



Grendon Underwood Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.45pm

DRAFT Issue date 29th January 2025

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 K Moloney, (Chair) Cllr Jackman Cllr N Maker, Cllr A Benfield, Cllr C Scanlon, Cllr L Fealey, County Councillor F Mahon

1. **Apologies:** County Cllr Angela Macpherson
2. **Open Forum** – County Councillor Frank Mahon gave an update on the Solar Farm and of the Mega Prison build. He is concerned that the National Grid and the Government's claims are not in harmony. He also spoke of how he writes for The Claydons' Parish Magazine, that is not available to Grendon Underwood. **Action:** Cllr Fealey is to enquire if he can write in Life Together, a village newsletter which is produced by the Anglican Churches and distributed free to every house in local villages including Grendon Underwood.
The Chair noted it was unfortunate the agenda had not been uploaded to the GUPC website. It was agreed by all present that any challenged items would need deferring until the next meeting. **Action:** Clerk to ensure agenda is posted to the website. The identical agenda is to be circulated at meetings.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – None
4. **Minutes of the last council meeting (in November)** agreed (Vice Chair signed as he chaired it), however Cllr Moloney (Chair) omitted to sign the Budget minutes. This will be deferred for the next Council Meeting.
5. **Matters from last meeting:**
 - 5.1 Outstanding Fix My Street issues – Cllr Maker advised that he has spoken with Kate Rolfe, Highways Community Liaison Team Leader for Buckinghamshire Council, and she is going to chase the outstanding FMS complaints. The Councillors were told that Alison Poland, the local area technician from Buckinghamshire Council is due to return to work, but that Kate Rolfe is involved, and she appreciates the efforts the Councillors are putting in.
Councillors were made aware by County Councillor Mahon that they can contact Ward Councillors pre-election but that after 17 March no lobbying is allowed, and County Councillors will not be able to attend Parish Council meetings.
 - 5.2 Winslow Rotary - The Chair presented a cheque for £936 from Winslow, which will contribute greatly towards the Playground. **Action:** Clerk to draft a letter of thanks to the WRC Chair.
 - 5.3 Mower Service – Cllr Benfield confirmed that he will service the mower before the end of March at no charge to the Parish Council. Parts cost estimated under £80.00.
 - 5.4 MUGA bolts – Cllr Maker told the Council that he has received the two bolts which are missing from the MUGA. As they were not originally put in and do not appear to be structural, he believes the MUGA to be safe. **Action:** Cllr Maker and Cllr Jackman to re-assess and fit the bolts, if necessary.
 - 5.5 Wicksteed order – the clerk confirmed that an order has been placed for new play equipment.
 - 5.6 Playground Inspection – the clerk advised that the playground had been inspected last week, and that we are awaiting a report. This is the annual inspection by an external inspector.
 - 5.7 EWR Defib – the clerk said an email had been sent to Springhill and they responded, saying that they do want the defibrillator (and into which the whole council were copied in). They are yet to collect and sign an acceptance letter, regarding the cost and responsibility for it. **Action:** Clerk to send a prompt with a deadline.
 - 5.8 Grendon 800 Tree – Cllr Maker discussed that the tree is to be planted on land that is not owned by Buckinghamshire Council. **Action:** An email is to be sent to Geoff Lumley, as Co-ordinator of Grendon 800, to advise him that it has been established that the responsibility for the planting, upkeep, maintenance and liability of this tree is not that of Grendon Underwood Parish Council.
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1 The councillors agreed to support Granborough Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to draft a letter outlining parallel concerns as those already posted by Granborough on the planning portal. It is to be circulated to councillors prior to it being sent.



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7. **Biodiversity** – The Chair has received an email from EKFB regarding free tree whips for community groups. Email circulated to Councillors and Springhill Residents Group.
8. **Finance:**
 - 8.1 Expense Claims – Clerk - for paper and replacement padlocks and keys - £6.90
 - 8.2 Invoices to pay – External Auditor - £252.00 and Village Hall - £24.00
9. **Agenda requests from Councillors:**
 - 9.1 MVAS Speeding Data – Chair to arrange for padlocks to be attached and will supply data at the next meeting.
 - 9.2 Mega Prison – A meeting was recently held on the 17th of January. Further meetings will be held, quarterly, with the next one to be scheduled for the first week in April pending any issues arising from local election communication restrictions, in which case the meeting will be delayed until after the election has taken place. The minutes of these meetings are currently classified as confidential.
 - 9.3 Parking on the Verges – Cllr Benfield expressed concern that wilful damage was being created by drivers parking on the verges (which he believed to belong to Buckinghamshire Council.) **Action:** Clerk to email Buckinghamshire Council, including photos (after agreement from Grendon Underwood Councillors as to the tone of the proposed email and photos)
 - 9.4 Update on the Broadway – Cllr Maker spoke of his and Cllr Fealey’s positive meeting with Kate Rolfe, Highways Community Liaison Team Leader for Buckinghamshire Council. They assessed the Broadway, and it will be cleaned after 1st April. It was noted that two manhole covers will need to be replaced and that 5 to 6 kerb weirs should be cleaned and inspected.
They also looked at the pavement between Main Street and past Halls Cottages, with one section having an uneven surface and another holding water. Kate Rolfe said they would look at carrying out some remedial works to address these problems.
 - 9.5 Cllr Maker wanted clarification regarding him needing to ask the clerk to send his emails. Cllr Jackman spoke of our collective responsibility and the need to do things in consultation (referring to the standing orders). In the event of an emergency the clerk is to instigate rapid response protocol.
 - 9.6 Verge Ownership - Please see 9.3
 - 9.7 Litter Pick 2025 – It was agreed to set the next Litter Pick on 1st March (Saturday) at 10-00 am. If this is unsuitable then it could be delayed until 8th March.
10. **Reports from Stakeholders:**
 - 10.1 Village Hall - The Fraud Awareness evening was informative and well attended. There has been a hire charge review of rooms by the Village Hall. Decorating by the prison is delayed due to the early release of prisoners but will take place. The next meeting will be on 30th January 2025.
 - 10.2 Saye and Sele – Cllr Jackman reported that by the end of 2024 thirty-two grants had been made including one each to Quainton and Grendon Football clubs. This does not include grants agreed for Quainton and Grendon Schools. Unfortunately, due to the Vicar of Quainton’s unattendance and with Rev’d Mann’s departure, contact will need to be made with church wardens.
The Chair drew the Council’s attention to the fact that Saye and Sele’s support has enabled a local rider to compete on the World stage representing GB in the U’25s
Cllr Maker enquired as to the possibility of Saye and Sele helping to contribute with our playground.
Action: The clerk is to complete an on-line application.
 - 10.3 School – No report was submitted.
 - 10.4 Springhill – No report was submitted.
 - 10.5 Faith Beaumont – No meetings have taken place to which Cllr Benfield could attend.
 - 10.6 Thames Valley Police Force – Clerk confirmed she speaks regularly with the Police.
Action: Clerk to speak of verge parking to the Police when she next is consulted.
 - 10.7 Energy for Waste –
 - PR Manager that departed is Jex Elkin. A great loss to the facility.
 - One TVP report.
 - One outage with employee consequences.
 - Temporary downgrade by EA.
 - Leaders in the industry.
 - Lack of education from BC to community regarding refuse. Excessive costs. Weigh up PR/education v wasted resources.



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11. Monthly Inspection

- 11.1 Playgrounds – completed and recorded
- 11.2 Defibs – The defibrillator at the school has 6 minutes usage. The defibrillator at Springhill could not be accessed **Action:** Cllr Scanlon to re-assess.

12 Health and Safety:

- 12.1 Risk Assessments – Cllr Maker produced risk assessments for the land behind the church. The Chair spoke of where Councils have ponds and noted they must be checked but not needed to be fenced off. Cllr Jackman proposed that we have a ring and signage for the area and that they be inspected fortnightly. Cllr Fealey seconded it. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to cost ring and signs with our logo on. Risk assessment to be altered to reflect this decision.
Action Clerk to contact Insurers to establish liability cover.

13. Agenda requests from the Public: None

14. Open Forum for Members Only (under adjournment)

Performance review of clerk to take place **Action:** Personnel Committee, to organise and conduct review.

NB Personnel Confidential Information to be added to the agendas as formerly. **Action:** Clerk

15. Date of Next Meeting: 25th February 2025 7.45 pm at the Village Hall

The Chair closed the meeting at 9-54pm

Date	Type	Description	Debit	Credit
31/01/2025	FPO	PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP EXTERNAL AUDIT	£ 252.00	
31/01/2025	FPO	GU VILLAGE HALL HIRE	£ 24.00	
31/01/2025	FPO	CLERK SALARY	£ 520.00	
31/01/2025	FPO	CLERK TAX REBATE	£ 283.80	
31/01/2025	FPO	CLERK EXPS	£ 6.90	
30/01/2025	DEP	DONATION FROM ROTARY CLUB		£ 936.00
27/01/2025	DD	SSE ENERGY SUPPLY	£ 115.08	
09/01/2025	FPI	BINGO EVENT		£ 236.00
06/01/2025	DD	BC RECEIPTS BCDOG BINS	£ 684.00	
03/01/2025	DD	BC RECEIPTS BREC BINS	£ 36.40	
02/01/2025	SO	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	£ 10.00	

Approved as a true and accurate record,

Signed:

Dated: