

Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th of January 2024 in the Fairground Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs P Foster - Acting Chairman
Cllr Mr G Light
Cllr Mrs J Osborne
Cllr Mrs P West
Cllr Mr J Neal
Cllr Mr N Blackmore
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelley
Borough Councillor Mrs L Lashbrook
Member of the Public – Mr B Funnell, Mr Chris May, Borough Councillor
Mr P Lashbrook and Mrs Smale.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman suggested that she remain as Chairman until the May meeting. The election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be conducted at the May Meeting along with the Parish Councillor’s responsibilities for the next council year. The Parish Councillors agreed.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

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.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

NEW BUS SHELTERS – Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that he has been in correspondence with Hampshire County Council regarding the proposed new Bus Shelters, there has been a delay, but it is hoped that the project will now move forward.

GRAYHOUND RACING – Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook had no news to report.

PLANNING.

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL POSITION – 16th January 2024

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	Dec 23 and Jan 24	= £ 960.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 17.40
Website	Hosting Fee	= £ 16.80
		= <u>£ 994.20</u>

Bank Account Summary.	
Lloyds TSB Current Account	£ 1,407.24
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 4,599.05
	<u>£ 6,006.29</u>

HIGHWAYS.

New Footpath and Bus Shelters on the A342.

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that the new Footpath and proposed bus shelters are ongoing. Highways had a site meeting to progress the project. Cllr Mr C Donnelly will keep the Parish Council updated on progress.

Weyhill Bottom Crossroads.

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that Hampshire County Council have started on the list of works agreed for the Weyhill Bottom Crossroads. A refresh of the road markings and ensuring that the signage is correctly in place is top of the list of works. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mr C Donnelly and felt that this was encouraging progress.

Duck Pond at Clanville.

- The recent continued heavy rain has caused flooding problems at Clanville.
- The Duck Pond has been unable to cope with the volume of water, resulting in the garden of Meadowview being flooded.
- The Penton Grafton Cottage Charity own the Duck Pond. It was last dug out in 2020 and is due to be dug out again in 2024. When the pond dries up this will be carried out.
- It was agreed that the Cottage Charity, The Parish Council and Mr C May who own the neighbouring property and who's drive floods will work together to try and alleviate the problem.
- Hampshire Highways and Mr G North the local farmer will also be asked for their help/input.
- It is believed that Hampshire County Council have asked Wiltshire to clear their ditches and Gullies to help with the Road Surface Water that ends up at the Clanville Pond. This has yet to be confirmed.

Footpaths and Infrastructure – Cllr Mr N Blackmore.

General

Continuing to ascertain responsibility and the best way to progress problems with undergrowth and overgrowth on footpaths.

Rural Footpaths –

Hanging Bush Lane will be the subject of a joint cut back by Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton Councils. This is ongoing. Ancient Lane is being well maintained but the village end has some overgrowth which is the responsibility of the adjacent Landowners. This is ongoing.

Infrastructure and Paved Paths –

Ownership of the trees and undergrowth adjacent to Hardy Fayre Close has been established. From information supplied by Councillor Donnelley it would seem that County are responsible. The undergrowth and overgrowth are severely impinging on the footpath/cycleway adjacent to the A342 and need cutting back. This has been reported to County and acknowledged. (ongoing) The Linksman continues carrying

out the usual regular grass and undergrowth cutting in the areas that the Parish is responsible for or has taken on. Private Landowners are a problem with overgrowth and undergrowth, and ways to encourage them to meet their responsibilities are under consideration. (ongoing)

There is still no news from County Highways regarding the extension of the footpath/cycleway and replacement bus shelter at the Western end of the Parish adjacent to the A342, or the new bus shelter on the Southern side of the A342. I understand that County Highways intend to hold a meeting regarding this. I have approached Councillor Donnelly to be included in that meeting.

Two potholes have appeared in the service road off the A342 adjacent to the Pink Olive. Whilst this is only a service road it forms part of the footpath/cyclepath through the village. One of the holes is adjacent to a drain and is deep thus a hazard particularly to pedestrians and particularly in the dark. These have been reported to County, but the road is not their responsibility. I then approached Test Valley who also said it was not their responsibility. Further investigation leads me to think the area concerned is owned by the Pink Olive who will be approached. Ongoing.

Fly tipping -

Three Fly tips have been observed. A wheel and tyre were left in the bushes by the Weyhill Road (A342) and Red Post Lane junction. A pallet has been left adjacent to the electricity substation on the A342 Weyhill Road. These have been reported to Test Valley and were dealt with promptly and efficiently. Another tip was on Red Post Lane on the roadside just after the A303 bridge. This appears to have been collected but there is still some mess. This has also been reported to Test Valley who have done their best to tidy it up.

Flooding -

At the last meeting Councillor Osbourne raised the issue of rising water levels at Weyhill Bottom. Subsequently there was a flooding incident at Clanville Pond involving one of the Cottage Charity properties. Without involving specific incidents, it is my view that flooding is an emerging problem that needs to be considered. It would appear that, building works, blocked or poorly maintained ditches, drains, are culverts etcetera, and even filled in ditches are in various ways a problem. From my own observations there is certainly flooding of the fields adjacent to the road from Weyhill bottom to Penton Grafton, in the road adjacent to the new Car Boot exit, and Short Road into Penton Grafton is severely flooded.

Whilst this flooding is not new it appears to be becoming more severe which possibly indicates the water table is rising, Blocked and filled in ditches, and culverts are a possible contributor to the situation. The flooding now appears more severe than the Environment Agency flood map of the area indicates. This flooding extends through Penton Mewsey along and across Foxcote Lane, and I am given to understand causes problems in Charlton as well. Any action taken within Penton Grafton that improves drainage from our Parish will almost certainly make the problems in the other Parishes worse.

It is my view that there needs to be a coordinated approach by the Parishes concerned with the Environment Agency and other interested parties to highlight this problem and take a carefully considered view on what can be done to improve the situation. This situation is only going to get worse with Climate Change therefore in my view needs consideration now.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported that The Ground Water level has risen by 1.3 metres over recent weeks and that Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council are working with Parishes on the issues caused by flooding.

Community Emergency Plan (CEP) Report. 16th January 2024

A draft plan was circulated to Councillors in September. Unfortunately, I have been unable to progress this subsequently due to illness, but it is in hand.

To progress the plan there are two main considerations: -

1. The plan needs progressing by compiling contact details for volunteers and further details as required. This is in hand but finding volunteers is a problem.
2. Making the Fairground Hall more resilient with a standby generator has been investigated and a quote for £2,781.59 has been obtained. I am given to understand that most if not all of these costs could be covered by a grant from Scottish and Southern Electricity. With the Council's approval I would like to see this progressed.

A third consideration is how our CEP will compliment and or integrate with the County/District Emergency Plans. I will be attempting to find out more information on this.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported:

- Although not actually in the Penton Grafton Parish the junction of the road to Mayfield Industrial Estate keeps being torn up by HGV's. Highways have agreed that a 'No Left Turn' will be implicated and HGV's will have to go up the roundabout to enter access the road.
- The charge for tipping DIY materials at the Hampshire Re-cycling Centre in Andover is to be dropped.
- Hampshire County Council have started a consultation on their draft provision of services for 2026.
- Hampshire County Council are now looking at requests from Parish Councils for 20mph schemes. (It was noted if an application was successful, the cost of implementing a 20mph scheme would be met by the Parish Council)

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS L LASHBROOK

Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook reported that Draft Borough Plan for 2040 is now out for consultation and urged the Parish Council and residents to view it and make comment. The new Borough Plan has removed the strategic housing policy. The Borough Plan is available on the Test Valley Borough Council Website.

Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook reported that comments have been received regarding Gritting during the recent cold weather. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook confirmed that grit does not work below a certain temperature, The Gritting lorries have technology that will not allow them to grit if the temperature drops dramatically, this is teamed up with weather information.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MR G LIGHTS – Reported that he had been alerted to a potential 'Land Grab' in Rectory Place. This was discussed and will be monitored; it was not clear who owns the land involved or who to contact regarding the issue.

Cllr Mr G Light spoke about the flooding that still occurs at the entrance to Hardy Fair Close, even though Highways have recently dug out the road drains.
Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that he has been corresponding with Hampshire Highways on this issue and will contact them again.

Cllr Mr G Light also spoke about rubbish on the verge, the sign for Christmas Trees and the abandoned car that took a long time to move, that make the village look untidy.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Concerns of safety were raised regarding to large trees in a garden of a property in Hardy Fair Close. It was agreed that a letter to the homeowner reminding them of their responsibilities would be sent and copied to the TVBC Tree Officer

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

12th March 2024.

APOLOGIES.

Cllr Mr G Light gave his apologies for the March 2024 Meeting.