MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES BELLHOUSE LANE, GRAPPENHALL ON 7 MAY 2026.

Present: Councillors Speed (Chair), Browne, Davies, Dolan, and Johnson

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 Furnell and Worsley be accepted.

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

3. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

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 chase WBC for a response.	Ongoing
2	Bulb Planting	BD	At the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2026 it was resolved that the site at Chester Road/York Road (Site 4) should be the next to be planted. The contractor has confirmed that the quote of £4550 + vat provided in April 2025 remains valid. The Assistant Clerk will arrange with the contractor in the Autumn. The Committee agreed that further quotes should be sought for any future planting beyond those costs already agreed by the Council (Min 2025/43.3) for 2026 and 2027.	Ongoing
3	Design and Management Strategy	HS	The first public consultation session was held at Thelwall Parish Hall on 25 April. Unfortunately, attendance was very low. A further session has been arranged at the Olde Barn, GYCA on 16 May. The Assistant Clerk has put the consultation material and questionnaire onto the Council's website.	Ongoing
4	Planters	MD/MS	At its meeting on 19 March 2026 (Council	Ongoing

			Min 2025/254). The Council resolved to purchase and 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. The planters were delivered on 5 May. Arrangements were being made for the planters to be filled with soil/plants following delivery. The Assistant Clerk is investigating the possibility of planters on the forecourt of the Co-op/Chemist on Knutsford Road.	
5	Book Swap	MD/MS	At the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 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
6	Environmental Improvements	ALL	Future environmental improvements to improve the environment of the villages was discussed.	Ongoing
7	Tree work	BD	The tree safety survey reports for Jubilee Park and Diamond Park received on 3 February 2026 recommended some tree safety works at both parks and some work to trees on the boundaries of Jubilee Park and adjoining residential properties to minimise the potential for conflict with these properties. At the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2026 it was **resolved** to appoint Beechwood Industries to undertake the works at a cost of £1470 + vat. The works were undertaken on 22 April 2026	Complete

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
7	Electric vehicle chargers	BD/LW/RF	WBC is moving forward with a new operator (Connected Kerb) for the LEVI project. A letter of authority has been 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. WBC has confirmed that the point of connection costs are acceptable. Therefore, the next step is to obtain United Utilities and Homes England permissions. The Assistant Clerk is meeting Officers from WBC in June to discuss next steps.	Ongoing

			Following the resolution of the Council at its meeting on 19 February 2026 the Clerk and 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. No further information was available as Cllrs Furnell and Worsley were not in attendance at the meeting.	
11	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 Worsley to discuss with Cllrs McQuillian and Warner.	Ongoing
12	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. WBC has asked the Council to suggest potential locations. It **was resolved** to suggest Bradshaw Lane, Thelwall New Road, Knutsford Road and outside all primary schools. 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
13	Community Events	ALL	Future community events to promote climate initiatives. See agenda item 4	Ongoing

4. Community events

4.1 At its meeting on 3 March 2026 the Committee agreed to use the two summer events in the Parish (Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day) to promote climate initiatives. Both events fall on Saturday 20 June. The Committee resolved to request Council to purchase an additional gazebo and banner. The request will be considered by the Council at its meeting in May. The logistics of attending two events on the same day will require careful planning in advance. It was agreed to hold a planning meeting in early June.

4.2 At its meeting on 3 March 2026 the Committee also discussed the potential for a future community event at the Walled Garden possibly around the issue of recycling. The Outreach Officer has events organised for 28 September 2026 (Autumn Fair) and 16 November 2026 (Winter Fair). The Assistant Clerk will investigate the opportunity to 'piggyback' onto the September event.

5. Parish Warden update

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

6. Budget Review

The Assistant Clerk presented the 2026/27 expenditure to date.