GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Office, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2SG
Beverley Doward, Assistant Clerk to the Council
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To: Councillors H Speed (Chair), M Browne, B Davies, M Dolan, R Furnell, R Fisher, and C Worsley.

Copied to all members of the Council for information.

Dear Councillor

Members of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE you are hereby summoned to attend the Committee meeting of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council to be held at the Council Office, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall on Tuesday 22 September 2026 at **6.30pm** for the purposes of transacting the following business.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Doward

Assistant Clerk to the Council

A G E N D A

4. Apologies for Absence
To consider apologies and reasons for absence. For resolution.

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests
Members are reminded that personal or prejudicial interests, as defined in the Code of Conduct, in any matter before the meeting, must be disclosed no later than the start of the discussion on that item.

6. 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.	Ongoing
2	Bulb Planting	BD	The contractor has confirmed that the quote of £4550 + vat provided in April 2025 remains valid for bulb planting at Chester Road/York Road (Site 4). Arrangements for the planting are being	Ongoing

			made with the contractor.	
3	Design and Management Strategy	HS	The Consultants are currently revising the report to address the issues previously raised by the Committee (Min 2026/3). Arrangements will be made for the consultants to present the final report to a future meeting of the Committee.	Ongoing
4	Planters	MD	Arrangements will be made to replace the summer planting in the planters on the forecourt of the shops at Barley Road, Thelwall in October.	Ongoing
5	Book Swap	MD	At the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2026 (Min 2025/3.6) 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. See agenda item 8	Ongoing

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Action	Description	Lead	Update	Progress
7	Electric vehicle chargers	BD/LW/RF	EV chargers on the Stansfield Drive car park. See agenda item 11 Potential Parish Council EV vehicle and installation of an EV charger on the Bellhouse Car Park. See agenda item 12	Ongoing
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	See agenda item 10	Ongoing
13	Community Events	ALL	The Outreach Officer has confirmed that she will be organising a Winter Fair at the Walled Garden on 8 November 2026.	Ongoing

7 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Committee will be reviewed and any necessary amendments identified. For discussion and resolution.

8. Knutsford Road Verges

Members have requested that the potential to improve the appearance of the verges along Knutsford Road running from Cross Lane to Mayfield Road (approximately 182 metres in length) be referred to the Environment Committee for further exploration before any commitment is made to explore what utilities may lay underneath (Council Min 2026/36 and 2026/61).

Based upon recent schemes WBC Officers have provided indicative costings for two options - constructing laybys or removing the verge and replacing it with a hard surface (see table below). However, they have also indicated that for all types of construction the underlying ground conditions

and the need to remove and replace existing street furniture can significantly influence the cost of a project.

The exact lengths of any laybys or hard surfacing can only be established once detailed engineering drawings are produced. Furthermore, from a visual inspection of the stretch of verge in question there are two lamp columns, the boundary sign, a large BT chamber at the junction corner with a telegraph pole and another chamber at the other end of the stretch, a drainage chamber and a number of trees.

	Option A: Construct laybys	**Option B: Remove verge and replace with hard surfacing**
Base cost	£1000-£1500 per metre	£750 per metre
Potential extra costs	Relocation of lampposts x 2. Up to £1500 each = £3000 Relocation of boundary sign = £350 Tree removal = £600 per tree Replacement trees – not quantified Utility diversions ((Virgin cable, United Utilities, BT chamber + telegraph pole, HV electric, gas, drainage chamber) – unknown until searches done	Relocation of lampposts x 2. Up to £1500 each = £3000 Relocation of boundary sign = £350 Tree removal = £600 per tree Replacement trees – not quantified Utility diversions ((Virgin cable, United Utilities, BT chamber + telegraph pole, HV electric, gas, drainage chamber) – unknown until searches done
Legal status	Clear – provides proper off road parking provision	Grey – as residents would still technically be parking on the footway
Ground Conditions	Complex due to underground utilities	Complex due to underground utilities

For discussion and consideration whether to recommend that the Council fund the trial pit work necessary to explore what utilities lie underneath at a cost of £723.87+vat.

9. Parks

Sweeping Seesaw – Diamond Park
The Sweeping Seesaw at Diamond Park has been making a strange noise and after sending a video to the manufacturer they have confirmed that the tilting mechanism is showing considerable wear. The manufacturer agreed to replace the hub as a gesture of good will with the only cost to the Council being £375 + vat for installation. The works were authorised by the Chair of the Council given that they were a safety issue and the work has now been completed. For information.

Gym equipment signage – Jubilee Park
The sign providing instructions for the use of the gym equipment at Jubilee Park has been vandalised. The cost of a replacement sign and fittings only without the podium is £518.04 + vat. Members are requested to authorise the purchase of a replacement sign. For resolution.

10. Air Quality
At the meeting of the Committee held on 7 May 2026 it was resolved to suggest to WBC that signs requesting drivers to switch off their engines be installed at Bradshaw Lane, Thelwall New Road, Knutsford Road and outside all primary schools within the Parish (Min 2026/3.12).

WBC Officers have responded stating that leaving a car engine idling is an offence in all locations barring certain exemptions mentioned in the Highway Code (Rule 123). It is advised that signs should only be used where there is deemed to be an exceptional problem e.g at the swing bridges due to the potential unexpected waiting times when they are blocked. WBC states that any change to its policy would set a precedent and be beyond its very limited budgets. The signs cost approximately £50 and the cost and installation of posts is approximately £400.

WBC Officers suggest that given the areas suggested enforcement and education would be more effective than static signs. For resolution to recommend to Council that no further action be taken on the installation of signs.

11. EV Chargers – Stansfield Drive, Grappenhall Heys

Council authorised the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to seek quotes for legal assistance on preparing Heads of Terms (HoTs) to propose to WBC in relation to granting a lease on part of the Stansfield Drive car park to install EV chargers and following that to negotiate and prepare a lease and to seek confirmation from WBC that it will pay all Parish Council's legal fees (Council Min 2026/62).

The Assistant Clerk sought quotes for the preparation of the HoTs from four local solicitors (see attached). Of the four one replied stating that their property team is at full capacity and that they are unable to take on new cases and another stating that they do not take on commercial work of this kind. Submissions and quotes have been received from the remaining two companies (see attached).

Members are requested to consider the submissions for recommendation to Council before forwarding to WBC along with a request that WBC confirms that it will pay all Parish Council's legal fees.

12. PC EV and charger

The Council has indicated that it supports a switch to a nearly new/second-hand electric tipper van for the Parish Wardens (lease only) if feasible when the current lease runs out in December 2026. The Environment Committee has been requested to progress with the project to obtain costings to replace the current vehicle with an electric one, including the installation of an EV charger and to report back to Council for approval. An update will be provided at the meeting.

13. Thermal Imaging Camera

A local resident has requested whether the Council would consider initiating a thermal imaging camera loan service similar to that provided in Lymm. The loan service in Lymm is administered by Lymm Environmental Action Forum (LEAF), a local community group which was granted monies from Lymm Parish Council to obtain the camera which allows residents to identify where they are losing heat within their homes. The camera is loaned to residents free of charge but with a £40 refundable deposit.

The cost of a thermal imaging camera, similar to that used by LEAF (FLIR ONE Edge Pro), is approximately £350. There is currently no evidence as to how much interest there would be from residents to borrow it. There would also be logistical and administrative implications for the Council in charging and loaning the equipment out to residents. For discussion and recommendation to Council.

14. Parish Warden update

An update of recent/forthcoming activities will be provided.

15. Budget Review

The 2026/27 expenditure to date is attached for information.

16. Budget 2026/27

To discuss the Committee's budget for 2027/28. For discussion and recommendation to Council.

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