

Granborough Parish Council

*Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 16th September 2025*

Present: Cllrs Anderson, de Niese, Ellerton, Fenwick (Chair), Oakland (Vice Chair), and Smedley. Clerk & RFO: Lisa Prior, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Gomm and 4 members of the public.

MINUTES

78. Welcome & Apologies

- **Resolved:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Watson (hospital appointment). It was noted that Cllr Fenwick would arrive later in the meeting; therefore, Cllr Oakland (Vice Chair) chaired proceedings until his arrival.

79. Declarations of Interest

- No declarations were made at the start of the meeting however, during discussion of item 83b (planning application reference 25/01898/APP), Cllr Ellerton declared a personal interest as they reside approximately 50m from the property.

80. Previous Minutes

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July were **approved**.
- b. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 11th August were **approved**.

81. Open Forum

- Residents requested a general update on all current energy and infrastructure projects affecting the parish.

82. BESS Statera/Rosefield/National Grid/Statkraft/Longbreach

- a. **Rosefield:** An invitation was received from Buckinghamshire Council to attend a virtual briefing on the Rosefield Solar Farm DCO on Wednesday 24 September 2025, 17:00–18:00 via MS Teams. Parish Councils are asked to send a lead representative and submit any specific questions in advance.
- b. **Longbreach:** no update.
- c. **National Grid:** no update.
- d. **Statkraft:** no update.
- e. **Statera BESS:**

- i. The Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal, granting permission for the BESS development subject to numerous detailed conditions.
- ii. Cllr Phil Gomm suggested forming a working group to review the conditions, monitor compliance, and oversee the construction phase if/when development commences. He will be raising this with Buckinghamshire Council planners.
- iii. Statera has written offering to formalise a community benefit package of £40,000 per annum for 30 years. This remains subject to Buckinghamshire Council's view and further consideration of next steps by the Parish Council.
- iv. It was noted that several protest banners remain displayed around the village. The Parish Council stated that, as previously advised, such signage may constitute unlawful advertisements under planning law. As the appeal has now been determined, the Parish Council requests that all such signs be removed immediately.

83. Planning

- a. Planning application updates were **noted**. See Appendix B.
- b. Application 25/01898/APP, 40B Winslow Road; The Parish Council resolved to **object**, citing conflict with the original open-aspect approval, loss of hedgerow, harm to the street scene and biodiversity, and adverse impact on neighbours.
- c. **(Cllr Fenwick took the Chair from this point)**. Complaints regarding Stately Stables were **noted** in relation to the erection of new structures. A call-in has already been requested via Cllr Gomm and the Parish Council is awaiting the outcome. Questions were raised about camping activities and the existence of a site licence; Cllr Gomm will liaise with the Clerk and seek a response from the Enforcement Team.

84. Ward Councillor Report

Cllr Gomm provided a verbal update. Key points included:

- **Day Care Provision:** Several day centres across Buckinghamshire have been closed, including the Buckingham building. Carers and service users are now required to travel to Aylesbury, where facilities remain available.
- **Local Plan (Regulation 18):** The consultation process is on track to commence on 17th September 2025, with the call for sites expected to be reviewed by January 2026. The first stage must be completed by December 2026. The Local Plan will

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be subject to a separate discussion at the next Parish Council meeting in October.

- **Housing Target:** Buckinghamshire's allocation has increased from 66,000 to 95,000 new homes, with significant land to be identified in the next five years. Much of this demand is expected to fall in North Bucks'.
- **Gypsy and Traveller Sites:** Buckinghamshire is required to provide a significant number of additional new traveller plots over the next five years.

85. Finance

- a. July accounts were **approved**. See Appendix A.
- b. August Accounts were **approved**. See Appendix A.
- c. Online payments were **ratified** and invoices over £200 signed.
- d. July bank reconciliation figure of £23,125.64 was **approved**.
- e. August bank reconciliation figure of £17,018.08 was **approved**.
- f. Cllr Ellerton was appointed to carry out the quarterly spot checks.
- g. The Unity Bank Savings Account opening and transfer of £11,000 was **noted**.
- h. It was **resolved** to adopt the NALC nationally agreed pay point increase and confirm the Clerk's salary adjustment from September, including back pay.
- i. The £2,000 contribution from East Claydon PC was **noted**.
- j. It was **noted** that the SSE streetlighting contract ends in March 2026. The Clerk will begin seeking renewal quotes and ask suppliers about options such as timing systems. The Council agreed that environmental considerations, including Dark Skies principles, should be considered when reviewing proposals.

86. Highways & Footpaths

- a. The new speed detection device installation was **noted**, and data has been linked to the website. It was suggested that a controlled experiment be carried out by switching off the display to compare average speeds. **Action:** Cllr de Niese to arrange.
- b. The Council **resolved** to continue discussions on joining the Action for Speed consortium.
- c. Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed the issue regarding the railway sleeper bridge near the pub, is on the works schedule, and the Parish will be notified once it is completed. **Action:** Clerk to chase.
- d. **Resolved:** The overgrowth near the play area footpath has been cut back.

87. Play Area

- a. Following a site visit by Cllr Smedley and Oakland, the following was noted:

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- i. The perimeter fence of the play area is in need of urgent repair.
Action: Clerk to contact Robert Kemp for a quote to replace the post/rail fencing marked with red paint.
 - ii. One of the joints on the log trail has been damaged, likely deliberately.
 - iii. The matting under the swings has deteriorated but was **confirmed** as not unsafe by the recent RoSPA inspection, so no immediate action is required.
 - iv. Funds allocated by the Community Board must be used by January. Cllr Gomm advised he may be able to secure additional funding, and it was suggested that he and Cllr Anderson meet to discuss options. To support a larger funding application, a questionnaire will be prepared and sent to all residents to gather views on desired improvements to the playground.
- b. It was **confirmed** that the bee nest hole had been filled.

88. Biodiversity & Coronation Meadow

- a. Discussion of the Woodland Trust register of trees was **deferred** to the next meeting.
- b. The Dark Skies policy circulated by Cllr Ellerton was discussed. It was **noted** that this could affect future planning application decisions and should be borne in mind. A fuller discussion will be held at a future meeting. **Action:** Cllr Ellerton to prepare an article for the website, clarifying the sources referenced in the policy, and to investigate the policy in more detail. Clerk to forward a copy of the policy to Cllr Gomm.

89. Street Lighting & Parish Council Assets

- a. While no Parish Council funds are currently available, it was agreed to pursue the installation of a second defibrillator unit at the bus shelter near Bates Close and to explore potential sponsorship. **Action:** Cllr de Niese to investigate options, obtain a quotation for the electricity supply, and consult with the community regarding sponsorship opportunities.
- b. The provision of dog waste bins was reviewed and considered adequate at present. However, as issues with dog fouling on pavements persist, it was agreed that the Clerk will update the website with a reminder to residents. **Action:** Clerk to refresh website with reminder.

90. Resilience Planning

- Still a work in progress.

91. Website/Technology

- a. It was confirmed that the Wi-Fi currently in use at the village hall is the property of the current hirer of the upstairs room, not the village hall. **Action:** Cllr de Niese to prepare a proposal for the Village Hall Committee regarding the installation of a dedicated Wi-Fi service.
- b. Government consideration of legislative change on remote/hybrid meetings was **noted**. The Parish Council agreed it would be beneficial to have a policy in place, while confirming that the preference remains to hold meetings in person. A remote option would provide a back-up in circumstances such as bad weather. **Action:** Cllr Fenwick to work with the Clerk to draft wording for inclusion in the Standing Orders update in May 2026.
- c. The website server upgrade was **noted**, and DNS record updates were **approved**.
- d. Requirements for Assertion 10 (Digital & Data Compliance) were reviewed in preparation for 2025/26. **Action:** Cllr de Niese to draft a series of recommendations.

92. Outside Body Updates

- a. Cllr Anderson gave a brief report on the West Bucks Community Board meeting held on 4th September.
- b. The forthcoming meetings were noted:
 - a. Town & Council Planning Forum (25th Sept),
 - b. Cllr Callum Anderson (17th Sept),
 - c. Clerks Forum (20th Oct).

93. Plans Structures & Consultations

- a. The completion of the NALC/ACRE Survey was **confirmed**.

94. Next Meeting

- a. It was agreed that the October agenda will include the Local 5 Year Plan, the Parish Charter, and the Telephone Box.
- b. 14th October 2025

Close of meeting 21.35

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Appendix A - Payments

Date	Description	Ref:	Income	Expenditure	VAT
14.07.25	EON	34		£42.00	£7.00
14.07.25	RTM #0176	35		£1,082.40	£180.40
21.07.25	SSE Street Lights	36		£197.77	£11.35
21.07.25	Pandora Tech	37		£3,600.00	£600.00
21.07.25	Smarty Plan Reimbursement	38		£5.00	£0.00
21.07.25	HMRC Employer NI June 25	39		£45.94	£0.00
21.07.25	Clerk Expenses	40		£51.00	£0.00
30.07.25	Clerk Salary	41		£0.00	£0.00
31.07.25	Bank Charges	42		£6.00	£0.00
15.08.25	RTM #0225	43		£804.00	£134.00
15.08.25	Eset	44		£24.98	£4.16
15.08.25	Clerk expenses	45		£37.70	£0.00
15.08.25	HMRC Employer NI	46		£45.94	£0.00
27.08.25	Carly Tinkler - Statera BESS	47		£5,000.00	£0.00
27.08.25	Smarty Plan Reimbursement	48		£5.00	£0.00
27.08.25	Bucks Council (Elections)	49		£184.00	£0.00
31.08.25	Bank Charges	50		£6.00	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Updates

Reference	Address	Status
25/01297/APP	Land North of East Claydon Substation (Statkraft)	Awaiting decision
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting decision
25/00013/REF	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road (Statera)	Appeal Lodged
25/01326/CPE	Brambles 31A Green End	Awaiting decision
25/01865/APP	Wings Farm, Marston Road, Solar Farm	Awaiting decision
25/01597/APP	Stately Stables, Winslow Road	Awaiting decision
25/01898/APP	40B Winslow Road	Awaiting decision

****Payments over £200, highlighted in yellow, are to be signed off by two Councillors.**

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