

**MINUTES OF GRAFHAM ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2025
GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Graham Parish Councillors: Mr David Russell (Vice-Chair) Mr Patrick Curran and Ms Diana Thomas.

County Cllr. Ken Billington (outgoing) and Cllr Liam Beckett (new County Councillor)

District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Cawley.

There were 7 members of public present.

In the absence of the Parish Council Chair Mr David Russell as Vice-Chair chaired this meeting.

1. Chairmans Welcome

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Approve minutes of meeting held on 7th May 2024

These were approved as a true record and signed.

3. Annual Report of Grafham Parish Council by the Chairman:

The Vice-Chair read out the annual report of the Parish Council on behalf of the Chairman as follows:-

As Chairman of the Parish Council, Firstly I would like to put on record my thanks to all Parish Councillors for their hard work over the past 12 months and to our Clerk Lisa Hazel for all her efforts over the same period, which has made being Chairman much easier.

Over the last 12 month's the Parish Council has achieved the following –

We held our second successful Remembrance Day Celebration. My thanks go to Jill Tyack and Hazel Powell for conducting the service, Brian Homewood for playing the Last Post and to the Royal British Legion for attending. As well as to all the residents who attended and to Diana for providing the cakes and making the Teas and Coffees. This year we also donated money to the Knit and Natter Group and Little Fishes for their Poppy displays for the event, which were absolutely stunning.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council was successful in its second bid to the National Lottery for a Cradle Swing. Which was installed in the Playground in June. The swings were also repainted in the playground.

Following the Parish Council's Tree Survey of trees on Parish Council Land. The dead trees along the Brampton Road have been removed along with the dead tree on the green in front of the Church. The Hedge in front of the playground was cut back to improve views across the playground.

The Parish Council has also cleared the overgrown area adjacent to the footpath from Breach Road to Field Close. The area has been reseeded with grass and will be cut as part of the village grass cutting. Overgrown hedges have also been cut back along Buckden & Brampton Roads, to improve visibility for road users.

The Parish council worked with the Village Hall Committee to successfully install a projector and screen, which has become invaluable at PC meetings – thanks go to Cllr David Russell for organising and installing. Two new noticeboards, one for the PC and the other for the Village Hall have also been installed.

Solar panels have been installed on the Village Hall, along with batteries, to provide power to the Trout. This will make an important contribution to supporting the energy requirements of the Trout and help to ensure the environmental and financial sustainability of this much valued facility.

The Parish Council also provided additional railings on the Village Hall access ramp to assist with access for those less agile. As well as extending and tidying the Waste Bin Storage area.

The Parish Council also repaired the lights to the MUGA which had failed due to an ant infestation as well as providing new football nets.

The Parish Council also provided donations to the Beer Festival and the Grafham Gossip.

The Parish council would like to thank Jill Tyack and her team for maintaining and improving the flowerbed and raised beds at the front of the Village Hall, which provide such a marvellous display throughout the year.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I along with other Parish Council representatives met our New MP Ben Obese-Jecty at the Houses of Parliament to discuss issues that are important to the Parish. None more so than the County Council's proposals for the Grafham to Brampton Road. Who has supported our campaign to keep the road open to all users.

The Council's thanks also go to David Russell for moving the MVAS signs around the village. The speeds recorded show that they are helping to reduce speeds within the village and therefore making the village safer for residents.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the Parish Council will be holding its 3rd Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 10th May. Our MP hopes to be able to attend the event. As usual Tea, coffee and Cake will be provided at the end of the Litter Pick.

4. To invite the County Councillor to address the meeting

Cllr Ken Billington gave the following report:

Much of the focus for the last 12 months has been on understanding the issues and complexities of the potential for changing the use of Brampton Road (Pedestrians walking, riding horses or bicycles).

It was very clear from the outset that the good people of Grafham did not want the road use to be changed. Brampton Road is a lifeline for emergencies, such as Doctors or Hospital attendance as the quickest route. Even for shopping in Brampton and Huntingdon.

From the outset of the announcement presentation of the project, I was fully supportive of the residents being against the scheme. To this end, I garnered the support of both Brampton and Buckden Parish Councils. Chairs of Brampton and Buckden PCs attended the spectacular public meeting of Grafham Residents. Standing room only outside! Our local MP, Ben Obese-Jecty was supportive and has done much to get the project stopped in its original form to what we all hope will be an acceptable compromise.

Pot holes have been on the agenda for most of the four years I have been your County Councillor. You are not alone as there are many potholes nationwide.

During my four years as your County Councillor, I have been frustrated by the lack of action at times. Finding the right person to contact at CC is somewhat of a mystery at the best of times. Have not achieved as much as I would have like but I have always tried to do my best for you.

it has been a privilege and mostly a pleasure to have at least tried to achieve benefits for Grafham.

Thank you for your kindness and support which I have much appreciated. Wishing you all the very best for the future.

5. To invite the District Councillor to address the meeting.

Cllr Stephen Cawley's report is attached to these minutes Appendix: A

6 Receive Report from Grafham Beer Festival

The Clerk to the Parish Council gave a brief verbal report on behalf of the Grafham Beer Festival. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their grant of financial support to this event. Unfortunately it did rain during the event where it was discovered that the Beer Festival marquee leaks however after a few drinks nobody noticed. A raffle held raised £300 which went towards the cost of installing the solar panels.

7. Receive Report from Grafham Gossip

The editor of Grafham Gossip gave the following report:-

The Grafham Gossip published its usual eleven monthly copies, including a combined December and January issue.

Peterborough Print, run by Simon Steward, provided a good printing service with no increases in price this year. During the year, there were eight 12-page issues and three 16-page issues. The cost of printing was £117.60 per issue for 12 pages and £128.80 for 16 pages. Other costs incurred in 2024-25 included minor expenses for my paper and ink and the two-yearly invoice for the Gossip email address, which was £23.98. The £55 monthly grant from the Parish Council together with revenue from advertisers, including a regular payment from the Grafham Trout, has been almost enough to cover the cost. There was a loss of just under £3.

From the June 2025 issue, one regular advert has been cancelled but a casual advert has replaced it.

I am happy to continue with the current contribution from the Parish Council in the hope that enough 'extra' adverts continue to be placed after June, but I will make a request for an increase in contributions if this does not happen or if the printing costs or my expenses increase.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council and all our advertisers for supporting the Grafham Gossip.

My grateful thanks also go to the very conscientious delivery team of village volunteers. Without their help, it would not be possible to deliver a black and white paper copy to every house in Grafham.

As well as the paper copy, an online version in colour, is available on the Grafham village website www.grafham.org.uk and a monthly link to the colour copy is sent to the mailing list. Anybody can add their email address to the mailing list by subscribing, at no cost, from the website.

8. Receive Report from Grafham Church

No report received. The Vice-Chair gave a very brief overview on behalf of the Church. Thanks were expressed to Brian Homewood and team for the regular cutting of the grass in the churchyard.

NOTED - Church Report was received the next day and therefore has been appended to these minutes Appendix: E

9. Receive Report from Grafham Village Shop

Please see attached report Appendix: B

It was noted Parish Councillor Alf Lesurf arrived here.

10. Receive Report from Village Hall Committee

Please see attached report Appendix: C

11. Receive Report on MVAS Units + Neighbourhood Plan

MVAS Report -

The data downloaded from the MVASs continues to show they are an effective aid in ensuring the vast majority of drivers remain within the speed limit

However, the MVAS battery problems reported last year have meant the batteries needed to be replaced every three weeks and so locations were changed every six weeks, rather than the nominal monthly change. The battery capacity will continue to reduce over time and are expensive to replace.

The solution proposed by the manufacturer, Morelock, is to fit solar panels and keep the MVASs at fixed locations. Fixed locations can result in drivers becoming complacent, so to mitigate this Morelock recommend periodically changing the images displayed.

An application to Cambridgeshire County Council last October for permission to mount solar panels on the lampposts was rejected due to new safety requirements. CCC have stated that lampposts can, in rare circumstances, become live due to wiring faults. Consequently, anyone wishing to mount any device must attend a “G39 – Working in the vicinity of DNO equipment awareness course”. Having successfully completed this course, a subsequent application to CCC has been approved.

Morelock have provide a quote for two solar panels at £399 each + p&p, a total of £863 + VAT.

Neighbourhood Plan Report - Please see attached report Appendix D

12. For members of the public to present, discuss and resolve upon any other matters related to Grafham Parish.

Questions were asked about the Calls for Site Consultation and relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan in connect with the Consultation. Clarification was sought on the upcoming Sustrans Brampton Quietway meeting.

13. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.33pm.