

Annual report by Kim Moloney, Chairman of Grendon Underwood Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting – 27th May 2025

This report is intended to heighten awareness of a small sample of work carried out by your Parish Council. We're made up of a handful of volunteers and the role receives neither reward or favour in any form. Many Parishes were uncontested in Buckinghamshire for this year's election including ours.

There's much to report but my challenge here is to keep it concise, so although an annual report as such I've penned various achievements during our last term of office to May this year, being four years. In brief:

- No increase to the precept, in fact no increase in over ten years.
- A new mower thanks to the generous grant from The Saye and Sele Foundation. They continue to support us with an agreement to donate £1000 towards an item of play equipment.
- A new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) from s106 monies
- New Play Equipment with thanks to National Lottery Funding
- New item of play equipment in the pipeline with thanks to donations from Grendon Rangers Football Club and the Winslow Rotary Club
- New Toddlers Playpark from S106 monies and reserves
- New Bus Shelter
- Two Village Planters
- New tarmac footpath to the playing field thanks to EKFB
- Two defibrillators with an additional one in the pipeline of being donated to the Springhill Residents Group with thanks to East West Rail.
- Reduced mowing costs with thanks to Benfield Landscapes
- Maintenance of the War Memorial at no cost to the community with thanks to Kirsty Jackson
- Installation of motor vehicle speeding devices
- Maintenance of the Village Pump thanks to Cllr Benfield
- Maintenance of the two Village planters at no cost to the community with thanks to Divide and Conker
- Free wi-fi at the Village Hall courtesy of Gigaclear
- Two park benches courtesy of Bucks Recycling. The same were also recently repaired due to substantial damage caused by

mindless vandals. Thank you to Paul Irwin for organising and to Hard Rock Flooring for repairing at no cost to the village.

- Barriers and markings outside Grendon School with thanks to Buckinghamshire Council
- New notice board and refurbishment of the old board opposite the village shop
- Generous hampers for the needy courtesy of EKFB

You'll recall the mega prison planning application hit our inboxes just before Christmas four years ago and during lockdown. It was a very challenging time indeed. We quickly set up a working party which I continue to lead. We meet with the MoJ on a regular basis. Thousands of hours by the volunteers in the working party has meant savings of tens of thousands of pounds for the community. My personal thanks to Cllr Jackman for being an absolute mind of historical information about the village, he has been key for the working party, Buckinghamshire Council and the MoJ. We continue to learn from him. We'll never forget the hard work, dedication and support of so many especially, Rod Baker, Roger Behagg, Edgcott Parish Council and Barry Martindale. Thank you from all of us.

There have been numerous litter picks, now overseen by EKFB with the exception of Broadway given pedestrian safety with speeding vehicles and ironically, many HS2 trucks.

Broadway traffic calming negotiations with Buckinghamshire Council road safety department remain ongoing.

We continue to work on grant applications for essential equipment and improvements to the village.

We carry out monthly play equipment and defibrillator inspections.

This year we said goodbye to Mr and Mrs Maker and Lindsey Fealey. Council wishes them well for the future.

We've appointed a Governance Lead in Cllr Martindale to whom we're very grateful.

We've appointed a new Clerk and welcome Theresa to the team.

Cllrs Scanlon and Martindale have been extremely supportive to me ensuring our accounts continue to meet audit standards in readiness for submission. Thank you both.

We've worked hard to negotiate value for money and challenged suppliers when costs are escalated simply because we're local authority. Councillors have acted as Project Manager's and used their professional backgrounds to support Council business.

We've married up HMP resource with the Church to maintain the graveyard.

We've awarded grants to Grendon 800, Springhill Residents Group, St Leonards Church and the King's Coronation.

I'd like to put on record the Council's, and my personal thanks to the previous three Ward Councillors at Buckinghamshire Unitary Council, Cllr Angela Macpherson, Cllr Frank Mahon and Cllr Michael Rand for their support. We continue to work with Cllr Mahon and welcome Cllr Patrick Fealey. They now cover the Grendon Underwood Ward. Their workload has increased given their area is larger and there are now only two Ward Councillors not three. Challenges yes, they have started with overloaded inboxes all priorities from the get go – highway with the dreaded pot holes and road closures, controversial planning applications especially solar and battery farms, plenty more on the agenda but a starting point for our Ward Councillors to get on with. We wish Cllr Fealey and Cllr Mahon good luck for their term.

Thank you to those stakeholders who've submitted annual reports. All submissions will be uploaded to our website.

I would personally like to thank my fellow Councillors in Jackman, Scanlon, Benfield and Martindale. They've stood the test of time, no matter what challenges we face, we face them together and work as a team. Each have been an enormous support to the Parish Council proving time and time their reliability, honesty and strength with all they've encountered. Thank you.

I'm sure you'll agree that much has been done for the good of the community. Challenges remain for sure, could we do with your help – yes please! If you want to get involved, please contact the Clerk who will be delighted to hear from you.

Before I close, we're very sad indeed to lose a good friend in Colin Willey. Grendon Underwood owe him so much, he lived and breathed Grendon Underwood to the very end. He was a fine example of a true community gentleman and above all, he was our friend. We will miss him very much. Rest in peace Colin.

Thank you.

Kim Moloney

Chairman of Grendon Underwood Parish Council