

GRENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday, 8th August 2023 at 7.30pm
in Grendon Community Centre

Present: M White
C Rich-Bate
H Horton
A Hands
M Hammersley

Also Present: B Davey
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from A Wright.

2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

➤ No matters were raised.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A Hands declared an interest in all matters relating to Grendon Community Centre and Banana Moon Nursery.

4) MINUTES

It was proposed (C Rich-Bate), seconded (H Horton) and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th July 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th July 2023 as a true and correct record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

a) WCC - Signage

➤ C Rich-Bate reported no reply had been received from Graham Stanley at WCC.

b) Hodgetts Estates and Planning Enforcement

The Clerk gave details of an email dated 2nd August 2023 from Ryan Lee-Wilkes as follows:-

Dear Mr Young and members of the Parish Council,

Thank you for your email, I appreciate that you have been chasing this matter for a long time and, as you say, it has been through a number of previous enforcement officers to myself.

Firstly, I wish to respond to the comment of *“It would seem that there is no point reporting any complicated issues to Planning Enforcement at North Warwickshire Borough Council as no action is taken. Could you confirm are we right. Should we bother in the future?”*

There is no other answer to that question other than “Yes”, please continue to report matters to us regardless of whether it is complicated or not. The enforcement service is reliant on the parish councils as they often have local knowledge and can see changes on the ground that would most likely not be noticed by us normally without planning application submissions, particularly with North Warwickshire’s more rural setting.

I have several outstanding matters with various parish councils of similar nature to this. I do not want this to be an excuse as it seems, but the service has a significant backlog of enforcement cases with myself, and the one other junior officer (who started in planning when they joined NWBC last summer) are trying to work through as quickly as possible. We are also trying to recruit one additional team member as quickly as possible, but this will take some time and nationally it has been reported all local authorities are struggling to recruit planning officers, even more difficult for enforcement officers. Of course, more complicated matters will take time and unfortunately, it is only myself that can review any cases that are of a more serious breach of planning control.

[RTPI | Local Authorities struggle as over a quarter of planners depart](#)

Secondly, at this stage, I wish to confirm that I am investigating this site and in the process of finalising my report detailing my findings, as I suspect, this will be quite a substantial ongoing matter. I had a meeting with the colleagues at County Highways last Friday afternoon in order to discuss concerns with the site given the type of road it is accessed off. I also discussed the best course of action to fully access the highways concerns. I needed to confirm my understanding from a highway perspective before going back to the owners.

I believe most of this site will be immune from enforcement action in accordance with time limits detailed within section 171B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, but the level of unauthorised development over many years has been very surprising even to me. I can’t find any records of why enforcement action was not considered beforehand when I have found historic investigations.

There is still a section of the site I believe that is not time immune from enforcement action. As I am sure you are aware, the owners of the land are experienced in application submissions and once I present my findings to them, I have no doubt it will be challenged, which is why I have considered it essential that I have the necessary evidence recorded in a manner which I can quickly respond to any questions raised.

I cannot go into any further details of the case until I have presented it to the landowners, following which I will be happy to explain further. Unfortunately, I have leave commitments over the school holidays which effectively reduced by available

hours to four days a week, and I am now on leave for the remainder of this week, so I will not be able to contact the owner until next week at the earliest.

As I have said previously, I will update the PC once I have been able to get the information to the owners and keep you updated with relevant information.

Going forward, it is my aim to keep improving the enforcement service so that we can provide updates to cases in a timelier manner. But for the time being, please keep in mind that there are currently only two enforcement officers covering the entire Borough. Hopefully a third in the near future.

Kind regards.

Ryan Lee-Wilkes
Principal Planning Enforcement Officer

c) Bus Shelter – Green Lane

- Ongoing with Hoole and Co. Solicitors regarding registration.

d) Banana Moon Nursery

A Hands Declared an Interest

- Warwickshire Property and Development Group to undertake an inspection of the premises.

e) Ground Maintenance

- Email received from E Thawley regarding vegetation growth over the path along the A5. The Chairman, M White, requested E Thawley to forward to him photographs taken to enable contact with the correct authority.

f) Provision of 30m All Steel Cableway

- The Clerk gave details of a reply from Simon Powell at north Warwickshire Borough Council proposing a site meeting with Becky Evans. The Clerk to arrange a Tuesday Meeting.

6) PLANNING

a) Planning Notification

- i) Regulation 5 Notice – Existing Telecom Mast Site, Spring Farm, Watling Street, Grendon Common, Atherstone, CV9 2PF

7) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Julie Holland – NWBC – Special Sub Group Meeting – 15th August 2023.
- NWAC Meeting – 26th September 2023 – 7.30pm – Civic Suite, NWBC.
- Julie Holland – NWBC – Planning and Development Board – 7th August 2023.
- Marina Wallace – NWBC – Community and Environment Board – 8th August 2023.

- Merevale Aid in Sickness Charity – Notice of Trustee Vacancy – M Hammersley to contact direct.
- Carmel Daniel – NWBC – Open Space Survey.
- Website Enquiry – Music Health Service Provider at Abingdon – Request for information regarding former Grendon Rector Reverend Arthur Curtis Crawley-Boevey. M White to refer to Grendon Church.
- Police Report

Reporting Period:
01/07/2023 – 05/08/2023
Officer Completing: PCSO
6098 HODSON

North Warwickshire North
SNT

Theme		Commentary
Current and Emerging	Concern x 6	Several of the concern jobs were related to neighbour issues.
	Road related x 5	Broken down vehicles, reports of dangerous driving.
	Suspicious circumstance x 2	Mental health and drug use.
	Domestics x 3	Self-explanatory.
	Silent 9s x 6	Big increase across the county.
	Other x 9	
Summary		<p>There were 31 calls to service over this period.</p> <p>There is a big increase in silent 999 calls. We believe this is down to a design fault in several of the new mobile phones.</p> <p>Regular targeted patrols will continue from your local SNT, PC Mike Redman and PCSO Simeon Hodson.</p> <p>Myself and PC Redman are unable to attend the meeting due to Annual Leave and Rest Days. We hope to see you soon.</p>

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- C Rich-Bate to research Unity Bank.

- Parish Council Vacancy.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to invite Bradley Ainsworth to be co-opted as Parish Councillor for Grendon.

Resolved: To co-opt Bradley Ainsworth as a Parish Councillor for Grendon.

- The Parish Clerk to invite Bradley Ainsworth to the September 2023 Parish Council Meeting.
- Sparrowdale Close – Section of footpath not completed – Notify WCC Highways that Site Developer has not completed footpath.

9) **FINANCE**

a) **Cheque Payments**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheque payments:-

Date	Details	£
08/08/2023	M G Healey	145.00
08/08/2023	L George	340.00
08/08/2023	Parish Clerk	264.00
08/08/2023	HMRC (PAYE)	176.00
	Total:	925.00

Resolved: To issue the above listed cheques.

The Meeting closed at 8.33pm.

M White
Chairman