC Councillor, Angela Macpherson, would make our case at BC Cabinet meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The outcome of the Cabinet Meeting & a full consolidation of comments & suggestions will be posted to the web site in due course. **Minute:** The Chairman summarized the above and urged everyone to keep going until the very last minute. & get family & friends involved as well. The closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> January and we will keep trying. She advised the BC cabinet meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> January resolved to oppose with only one abstention.

#### **Covid19 Status Report.**

To consider updating previous – Buckinghamshire Council, in consultation with NHS partners, declared a 'Major Incident' on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020, amid fears the number of COVID-19 cases could overwhelm our local health and social care services. It is essential we all continue to practice hands; face; space; until further notice.

A Vaccination Centre for patients registered to 3 GP practices at Ashcroft, Waddesdon & 3W Health is already operational at Winslow, starting with the most vulnerable. Others are also coming on stream.

The COVID-19 vaccine programme continues to gather pace. Latest numbers from Buckinghamshire Council on the council web site Notice Board.

It is essential we all wait to be called, do not try to make your own arrangements – and watch out for cruel phone & email scams offering early jabs.

The volunteer group remains ready to re-activate should that become necessary. The shop remains a vital community asset and has provided, through the Parish Council, a number of crisis food hampers over the Christmas period for eligible families.

The community police team remains at full stretch and requests that calls on them be kept to an absolute minimum.

Local surgeries in Waddesdon & Steeple Claydon are open by appointment and in emergency only – use 111 wherever possible or 999 in emergency as usual.

Updates from Buckinghamshire Council, with links to important, official sources of information, continue to be posted to the Notice Board on the Council web site. **Minute:** the Clerk updated the vaccination status as at 21/01/21 as 121,338 residents of Bucks had been inoculated. Keep distanced; keep washing hands; keep wearing a mask for some time yet.

**2101.01 Attendance and apologies:** To note.

**Participating.** Councillors Moloney, Benfield, Jackman, Hedgecox, Mackenzie, Clerk.

**Apologies.** BC Councillors Macpherson & Branston

**Absences.**

There were 18 participants in all.

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**2101.02 Members Interests:** Members to be invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Grendon Underwood Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. **Minute** – the Chairman declared an interest in the application to be considered later.

**2101.03 Approval of Minutes;** To agree and sign the minutes of the General Meeting of Grendon Underwood Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 as a true & accurate record. The DRAFT minutes were posted on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 so they could be taken as read at the meeting & such as to allow the minutes to be approved remotely. The Clerk to post as approved with hard copy held pending final ratification when signature is possible. No changes to the DRAFT have been requested by the cutoff date. **Minute** – agreed unanimous

**2101.04 Regulatory.**

- i) **Standing Orders, Council Policies, Procedures & Protocols;** to monitor changes. **Minute-** monitoring.
- ii) **Other Legislation & NALC Advice;** to monitor changes. **Minute-** monitoring.

**2101.05 Finance & Accounts.**

- i) Consider the RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS for the period since last meeting; the Chairman to summarise invoices received and paid by emergency protocol authorisation. Relevant bank statements to be issued with the minutes as usual. The Chairman to confirm status all payments. Previously resolved to approve following payments- New Notice Board; NO PRISON flyers; CCTV upgrade; **Minute-** all payments up to date.
- ii) To consider the budget & precept request for 2021-22: to ratify the Precept request submission made on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for £20851.45 to maintain no change to council tax. **Minute-** so ratified - unanimous
- iii) To consider proposal to upgrade council laptop, submitted 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. **Minute-** Cllr Jackman proposed; Cllr Benfield seconded; resolved unanimous. The Clerk to progress against the proposal submitted.
- iv) Cllr Benfield to propose Notice Board at shop **Minute-** resolved to move the notice board across the road from the shop to the shop side. Suitable location to be considered.
- v) Cllr Jackman to propose purchase of key safe in support of Medical Emergency Action Plan resubmitted 18.01.21. **Minute-** so resolved unanimous. Cllr Jackman to progress and claim.
- vi) To consider expenses and other claims; none current. **Minute-** monitoring
- vii) To review Grants – Incoming – under Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1. none current. **Minute:** monitoring
- viii) To review Community Grants – Outgoing – under objective specific legislation - none current; **Minute-** Cllr Jackman asked for agreement in principle to support replacing the grass cutting machinery. So agreed.

**2101.06 Planning;** to review any major developments proposed. To consider Consultee requests awaiting response & to ratify any applications processed by fast-track protocol. To consider the planning balance for:

**20/04418/APP 2 Feb 21-** land adjacent to Ivy Cottage – 5 dwellings. **Minute-** The Chairman declared an interest and Cllr Benfield & Jackman would progress the Council response. Council is minded to oppose on grounds to be outlined by Cllr Jackman in a suggested submission for consideration. To be forwarded in time to meet the due date of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

**2101.07 Environment.** To report any issues in respect of:

- a Footpath Lighting under Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; To report any outages – a resident has requested turning a light off at night and some way of preventing glare intrusion. **Minute-** Council is legally bound not to deliberately turn lights off at night for safety & crime deterrence reasons. Light shields are possible but would lead to multiple requests for which council could not fund. Further investigation would be needed to establish if lights are on private or public land.
- b Prison lighting – outages remain on Prison responsible roads and a dangerous pot hole needs reporting. The Clerk to contact the prison accordingly & respond to resident.
- c Verges & Hedges under LGA 1972, ss.101, 111, 112; **Minute-** the footpath along Main Street is still slippery. Bucks Highways to be notified again.

**2101.08 Communications.**

**1. WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

- **Buckinghamshire Council:** Land reclamation at Main Street/ Broadway on hold; **Minute-** Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board; next meeting in March; Cllr Moloney to represent. Crisis Fund request granted – emergency food parcels and Crisis Bulletin distributed. **Minute-** the Chairman thanked all involved in distributing the crisis food hampers at Christmas especially the shop which provided content at cost. Other funding applications to be considered – upgrade IT, community green space at church.
- Environment & Green Spaces sub-committee; meeting last week; next meeting tba Cllr Moloney to represent. Project funding options to be explored in conjunction with school/ Woodland Trust project. **Minute-** further progress suspended due to COVID-19. Minutes to be posted to Council web site.
- Highways Safety sub-committee; next meeting tba Cllr Macpherson to participate. HS2 Schedule 17 Consented in November 2020 – no notification to council. **Minute-** noted.
- Parish Liaison Meeting; next meeting tba. **Minute-** noted.
- Freight Steering Group; next meeting tba. **Minute-** noted
- **Saye & Sele:** Cllr Jackman to report. **Minute-** report received to be posted to web site.
- **Village Hall:** Cllr Benfield to report. 1st Aid Training suspended until further notice. **Minute-** report received to be posted to web site
- **CCTV Upgrade.** Further to resolution, the CCTV system has been upgraded on 1st December 2020. **Minute-** noted. Cllr Jackman to circulate access codes.

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- **Community Police Team:** local crime stats as at Jan21 with reference to prison related have been provided **Minute-** agreed to be posted to web site.
- **HMP Grendon:** contact with Governor re new prison and expressed willingness to support community projects when possible. **Minute-** very open to supporting the community when possible. Head of security contacted to establish regular reporting of status based on authoritative data to counter the wild unsubstantiated claims on social media.
- **School:** Woodland Trust tree project detail awaited **Minute-** suspended due to COVID-19. Cllr Jackman to reconnect when possible.
- **EfW: Minute-** Next meeting 21.01.21. The Chairman to represent. Cllr Macpherson to chair. **Minute-** The Chairman reported on last meeting; the London contract is a rolling 2 month contract; in 2020 there were 0 (zero) complaints; a solar farm is planned on the disused tip.

## 2. WITH INFRASTRUCTURE

- **HS2/EWR Working Group:** comprising Buckinghamshire County, all Parish councils along the construction route and representatives of both infrastructure project consortia. The HS2 Schedule 17 traffic application (on Council web site) was consented in November 2020 without promised notification to Council. Whilst the Application specifically highlights the pedestrian crossing at the church, across its construction route as it passes through Grendon Underwood, as being particularly dangerous, advised on 19.01.20 was not mentioned to BC by the contractors and will be addressed at next meeting with HS2 contractors. The Road Safety Fund is due to launch 22 February and communications will be issued during the week before **Minute-** monitor progress
- **UK Power Networks:** nothing to report. **Minute-** noted
- **Opus Energy:** nothing to report. **Minute-** noted.

## 3. WITH COMMUNITY

- Springhill- at the last meeting, it was advised a resident's association was being formed. The criteria that PC would need to see in place for recognition of a duly constituted resident group has been advised. This was in progress with an AGM scheduled in Spring and further advice will be forthcoming. **Minute-** resident advised still on track. The Chairman congratulated on as successful Christmas Fayre.
- Notice Boards - a new Notice Board is on order. **Minute-** to be located at Springhill
- Third Generation: Collaboration projects for the over 70s to be explored. - awaiting details. **Minute** – noted.
- To consider Community Green Space options at church. - motion to use council land at church: proposed Cllr Hedgecox, seconded Cllr Mackenzie, unanimously resolved. Options & grant funding to be sourced. **Minute** – to be progressed next meeting.
- Parish Flyer – Crisis Bulletin issued December 2020. Further two NO PRISON HERE flyers printed and distributed by hand to all in Grendon & Springhill – Edgcott have done similar. **Minute-** the Chairman thanked all involved and Haddenham Community Board for contribution.
- MVAS/ Speeding/ Go30: suspended pending lifting of restrictions. **Minute-** noted.
- Fly tipping in layby on Broadway remains problematic: Reported to BC. The Council will quarantine the bin previously left outside the village hall having been removed from near a Memorial Bench. **Minute-** resolved to close the layby. Clerk to write to Highways to action.
- Web site & email: nothing to report. **Minute-** noted.
- Gigaclear: nothing to report. **Minute-** noted.

### 2101.09 Amenities.

- Playground: Cllr Jackman confirmed COVID notices are monitored and compliant as necessary. **Minute-** the approved emergency action plan to be publicised when initiated.
- MUGA: start delayed to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2021. To comply with legal requirements of due diligence, transparency, accountably, and independence in the disposition of such large amounts of public money, Council has resolved to oversee the management of this project professionally such as to ensure value for money and the mistakes of the last playground project are not repeated. **Minute-** it was resolved to set a target completion at year end.
- Defibrillators- **Minute-** satisfactory.

**2101.10 Committees; Personnel Committee - Confidential Information;** The Parish Council will make a Resolution to exclude the public from this part of the meeting in accordance with Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

To review progress on recruitment of the new clerk; appoint a selection panel. **Minute-** selection committee identified.

**2101.11 Open forum for Members** (under adjournment); for Councillors to bring items to go on the agenda, for discussion at the next meeting. **Minute-** prison protest campaign diverting resource.

**2101.12 To confirm date of next meeting;** To confirm date as scheduled on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. Status of remote or actual to be considered. **Minute-** so confirmed. REMOTE.

Meeting closed at 21.31

Signed as a true and accurate record: .....

Cllr K. Moloney, Chairman presiding

Dated: .....

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GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL - TRANSACTIONS			December	2020
Transaction Date	Trans Type	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
01/12/2020	SO	MARION RYLEY Professional Services	£ 10.00	
02/12/2020	FPO	HMRC - ACCOUNTS	£ 67.60	
02/12/2020	FPO	CLERK NOV 2020 SALARY	£ 270.40	
02/12/2020	FPO	GM OUTDOOR verges inv1636	£ 185.00	
02/12/2020	FPO	GM OUTDOOR church inv1635	£ 90.00	
15/12/2020	FPO	ROSS SEARLE CCTV 090127	£ 2,280.00	
15/12/2020	FPO	A.T. BENFIELD No Prisons 01 REIMBURSE inv9212357	£ 87.00	
15/12/2020	FPO	MEDIA PRINT HUB Crisis Bulletin inv9225698	£ 80.10	
17/12/2020	DD	OPUS ENERGY LTD inv69654596	£ 34.48	
18/12/2020	DD	BC AYLESBURY GEN Waste inv502936	£ 18.05	
18/12/2020	BGC	BUCKS CNCL BACS		£1,350.00
24/12/2020	FPO	GRENDON STORES CRISIS HAMPERS	£ 486.93	
24/12/2020	FPO	GM OUTDOOR STATEMENT BALANCE*	£ 635.00	
24/12/2020	FPO	HMRC - ACCOUNTS	£ 67.60	
24/12/2020	FPO	CLERK DEC 2020 SALARY	£ 270.40	
		<i>*inv 1619 £90,</i>		

**GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

January 2021

Transaction Date	Type	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
04/01/2021	SO	MARION RYLEY Professional Services	£ 10.00	
14/01/2021	FPO	NOTICEBOARDS ONLIN Inv6519	£ 900.00	
14/01/2021	FPO	TEEC LTD web migration Inv3680	£ 480.00	
14/01/2021	FPO	MEDIA PRINT HUB publicity	£ 86.40	
18/01/2021	DD	OPUS ENERGY LTD inv	£ 38.98	
20/01/2021	DD	BC AYLESBURY Gen Waste December20 inv	£ 654.34	
20/01/2021	DD	BC AYLESBURY Gen Waste inv	£ 17.10	
29/01/2021	FPO	HMRC - ACCOUNTS	£ 67.60	
29/01/2021	FPO	CLERK JAN 2021 SALARY	£ 270.40	
29/01/2021	FPO	PIKE SMITH & KEMP inv professional services prison objection	£ 468.75	