

Minutes of the Annual Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th of May 2023 in the Fairground Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mr G Light – Chairman
Cllr Mrs P Foster – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mr J Neal
Cllr Mrs J Osborne
Cllr Mrs P West
Cllr Mr N Blackmore
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Member of the Public – 3

Apologies: Mrs Pam Mutton, Borough Councillor Mrs L Lashbrook and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

The Parish Councillors signed the Declaration of Office.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

The Parish Councillors filled in and signed the Declarations of Interest Forms.
Cllr Mrs J Osborne declared an interest in the Fairground Hall.
Cllr Mrs P Foster declared an interest in the Fairground Site and the Fairground Hall.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

we are now returned to our full compliment of councillors with the addition of Jim Neal and Nigel Blackmore; sadly, we say goodbye to Caro Nugent and thank her for her valuable contribution.

I am pleased to report another year of financial stability which will be expanded upon by our Clerk in his later financial report.

We are still progressing our plans for the improvement of this historic Fairground Site, the full details of which will be publicised in due course.

We continue to monitor local issues reported to and by our councillors, the largest by far being the condition of the roads. This problem currently increases daily and so, correspondingly does the funding required. Such major expenditure cannot come from local government and so we look to our County Councillors to pressure central government for the necessary finance.

Sadly, our church is still out of action with no sign of progress to restore it. The Village Hall are supporting this by the free use of the premises in which to hold services.

Relatively soon after the church fire we learnt of the closure of the Weyhill Fair public house and the owners (Fullers) intention to market the site for re-development subject to permission. This will result in the loss of another social hub from our village community.

Our allotments are still a popular and successful enterprise. Our Fairground Craft Centre continues to be popular and has a waiting list of applicants for its units which would fully tenant it twice over.

We are pleased to note the recent re-election of Borough Councillor Linda Lashbrook and offer her our congratulations.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and particularly our Clerk, Richard Waterman for all their hard work in the past and express my hope that they will continue their excellent input to our community.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Parish Clerk produced the financial report for the Year Ending 31.03.2023 and explained each item.

PENTON GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS.

	£
Precept	10,000.00
Bank Interest	22.03
VAT Refund	14,241.69
Services Charged to Other PC's	2,210.84
Site Income	57,909.09
	84,383.65

PAYMENTS

Administration	4,462.13
Wages	4,800.00
Insurance	7,637.04
Grass Cutting/Maintenance	1,517.94
Fairground Maintenance	65,531.79
Street Lighting	119.94
Flashing Speed Signs/Maint	7,979.44
2 x Defibrillators and Fitting	439.65
Site Project	2,956.17
VAT on Payments	7,058.72
	95,502.82

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance BFW 1 st April 2022	27,719.10
Add Income	84,383.65
	<u>112,102.75</u>
Less Payments	95,502.82
Balance Carried Forward	<u>16,599.93</u>

CONFLICT OF INTREST WITH BDO LLP THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR.
There were no conflicts of interest recorded with BDO LLP.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr G Light and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Foster.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022/2023

The Annual Accounting Statement 2022/2023 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr G Light and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Foster. All agreed.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

There were no reports form the County and Borough Councillors.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr James Cuniff spoke about the fire at the Weyhill Church:

- The interior of the Church is black with soot and getting it clean is a big job.
- The organ was not damaged by fire but will need dismantling and a thorough clean. The Winchester Diocese has given approval for this to happen.
- The PCC are working with the insurance company which is proving a long and derailed process.
- The PCC are taking this opportunity to look at better use of the space available in the church and are looking at improving the entrance.
- The PCC would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Fairground Hall for their continued support in allowing the use of the Hall on a Sunday.
- The time scale for the completion of the repair and cleaning work is not known and it could possibly be the middle of 2024. The PCC will keep the Parish Council updated.
- Susan the lady that has been looking after the Graveyard adjacent to the Fairground Site has decided to retire and a plea for help has been put on the Village Facebook Page.
- The way the churches are managed is changing. The Winchester Diocese is amalgamating 12 Churches in the area and there will be limited services in each church, but all will remain open for the time being.

It was reported that the Street Light on Casterbridge Lane is not working properly due to the overhanging trees. The bushes and trees along Rectory Lane adjacent to Casterbridge Lane are very overgrown and reducing the width of the road. This was noted. Both issues will be reported to Hampshire County Council.

CLOSE OF THE AGM.

The Chairman closed the AGM part of the meeting.

MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

CHAIRMAN – Cllr Mrs P West proposed Cllr Mr G Light as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs P Foster. There were no other nominations. All agreed. Cllr Mr G Light was elected Chairman.

VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr Mr G Light proposed Cllr Mrs P Foster as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Jim Neal. There were no other nominations. All agreed. Cllr Mrs P Foster was elected Vice Chairman.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The following Responsibilities were agreed for the following year:

PLANNING – Cllr Mr G Light and Cllr Mrs P Foster

FOOTPATHS – Cllr Mr N Blackmore

FAIRGROUND CRAFT CENTER – Cllr Mrs P West and Cllr Mrs J Osborne.

ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Mr J Neal

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Mr G Light and Cllr Mrs P West

WEYHILL VILLAGE GENERAL MAINTENANCE – Cllr Mr N Blackmore.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Due to a technical issue the March Minutes are currently unavailable.

PLANNING.

There has been a lot of discussion about a recent submission for large scale housing development in the SHLAA to be considered in the next Borough Plan. Although there will be impact on Weyhill the proposed sites are in the Amport Parish.

Amport Parish Council have held several meetings and residents have formed a group to put their views forward. The Parish Council will monitor the situation.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL POSITION – 9th May 2023

INCOME.

½ Precept TVBC £5,000.00

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	April and May	= £ 960.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 18.50
Website	Hosting Fee	= £ 16.80
Post Office	Stamps	= £ 45.80
		= <u>£1,041.10</u>

Bank Account Summary.

Lloyds TSB Current Account	£11,419.33
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 4,599.05
	<u>£16,018.38</u>

COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

CLLR MR N BLACKMORE – Spoke about overgrown verges between the Garage and Red Post Lane and the missing Street Sign in Red Post Lane.

Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that the Bus Shelter by Hardyfair Close needs some repair as there are a few loose bricks. He suggested that the Parish Council consider putting a Bus Shelter between the Garage and Red Post Lane. This was thought a good idea and could be erected to commemorate King Charles.

Cllr Mr N Blackmore will put together a list of maintenance required in Weyhill and will request a site meeting with County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Mrs P Foster addressed the Parish Council in her capacity as Chairman of the Fairground Hall.

Cllr Mrs P Foster reported that the Fairground Hall is struggling financially at the moment. Since the Pandemic they have lost 8 regular bookings a week, takings are down approximately £600 a month. While not destitute, the increase in electricity and gas prices has trebled and we are spending more a month than we are taking in hirings.

For the first time in the Fairground Halls existence the Fairground Hall Committee ask if the Parish Council would help by contributing towards the cost of the Cleaner until more regular bookings can be obtained?

The Parish Council felt that the Hall is a great Community Asset and if they needed to help support then they would. This will be monitored at every Parish Council Meeting until things improve.

Cllr Mrs P Foster on behalf of the Committee thanked the Parish Council for their support.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

11th of July 2023.

DATES OF THE 2023 MEETINGS.

9th of May

11th of July

12th of September

14th of November