MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES BELLHOUSE LANE, GRAPPENHALL ON 3 MARCH 2026.

Present: Councillors Speed (Chair), Dolan, Fisher, Johnson and Worsley

Also present: Martin Stuart, Parish Warden.

In Attendance: Beverley Doward, Assistant Clerk to the Council

ACTION

1. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and the reason for absence for Cllrs Browne, Davies and Furnell be accepted.

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	ALL	Details of the potential locations have been forwarded to WBC Street Services, Highways and Landscape teams. A response from WBC's Environment Services team has been received suggesting only 3 of the potential locations may be suitable from their perspective. A response from WBC Highways/Road Safety/Street Services is still awaited. The Assistant Clerk will seek a response.	Ongoing
2	Elizabeth Park	BD	WBC has completed the resurfacing works at the entrance to Elizabeth Park from Parry Drive.	Complete
3	Bulb Planting	BD	Planting at the previously agreed locations (Sites1,3 and 4) will be subject to inclusion within future years budgets. (Council Min 2025/43.3). It was **resolved** that the site at Chester Road/York Road (Site 4) should be planted in Autumn 2026. The contractor has confirmed that the quote of £4550 + vat provided in April 2025 remains valid.	Ongoing
4	Design and Management Strategy	HS	A date for public consultation is to be arranged for the Spring. Unfortunately, the Mersey Forest's Forest Pod is no longer available. The consultants suggest having a staffed exhibition in indoor venues. A teams meeting was held on 26 February 2026 with the consultants to	

			discuss progress. The Assistant Clerk is to progress arrangements for the consultation events.	
5	Planters	MD/BD	Meetings with representatives of Thelwall Mens Shed have been held to discuss the feasibility/design of providing planters on the public realm. However, the Garden Manager at the Walled Garden advises that planting either directly into a wooden planter or a wooden planter lined with plastic should be avoided. Therefore, alternative types of planters are being investigated. Details of the potential sites have been forwarded to WBC. A response is awaited. The Assistant Clerk provided an update on investigations into the possibility of planters on the forecourts of the shops at Barley Road, Thelwall and railing planters at Knutsford Road, Grappenhall shops. It was recommended that Council install 2 Broxap Bedlington planters on the forecourt of the shops at Barley Road, Thelwall at a cost of £1423.00 + vat each plus a delivery charge of £192.00. There will be additional costs for soil/plants. It was recommended not to pursue railing planters at Knutsford Road, Grappenhall but rather to investigate the possibility of planters being installed on the forecourt of the Co-op/Chemist on Knutsford Road.	Ongoing
6	Book Swap	MD/MS	The Committee has previously discussed the feasibility/design of a replacement book exchange at Barley Road. It was agreed that further consideration of this be put on hold until further details of the design and management strategy for the park is available.	Ongoing
7	Christmas Lights		A replacement Christmas tree at Thelwall Junior School was planted at the beginning of December 2025. The school fundraised and contributed £280 towards the cost of the replacement tree.	Complete
8	Environmental Improvements	ALL	Future environmental improvements to improve the environment of the villages were discussed. It was agreed to investigate identifying further sites for planting.	Ongoing

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
9	Electric vehicle chargers	BD/RF/CW	WBC is moving forward with a new operator (Connected Kerb) for the LEVI project. A letter of authority has been	Ongoing

			forwarded to WBC providing permission for the operator to contact the Distribution Network Operator to establish the feasibility of installing EV chargers on the Stansfield Drive car park. If feasible, WBC will then be able to provide plans to pass to United Utilities and Homes England to gain the permissions necessary for WBC to enter a lease with GTPC for the charger spaces. Following the resolution of the Council at its meeting on 19 February 2026 Cllrs Furnell and Worsley are preparing a cost/benefit evaluation to inform further consideration of the installation of an EV charger on the Bellhouse Car Park to enable the acquisition of an EV for the Council at the end of the current vehicles lease.	
9	Air Source Heat Pump	BDa	Work to install the air source heat pump was undertaken in January 2026.	Complete
10	Grappenhall Heys Working party	CW	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 Worsley to discuss with Cllrs McQuillian and Warner	Ongoing
11	Air quality	BD	The Assistant Clerk has contacted WBC and Stockton Heath PC to seek advice on installing signs requesting drivers to switch off their engines at various locations in the Parish. Stockton Heath PC has responded to say that due to staff changes it is unable to provide any information. A response from WBC is awaited. Cllr Browne undertook to raise Cllr Davies' concerns regarding WBC employees leaving their vehicle engines running when parked up. A response is awaited. The Assistant Clerk to contact WBC to chase responses.	Ongoing
12	Community Events	ALL	Members discussed future community events to promote climate initiatives at the summer events (Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day). This year both events fall on Saturday 20 June. The Committee resolved to request Council to purchase an additional gazebo and banner.	Ongoing

4. Tree surveys

The tree safety survey reports for Jubilee Park and Diamond Park were received on 3 February 2026. The report recommends some tree safety works at both parks. In addition, some work is recommended to trees on the boundaries of Jubilee Park and adjoining residential properties to minimise the potential for conflict with these properties. The Assistant Clerk presented quotes for the work. It was **resolved** to appoint Beechwood Industries to undertake the work at a cost of £1470 + vat.

5. Parish Warden update

The Parish Warden provided an update of recent/forthcoming activities.

6. Budget Review

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