



GRATELEY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING – 2 SEPTEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF MEETING

Item No	Item/Motion
001/25	Vice Chair Cllr Wingfield opened the meeting at 7.00 pm. He introduced the new Clerk, Karen Nadin to attendees. The Clerk advised that she had received the resignation of Keith Smith as both Chair and Councillor on 26th August and had advised TVBC as per the statutory requirement. She briefly explained the process that had now commenced to elect a new councillor. A notice has been published on noticeboards and on the website that explains parishioners have until 17th September to request a by-election to fill that vacancy. If no by-election is requested, then the Parish Council would co-opt a person to fill the vacancy as soon as possible in line with their Co-Option Policy which can be accessed via the PC area of the website www.grateley.net ACTION: Clerk to liaise with TVBC on 17th September to confirm whether by-election has been requested and if so confirm the next steps. If no election has been requested, then a Co-Opt Vacancy Notice will be produced and advertised on noticeboards and website etc to invite expressions of interest from anyone considering joining the Council.
002/25	<u>Attendees</u> Cllr Ian Wingfield – Vice Chair acting as Chair for this meeting Cllr Andy Bradford Cllr Pat Perkins Cllr Martyn Horne Cllr Chris Donnelly – HCC Cllr Maureen Flood - TVBC Karen Nadin – Clerk Approx 20 members of the public <u>Apologies</u> Cllr Susanne Hasselmann, TVBC Michelle Penn – Community Engagement Officer, TVBC
003/25	There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests relating to items on this agenda.

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004/25	The draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 st July 2025 (previously circulated) were agreed and signed by Cllr Wingfield as a true record of that meeting.
005/25	There were no matters arising/actions from meeting held on 1 st July 2025
006/25	The Clerk circulated the Financial Report prepared by the previous Clerk Richard Waterman (bank access is in the process of being transferred to new Clerk who will produce any financial reports going forwards):- • The balance of the Parish Council bank account stands at £1828.35 as at 31st August 2025. • Second half of Precept payment from TVBC will be received during first 2 weeks of September – this will be for £5000 • VAT refunds claimed as a result of the Locke Close play area build project have all been reimbursed and are included in the above bank account balance. • Accounts from 1st April 2025 to 31st August 2025 have been subject to an audit undertaken by Brian Funnell Accountant prior to handover to new Clerk from Richard Watermann.
007/25	The Clerk reported that the following invoices/payments were awaiting payment (note - all creditors are aware of banking changeover and are content to wait for payment until online banking is set up – this should be within the next 10-14 days):- • Platform Electronics - £83.33 + VAT = £100 (website, village hall booking system, email hosting for period 1/5/25 to 31/7/25) • Platform Electronics - £259 + VAT = £310.80 (supply of PC laptop for Clerk) • Clerk's Salary for August - £285.60 • Clerk's Salary for September – not due until 28th September - £285.60 • B H Funnell Accountant - Internal audit check 1/4/25 to 19/8/25 - £75 All invoices were approved for payment. ACTION: Clerk to arrange payment of invoices.
008/25	Cllr Wingfield gave an update on the Locke Close Play Area:- • The official opening of the play area took place on 12th July and was very well attended with lots of positive feedback received. • There a few small purchases still required eg some signage and a latch for the gate. ACTION: Cllr Wingfield to identify works/items still required for completion and obtain any quotes. • Monthly safety checks on the play equipment will be necessary and volunteers are being sought to undertake this on a rota-type basis. A training package is available at a cost of £300 for up to four people – two residents had volunteered to undertake this training and be part of a rota for the safety checks going forwards. Would like another couple of volunteers. ACTION: Cllr Bradford to arrange to advertise for volunteers on the website. • Ava Recreation, the supplier of the play equipment can offer quarterly site visits to check the equipment if required and within budget. ACTION: Cllr Wingfield to obtain a quote from Ava Recreation for these quarterly visits.

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009/25	Jane Lynch provided an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):- - At the last meeting it was reported that the Government would no longer be offering financial support and as such the development of the NDP would regrettably need to be put on hold. Jane has been applied to TVBC to secure funding by way of a Community Planning Grant for £1000 which would enable the NDP work to be continued. Some monies will be saved as there is no longer a need to conduct any further housing survey for the NDP as the TVBC Local Plan is concentrating on the Streetway site by way of a proposed development of 80 houses. Jane has been advised by Plan-ET consultant that £1000 per financial year would be sufficient to enable the NDP policies to be built and the plan ready for referendum my mid 2026. - Cllr Flood reiterated that although the Government have withdrawn funding for this purpose, TVBC are keen to continue to support the completion of any NDP's in the council area. ACTION: Clerk to include a NDP Update item to agenda for each meeting of the Parish Council. Speed Watch update - Cllrs Wingfield & Bradford:- - Grateley currently have three residents who have put themselves forward to undertake Speed Watch training course run by Hampshire Police. Some had already been on an online training session. Previous Clerk was collecting names of volunteers from Grateley, Nether Wallop and Over Wallop to attend the police led training session. Clerk will liaise with him to establish current position. Cllr Bradford & Wingfield reiterated that they are keen for this to be resident led and for more volunteers to come on board with this initiative. ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Nether Wallop/Over Wallop Clerk – Richard Waterman to clarify whether date for training course had yet been organised & maximum numbers allowed to attend. Highways Update – Cllr Wingfield:- - Cllr Wingfield advised that the two new solar powered flashing speed signs had been ordered and once received could be positioned. ACTION: Clerk to contact previous Clerk to establish whether signs had yet been delivered and arrange collection.
010/25	To consider any new planning applications received from TVBC since the last meeting:-
010/25.01	25/01772/TPON – Walnut Tree Cottage, Wallop Road, Grateley T1 - Liquidambar - Prune to clear property by 1m, T2 - Walnut - Crown raise to 4m, prune to achieve 1m space between lower canopy and adjacent hedgerow, prune to clear garage roof by 1.5m, crown reduce by 2m, remove major deadwood. Responses required by close of play on 8th September 2025 – Councillors unanimously agreed no objection ACTION: Clerk to respond to TVBC Planning Dept by 8th September advising that Grateley PC have no objections to this tree works application.
011/25	Cllr Donnelly HCC provided an update:-

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	- Government have imposed more funding cuts – approx. £30-£40m. There is potential to recoup some of that back from Mayor's budget in the future. - Local Government Reorganisation – The County Council's preferred option is for merging with Southampton, Eastleigh and New Forest. Cllr Donnelly has spoken against that option - he is very concerned that there is a lot of debt within those councils and merging with them would eat into any funds that are still available within TVBC budgets ie we would end up servicing other council areas debts and not benefitting from that. There is also a danger that merging with Southampton, Eastleigh & New Forest would put pressure on TVBC to take on even more new housing. TVBC's preferred option is New Forest, Winchester & East Hampshire – these areas are more akin to our demographic with similar cultures and services. Options will be submitted to the Government by 27th September – following their review, two options will be put out for consultation in March 2026 with legislation being passed during Autumn 2026.
012/25	Cllr Flood TVBC provided an update:- - Weekly food waste collections will begin mid/end of October with household caddies being delivered over the course of the next few weeks. A small number of the caddies will include a 'Golden ticket' which will entitle the winner to a prize eg gift vouchers to The Lights in Andover, free 3-month membership to leisure centres etc. - Draft Local Plan – consultation closes 5th September at midday. Cllr Bradford mentioned that he had submitted a personal response but had not received any acknowledgement. Cllr Flood advised that there have been 100's of responses and that formal acknowledgement will take some time. She asked Cllr Bradford to update her in a couple of weeks if no acknowledgement received. - TVBC Animal Welfare Officer, Rod Mason, has been working closely with local social services to tackle a growing challenge: ensuring pets are cared for when their owners are suddenly hospitalised. Under the Care Act, this situation can create significant pressure on both health and social care teams, and the Council are seeing the impact more frequently. To avoid difficulties, people can nominate care for their pets in case of emergencies. Further detail can be found on the TVBC Councillor Monthly Update which is available Cllr Susanne Hasselmann's Facebook page linked here - https://www.facebook.com/susannehasselmann1/
013/25	To note any correspondence received
013.25.01	Correspondence had been received from Kevin May – Postmaster for North Hampshire & Salisbury Mobile Post Office drawing attention to a Government green paper – Future of Post Office - which could potentially lead to the phasing out of mobile post offices like the one operated in Grateley, other outreach branches and some smaller part-time post office counters in order to save money for reinvestment into the larger, full-time post offices currently in existence. Kevin May is urging local Parish Councils, residents and businesses to contribute to the current consultation on the Government's green paper explaining why the mobile post office needs to be saved. Real life stories of how it has been a lifeline to people can be very powerful.

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	The link to the green paper can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/green-paper-future-of-post-office Cllr Flood TVBC (also in her role with Abbots Ann Post Office) is attending a meeting on Wednesday 3rd September to discuss this green paper and local implications and will provide an update in due course. At this time, she encourages local residents to respond and contribute to the consultation document which can be found via the link above. ACTION: Cllr Flood, TVBC to provide an update in due course.
013/25.02	Correspondence received from Michelle Penn, Community Engagement Officer at TVBC advising of a new grant available from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund (HIWCF) - Including Communities 2025. This grant of up to £10,000 has been released for not-for-profit community organisations. There is a briefing session to be held on Wednesday 10th September at 10.30 am which will look at the criteria for applying for the grant. Further information re criteria and application advice and a link for booking a place at the briefing can be found here Including Communities 2025 - HIWCF
013/25.03	A 'Save the Date' notification has been received inviting Town and Parish Councillors and/or Clerks to attend the Test Valley Association of Parish & Town Councils & TVBC Joint Conference on Saturday 27th September at Kings Sombourne Village Hall. The conference will take place from 9.15 am to 12.30 pm. Further detail including agendas, workshop detail etc will be circulated shortly.
013/25.04	An email has been received from Chris Harris, the Chair of Amport Parish Council in his role as Chair of the Pillhill Pan Parish Forum (PPPF) which has been liaising with Southern Water over recent years and lots of work has now been successfully undertaken in sealing the northern end of the sewer network in the Pillhill catchment in order to contain the problem of groundwater infiltration of the sewers. The next challenge facing the PPPF and surrounding villages will be the work that will be needed to the Fullerton water treatment works. Both the PPPF and Southern Water are keen that discussions should involve as many other affected parishes as possible, including Grateley Parish, who's waste water goes to the Fullerton water treatment works. A meeting will take place during the first week of November – date tbc and the PPPF would like to invite a representative from Grateley to attend that meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Martyn Horne would attend the November meeting of the PPPF. ACTION: Clerk to update Chris Harris on Cllr Horne's attendance.
014/25	Questions were invited from members of the public present:- Peter Blakeman – requested an update on whether any consideration had been given for the provision of a footpath along Station Road. Cllr Bradford advised that this would be added to the agenda at the next Highways Sub Committee meeting. Peter Blakeman – reported there are issues with the soakaway at the end of his garden on Cholderton Road. This is a long-standing problem. Cllr Horne confirmed he had met with the roads surveyor and that Highways are aware there is an issue with both the Cholderton Road soakaway and the one at the Plough Inn. Realistically it may be that the drains also need jetting which would mean road closures. This is a Highways issue and one they probably don't have

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	the budget to resolve at this current time so temporary, remedial work, may be required initially. He will raise the issue again and provide an update in due course. ACTION: Cllr Horne to raise issue with Highways and report back at a future meeting. James asked that with the Local Plan Stage 18 consultation due by Friday 5th September what consultation are the Parish Council doing locally and has any official PC response to the consultation been submitted to TVBC. Cllr Wingfield confirmed that the Parish Council had not made an official response as no official applications have been received at this stage. Further along the line and at application stage, the Parish Council will look at the proposed detail and respond accordingly. Cllr Bradford reminded attendees that the local plan was presented at a recent meeting and residents were invited to respond individually via the TVBC consultation process. Attendees were encouraged to keep responding to the consultation directly. Jane Lynch Chair of the NDP Steering Group reminded attendees that questionnaires were circulated as part of the work they are doing, but historically there is always a lack of response from parishioners. Sue Gregory raised a query with regards to the Lengthsman appointed in May as part of a cluster group of 11 Councils (all of which Richard Waterman at the time was Clerk to). There is some relatively urgent works that needs undertaking by someone with a digger and Sue had understood from Richard that our Lengthsman would be able to complete this work. To date she has not been given an update. ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Richard Waterman for an update and report back to Sue Gregory. Linda Griffith reported that the Parish Council owned portable skittle alley used at the village hall is now in need of some refurbishment and Linda asked whether this would be something that could be arranged and paid for by the Parish Council. Once fixed, it perhaps needs some training for users on correct procedure for putting up and down without damaging parts. Skittle Alley has been well used for the last 5 years and keen to continue to use. ACTION: Cllr Bradford will have a look at the skittle alley to assess damage and estimate repair costs. Will report back to next meeting.
015/25	Cllr Horne requested that future PC meetings move to a 7.30pm start time rather than 7.00pm All councillors agreed that 7.30pm start time would be adopted in future. Future meeting dates are confirmed as:- Tuesday 7th October 2025 @ 7.30pm Tuesday 4th November 2025 @ 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd February 2026 @ 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd March 2026 @ 7.30pm Tuesday 7th April 2026 @ 7.30pm Tuesday 5th May 2026 @ 7.30pm – this will be the AGM
016/25	Cllr Wingfield closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

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