MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES BELLHOUSE LANE, GRAPPENHALL ON 11 NOVEMBER 2025.

Present: Councillors Speed (Chair), Browne, Davies, Dolan, Drogan, Fisher, Furnell, Johnson and Worsley

Also present: Martin Stuart, Parish Warden and a member of the public.

In Attendance: Beverley Doward, Assistant Clerk to the Council

ACTION

1. Apologies for Absence
None.

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests
No disclosures were made.

3. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

Parks and Open Spaces

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
1	Tree planting	MS/HS/BD/RF/ MD	Two meetings of the working party have been held to identify potential sites and funding opportunities for future tree planting. Details of the potential locations have been forwarded to WBC Street Services, Highways and Landscape teams. A response is awaited. Cllr Browne to pursue with WBC.	Ongoing
2	Elizabeth Park	BD	An update from WBC on timescales for progressing the work is awaited. Cllr Browne to pursue with WBC.	Ongoing
3	Bulb Planting	BD	The bulb planting at Stockport Road opposite Deans Lane (Site 2) was undertaken in October at a cost of £2835 + vat. Planting at the other locations (Sites1,3 and 4) will be subject to inclusion within future years budgets. (Council Min 2025/43.3).	Ongoing
4	Hanging baskets/ Winter planting	MS	At the last meeting of the Committee, it was recommended (Min 7) that the hanging baskets and irrigation system should be dismantled in the Autumn and alternative measures be sought for planting in the Parish in Summer 2026 see item 3.7 below. The Parish Wardens will remove the baskets and irrigation system.	
5	RoSPA reports	BD	At the last meeting of the Committee, it was resolved to undertake the repairs to the safety surface areas at both Jubilee Park and Diamond Park (Min 6). These	Complete

			works have now been completed.	
6	Design and Management Strategy	HS	BCA Landscapes have commenced work on the Design and Management Strategy for the parks. Two progress meetings have been held with the Steering Group. A further progress meeting is to be held in Spring 2026.	Ongoing
7	Planters	MD/MS	Meetings with representatives of Thelwall Mens Shed have been held to discuss the feasibility/design of providing planters on the public realm. Details of the potential sites and designs have been forwarded to WBC. A response is awaited. Cllr Browne to pursue with WBC. Members suggested advice also be sought from the Gardener/Manager (Walled Garden) regarding the planters' design and planting.	Ongoing
8	Book Swap	MD/MS	Meetings with representatives of Thelwall Mens Shed have been held to discuss the feasibility/design of a replacement book exchange at Barley Road. Details of the potential site has been forwarded to WBC. A response is awaited. Cllr Browne to pursue with WBC. Members to consider and advise the Assistant Clerk of other possible locations for book swaps for inclusion within future years budgets.	Ongoing
9	Christmas Lights		At the last meeting of the Council (Min 2025/134) it was resolved to fund a replacement Christmas tree at Thelwall Junior School. The tree is due to be installed ready for the switch on of the lights on 1 December. In addition, the Assistant Clerk has contacted WBC to request additional lights be installed on the trees on the village green at Thelwall New Road, opposite Gigg Lane. However, WBC Officers advise they do not have capacity to price or carry out any additional works.	Ongoing

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
8	Electric vehicle chargers	BD/LW/RF	WBC is still awaiting a response from UU and HE to provide agreement in principle to the installation of EV chargers at Stansfield Drive. See also agenda item 2025/4.	Ongoing
9	Air Source Heat Pump	BDa	The contractor had indicated that the air source heat pump installation had been provisionally arranged for early December pending a further survey. Cllr Davies advised that due to staff illness the contractor has advised there may be a further delay. Confirmation of a revised date for installation is awaited. In addition, formal confirmation of the	Ongoing

			ability to extend the grant offer period is currently being sought.	
10	Grappenhall Heys Working party	PW	Cllrs J McQuillian and P Warner are leading on progressing a joint Working Party to review the 2023 energy survey (Min 2024/29). No progress. Cllr Davies to discuss reassigning the lead on the project with Cllrs McQuillian and Warner.	Ongoing
11	Air quality	BD	The Assistant Clerk has contacted WBC to seek advice on installing signs requesting drivers to switch off their engines at various locations in the Parish. A response is awaited. Cllr Davies raised concerns regarding WBC employees leaving their vehicle engines running when parked up. Cllr Browne to pursue both matters with WBC.	Ongoing
12	Community Events	ALL	Members discussed future community events to promote climate initiatives and agreed this was perhaps a longer-term initiative which needed further work.	Ongoing

4. EV Charging at the GYCA car park

Cllr Furnell presented details of the further work that has been undertaken to investigate the potential for EV charging at the GYCA car park. Members considered the background to the project, the various options available to the Council namely a workplace only chargepoint or a combined workplace/public chargepoint and the pros and cons to each option. It was **resolved to** recommend to Council that work should continue to explore the costs and arrangements for initially a workplace chargepoint only with the possibility for expanding further in the future to provide workplace/public chargepoint facilities.

5. Tree surveys

The Assistant Clerk has sought quotes to undertake the biennial tree safety surveys of Jubilee Park and Diamond Park and to extend the scope of the surveys to include recommendations for any general maintenance required to any trees in order to help reduce issues with neighbouring property owners whilst protecting the trees. Three quotes were received. It was resolved to accept the quote from Lowther Forestry at a cost of £545.70 + vat.

6. Parish Warden update

The Parish Warden provided an update of recent/forthcoming activities (copy attached).

7. Budget Review

The Assistant Clerk presented the 2025/26 expenditure to date.

8. Budget 2026/27

Members discussed the Committee's budget for 2026/27. It **was recommended** to Council that, in relation to the Environment Committee budget (Parks and Open Spaces) for 2026/27, the cost centres for equipment and site maintenance, new play equipment and grounds maintenance remain the same as those for 2025/26, the cost centre for wildflower meadows be increased to £5000 and to be used for bulb planting as discussed at Council on 19 June 2025 (minute ref 2025/43.3), the cost centre for flower planting be increased to £3000 to be used for planters and planting and the cost centre for Christmas lights be increased to £10,000.

Members also discussed the Council's Environment budget for 2026/27. It **was recommended** to Council that the general maintenance cost centre and climate initiatives cost centre remain the same as

2025/26 and the environmental improvements cost centre be increased to £12,000 to meet the balance of the monies owing for the Design and Management Strategy (£9,570), the provision of a book swap and future tree planting. In addition, the environmental improvements cost centre would need to be further increased to cover any additional one-off costs that may be incurred for an electrical connection, feeder pillar, tree socket etc for a tree at Grappenhall Heys (comparison costings are currently being sought for these works and will be reported to Council)'.