

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE, ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024

Present Councillors McQuillian (chair), Davies, Fernyhough, Fisher, Dolan, Hignett, Johnson, Marsh, Speed, Williams, and Worsley.

In Attendance Colette Fellows, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Action

165. It was **resolved that** apologies for absence from Councillor Brown, Chisholm, Hockenhull, and Warner be accepted.

166. Dispensation Requests

A special dispensation request was received for Cllr Taylor and **resolved to accept**.

167. Disclosures of Pecuniary and Personal Interests

No disclosures were made.

168. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting on the 21st of December 2023 were approved as a true record and received the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee on the 28th of November 2023, and the Planning Committee on the 4th of January 2024.

169. Information for Noting

- a) The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party held a public meeting on the 17th of January in the Olde Barn at the GYCA. The event was well attended with over 160 attendees.
- b) The Precept Request has been sent to WBC.
- c) The Climate Committee met on the 10th of January.
- d) A new laptop has been purchased for the Garden Manager for £290.83+vat
- e) The Office Utility costs have been transferred to EON from British Gas, saving around £300-500 per year.
- f) Councillor Contact information update was emailed to all Councillors before the meeting.

170. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

Minute Item	Action Point	Lead	Status	Update
2023/16	Parish Council Website	CW/Clerk	ongoing	The prototype will be shared at the meeting for approval.
2023/155	Governance	CF	Complete	Items 155.1/155.2/155.3 are now available on the website. The layouts/presentation of all policies are currently under review.
2023/156	GYCA Signage	CW/CF	Complete	The Trustees have been notified of the Council's decisions.
2023/153	Budget/Precept Review	CF	Complete	WBC has been notified of our request for 2024/2025.

171. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Sharon Perrie

The PCSO Sharon Perrie was unable to attend but emailed the report prior to the meeting with the most recent crime statistics:

Anti-Social Behavior Incident s	= 2
Suspicious Activity	= 6
Burglary	= 1
Criminal Damage	= 1
Road Traffic Collisions	= 0
Shoplifting	= 0
Theft	= 0

Any Other Business

Tru Cam – Due to Operational Commitments over the festive period, Tru-Cam operations were minimal.

Be Aware – Phone scams in the area are high at the moment Please be extra vigilant. They are asking residents to withdraw cash from their banks, claiming they have fake money. Thankfully 90% of residents are hanging up.

School Parking – Grappenhall Heys is becoming an issue again.

172. Expenditure to Date

The ‘on target’ expenditure for January (month 10) was 83%.

- Parish Council expenditure was running at 71%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 73%
- The overall figure was 72%

173. Accounts for Payment

173.1 It was **resolved that** the accounts for payment for £28,009.43 were presented and approved for payment.

173.2 **To note** that the Clerks request to renew the SLCC membership for £298 be accepted.

CF

173.3 **To note** that the request to purchase a new office Hoover was accepted at a total budget of £300+vat.

CF

174. Requests for Financial Assistance

No requests for financial assistance were received.

175. Parish Warden Vehicle

Cllr Worsley contacted the current supplier (Vic Young Fleet Management) to look at possible options to purchase. The cost to purchase was £17,450+vat. The other option which was recommended by Cllr Worsley was to extend the lease for another year at the current rate of £357.31+vat, since the van has very low mileage and maintenance charges are covered in the hire charges. It was **resolved** to accept Cllr Worsley's recommendations.

CW

176. Speed Indicator Device Machine (SID)

The SID machine, which was used by the Parish Warden has become unrepairable, due to parts not being available due to the age of the machine to replace. The Clerk presented possible options

and costs to replace. It **was resolved** to replace the SID machine at a cost of no more than £3,500+vat.

BD

177. **Small Tractor Hire**

The Wardens are finding clearing pathways difficult in some areas due to the compacted earth, The Parish Warden met with the Grounds Maintenance Manager for advice. They offered to loan a tractor-like vehicle for £75 per day including delivery, which can be used for clearing such pathways. The Warden would like to hire for one day. Once the pathways are cleared of the compacted earth normal methods of clearing will be effective. It **was resolved** to accept the proposal and hire for one day initially.

BD

178. **Governance**

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces.

This means that, as a public authority, we must:

1. Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

More information is available on the Government Website see the link below
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

178.1 A new Biodiversity Policy was presented for consideration. Members **resolved that** they agreed to accept the policy in principle with a few minor changes to the layout.

CF

179. **Website**

The Clerk and Cllr Worsley presented the New Website Prototype for approval to launch. It **was resolved** to accept the New Website Prototype. The Clerk requested all members check the content and feedback on any inaccuracies in the information and alert the Clerk for the amendments to be made.

ALL

179. **New Planning Portal**

The Current software (scribe) used for the Planning Portal is now unsupported. The Support team recommended a new company called AdvantageEdge. The cost is £177 annually, and an initial cost of £210 for start-up and training. Total £387+vat. It **was resolved** to accept the new Planning Portal.

CF

179. **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

The Working Group along with WBC presented at the GYCA on Wednesday 17th January. The turnout was much greater than expected, with over 160 attendees. The same presentation was hosted online on Monday 22nd January with around 20 logging in to participate. There was some confusion between a Local Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan, but overall, the event was well received. Many residents have come forward to be a part of the next phase and hopefully form a Steering Group.

180. **Consideration of Planning Application**

The recent planning applications were considered (see attached report).

Signed by Chair

Date