

Minutes of the Grateley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd of May 2023 in the Grateley Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mr K Smith – Chair
Cllr Mr I Wingfield
Cllr Mr A Bradford
Cllr Mr M Horne
Cllr Mrs J Blakeman
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly
Borough Councillor Mrs M Flood
Members of the Public – 4

Apologies: County Councillor Mr C Donnelly

WELCOME.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

Cllr's Mr K Smith, Mr I Wingfield, Mr A Bradford and Mrs J Blakeman signed the Declaration of Office. The Chair welcomed Cllr Mrs J Blakeman back onto the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that Test Valley Borough Council have informed him that the Parish Council can co-opt to fill the two remaining vacancies.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES.

Cllr Mr K Smith proposed that Mr M Horne be co-opted back onto the Parish Council at the June Meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Mr I Winfield. All agreed.

Cllr Mrs K Smith proposed that Mrs P Perkins be co-opted on the Parish Council at the June Meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Mr A Bradford. All agreed.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded.

CHAIR'S REPORT.

Overview.

Things appear to have settled following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it must be noted that there has been an issue with poor attendance of Councillors at Council meetings, which has in some cases lead to cancellation, reflecting poorly on Grateley Parish Council, which has also drawn criticism from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC). The majority of cases of absence were attributed to illness which is unavoidable. It is important that Councillors are aware that when they commit to the Council, they have a responsibility to attend meeting/events whenever possible on behalf of their constituents. It is hoped that with a new full complement of enthusiastic, committed Council Members, meetings will not have to be cancelled due to not achieving the required quorum.

Grateley Parish Councillors.

Test Valley Borough Council have confirmed that Grateley Parish Councillors for the next term are:

Mr Keith Smith
Mrs Julie Blakeman
Mr Ian Wingfield
Mr Andy Bradford

This means we can co-opt at the next Parish Council Meeting to fill the two vacancies.

Mr Martyn Horne would like to remain a Parish Councillor and Mrs Pat Perkins has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. This being the case as agreed, both Martyn and Pat will be Co-opted at the June 2023 meeting.

Grateley War Memorial Hall.

I refer to my separate report.

Lock Close Play Area.

Cllr Wingfield has this project well in hand, it is hopeful that the installation of the new equipment will take place this year. Cllr Wingfield continues to report at GPC Meetings.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Any interested residents who wish to be part of the Grateley Parish Neighbourhood Watch (GPNW) should contact the website.

Highways and Footpaths.

GPC continue to monitor issues regarding potholes etc. all issues can be reported through the Hampshire Highways web site. The lead officer Cllr Wingfield continues to report at GPC Meetings.

Speeding.

There is a delay in installing the new flashing speed indicator due to supply issues. It is noted that Hampshire Highways are undertaking major works within Over Wallop that partially impact on Grateley Parish. Apparently, the works are to restrict access through Over Wallop from the A343 Andover – Salisbury Road and B3084 Wallop Road and to reduce the speed of vehicles.

Defibrillators.

There are now two defibrillators acquired by the GPC, available for use through the emergency services, one is located on the outside of the Grateley War Memorial Hall, the other at The Plough Inn. GPC is also aware of a defibrillator on a private house in Palestine, and that Network Rail intend to install a defibrillator at the station. The Grateley Parish Council Defibrillators are linked to the Ambulance Service who administer the code and help with their use over the telephone. The benefit of this system is that if the equipment is used, it is taken out of commission until the Clerk can collect it, check the battery and commission new pads. Leaving the cabinets unlocked could also result in the equipment being stolen, this would not be covered under insurance for replacement. GPC did not think they would go down the route of leaving the cabinets unlocked. However, they were open to training sessions on the equipment.

Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort.

'The Kings Coronation Celebrations' are scheduled for Saturday 6th May 2023. The celebrations will be centred around The Plough Inn and Chapel Lane.

Dog Bin Improvement.

Delay in 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. GPC continue to monitor.

Bus Shelter on Streetway Road.

The refurbishment of the bus shelter has been completed.

The Plough Inn as a Community Asset.

Cllr Wingfield to continue to look into this project.

Village Design Statement (VDS).

It has been agreed not to produce a Village Statement as such, instead, it has been agreed to pursue a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

A Steering Group is in place and a Village Survey has been undertaken with the results collated. An application for funding to set up a website was successful, and a web publisher engaged. A habitat survey is to be undertaken and a Planning Consultant is to be engaged to help take the NDP forward. A new lead Councillor is required to monitor and support the NDP.

Resilience Plan.

SSE still have funding available to make the Village Hall a Warm Hub for the use of vulnerable residents of the village in an emergency situation. Grateley Parish Council will go ahead with getting the War Memorial Hall self-sufficient for power and heating. Cllr Bradford is lead officer and will report back to GPC.

County and Borough Councillors.

It is to be recognised that the GPC has built up good and positive relations with the current County Cllr. Mr Connelly, Borough Cllr's Mrs Flood and Mr Coole (Cllr Mr Coole will not pursue re-election in May), we hope that this continues following the imminent elections on 5th May 2023.

Drew Smith Development and other Planning Issues.

A more recent challenge manifested itself following preliminary investigations by the developer Drew Smith in relation to the Streetway Road 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. 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 makes, 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. There has been no further contact.

Generally, all Planning Applications submitted to TVBC are issued to GPC on a regular basis. Any Planning Applications related to Grateley Parish are recorded, reviewed and if required commented upon by GPC. Cllr Horne will continue to be lead officer.

**END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT – PARISH CLERK.
1ST April 2022 to 31ST March 2023**

RECEIPTS

CIL Money	£ 1,818.45
Precept	£ 8,400.00
VAT Refund	£ 928.76
NDP Grant	£ 1,063.00
Bank Interest	£ .71
	<u>£12,210.92</u>

PAYMENTS

Administration	£655.99
Clerk	£3,300.00
Dog Bin Emptying	£205.43
Jubilee Expenses	£791.29
NDP Expenses	£773.75
Defibrillator Battery and Pads	£137.45
Flashing Speed Sign Maint	£517.80
Website	£189.84
Village Hall Grant	£1,664.00
Church Grant – 3 years	£1,800.00
Village Maintenance	£53.21
Insurance	£678.89
VAT on Payments	£439.98
	<u>£11,207.63</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT SUMMARY

Balance BFW 1 st of April 2022	£22,824.16
Add Receipts	£12,210.92
	<u>£35,035.08</u>

Less Payments	£11,207.63
	<u>£23,827.45</u>

Parish Council Working Balance =	£ 8,827.45
Play Area Project	= £ 15,000.00
	= <u>£23,827.45</u>

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2022/2023

The Parish Council agreed to submit a Certificate of Exemption as the turnover was below £25,000. Proposed by Cllr Mr K Smith and seconded by Cllr M Horne. All agreed.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr K Smith and seconded by Cllr Mr A Bradford. All Agreed.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022/2023

The Annual Accounting Statement 2021/2022 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr K Smith and seconded by Cllr Mr I Wingfield. All agreed.

GRATELEY VILLAGE HALL. CHAIR CLLR MR K SMITH.

Overview.

Looking back over the previous year since the last report, it would appear that things have now settled following the Covid-19 pandemic. Suffice to say, I am pleased to report that the War Memorial Hall is in a safe, economically stable condition and give thanks for the input and efforts of Cllr Bradford, Cllr Bettle-Shafer, and Linda Griffith.

Improvements/Compliance.

Whilst closed during Covid-19, we took the opportunity to complete the refurbishment of the Kitchen. 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 and the installation of an Automatic Addressable Fire Detection system which are scheduled to take place later in the year.

Wi-Fi Access.

The provision of free internet access for residents within the Hall is being pursued by the Committee.

Resilience Plan.

SSE still have funding available to make the Village Hall a Warm Hub for the use of vulnerable residents of the village in an emergency situation. Grateley Parish Council will go ahead with getting the Hall self-sufficient for power and heating.

Bookings.

Booking the Hall is now undertaken online, making the system accessible to all and I can report that the income from hiring out the Hall continues to grow since re-opening, the future of the Hall appears secure. However, following receiving Feedback, the On-line Booking system gives people no visibility of hall availability, bookers unable to find a suitable slot if their first preference indicates a clash. Cllr Bradford continues to review this and the Web Hosting which it is hoped will all be resolved shortly.

Local Recycling Centre.

TVBC has asked that GPC complete a new LRC agreement so that we can ensure everything is up to date. The matter needs to be discussed by the new Committee, to establish whether it is within the Halls interest to continue providing the recycling facility, and should the Committee seek guidance from the residents.

Management.

Following the April meeting the management of the Hall was passed to the new Grateley Memorial Hall Committee, which will need to be verified with a new Constitution approved by the Charity Commission. However, in the meantime it is proposed that Cllr Bradford continues to manage Bookings, Linda Griffith to be Treasurer with Richard Waterman who will be Secretary. A meeting will take place on 2nd May to further discuss the matter and nominate a Chair.

Finance.

The financial position of the Hall is good, with the positive increase in bookings continuing. The main issue is with the Pay Pal Account which remains unresolved, this must take priority over any other business.

GRATELEY VILLAGE FRIENDS.

Mrs Linda Griffith reported that Grateley Village Friends have 30 members and met every month. There have been 6 speakers and 4 outings in the last year. Money from subs and a monthly raffle help keep the club running. A recent fund-raising event raised £470. Mrs Linda Griffith thanked the Parish Council for their continued support.

PLANNING.

23/00642/FULLN – Grateley Business Park – Demolition of Commercial building and construction of 3 buildings to be used for storage and the provision of financial services; Offices; Research and development of products and light industrial processes with parking.

Cllr Mr M Horne reported that he has studied the proposed plans and has found numerous inaccuracies, a lack of detail and several omissions. Cllr Mr M Horne ran through his findings, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would OBJECT with the following concerns:

On-site Parking – not enough provision.

Noise issues with the increase in traffic for neighbouring residents.

Access to the site is not suitable for the proposed traffic movements and larger lorries.

Lack of detail on proposed landscaping.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS M FLOOD.

Cllr Mrs M Flood reported:

- TVBC have increased the cost-of-living grant to £2,500 and have appointed a case worker to assist applicants.
- The Grateley Parish Council Community Asset Grant for the Play Area is moving forward.
- The Borough and Parish Council Elections are on the 4th of May 2023.
- Cllr Mrs M Flood wished to thank the Parish Council for all the work they have done over the last four years.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the April Meeting. Matters arising will be discussed at the June Meeting.

HIGHWAYS.

The work being carried out to the Wallop Road/Old Stockbridge Road junction was discussed. The Chair reiterated that Grateley Parish Council have not been informed by Hampshire County Council of any change to the road layout or priority.

The Clerk will contact Jacob the officer dealing with the Over Wallop Traffic Calming Scheme to ask for an explanation.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

Cllr Mr M Horne suggested that the Parish Council provide Grateley Village Friend with a grant to help them with their Christmas Celebrations. The Parish Council were all in agreement. An 'in-camera' meeting will be held following the June meeting to discuss the grant.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were no issues raised.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

6th of June 2023 at 7pm in the Grateley Village Hall.

WEBSITE.

www.grateley.net