

Minutes of the Grateley Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 in the Grateley Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mr K Smith – Chairman
Cllr Mr D Atfield – Vice Chairman
Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer
Cllr Mr M Horne – Planning
Cllr Mr I Wingfield
Cllr Mr A Bradford
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor's Mrs M Flood and Mr D Coole
Members of the Public – 10
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer declared an interest on the plot of land to the rear of Wallop Road/Station Approach for consideration under the Test Valley Borough Plan 2040. Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer's property backs on to the land.

Chairperson's Report. (Last Report - May 2019).

Looking back over the previous 3 years since the last report, there have been many challenges that we as a Parish Council have faced and have overcome and I have identified some of them in my report.

Our greatest challenge was the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected all our lives, and likewise the management of Grateley Parish Council (GPC) and Grateley War Memorial Hall Committee (GWMHC). When possible, the GPC and the GWMHC met for their regular meetings albeit under the Governments Covid-19 restrictions, and in most cases in the absence of the general public. The Hall closed for a considerable time; however, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Peter Blackman, Linda Griffith, Margaret Hayes and Cllr. Mrs Bettle-Shaffer for their hard work in keeping the Hall running smoothly. Whilst closed we took the opportunity to continue the refurbishment of the Kitchen, and I would like to thank again Peter Blackman for his efforts. Other improvements were undertaken, such as the replacement of the internal and external light fittings with low energy varieties which will reduce the day-to-day electrical consumption. To complete the Hall refurbishment, phase 2 will be to upgrade the existing toilet facilities which is scheduled to take place later in the year. Booking the Hall is now undertaken online. making the system accessible to all. I can report that the income from hiring out the Hall continues to grow since re-opening, the future of the Hall appears secure. The GWMHC resigned on mass in May 2018, since then the PC has undertaken the 'Management Committee' role which was always a temporary arrangement. There is still the issue of the Constitution, it is intended to address the matter at the next Management Committee meeting to be held next month, at which time the Constitution will be discussed. We would appreciate any Grateley residents who would be interested in becoming a member on the GWMHC, anyone wishing to register an interest should contact us through the Grateley Website.

Another challenge has been the resignations of councillors. The then Chair Mrs Julie Blackman resigned in September 2020, our gratitude goes out to Julie for her commitment to the PC during challenging times. This left the PC short of a Chairperson and a councillor. The PC interviewed, following which were pleased to be authorised to co-opted Mrs Bettle-Shaffer onto the PC in July 2021. Further resignations from Peter Blackman October 2021 and Rob Tierney November 2021 occurred more recently. I take the opportunity again to thank them for their efforts and commitment over the years on the PC. This again reduced the number of councillor's so were pleased to be authorised to co-opt Ian Wingfield and Andy Bradford onto the PC at our April 2022 meeting, and we look forward to them both bringing their experience and contributing to the team. Unfortunately, we also lost our Neighbourhood Watch representative, again I would thank John Stamp for his efforts and commitment, however, we have yet to replace him, and I would ask if there were any Grateley resident's that would be interested in taking on the responsibility of our Neighbourhood Watch representative, then please contact me through our website.

Speeding through the village continues to cause concern for residents. The PC has stated on numerous occasions that they have made every effort to encourage Hampshire County Highways to install a speed reduction of 30mph on the Cholderton/Wallop Road's however, they have declined to do so as they do not accept there is an issue with the current 40mph limit. With this in mind, the PC has arranged for training in the operation of 'Speed Watch' equipment for residents with a view to have a team of volunteers who will safely monitor the speed of drivers through the village recording and reporting any offenders to the Police. Further, the PC have purchased a solar powered 'Flashing Speed' sign, which will be positioned periodically around the village in the hope that it will discourage drivers from exceeding the speed limit.

During 2021 the issue of the Grateley School Playing Field occupied the agenda of numerous PC meetings, which was finally resolved when the Head Teacher confirmed in writing that: 'Following discussing the matter with the Clerk, she confirmed that they are not in favour of relinquishing the school field as they have strategic plans for its development and use. We are currently working with a landscape architect from Hampshire County Council to support the ideas moving forward'. This being the case the Grateley School Playing Field would not be considered further as a location for an additional Play Area for the village, this being the case the matter is closed.

A proposed footpath link between Grateley Village and Grateley Station has also been a long-time issue. The PC has made every effort in the past to engage with the landowners in particular Network Rail (NR). However, the previous offer from NR to provide the required land and resources was not taken up at the time due to another landowner not willing to engage. NR are not willing to consider the matter any further. Unfortunately, the opportunity to provide a footpath linking both ends of the village has been missed, this being the case the matter is closed.

GPC continues to monitor the condition of the highways and footpaths within the village reporting any deficiencies to Hampshire County Highways. This is an ongoing task that can be challenging and frustrating which is subject to the available Government funding at the time.

Following the inspection undertaken by TVBC, it was decided to replace the play equipment in the Locke Close field. Cllr. Mr Atfield is lead of the team who are obtaining

quotations for the supply and installation of the equipment preferred by the residents of Locke Close. They themselves are raising funds by arranging events from which they will contribute to the Play Area fund. TVBC, Over Wallop Parish Council and GPC will provide the remaining funding, it is hoped that the equipment will be installed by the autumn.

Dog fouling around Locke Close/Streetway Road and Streetway Close continues to be an issue and a Health and Safety concern in particular for children. The PC has previously arranged for the installation of a large Dog Bin adjacent to a smaller bin at the entrance off Locke Close. There is a further large Dog Bin at the entrance off Streetway Close, with general rubbish bins located on Wallop Road adjacent the footpath leading to Locke Close and also at the bus shelter. Recently the PC have employed TVBC to reposition the general rubbish bin away from the bus shelter, and to install an additional large Dog Bin further along Streetway Road. It is noted that residents maintain a free 'help your-self' dog poo bags dispenser at the bus shelter which we are sure is appreciated by all.

I am sure that you are aware that we have lost a number of our facilities over recent years, including the Bus service, The Shire Public House, Grateley Village shop, Greenline Stores (Campbell Close), and more recently, The Plough Inn closed its doors for the final time. This is obviously of great concern to us all but follows the course of the demographics of other similar villages in the TVBC area. With this in mind, GPC will be investing in a 'Village Design Statement' that will undertake an assessment of Grateley Parish and its facilities with regard to any future developments, however, to achieve this resident will need to engage in the process. Anyone who is interested should contact us through the Grateley Website.

Which leads me leads me seamlessly onto the Grateley Website. I thank Jim Shaw for his efforts in managing the website in the past. It was agreed by all councillor's that the website would benefit from being managed by a member of the PC and that the site should be refreshed and updated. With this in mind Cllr. Mrs Bettle-Shaffer has previous experience of creating a website for another PC, it was therefore appropriate for her to take on the task. I am sure that if you have visited the site recently, you would be impressed with the new format and functions available that Cllr. Mrs Bettle-Shaffer has created.

It is to be recognised that the PC has built up good and positive relations with the current County Cllr. Mr Connelly, Borough Cllr's Mrs Flood and Mr Coole, we hope that this continues.

A more recent challenge manifested itself following preliminary investigations by the developer Drew Smith in relation to the Andover Turf site, and the land to the rear of Station Approach/Wallop Road and Old Stockbridge Road. This caused great concern for the surrounding residents of the two sites which reflected in the attendance of the April PC meeting which saw 64 anxious residents attend the meeting to find out more information. The Chair read out a statement on behalf of the PC and one from a representative of Drew Smith, following which Cllr. Mr Horne chaired a question-and-answer session in the hope that residents' issues could in some way be addressed. The PC confirmed that they would continue to keep residents updated on the progress that Drew Smith make, with a view to invite them again to attend a PC meeting when they have completed their investigations enabling them to disclose their next objectives and address residents' issues.

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk produced the end of year accounts for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Clerk explained each item:

GRATELEY PARISH COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

2020/2021		2020/2022
£	RECEIPTS	£
8,400.00	Precept	8,400.00
.16	Bank Interest	.04
Nil	VAT Refund	Nil
<u>8,400.16</u>		<u>8,400.04</u>
	PAYMENTS	
483.70	Administration	611.68
2740.00	Clerk Wages	2740.00
Nil	Village Hall Hire/Caretakers Wages/Grant	1814.04
483.70	Flashing Speed Sign Maintenance	240.18
	Play Area Benches	471.00
Nil	Section 137 Payments - Grateley PCC	Nil
	Dog Bin Emptying	203.60
Nil	Grateley Village Friends	1021.36
40.00	VAT on Payments	438.53
570.00	Village Maintenance	581.00
206.64	Web Site	134.00
553.87	Insurance	648.95
<u>4,964.21</u>		<u>8,904.34</u>
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
19,892.51	Balance BFW 1 st April 2021	23,328.46
8,400.16	Add : Total Receipts	8,400.04
<u>28,292.32</u>		<u>31,728.50</u>
	Less : Total Payments	8,904.34
4,964.21		<u>22,824.16</u>
<u>23,328.46</u>		

The Parish Council agreed with the presented accounts. The Clerk will now send them to the internal Auditor so they can be signed off at the June Meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY.

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that Hampshire County Council are concentrating on Education. Jubilee Celebrations will play a big part in this year's calendar. The need to encourage local volunteers has been highlighted and there will be a campaign by the Hampshire County Council to try and get people motivated to volunteer. Hampshire County Council are in talks with the Government regarding spending in Hampshire to give the County Council more control.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR D COOLE.

Cllr Mr D Coole reported that Test Valley Borough Council are hosting a Motoring Event on the 28th of August 2022.

Cllr Mr D Coole gave a brief up-date on the Chantry Centre in Andover. TVBC own the Chantry Centre and will be conducting a survey to find out what the residents of Andover and surrounding Villages want from the Town Centre.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2022 MEETING

The Clerk reported that he had received a request to make an addition to the following comment made at the meeting by Jane Bayley regarding the Streetway Close development:

- Surely a precedent for development has been established with the building of the Street Way Close affordable housing. Jane Bayley reported that this site was officially named a 'Rural Exception Site', which somewhat precludes it setting a precedent. The group opposing that development in 2007/8 had been assured by TVBC that it would not be used as a precedent.

The Parish Council were happy for this alteration to be made to the April Minutes and they will be signed off at the June Meeting.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

PLAY AREA – Cllr Mr D Atfield reported that he now has three quotes and will now organise a subcommittee meeting to discuss moving forward with the project.

HIGHWAYS – The various potholes needing repair have been marked by Highways. The hole on the bridge has not yet been repaired. Cut Your Speed sticker for the wheely bins have been sourced and will be ordered by the Clerk.

STREETWAY ROAD BUS SHELTER – The outside of the Bus Shelter has been painted by the working party, further work on the inside is planned.

VILLAGE DESIGN/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer reported that a steering group has been formed and they have met with Sarah from TVBC Planning to discuss the way forward. A further Meeting has been scheduled for the 17th of May 2022.

RESILIENCE PLAN – Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer reported that she has been working with Lorna and they are to merge the data bases of the Website and the Grateley Help Network to put together a mailing list.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – No one has come forward to take on the role of co-ordinator.

PLANNING.

Question sent to Drew Smith

One specific issue raised at the April Meeting, and the Chair was asked to put the question to Drew Smith as soon as possible.

'Which of the statements truly reflects Drew Smith's approach?

Reply from Drew Smith

'Thanks for your email late last week, I have discussed your email with my colleagues at Drew Smith.

The two sections of text which you forwarded over in your email below do essentially say the same. The first piece of text was written for the website in December, when Drew Smith had just acquired the sites and prior to Test Valley commencing their public engagement process.

The statement I forwarded over to you is the latest update, prepared especially for the Parish Council rather than a simple post on a website. This statement was more detailed as a direct result of Test Valley commencing their consultation and as a direct result of our site investigation work getting under way, which we knew would create public interest and we therefore wanted to ensure the Parish were updated.

I do also note your geography point on the website; I have made Drew Smith aware, and they have made a change. The information on the website will also be updated as the Local Plan process progresses.

As I have said previously, Drew Smith is committed to engagement and consultation through this process, however, as I explained previously it is simply too early and we don't have the information to present, or the answers to residents' questions at this stage whilst we analyse the results of our site investigations.

We would be delighted to meet and brief the local parish council and we will be actively engaging and consulting local residents and stakeholders in due course. I feel we might be a position to come to see the parish council and brief you all in early summer. Perhaps we could therefore catch up in around 4-6 weeks and hopefully get something arranged then?

Mike Denness

Managing Director

GRATELEY BUSINESS PARK.

The Chairman believed that the contracts have been exchanged for the acquisition of Grateley Business Park, and that the site is now owned by Grateley Business Park Ltd.

A Facebook posting suggested that the new company would be refurbishing the Business Park with the view to offer business units to rent. The post, however, has been removed, but following recent site activity, this would appear to be the case. Their website states: 'It is our aim to create a variety of opportunities for different businesses here and to start bringing more employment to the local area.

With a mix of offices for short- or long-term rental, large industrial units which are perfect for logistics and storage and plenty of outdoor open space for storage or future expansion we feel Grateley Business Park has the potential to be something special. The business park has been disused for some years, and we are working on plans to modernise the whole area with services such as Gigabit internet so the regeneration starts now'

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

- The Village Hall has been booked for Sunday 5th June and a programme of events has been organised.
- The Grateley Jubilee Quilt has been started and it is estimated that it will take one year to complete.

- It is hoped that some kind of event can be held on the School Field, discussions are ongoing with the School.
- The Parish Council pledged to give £1,000 towards the Jubilee Celebrations and a grant application is to be submitted to the Borough Councillors Community Grant for £500
- More detail will be made available soon.

FINANCE.

The Clerk reported that the first half of the precept has been received and that the Parish Council had £27,024.16 in the bank.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Issues raised:

- A past resident of Grateley has made contact through the Website as they have a lot of information on Grateley during the war that may be of interest.
- Fly Tipping – Washing Machine bits were dumped in the village; this was reported to TVBC, and they came and took it away.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

7th June 2022 at **7pm**

WEBSITE.

www.grateley.net