



GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 2025

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 (various sections), a General Meeting of Grendon Underwood Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Grendon Underwood on

Tuesday, 24th June 2025 at 19.45hrs

Cllr Jackman had been asked to chair the meeting by the PC chairman who was unable to attend. Cllr Jackman said he would and introduced all attendees.

He also confirmed that the meeting was quorate as three councillors were present but because this was the minimum requirement he proposed that any far-reaching decisions should be deferred. This was agreed.

Prior to the meeting being formally constituted for Council business, the Acting Chairman held 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.

MINUTE – 3 members of the public attended to request support from the council in addressing a previously advised local property being a long-standing risk to adjoining properties regarding health & safety and environment. They alleged to have evidentiary footage of a rat infestation; unsafe footpath access and unsafe vehicle use both on private property and on County owned land. County Cllr Fealey confirmed the Parish Council had requested support from County Ward Councillors and that 'Environment' at County was now involved. He also considered Social Services may have a role. He agreed to keep the Parish Council informed of progress. In addition, it was agreed the Parish Council would contact local police regarding potential illegal use of a vehicle. **ACTION** - Cllr Fealey, Cllr Martindale

Cllr Fealey updated Council on various other County level matters:

- (a) The Community Board is back up and running. Clerks will be written to asking for input as to what councils see as important locally.
- (b) The GU Ward Councillors cover 15 parishes and some 11000 residents necessitating a more focused parish council attendance.
- (c) He will be accessing a National data report to inform future projects and support.
- (d) He is the Chair of the County Planning Committee so cannot be involved in local planning considerations. He advised a number of solar farms applications are now active.
- (e) There is a County wide shortage of councillors. He urged council to promote Member recruitment whenever possible.

1. Attendances

Councillors Present. - Cllr Jackman (Chairman), Cllr Scanlon, Cllr Martindale, County Cllr Fealey.

Members of the Public present. – 4 members of the public attended

Apologies. (Councillors) – Cllr Moloney, Cllr Benfield

3 members of the public were invited to stay if they wished, but thanked the meeting and left.

2. **Minutes of two Annual Meetings**, held on 27th May, 2025, were agreed & signed by the Chairman. Draft minutes had been circulated & were deemed to have been read. **MINUTE** – approved unanimous

3. Matters deferred from previous meetings:

- East West Rail defibrillator update **MINUTE** – Cllr Scanlon confirmed the SRG had been in receipt of the transfer agreement for several weeks but no further communications had been forthcoming. She agreed to remind the SRG the agreement must be signed to allow hand over and time is now of the essence. It was resolved to re-allocate the device if the signed agreement is not received by next PC meeting, 22 July 2025. **ACTION**- Cllr Scanlon.
- Saye & Sele grant application **MINUTE** – Cllr Jackman confirmed the grant was contingent on a specified item of equipment, now known to be non-safety compliant. He agreed to raise

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the item at the next S&S meeting to request the grant be contingent on a revision of the specified item (to be advised by Council) or it be released from the item specification limitation, whilst retaining it being restricted to the acquisition of a playground enhancing item. ACTION- Cllr Jackman.

- Topsoil Update to New Play Equipment area **MINUTE** – Cllr Jackman would advise sourcing details and Cllr Martindale was authorised to raise the purchase order and commit. ACTION- Cllr Jackman, Cllr Martindale.

4. Planning Applications:

- Reserved Matters – new prison. **MINUTE** – Cllr Fealey confirmed council will be involved as usual, as the local Planning Consultee, as and when reserved matters applications come through.
- Rosefield Solar farm **MINUTE** – it was agreed to support the action group in opposition to this application. Cllr Fealey confirmed it is now a reserved matter and removed from any significant local influence. ACTION- Cllr Jackman suggested to support with publicity.

Cllr Fealey left the meeting and the acting chairman thanked him for his useful, concise and clear contribution to the meeting.

5. Finance

- 5.1 Expense Claims **MINUTE** – Cllr Scanlon, Defib Pads. Authorised Cllrs Jackman & Martindale
- 5.2 Invoices to be approved. **MINUTE** – deferred pending absence
- 5.3 Grants: incoming - None received **MINUTE** - noted
- 5.4 Grants: outgoing - None received. **MINUTE** - noted
- 5.5 Ratify external audit - submission circulated. **MINUTE** – Cllr Martindale authorised to submit. ACTION- Cllr Martindale.
- 5.6 To consider dog waste agreement **MINUTE** – Cllr Martindale to obtain the agreement from County. ACTION- Cllr Martindale.

6. Environment

- 6.1 Play Equipment – To consider purchase of new items to budget. **MINUTE** – Cllr Martindale had circulated several brochures from suppliers. He agreed to seek proposals to match the available budget, intended age range and activity profile. ACTION- Cllr Martindale.
- 6.2 To consider zip wire chain heat shrink covering **MINUTE** – not authorised to modify already independently, professionally safety inspected equipment. Resolved to monitor. CLOSED
- 6.3 To consider placing Lottery Signage to grant agreement. **MINUTE** – agreed to mount signs to playground equipment. ACTION- Cllr Jackman.
- 6.4 To consider placement of 20 is plenty signs throughout village. **MINUTE** – the authorising Purchase Order is not on record. Deferred for retrospective authorisation. 20mph was confirmed as non-enforceable anyway. Also noted ‘Love your Village’ notices now available. **MINUTE** – the authorising Purchase Order is not on record. Deferred for retrospective authorisation.
- 6.5 Verges mowing **MINUTE** – agreed to defer for discussions.
- 6.6 Final consideration of playing field lease. **MINUTE** – not considered in the public interest at this time. Resolved to discontinue. CLOSED.
- 6.7 Final consideration of Council land behind church. **MINUTE** – the PCC have confirmed it will be a decision for the new Rector and they don't have one in place, so deferred till further notice. Cllr Jackman confirmed the PC can manage a cemetery IF necessary.
- 6.8 CCTV committee room. **MINUTE** – two quotes resolution deferred pending absence. Cllr Scanlon to ensure quotes reflect like for like requirement. ACTION- Cllr Scanlon, Cllr Moloney.
- 6.9 CCTV village crime prevention. **MINUTE** – resolved to discontinue due to privacy legislation. CLOSED.

7. Health & Safety

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- 7.1 Playgrounds Inspection **MINUTE** – Cllr Jackman submitted the June 25 visual inspection report – non-compliant items; none. Cllrs Moloney & Scanlon had trimmed the play park and MUGA.
- 7.2 Defibrillators Inspection. **MINUTE** – report deferred due to absence.
- 7.3 Oak Tree cottages resident report of health hazard. **MINUTE** – addressed in Open Forum above.
- 7.4 To confirm defibrillator access codes. **MINUTE** – noted: to be secured. **CLOSED**

8. Stakeholders

- 8.1 Saye & Sele Foundation. **MINUTE** – Cllr Jackman summarised recent activity.
- 8.2 Springhill **MINUTE** – Cllr Scanlon advised the SRG had submitted two events dates under the council grant.
- 8.3 Village Hall **MINUTE** – Cllr Scanlon summarised activity over the period.

9. Personnel – 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.

- 9.1 Councillors declaration forms - to confirm submission to County **MINUTE** – Cllr Scanlon confirmed that all forms had been hand delivered to County/ Democracy in due time.
- 9.2 Parish Council workload **MINUTE** – deferred due to absence.

10. Open Forum for Members Only (under adjournment) - for councillors to bring new items for inclusion on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. **MINUTE** – none arising.

11. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm 22nd July 2025. MINUTE – so confirmed.

The Acting Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00.

Signed as a true and accurate record: Dated:
Cllr Jackman, Acting Chairman presiding.