

## **Minutes of the Grateley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2025 in Grateley War Memorial Hall at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr Mr K Smith - Chair  
Cllr Mr I Wingfield – Vice Chair  
Cllr Mr A Bradford  
Cllr Mrs J Blakeman  
Cllr Mrs P Perkins  
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk  
Borough Councillor Mrs M Flood  
Borough Councillor Mrs S Hasselmann  
Members of the Public – 20

Apologies: Cllr Mr M Horne and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

### **WELCOME.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Chair's Opening Announcement:**

Members of the Public are reminded that this is not a public meeting, however, there is an item within the agenda for them to raise any issues and to please not interject during the meeting. A maximum of 10 minutes is allowed for members of the public to raise any issues, with individual contributions being limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public are encouraged not to repeat comments made by earlier contributors, or it would be preferable for a single representative to be appointed. When raising an issue please state your name for the record. The GPC Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings Policy has been adopted which is available on our website. I advise that if any members of the public who become disruptive or cause a nuisance, they will be asked to leave the meeting and as Chair I am empowered to stop the members of the public speaking and to close the meeting, if necessary.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

### **PARISH CLERK.**

The Chairman reported that he has accepted the Parish Clerk's resignation after 26 years of service. The Parish Council were very sad to hear of the Clerk's decision and will be advertising the vacancy. The Clerk will leave after the July Meeting.

### **STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF GRATELEY PARISH COUNCIL.**

The Chair read out the following statement:

## **Statement on behalf of Grateley Parish Council**

This Statement relates to the recent Grateley Parish Council (PC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and subsequent correspondence from two parishioners.

### **Minute taken from AGM.**

**Planning:** The Chair reported that the PC had received notification of 2 planning applications at Grateley Business Park.

The second application:

**Planning Application Ref:** 25/00671/FULLN.

**Applicant:** Erico Pallets Ltd.

**Description:** Change of use from (Class E/B8) to an indoor sports facility (Padel Court) (Class E).

**Location:** Grateley Business Park, Cholderton Road, Grateley, Andover Hampshire SP11 8SH.

The PC response to the Standard Consultation was No Objections with concerns over the increase in site opening times and traffic movement along the Cholderton Road that may impact on a number of our residents opposite the Business Park entrance.

### **Item raised by Members of the Public during the AGM.**

The PC was asked as to why it had registered a No Objection response to TVBC Planning Services. Discussions thereafter were drawn-out, heated and difficult to minute, therefore, to ensure that parishioners understand the circumstances and reason for the PC's decision the PC hereafter publish this Statement.

### **The Decision Process.**

It must be understood that the PC's planning decisions are made through a democratic process based on individual councillors' personal opinions of evidence presented in any Planning Application. They are not a referendum of parishioners' opinions. The PC has no obligation nor duty to poll parishioners' opinions on applications nor to adopt the opinion of some parishioners if the Councillors do not concur with that opinion.

The PC do NOT determine the planning Decision. That responsibility lies with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) Planning Services. The democratic decision of Parish Council's (not of parishioners) submitted to TVBC Planning Services is just one piece of information which TVBC Planning Services will consider when making their decision.

The PC Decision is NOT a referendum and can/will never be the opinion of all Grateley parishioners. The purpose of the PC view on planning applications is to provide extra local knowledge that might produce extra facts for or against a planning application to which TVBC Planning Services are unaware.

### **The Consultation Process.**

The PC has statutory consultation rights on planning matters. Under the Standard Consultation process with Test Valley Borough (TVBC) Planning Services regarding submitted planning applications, the PC have an opportunity to provide a PC opinion on any proposed planning application within the Parish. Following previous criticism, the PC now ensure that they will respond to TVBC with their opinion for any Planning Application in a timely manner. Councillors are asked to view any information on the TVBC Planning Portal for any planning application and to respond - Support I No Objections (with comments) I Object (with reasons) within a suitable time frame. These votes are used to determine the Council decision which will be submitted to TVBS Planning Services as the GPC opinion. Councillors will only consider residents opinions which have already been submitted to the Planning Portal when they access the portal to consider the application. Councillors have no obligation to agree with nor vote in accordance with resident's views which they are made aware of.

### **The Decision.**

On 10<sup>th</sup> April Councillors were asked to consider Planning Application 25/00671/FULLN before the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to achieve a response deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> April.

All 6 Councillors voted:

2 – fully Supported the application

2 – gave No Objection with comments

1 – gave No Objection to the application

1 – raised an Objection to the application

Therefore, by majority, the PC response to TVBC Planning Services was:

No Objection – With comments

### **Extraordinary Grateley Parish Council Meeting.**

Subsequently, the PC was asked if they would reconsider its Standard Consultation response, the gravity of such a decision, an Extraordinary PC Meeting was arranged to further discuss the concerns of some residents with the possible pollution that may be caused by the Padel Courts. The PC invited a Borough Councillor to attend.

The outcome of the Extraordinary Meeting was that the PC agreed to stand by its original decision, therefore Grateley Parish Council has made their democratic decision for the benefit of the majority in Grateley Parish.

The final decision will be made by TVBC Planning Services.

### **This decision is final, and the matter is now concluded and there will be no further discussion or response in this regard.**

Statement prepared by the Chair and agreed by Grateley Parish Council to be formerly adopted at the PC Meeting scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

Dated:30/05/2025.

Cllr Mr A Bradford proposed that the Parish Council adopt the statement. This was seconded by Cllr Mr I Wingfield. All agreed.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

The minutes of the April, May and Extraordinary Meetings were signed as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes that require an update:

GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL PARKING – There was no further news to report on the issue of parking at drop off and pick up times.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – Cllr Mr I Wingfield reported that on investigation the training for the Community Speed Watch is still available. Details and an expression of interest form have been posted on the Parish Council Website. The Clerk was asked to confirm if Grateley can still use the Nether/Over Wallop equipment.

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Mr I Wingfield reported that the new Welcome to Grateley Village sign has been erected on the Monxton Road. The new safety sign for the school children has also been erected.

### **PLAY AREA UPDATE.**

Cllr Mr I Wingfield was pleased to report that sub-contracting the fencing to a local company has saved enough money to replace the old swings within the budget.

Work begins on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 to install the Play Area. Once completed there will be a 'soft' opening. An official opening of the Play Area will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. Caroline Nokes MP will be asked if she would be willing to open the Play Area.

#### **PLANNING.**

There was no new planning application to discuss.

#### **FINANCE.**

#### **GRATELEY PARISH COUNCIL. FINANCIAL REPORT – 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2025**

##### **INCOME**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| TVBC Grant for Fencing PA | £1,000.00               |
|                           | <b><u>£1,000.00</u></b> |

##### **EXPEDITURE.**

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clerks Wages                    | £300.00                 |
| BT – Village Hall Wi.Fi.        | £33.54                  |
| Salisbury Printers Bin Stickers | £112.80                 |
| TVBC – Lease for PA             | £50.00                  |
| P Reynolds – Audit Fee          | £230.00                 |
| Lloyds Bank – Charge            | £5.25                   |
| Mr & Mrs Gregory – Brush Cutter | £692.22                 |
| HALC – Subscription             | £352.00                 |
| Shire Fencing - PA Gate         | £1,896.67               |
|                                 | <b><u>£3,672.48</u></b> |

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Working Capital</b>            | <b>= £ 6,299.16</b>        |
| <b>General Reserves</b>           | <b>= £ 4,000.00</b>        |
| <b>Play Area Maintenance Fund</b> | <b>= £1,000.00</b>         |
|                                   | <b>= <u>£11,299.16</u></b> |

##### **PLAY AREA PROJECT**

**= £ 21,230.08**

##### **Money in the bank.**

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Parish Council    | £ 11,299.16               |
| Play Area Funding | £ 21,230.08               |
| S. Duffield       | £ 1,405.32                |
|                   | <b><u>£ 33,934.56</u></b> |

#### **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2024/2025**

**1<sup>ST</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

##### **RECEIPTS**

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Precept                         | £ 10,000.00 |
| Charity Money held – S Duffield | £ 1,405.32  |
| HCC Grant Brush Cutter          | £ 650.00    |
| Groundworks NDP Funding         | £ 5,930.00  |
| NDP Refund                      | £ 39.38     |
| VAT Refund                      | £ 3,238.89  |

**£21,263.59**

**PAYMENTS**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Administration                 | £399.75    |
| Clerk                          | £3,600.00  |
| King's Coronation Party        | £418.56    |
| NDP Expenses                   | £4,221.15  |
| Flashing Speed Sign Mai        | £644.76    |
| Website                        | £300.00    |
| Village Hall Grant             | £850.00    |
| Graveyard Maint Grant          | £850.00    |
| Grateley Village Friends Grant | £500.00    |
| Insurance                      | £694.41    |
| VAT on Payments                | £2,952.68  |
| Defibrillator Batteries        | £452.67    |
| Village Hall Wi-fi Costs       | £343.71    |
| Deposit for Play Equip         | £10,000.00 |
| Audit Fees                     | £420.00    |
| Village Signs                  | £285.60    |

**£26,933.29**

**RECEIPTAS AND PAYMENT SUMMARY**

Balance BFW 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 £38,166.08

Add Receipts £21,263.59  
**£59,429.67**

Less Payments £26,933.29  
**£32,496.38**

**These cumulative funds are represented by:  
Balances 31.03.2025**

Lloyds Bank Account £32,541.38  
Less Cheque 022 £45.00  
31.03.2024 **£32,496.38**

The Clerk reported that the 2024/2025 Accounts have been signed off by the internal Auditor and he is in possession of the Audit Certificate.

**CONFLICT OF INTREST WITH BDO LLP.**

There were no conflicts of interest recorded with BDO LLP.

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/2025.**

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 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 I Wingfield. All Agreed.

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2024/2025.**

The Annual Accounting Statement 2023/2024 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr K Smith and seconded by Cllr Mr I Wingfield. All agreed.

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.**

Cllr's Mrs M Flood and Mrs S Hasselmann report the following:

- The CAF Grant scheme is now open.
- TVBC have donated £25,000 to the recent VE Celebrations.
- 2025 SSE Funding for Resilience Projects and Community Projects is now open.
- Another individual has been prosecuted for Fly Tipping in the Andover Area and had to pay a £1,500 fine.
- The Hawk Conservancy has received a funding grant to assist with new signage and lighting to improve the visitor experience.
- Cllr Mrs M Flood has been given Finance as her portfolio and Cllr Mrs S Hasselmann has been given the Finance Chair as her portfolio.
- Test Valley are still working on how they will be able to provide the increase in new housing numbers set by the Government.
- Test Valley are still discussing the way forward under the Local Government reorganisation.
- Test Valley have a new Mayor – Mr Gordon Bailey.

### **PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS.**

Cllr Mr K Smith – Reported that there is a big problem with Dog mess along Streetway Close up to Streetway Road, and on the pavement of Streetway Road just up from the junction with Wallop Road and on the grass by Locke Close Playground. This was discussed and it was agreed that more signs are needed. The Clerk has a few with him and will order additional ones.

Cllr Mr A Bradford - Reported that it has been brought to the Parish Councils attention that several residents have been fined by the Company that manages the Station Car Park, for dropping off and picking up at the Station. The Clerk was asked to contact South West Trains on this matter.

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- Mr Peter Blakeman asked if there was any movement on a white line down Station Road to make a safe route for pedestrians?
- Mr Peter Blakeman asked if Hampshire Highways have given any indication when they will sort out the problem with flooding at the bottom of Streetway Road. The Parish Council were informed a year ago that work would be undertaken to enlarge the soakaway and have heard no more.
- The Parish Council were asked when they expect delivery of the new Flashing Speed Signs. Delivery is expected within the next 6 weeks.
- Mr Murphy pointed out that the Parish Council Statement given earlier in the meeting is in conflict with the NALC website. Both the Chair and Cllr Wingfield assured Mr Murphy that the PC had taken into account the views of some residents when the PC deliberated the application.
- Mr Richard Gregory reported that there was a bad accident at the junction of Pond Road and Old Stockbridge Road resulting in an injury to one of the occupants.
- The Parish Council were informed that Erico Pallets Ltd are not the applicant for the Padel Court planning application. It is in fact JJ Acquisitions. The Chair stated that the Parish Council can only comment on the information on TVBC Planning Services portal.

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING.**

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 1<sup>ST</sup> OF July 2025.**