

GRAFHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Clerk: Mrs L Hazel, 2 Brampton Road, Grafham
Chair: Mr I Gardener, 5 Haycraft Close, Grafham
Tel: 07867 766445 email: clerk@grafhampc.org

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF GRAFHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
Tuesday 2nd June 2026

In attendance: David Russell (Vice-Chair), Diana Thomas, Alf Lesurf and Patrick Curran
Public: Approximately 28 residents were in attendance.
District / County Cllr: Cllr Stephen Cawley
Clerk: Lisa Hazel

David Russell as Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chairman, chaired this meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

Public Forum

Noted the majority of the residents were in attendance to hear the Anglian Water Presentation.

21/978 Anglian Water Presentation

Ben Hugg, Senior Customer Lead, and Ben Haycock, Network Service Manager from Anglian Water were welcomed to the meeting and invited to give their presentation a copy of which is appended to these minutes for reference Appendix: A.

Ben Hugg gave the presentation and invited comments and questions as he went along. The following main points were noted:

Ben Hugg, Senior Customer Lead, apologised for the poor service Grafham residents have received over the years. It was confirmed the main reason for the water keep going off is due to power issues which typically stops several pumping stations from working causing a loss of supply to many homes in the area. The equipment then has to be restarted sequentially to restore the supply, with larger areas (towns) being restored first noting that Grafham village is smaller in size.

Anglian Water confirmed they are currently working with UK Power Networks to try and establish the cause of the power outages and to find a long-term solution. However, in the meantime Anglian Water have agreed to invest £750,000 to provide measures to help combat the problems. A new resilience scheme is being proposed. This will include a new Pressure Reducing Valve being installed by the end of this financial year (March 2027), which will help with the pressure of the water. The installation of this valve will ensure when the pump cuts out / fails, all homes within the village should still have some low-pressure water, even if it is only available downstairs whilst the pump is reset. In addition, by the end of 2029 over 1 km of pipework supplying the village will be upgraded to a larger size.

A question was asked as to why the original pump, which is old, is not replaced with a new model. It was highlighted the cost of replacing the pump would cost over 2 million pounds therefore making it cost prohibitive. Ofwat (the Water Services Regulation Authority) who set the pricing limits would not allow Anglian Water to raise customers bills dramatically to cover such a cost. It was noted the main problems arise from the smaller pump and not the big pump.

It was highlighted the water situation within Grafham village gets better, then worse and then better again. Anglian Water were asked why this is but were unable to give a 100% answer indicating the power issues have been worse over the last 12 months than the previous 12 months. A resident asked if Anglian Water can introduce Uninterruptible Power Supply which is a device that provides instant emergency battery backup and surge protection when the primary power source fails. It keeps connected equipment running long enough to save work, prevent data corruption, or allow backup generators to kick in. Ben Hugg was not aware of this technology

and highlighted it is not in his expertise but agreed to take the suggestion away and talk to the engineers to see if it is a possibility.

Ben Hugg was asked for information about the bigger diameter pipework being proposed as it was questioned as to why/how the bigger pipe that will bring in a greater volume of water will make the supply more resilient? It was confirmed the bigger pipework would also take into account further growth in the area.

Several residents highlighted the sheer amount of money Anglian Water as a company make, questioning the seemingly small amount of money being invested into this. It was suggested that residents of Grafham should see a reduction in their water bills for the poor service they receive. Ben Hugg noted he felt residents should be compensated in some way.

Some residents asked very technical questions that Anglian Water were unable to answer. However, Anglian Water confirmed they will return in 6 months' time with a technical engineer and to provide further updates.

Ben Hugg and Ben Haycock were thanked for attending the meeting. Both confirmed they will see this through to the end to ensure the residents of Grafham get the service they deserve and promised to return.

21/979 Call for Sites

• To consider Revised Additional Site Allocation

David Russell gave a short presentation on the current revised additional site allocation a copy of which is appended to these minutes Appendix: B. It was noted that the proposed number of houses has reduced from 60 to 35. However, the plot is actually ≈ 1.1 ha, and not 1.62ha as specified.

Residents in attendance were asked to provide their views before the Parish Council reached a decision.

The Parish Council were asked if they were going to object to this submission raising issues that should be taken into account. Some of the issues raised were entrance to the site, number of houses proposed, current Anglian Water problems amongst other issues.

A representative of the family who made the submission was in attendance at the meeting. They introduced the developer who has been asked to develop the site. It was noted they are also developing the site, Thrapston Road, Brampton and would look to create something similar in Grafham. The issue of Anglian Water and sewage was raised highlighting the current sewage network is at capacity and regular overflows out of the drain covers in very heavy downpours. The developer confirmed they would not be allowed to build the houses until the issue of sewage was sorted. It was confirmed they would look to have the entrance on Buckden Road, installing a mini roundabout to allow this.

The Clerk confirmed the Call for Sites / Local Plan process and confirmed a full planning application would still need to be applied for before any building can take place even if the site was to be approved for submission into the Local Plan.

David Russell thanked residents for their comments and for attending tonight's meeting highlighting the Parish Council will take on board residents comments and a decision will be made under item: 21/987 planning to allow members time to digest the comments made.

Noted the majority of residents left here along with Cllr Stephen Cawley.

21/980 County and District Councillors Reports

Noted before he left that Cllr Stephen Cawley confirmed he has nothing to add this month but will send through a general report for circulation which is attached to these minutes for reference: Appendix: C

21/981 Co-Option of New Member to Council

The Clerk Confirmed a resident has come forward to be co-opted onto the Council and introduced Nik Blackburn. Nik Blackburn was invited to address the Council as to why he would like to become a member. He was then asked to leave the room whilst members made a decision. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Nik Blackburn onto the Council. Nik Blackburn was invited to join members at the table where he duly signed his Acceptance of Office form.

21/982 Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted and approved from the Chairman Ian Gardener and Sunil Gogna.

21/983 Declarations of interest in any agenda item

Diana Thomas declared an interest in item 21/979 Call for Sites as owner of neighbouring property.

21/984 To approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 12th May 2026

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed.

21/985 Football Club - Container Update

Patrick Curran provided an update. It was noted an additional yellow post has now been installed to allow access onto the grass for the lorry to move the container. Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Services have been approved to remove light vegetation for the new siting.

21/986 Shop Lease

RESOLVE to formalise increase lease to 25 years

Noted the Parish Council has been asked for an extension to the shop lease to allow the shop committee to apply for funding applications for the new shop. RESOLVED this has been approved in between meetings due to time constraints on the funding applications in approval with current members and the relevant paperwork has been drawn up and signed.

21/987 Planning

RESOLVE Parish Council to submit Grafham Trout Planning Application for Extension

Noted the Parish Council have been asked as the land owners if they would submit the planning application for the new extension to the Grafham Trout on behalf of the pub committee. The Grafham Trout have confirmed they would meet all costs of any planning applications. RESOLVED to agree to this as land owners.

It was agreed to make a decision on item 21/979 Call for Sites here.

Noted Diana Thomas having declared an interest took no part in any conversations but remained in the room.

The Call for Sites revised submission was discussed in detail by the remaining members. David Russell proposed that the Parish Council respond with "Have Observations" with the only exception being "objecting" to the size of the area being proposed as the hectareage is inaccurate. This was put to the vote and recorded as 2 for and 2 against. David Russell as acting Chairman had the casting vote and therefore the proposal to respond with "Have Observations" was passed. David Russell is to draft a formal response a copy of which is appended to these minutes Appendix: D

21/988 Banking

1.To approve / note the following payments

Grafham Gossip	£55.00
BEAM Church Grass Cutting	£100
April Wages Balance	£28.33
Accountancy & Bookkeeping Service - Internal Audit	£140.00
BEAM Grass Cutting No:4	£190
ROSPA - Playground Inspection	£123.60
Cambridgeshire Property & Garden Service - Weed Spraying	£72.00
Cambridgeshire Property & Garden Service - Post Installation	£94.68
BEAM Church Meadow Cutting	£150.00
BEAM Grass Cutting No:5	£190

Noted and Approved.

21/989 Correspondence

- North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Working Group Newsletter
- Hay Hunts Newsletter
- TMC Roadworks & Events Bulletin
- Cambridgeshire Flood & Water Newsletter
- Monthly Highway Events
- HDC Water System Management Event 2026 Tuesday 14th July 2026
- The Knife Angel Comes To ELY 21st May 2026 to 17th June 2026
- Town & Parish Newsletter Spring Newsletter: “Keeping Your Council Connected, Compliant & Secure

21/990 Any other business for information only

NOTED.

21/991 Note 2026 / 2027 dates for meetings:

- 2026 - 7th July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December
- 2027 - 5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.17pm

DRAFT