

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING OF GRAFHAM PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd April 2024

In attendance – Ian Gardener (Chairman) David Russell (Vice-Chair), Patrick Curran, Diana Thomas, Carole Baber and Sunil Gogna.

Public - 1 member of the public was present.

HDC Ward - None. The Clerk was also in attendance.

The Chairman opened the meeting with the following thank you's:

- To Patrick Curran for chairing the previous meeting,
- It was noted that Carole Baber has handed in her notice due to leaving the area. The Clerk is to start the procedure to recruit a new member **Action:Clerk** The Chairman thanked Carole Baber for all her hard work on the Council over the years especially with the wildflower meadow,
- To Diana Thomas for all her work with the Town Farm and Biggs Charity.

21/532 Public Forum

The member of public was in attendance for item: 21/538.

21/533 County and District Councillors Reports

None received.

21/534 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ken Billington and Cllr Stephen Cawley.

It was agreed to vary the order of reference to take item 21/538 first.

21/538 Proposed Closure of Kimbolton Fire Station

• Meeting Update

The Chairman provide an updated on the recent meeting. The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton, the other two being Manea & Sutton. The reason for the change is the Fire authority cannot attract sufficient staff to provide operational cover particular during the day. Data for Kimbolton Fire Station and strategic stations for 2021, 2022 and 2023 shows evidence that Kimbolton maintained and improved an average availability compared to strategic stations. It was suggested increasing the response time for staff from 5-7 mins to get to the station to 9 mins this would allow for a bigger pool of staff to potentially call upon. It was suggested this would still be quicker than a fire engine being dispatched from St Neots fire station. It was highlighted locally there is a fireworks factory, a prison, schools and the A14 and A1 therefore it would make more sense to keep the Kimbolton station. All information will be looked at and a decision is awaited which may not be until 2025.

Noted the member of public left here.

21/535 Declarations of interest in any agenda item

Ian Gardener declared an Interest in item: 21/545 planning, as a member of Development Management Committee.

21/536 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2024

The minutes were approved as a true record subject to re-formatting of item 21/528. They will be signed at the next meeting once corrected.

21/537 Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda

- Note new swing seats installed

Noted. David Russell was thanked for installing the new seats.

21/538 Proposed Closure of Kimbolton Fire Station

• Meeting Update

This item was taken earlier.

21/539 Grafham Water Annual User Group Meeting Update

Ian Gardener provide an update on the meeting. Future events were noted which can be found on <https://anglianwaterparks.co.uk/whats-on>

The Parish Councils dissatisfaction on not being consulted on Anglian Water's Application for an Entertainment License was communicated. An agreement was reached that Anglian Water would contact the Parish Clerk in advance when events will take place. Details of such events are to be placed in the Gossip for residents information.

The reservoir is not full to capacity as Anglian Water cannot pump water from the Great Ouse when the river is in flood. The pumps are unable to take the pressure off flood water and there is a risk of the flood water being contaminated. The reservoir will be filled up over the next 6 months. There is a Bio-Security hazard with PennyWort present in the river Ouse.

A new operations manager has been appointed.

It is hoped an Osprey post will be installed in the next 12 months.

21/540 Tree(s) Updates

The Parish Council have not yet received a copy of the tree survey. Carole Baber agreed to chase this up before she leaves along with the invoice for payment.

Noted a Cherry tree has been missed from the Tree Policy. This is to be added with immediate effect. The Tree Policy was reviewed, updated and approved. The updated policy is to be put on the website.

Action: David Russell.

21/541 Church Yard Driveway and Bollards

The Chairman and David Russell are to agree a date to install the additional bollards.

The newly installed edging along the entrance to the church yard gravel path was noted and suitability considered. It was agreed to build up the soil behind the edging. The Chairman and David Russell are to complete this. **Action: Chair + David Russell.**

21/542 Children's Play Area Swings

• Consider Quote to purchase new paint

The quote from Wicksteed to provide primer and paint for both sets of swing frames at £179.03 was noted. It was suggested Hammerite paint could be used. Costs are to be obtained for this.

• Consider Quote(s) to sand down and re-paint swing frames

The following quotes were considered:

• Wicksteed - to provide paint and labour to sand down, prime and repaint swings for £965.00

• Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance - to labour sand down, prime and re-paint, client to supply paint for £360.00.

Agreed to obtain costs for Hammerite paint with the view of accepting Cambridgeshire and Garden Property Maintenance subject to costs.

• Consider solutions to bird fouling

Noted the plastic cable ties do not appear to be effect in preventing birds fouling on the swings.

Agreed to purchase stainless steel spikes. These are to be installed after the swing frames are repainted.

21/543 School Holidays Parish Sessions 2024

The Clerk confirmed the village have been consulted on this but only 4 people responded totalling 5 children being interested. It was agreed due to their not being enough interest this will not be pursued further. Residents are to be informed. **Action:Clerk**

21/544 D Day 80th Celebrations

• Purchase of New Flag

Noted a new flag has been purchased to commemorate the 80th celebrations of D Day. This is to be installed for 1 week at the beginning of June.

21/545 Planning Applications

PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 24/00138/HHFUL New Garage with integrated Solar PV array and Biomass boiler room with associated storage Model Farm Buckden Road Grafham Huntingdon PE28 0BH

The Chairman declared an interest in this item and withdrew from conversation but remained in the room. The Vice-Chair David Russell stepped in to chair for this item.

It was agreed to recommend "Approval".

The Chairman resumed the meeting.

21/546

To Receive Written Reports for Noting:

Village Hall Committee - PC

Patrick Curran provided a verbal report. Noted the Village Hall Committee were not successful in their grant application for replacement soffits etc. The mens toilets are in need of attention.

Village Shop - PC

Patrick Curran reminded members of the upcoming Race night which will raise funds to repair the roof.

Playing Field / Playground - JD - Nothing further to report.

Highways + Footpaths - SG - Sunil Gogna confirmed potholes have been marked up for repair.

Community Heat Scheme - DR

Gigabit Broadband - DR

Please see Appendix:A for the above 2 reports.

Trees / Hedge Cutting / Verge Maintenance CB

Wild Flower Meadow Update - CB

Please see appendix:A for the above 2 reports.

MVAS - DR

Please see appendix:A

MUGA - PC - Nothing further to report

Village Hall Finance / Bookings - DT

Please see appendix:A

Grass Cutting - IG / LH

The Clerk highlighted she has spoken to the grass cutter. The padlock to the post on the playing fields had seized up over winter. The grass cutter requested that the padlock is regular inspected over winter to prevent it from happening again.

21/547

Banking

1. To approve / note the following payments

• Clerk Salary - March	£343.75
• Grafham Gossip Dec 23 / Jan 24	£55.00
• BlockAway Drains Gulley Jetting Village Hall / Trout Car Park	£89.00
• Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance Church Drive	£225.34
• D Day Flag	£28.80
• Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance Moss Treatment	£89.98
• Wicksteed Swing Seats x 4.	£537.32
• Wicksteed Replacement Wooden Slats Small Climbing Frame	£834.97

NOTED / APPROVED

2. Report on current financial position.

• **To receive financial situation of Council and to note Bank Reconciliation** - Noted.

• **Note Official Closure of Town Farm and Biggs Charity**

Noted this has now been officially closed and 2 sums of money transferred to the Parish Council £1227.84 + £8.30. This is to be used to purchase the new benches.

• **Resolve to agree wording and purchase of plaque for playing field bench.**

The following wording was agreed:

This Bench has been provided by -

The Town Farm & Biggs Charity.

For Residents of Grafham Young and Old to Enjoy.

Sit and Rest Awhile.

• **Consider request to part fund over 65's village fitness sessions**

The request was noted and considered. The Clerk provided all the relevant information. It was agreed not to provide financial support for this on this occasion. The Parish Council confirmed they are happy for future events to be held in the grounds of the village hall.

Agreed to accept the quote from Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance of £101.86 to install the new handrail to the entrance of the village hall. The cost of the handrail is £113.67 from Amazon.

21/548

Correspondence for Information Only

- Care Micro Enterprises for adults across Hunts
- Hunts Blind & Vision Impaired Event 14th June Huntingdon Library
- Feedback Festival of Huntingdonshire Town & Parish Event
- Parish Online Newsletter
- CPALC Spring Training Courses

- HDC Community Meeting Dates, 11 June, 10 September, 3 December
- CCC Youth Bulletin
- Highway Events Diary Dates
- Help at Home for Older Adults in Communities
- HDC Press Release - Cigarette Litter Bins
- HDC Press Release - Free Business Support for Huntingdonshire Businesses
- HAF Programme - Easter 2024
- HDC One Leisure Active Lifestyles March Newsletter
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Victims and Witness Hub leaflet
- The Great British Spring Cleanup
- Local nature Recovery Strategy Survey
- Chemical Weed Treatment Survey
- Highway Events - Traffic Management Training Courses 2024
- HDC Democratic Services Newsletter

NOTED.

21/549

Any other business for information only

The next meeting is the Annual Meetings. The following are to be invited to attend / provide a report the Church, Town Farm & Biggs Charity, Beer Festival Committee, Grafham Gossip, the Shop and the Fireworks and Social Committee.

21/550

Dates of next meeting: 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.

DRAFT