**Minutes of the Grateley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th**

 **September 2021 in the Grateley Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC GUIDELINES ON SELF DISTANCING WERE FOLLOWED. ANTI-BACTERIAL HAND GEL USED.

Present: Cllr Mr D Atfield – Vice Chairman

 Cllr Mr P Blakeman

 Cllr Mr R Tierney

 Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer

 Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk

 Borough Councillor Mrs M Flood

 Members of the Public – 4

Apologies: Cllr Mr K Smith – Chairman, Cllr Mr M Horne, County Councillor Mr C

 Donnelley and Borough Councillor Mr D Coole.

**WELCOME.**

Cllr Mr D Atfield took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

The Clerk apologised as he did not have a hard copy of the previous minutes available to sign. The minutes of the July 2021 meeting were agreed as a true record and will be signed at the next meeting. Matters Arising from those minutes:

PLAY AREA – Cllr Mr D Atfield report:

* A further quote has been received and there is another in the pipeline.
* TVBC have confirmed that a 50/50 Capital Grant can be applied for once all the necessary paperwork has been collated.
* A survey will be undertaken to gauge the Play Area Proposals, this will be available on the new Grateley Web Site.
* Full size Football Goal Posts have been requested and are being investigated.
* TVBC have no objection to the benches being placed on paving slabs, The siting of the benches will need to be agreed.
* Cllr Mr D Atfield and the Play Area Ladies will hold a meeting to confirm progress of the project.

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Mr R Tierney reported that no work has been carried out on the roads in the village since the last meeting. Cllr Mrs M Flood suggested that the Clerk provide her a list of the issues with the roads.

Cllr A Bettle-Shaffer reported that Cllr C Donnelley has been on site to see the problem with Flood Water on Wallop Road. It is hoped that County Councillor Mr C Donnelley will have something to report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

FOOTPATHS – Cllr Mr R Tierney reported that as far as he was aware all the footpaths are clear and walkable.

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD – There was no news to report. It was agreed that a meeting with the Headteacher of Grateley School to discuss the proposal. It has been reported that the land was gifted to Hampshire County Council many years ago to build a new school – not yet confirmed.

SPEEDING -The Clerk reported that the Over/Nether Wallop Speed Watch Scheme are organising a further training session date for Volunteers.

The Clerk reported that when he contacted the Flashing Speed Sign Company to order the signs it appears that the signs chosen needs an electricity supply. The Solar Powered sign is a further £500 costing of £1,950 each. It was agreed to proceed and purchase one sign if a success and additional one will be purchased in the future.

DOG BIN - An additional Dog Bin has been ordered and will be sited between the Bus Shelter and Lock Close Field Gate on Streetway Road. A new Rubbish Bin will also be placed further away from the Bus Shelter.

BUS SHELTER – The Clerk reported that he has instructed the Parish Council’s Contractor to replace the Bus Shelter Roof. Replacing the purspex was discussed, it was agreed that giving the existing panels a good clean would be tried first.

TELEPHONE BOX – The Clerk confirmed that it will be painted before the Winter.

**PLANNING**

21/02297/TREEN – Reduce height and sides of Cherry Tree. Reduce height of Silver Birch by up to 3m and side up to 1m. Fell Pine Tree and reduce a further silver Birch above previous cuts – Sharcott, 14 Hawthorn Close. NO OBJECTION.

**FINANCE.**

**1ST April 2021 to 7th September 2021**

Opening Balance £ 22,307.10

Plus ½ Precept £ 8,400.00

 **£30,707.10**

Less Expenditure

Audit £ 170.00

Play Area Benches £471.00

Dog Bin Emptying £203.60

Clerks Wages £1,320.00

 **£2,164.60**

Balance in Bank 7th September 2021 = £28,542.50

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Clerk reported that he had received an Email from Mr John Stamp informing the Parish Council that he has stepped down as the neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

The Parish Council wished to thank Mr John Stamp for the excellent job he has done over the years.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS M FLOOD.**

# Funding to provide new houses for those in need

### Test Valley Borough Council has been granted close to £1 million after a successful bid in partnership with Two Saints, Vivid and Aster, that will increase opportunities for those at risk of rough sleeping to have a place to call home.

A total of ten properties throughout Test Valley will be purchased by Aster and Vivid using the money, with specialist support provided to tenants by Two Saints.

Afghanistan Crisis

Hampshire County Council are co-ordinating the response in Hampshire, in conjunction with the Home Office. To date the only official request received by TVBC is to make two family houses available under the Afghan Locally Employed Staff scheme: two furnished properties have been offered in partnership with Aster.

TVBC have made offers to both the Afghan Locally Employed Staff Scheme and the Afghan Resettlement Scheme. Two Saints have also been engaged to support families with their day-to-day needs.

Tree Planting.

Over this autumn and winter Test Valley will plant 10.000 trees – young trees or ‘whips’ & standard trees e.g. hazel, hawthorn, field maple, beech oak and lime across the Borough. If appropriate land can be identified TVBC hope to plant a similar number of trees in each of the next three years.

**WEBSITE.**

Cllr Abi Bettle-Shaffer reported that she has been working on a new Web Site and is ready for a trial for the Parish Councillors to look at before going live.

Cllr Abi Bettle-Shaffer stated that the success of any website is content and urged the village to provide information on events etc.

**PARISH COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS.**

CLLR MR P BLAKEMAN – Reported that he will be resigning from the Parish Council at the end of September and will provide the Clerk with a resignation letter.

Cllr Mr D Atfield thanked Cllr Mr P Blakeman for all that he has done during his time as a Parish Councillor.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

It was reported that the Lock Close Field Gate needs repairing and there are some very low tree branches that need cutting back. This will be reported to TVBC.

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

5th October 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.