

MINUTES OF GRAFHAM ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MAY 2026 GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Graham Parish Councillors: Mr Ian Gardener, Mr David Russell (Vice-Chair) Mr Patrick Curran, Ms Diana Thomas and Mr Alf Lesurf (in part)

County Cllr Liam Beckett

District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Cawley.

There were 8 members of public present including representatives giving reports.

1. Chairmans Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approve minutes of meeting held on 6th May 2025

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed.

3. Presentation Repair Cafe

Natalie Bartlett, Buckden Repair Cafe was welcomed to the meeting and invited to address the floor. Natalie Bartlett gave a short presentation on Repair Cafe's confirming the Cambridgeshire Repair Cafe Network is administered by Cambridge Carbon Footprint who have been supporting a growing network of Repair Cafes in Cambridgeshire since 2014.

The following was noted:

Repair Cafes pair up people who have broken items with people who enjoy repairing items.

By fixing broken items they:

- prevent useful goods from going to landfill;
- help to tackle climate change;
- build skills;
- save money;
- and, bring communities together.
- All items are repaired free of charge.

Noted the next Buckden Repair Cafe is being held on Sunday 21st June, 1-30 - 4.30pm in Buckden Village Hall. Everyone was invited to attend to gain a better understanding of how repair cafes work. The Parish Council confirmed they would look into holding a repair cafe in Grafham.

4. Simone Tauber, Anglian Water, Visitor Operations Manager - Update on Park

Simone Tauber was welcomed to the meeting. Simone Tauber gave a presentation on Grafham Water highlighting achievements over the last year and a look forward to the next 12 months. The following was noted:

- This year is the 60th anniversary of Grafham Water. This was celebrated by planting "Rory's Wood" in a community and conservation project designed to connect visitors and give back to local families.
- The fishing lodge has had a refurbishment.
- There is a new grounds maintenance team.

- The pontoon has been successfully repaired.
- Water levels are expected to reach 90% by June 2026.
- The new bike shop is to open soon.
- The visitor centre and cafe is undergoing renovation.
- The website is being looked at with a view to upgrading the site.
- Volunteers are always welcomed and needed in particular regular volunteers to help litter pick around the water especially at weekends when it gets busy.
- Anglian Water encourage people to carry out their work experience with them and this year they have more work experience people than ever.
- A new “dog on lead” area is coming soon.

It was noted Parish Councillor Alf Lesurf arrived here.

The floor was then opened up for questions. Several questions were raised around visitors parking, Grafham Water. Simone Tauber confirmed double yellow lines are to be installed on both sides of the road in front of the “Grafham” visitor centre, and the relevant Traffic Order is being applied for. It was confirmed that Anglian Water cannot prevent visitors from parking in the village.

Simone Tauber was thanked for attending the meeting. Noted Simoene Tauber left the meeting at this point.

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

Please see report attached Appendix: A

6. To invite the County Councillor to address the meeting

Cllr Liam Beckett was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Beckett highlighted he has been in position for 1 year and is proud of his achievements so far and confirmed he has taken redundancy from his day job so he can devote all of his time to his Council work. Cllr Beckett confirmed he is on a number of different committees / boards and has currently been devoting his time to planning issues, mostly recently the proposed Newlands Park Development, Brampton. Cllr Beckett expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for the great job they do.

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

Please see Cllr Stephen Cawley’s report attached Appendix:B

8. Receive Report from Grafham Beer Festival

Kevin Sharp was welcomed to the room. Kevin Sharp proceeded to give a brief update on behalf of the Grafham Beer Festival. Thanks on behalf of the committee were expressed to the Parish Council for all of their support of the beer festival over the years which is now in its 14th year. Noted the financial contribution from the Parish Council paid for one of the bands last year. It was confirmed there will be a raffle this year and all monies raised from the raffle will help go towards the Grafham Trout’s new extension. Kevin Sharp enquired about the moving of the football club container. The Parish Council confirmed this is up for discussion at the next Council meeting.

9. Receive Report from Grafham Gossip

The editor of Grafham Gossip provided the following report:-

The Grafham Gossip published its usual eleven monthly copies, which includes a combined December and January issue. 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. Anyone can add their email address to the mailing list by subscribing, at no cost, from the website.

Peterborough Print, run by Simon and Clare Steward, provided their usual good service again this year, there were no increases in price. The cost of printing remains at £117.60 per issue for 12 pages and £128.80 for 16 pages. There was only one 16 page issue - in July; I managed to keep all the others at 12 pages. Other costs incurred in 2025-26 included minor expenses for my paper and ink. The two-yearly invoice for the Gossip email address is not due until January 2027. I'm expecting that to be about £25.

One regular advert was lost mid-April 2025, which was a little concerning as there had been a small loss at the end of the last financial year, but luckily since then I've had five or six casual adverts. Some of which have been just once or twice and some repeated for several months.

The £55 grant from the Parish Council, paid eleven months of the year, together with a regular payment from the Grafham Trout and revenue from other advertisers, has been enough to cover the production cost with a surplus of about £100.

I am happy to continue with the current contribution from the Parish Council in the hope that enough adverts continue to be placed, 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.

There will probably be no Grafham Gossip in August – I use Microsoft Publisher to produce the Gossip and from October Microsoft will no longer be supporting Publisher, so I plan to use Affinity Publisher instead. This is proving to be a very steep learning curve, so I will need time to get to terms with the software. Hopefully, I'll be ready in time for the September issue.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council, Grafham Trout and all our advertisers for supporting the Grafham Gossip. As usual my grateful thanks also go to the very conscientious delivery team of village volunteers. A couple of people dropped out this year due to moving out of the village, but thankfully they were quickly replaced. Without their help, it would not be possible to deliver a black and white paper copy to every house in Grafham.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to the editor for all of their hard work producing the Grafham Gossip for all residents.

10. Receive Report from Grafham Church

Please see report attached Appendix: C

11. Receive Report from Grafham Village Shop

Parish Councillor Patrick Curran provided a verbal report to the meeting. NOTED a full report was received after the meeting and is attached to these minutes Appendix: D. Thanks were expressed to the committee for all of their hard work ensuring the shop remains open.

12. Receive Report from Village Hall Committee

Patrick Curran reported as follows:-

I am pleased to report that the Village Hall and Astro court have again proved to be successful attractions for the village. Our revenue has increased by 28% for the year ending May 31st 2025. Our cost during this period rose by 20% . This has meant that our reserves have improved year on year by 25%. During the current financial year the committee decided to authorise a complete internal redecoration which was completed in the last 2 months. The Hall Master booking system in its 2 year's has proved to be very successful. During this year our treasurer Diana Thomas indicated that she wanted to discontinue with the invoicing and concentrate on the accounts . We are pleased to welcome Belinda Stamp who has now taken over all invoicing effective April 1st 2026.

13. Receive Report on MVAS Units + Neighbourhood Plan

David Russell provided a presentation a copy of which is attached to these minutes Appendix: E

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

The Parish Council were asked to confirm a representative from Anglian Water will be in attendance at the June meeting to discuss the water outages in the village. This was confirmed by the Chairman.

15. Closure of Meeting

Everyone was thanked for attending and or submitting reports.
The meeting closed at 8.10pm

DRAFT