Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th of July 2025 in the Fairground Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs P Foster – Chairman
Cllr Mr N Blackmore – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs Z Smale
Cllr Mr J Neal
Cllr Mrs J Osborne
Cllr Mr C May
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mrs L Lashbrook
Members of the Public – Mr B Funnell, Mr T Giblett, Cllr Mrs Jane Burger – PMPC Chairman and Councillor Mr P Lashbrook.

Apologies: County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

WELCOME.
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.
Cllr Mrs P Foster declared an interest in the Fairground Site and the Fairground Hall.
Cllr Mrs J Osborne declared an interest in the Fairground Hall.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.
The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman will be cutting back the overhanging vegetation on the corner of Rectory Place within the next few weeks.

FINANCE.
FINANCIAL POSITION – 8th of July 2025

INCOME.
Cottage Charity Rent of Office = £3,000.00
VAT Refund = £ 506.26
= **£3,506.26**

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	June and July	= £ 960.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 22.70
Website	Hosting Fee	= £ 20.64
Lewis	Electric Gate CCTV Monitoring	= £ 50.00
R.N. Waterman	Refreshments	= £ 34.70
Penton Recreation	Centre - Share maint	= £ 525.00
C Wilkins	Maintenance	= £ 209.14
Elite Office Supplies	Photocopier	= £ 114.00
Simon Nightingale	FSS	= £ 615.96
		= **£2,552.14**

Bank Account Summary.

Lloyds Current Account	£ 9,983.53
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 660.52
	£10,644.05

PLANNING.
25/01322/ADVN – Display of 3 internally illuminated canopy fascia signs, 2 internally illuminated jet pod canopy fascia signs, 4 pump spreader box signs, 4 pump branding signs, 1 internally illuminated single leg 'flag' ID Sign, 1 air/water pole sign, 1 vac pole sign and 4 car wash fascia signs – Weyhill Service Station, Weyhill Road, Weyhill.

The Parish Council discussed this planning application and all agreed to OBJECT. The Parish Council understood that this application is in line with the corporate branding for such sites but felt it excessive. The power wattage of the lights needs to be reduced and this planning application if passed with breach restrictions put in place in 2020. It was felt that if this additional lighting is to go ahead the strip lighting on the canopy needs to be removed. The Chairman will compose an objection letter as the holder of the Planning portfolio.

Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook reported that she has asked for a meeting with the applicant and the Planning Officers to discuss concerns.

DRAFT BOROUGH PLAN.
Cllr's Mr P Lashbrrok and Mrs L Lasbrook spoke about the Draft Borough Plan:

The introduction of the governments housing directives has changed the way we, (TVBC), arrive at planning decisions. Added weight is now given to the new housing requirements, which may overrule those material considerations that would normally lead to a refusal.
The Planning Committees now have a very limited scope through which they can deliver a refusal.
By 2028, when TVBC is abolished, government is looking to change the planning system.
It has been proposed that the planning process will be "streamlined", in that applications will be fast-tracked through a shortened process that will exclude the need for planning committees.
Local representation has yet to be determined.
In the Draft Borough Plan, a very large number of development sites have been designated along and neighbouring A342 corridor:

Weyhill/Amport North area	1022+
Appleshaw	35 (post-meeting note: this has risen to nearly 100 with the addition of a plot between Fyfield Lane and Dauntsey Drove wrongly allocated to Fyfield parish.
Penton Corner	200
Kimpton North	1363+
Faberstown, Test Valley,	350+
Ludgershall	3,000+

This means that we may soon see 6,000 new homes being built across the A342 corridor.
We do not have sufficient infrastructure to meet even a 4% of the water, power, sewage, amenities and highways demand.
If one calculates that each dwelling could generate 2.25 vehicles into the highway network, the impact will be severe.

Parish	New Builds	Additional Vehicles
Thruxton	80	180
Appleshaw	35 (100)	79 (197)
Weyhill	1034	2326
		2585

Parish	New Builds	Additional Vehicles
Kimpton North	1363	3067
Faberstown, Test Valley	350	787
Ludgershall	2930	6592
		10446

Much of this traffic may seek to access Hundred Acre Roundabout, (McDonalds).
Small scale development is to be welcomed, in the right location and where it is sympathetic to the surroundings.
It must be noted that because a site is detailed in the Draft Borough Plan, it does not guarantee that development will take place, or that the number of dwellings indicated will be built.
TVBC is merely responding to a government requirement that it provides an indication of where sites have been presented for possible development.
Your submissions to the Draft Borough Plan Consultation are vitally important, as this helps Officers learn about your concerns, the local area and its needs.

The Parish Council agreed that the infrastructure through Weyhill needed to be looked at. The A342 is nearing capacity now, despite HCC Highways reporting that it is adequate, crossing points for pedestrians are inadequate, the speed limit through the village needs to be lowered to 30MPH, the volume of traffic on the A342 makes exiting the various side roads, properties and businesses especially hazardous and the pavements need to be improved.

Test Valley Borough Council have opened the consultation on the Draft Borough Plan and have organised events through out the area for residents to view the Plan. The Fairground Hall are hosting an event on the 24th of July 2025.

The Parish Council and neighbouring Parishes will be getting together to produce a measured response as well as each Parish making their own representation.

HIGWAYS, RESILIENCE, FLY TIPPING AND FLOODING – Cllr Mr N Blackmore

Highways -
The A342 traffic island and pedestrian crossing - The traffic island, and pedestrian refuge need to be re-sited and improved. As HCC are currently refusing to consider this, we have a problem. - Ongoing.
As I have suggested before I think we need a working group of all the Councils involved to look at the A342 in the absence of HCC interest or action. Our County Councillor Chris Donnelly has supported this and suggested that all the Parishes along the A342 corridor to Ludgershall form a working group to look into this and funding for improvements. The TVBC Local Plan proposals is a significant additional driver for this. I propose that Penton Grafton Council fully support this proposed working group.
Weyhill Bottom Crossroads – Parishioners have raised a visibility concern regarding the positioning of the Brown "Lion" sign. This has been taken up with County Highways who have visited and agree. - Ongoing.

Fly tipping -
Nothing to report.

Resilience –
The generator has been delivered, and an initial test running undertaken. It is intended to carry out a full test of the generator running the hall as soon as possible. Storage facilities for the generator to simplify operations is being looked into. - Ongoing.
To complete the Resilience Project, we need to install Broadband into the Fairground Hall, and on the standby power circuit. This is being looked into. - Ongoing.
The CEP is under review to reflect our current capabilities, and within our insurance coverage. We now need to progress the plan into an active state. - Ongoing.
The recruitment of volunteers for the CEP is ongoing, and now even more important. I would like to put an information sheet on the Parish web site and invite volunteers. - Ongoing

Flooding –
The Upper Anton Parishes Flood Forum continue to work towards improving the flooding and sewage problems. The last meeting on the 19th of June and was again attended by Southern Water. Their Project Manager Carolin Till provided information on the revised Appleshaw and Penton Mewsey Infiltration Plan. Early days but there is reason to be optimistic - ongoing
Weyhill Bottom high groundwater levels is being addressed. - ongoing

FOOTPATHS – Cllr Mrs Z Smale.
Cllr Mrs Z Smale reported:

- That the verge in Red Post Lane has been cut.
- The overgrown pavement from the Weyhill Bottom Crossroads to the school has been reported to Highways.
- The overgrown footpath from Ancient Lane to the Penton Road has also been reported to Highways.
- The Dog Bin on the Playing Field behind Casterbridge is overflowing and has been reported to TVBC.

5 YEAR PLA – Cllr Mr N Blackmore.
The Parish Councillors confirmed that they have all read the proposal for a 5 Year Plan and agreed with the concept. Cllr Mr N Blackmore will now start the process and felt that it will be a 'living document' that will constantly be updated as time progresses.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS L LASHBROOK.

- Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook reported that the Local Government reorganisations continue to gain pace. Discussion on how to proceed under the Local Government Review are still on going. There was no new news to report.

PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.
CLLR MRS Z SMALE – Reported that she contacted TVBC regarding the Weyhill children's playground and field. The grass will be cut and TVBC are to replace the climbing frame.

CLLR MR N BLACKMORE – Suggested that the erection of a Bus Shelter is put on the back burner for the time being. The Parish Council agreed.

The 2 Solar Powered Flashing Speed Signs have been ordered; this will help to gather the speed and road use data that is needed to get the Speed Limit reduced.

CLLR MRS J OSBOURNE – Reported that HGVs are still using Rectory Lane as a short cut to the Weyhill Bottom Crossroads.

CLLR MR C MAY – Reported:

- There has been no further flooding at the Clanville Pond.
- Highways have carried out further work on the pond.
- A caravan parked between Clanville and Penton Grafton has been reported to TVBC.
- Rural Crime in the area is on the increase. Residents are encouraged to be visual and lock outbuildings and sheds. Possibly upgrading lightings and security if necessary.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.
Mr B Funnell asked Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook for information on the reported £8.8 Million Council Tax debts that TVBC have incurred. Cllr Mrs L Lsshbrook will investigate and report back to Mr B Funnell.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.
The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.
9th of September 2025.