

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
18th November 2019
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm**

DRAFT

- Cllrs Present:** D Stanley (Chair), A Atkinson, G Green, G James, A Passey, BR Woodhouse.
- In Attendance:** Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr Dean Clarke, **2** Members of the public.
- Apologies:** County Cllr Phil Grove, Cllr Ayers, Cllr Bretherton, Cllr Taft, Weston family, Members of the Working Party.

Notices in place and visible upon entry: 1) Notice informing residents that their name might be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. 2) Noticeboard displaying following information: GDPR; contact details for P.C. Data Protection Officer; Consent forms; rules for recording public meetings; procedure for speaking at the meeting; how to access parish council documents; details of when the precept is set each year; list of future meeting dates.

129/19 Apologies for absence – as above.

130/19 Declarations of interest and points of order – nil.

131/19 Minutes of previous meetings.

a.	Monday 21 th October 2019 – Duly approved .
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132/19 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor.

a.	Previously distributed. Taken as read. Cllrs made no comments.
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133/19 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.

a.	<p>Advance notice of a probable future planning application relating to broadband for the Monkwood area.</p> <p>Update on the MHDC environmental working party. Cllrs expressed dismay that many of the district council targets seem to focus on the offsetting of carbon emissions rather than proactive policies and actions. Cllr Stanley suggested that district councils could instead concentrate on improving the environmental opportunities within procurement practices.</p> <p>A reminder to Cllrs that S106 has been replaced with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is different to S106 in that it is levied on a much wider range of developments and according to a published tariff schedule. This spreads the cost of funding infrastructure over more developers and provides certainty as to how much developers will have to pay. It is theoretically simpler and more transparent.</p>
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134/19 Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to:

a.	For information only, two applications for permitted development prior approval: 19/01656/GPDQ & 19/01657/GPDQ . Barns at Moseley Farm. Cllrs had no comments.
b.	SWDP comment and questions. Cllrs have received the considerable paperwork and continue to review the information. It is understood that Hallow has been allocated an additional 40 houses (Grimley - nil as the parish does not have the appropriate facilities). Cllr Woodhouse expressed frustration that parish councils are powerless to insist upon best practice building design, materials and green energy sources.

135/19 Climate Emergency Declaration

- To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Draft Declaration of Climate Emergency. Including an open forum and if appropriate a Motion to approve the resulting declaration.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were suspended.</i></p> <p>Cllrs debated the climate declaration attached in Appendix 2. Amendments submitted by Cllrs via email were considered. Requests for additional details within the declaration were debated but will follow in due course, as the aim of this document is to be an overarching statement of intent. The efforts of a subsequent working party can consider more detail on how objectives are to be achieved. An insert suggested by resident NW regarding protection of ecosystems was accepted.</p> <p>Cllr Woodhouse stated that he is happy to support this declaration going forward if wider support from neighbouring parishes is sought. This would be in order that a more weighty petition (non-specific use of word) be forwarded to district council and beyond. Cllrs agreed a need to build momentum using this bottom-up approach and in particular to tackle the lethargic mindset of MPs. Cllr Stanley confirmed that he is already liaising with Hallow, Holt and Wichenford Parish councils.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed (in no particular order): flooding; homeworking; the inconsistent information concerning electric cars; the major pollution threat caused by transoceanic travel; and, the lack of jobs being built alongside new houses. Cllrs expressed dismay that climate change is not currently part of the UK national curriculum.</p> <p>Cllrs unanimously voted to accept and adopt the climate change declaration. The Clerk was instructed to provide a clean copy with those amendments duly accepted above.</p> <p>Next steps include liaising with the Primary School (DS), publishing the climate declaration in the parish newsletter, asking for volunteers for a Working Party (one Sinton Green resident has already expressed an interest) and forwarding to the District and County Councils for comment. Cllrs will formally sign the declaration on 2nd December 2019. Any future policy reviews and project procurement will have due regard to the declaration, though it is acknowledged that the Parish Council is still feeling its way forward in this respect.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Stanley</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Cllr Stanley</p>
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136/19 Draft 2020/21 Parish Council Budget

- To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Public Open Forum accepting suggestions and comments. Current exploration of options range between 2.5% and 10% increase. (£1.50 increase through to £6 increase per annum per Band D property respectively).</p> <p>Standing Orders remained suspended. There were no comments from the public.</p> <p>The Chair briefed Cllrs and stated broadly that Grimley is a small parish with a relatively low number of households but with all the usual responsibilities of a parish council and in addition the significant financial commitments of two areas of Common land, one</p>
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	<p>of which is a nationally important area of SSSI (site of significant scientific interest). It therefore falls to the low number of households to support these facilities through the precept (parish council section of the council tax levied by the district council). Residents have in recent years been given the option to cease care of Monkwood SSSI but opted to retain ownership.</p> <p>Cllrs spoke in favour of increasing the current precept by 10% and a motion to this effect will take place on 2nd December 2019. This will raise each individual household precept by approx. £6 per annum.</p> <p>The Clerk warned that the District Council does not publish the amount increase in '£' but by '%' and therefore there is a risk of negative publicity. Cllrs agreed that the % increase is justified by the number of parish projects underway and also those projects currently being proposed for the future. By comparison a recent 40% increase in a neighbouring parish was much criticised for being less justifiable.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to publish parish council intentions via social media, email lists, on the parish noticeboards and on the parish council website.</p>
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Clerk

137/19 Grimley Village - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Condition of roads and drains in Grimley Village, vicinity of Church Farm.</p> <p>The Lengthsman has been to inspect: "There is a small gully near the driveway which may lead to a blocked pipe further down, which in turn may be causing the water to drain very slowly. The other problem is where the worst of the splash up the wall is, the road is lower so any surface water can't flow back to the gully anyway. It just sits as a puddle. We have tried shovelling the gutter in case there was any sediment build up but it's where the road has sunk". Cllrs agreed that this has been an occurrence for over 30 years. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to re-report to Highways.</p>
b.	<p>Broadband update.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley reported that Mr S. Russel is chasing up interested parties. Indications are that the project is only two households short of the target.</p>

Clerk

138/19 Monkwood Green - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Progress update on grazing, review of road repairs and resident reminder of prohibited activities (parking, mowing) on the Common.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to apply for a grazing licence for 2020. - write to those Commoners recently using the site asking their intentions for 2020 and inform him that the parish council are looking at going forward with alternative grazing options. - After due allowance for a response to the above, advertised generally this grazing opportunity on Monkwood Green for the 2020 season, in the parish magazine and on social media. - Proceed with writing to the residents ref parking on the Common. <p>Cllr Green agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coordinate taking down the existing electric fencing.
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Clerk

Cllr Green

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be responsible for the replacement battery once it is obtained. - to explore storage options for the equipment. <p>Ref road repairs Cllr Green and Woodhouse inspected the site and recommended that the roads are much better than they were and that the project was a success. Cllr Green is waiting to here from the contractor and will chase him up ref a site visit.</p> <p>Cllr Green recommended that the culverts need clearing on the Common, as the roads are being affected by the blocked water - systems in the vicinity. The Clerk is to clarify what work could be conducted by the Lengthsman, obtain a copy of the County Hall guidelines and contract, ref why Lengthsman are not permitted to work on ditches specifically.</p>	
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Cllr Green
Clerk**139/19 Sinton Green** – To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	Broken noticeboard at Peace Hall. The board has been repaired by Mr B.Jones and an invoice is due to be paid 2 nd December 2019.	
b.	Pond algae update. Cllr Stanley has obtained and place a barley bale in the pond, which initially resulted in some short-lived improvement. Cllr Bretherton has agreed to conduct more research. Cllr Passey advised that the seasonal nature of the pond means that many interventions relating to replanting will not necessarily work. The pond is unable to sustain plant life because it does not hold water consistently.	

Clerk

Cllr
Bretherton**140/19 Reports from Representatives.**

a.	Peace Hall Management Committee. No meeting had taken place. The barn dance was cancelled due to the dangerous conditions water on roads etc.	
b.	Lengthsman. Also, motion to receive and approve future items of work. The Clerk reported receipt of October invoice.	
d.	10th November 2019 Remembrance Service at Hallow Church. Cllr DS attended and reported a very successful event which it is hoped will be repeated annually.	

Clerk

141/19 Smart Water

a.	General reminder for residents to register their SmartWater packs asap. <u>90% of packs handed out remain unregistered</u> Registering will make the difference in being able to return your stolen valuables to you or helping the police with evidence to secure a criminal conviction. If you do not register your bottle, then the DNA substance within is useless and cannot be traced back to your address in the event of a theft.	
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Clerk

Residents

142/19 General Finance - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. All duly inspected and approved.	
b.	To receive and motion to accept the latest Bank Reconciliation, Oct 2019. All duly inspected and approved.	
c.	Outstanding Co-option paperwork. Duly completed.	

d.	<p>Review of committee representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Passey was duly accepted for Tarmac Liaison. - Cllr Green was duly accepted for Grievance panel in place of Cllr Stanley. - Cllr Green was duly accepted for Monkwood Green Community Management Committee - Cllr Green was duly accepted for Monkwood Green Commoners Association Council rep. - Cllr Stanley was duly accepted for Appeal Panel.
e.	<p>Proposal (and if required, a Motion) to set up formal Parish Council Committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Planning Committee (proposal for online group which could 'meet' monthly). Declined on basis that Cllrs receive the information via email anyway. ii. 'Environment and facilities' committee (proposal to meet quarterly in person and which would incorporate projects concerning the Climate Emergency). <i>Wider community would need to be included. Volunteers to be sought. Cllr Stanley to liaise with Clerk.</i>
f.	<p>Parish Council Website, general review of procedures, maintenance and regularity of update. Clerk gave a briefing which was accepted by Cllrs.</p>

Clerk

Cllr Stanley
Clerk

143/19 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda

a	<p>To note and discuss as required correspondence already circulated to Cllrs, or available for inspection at the meeting. <i>Cllrs may use this opportunity to report minor matters of info not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise future items.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Drain clearance invoice 0048 D Hemus. £120.00. Declined by Cllrs on the basis that work was not authorised before it was undertaken by the resident. The Clerk was instructed to send apologies to the resident and to state that work must be properly commissioned. ii. Grimley raceway fixtures. – Not covered. iii. To note: Updated 2020 copy of register of electors requested from MHDC. Duly noted. iv. Swan man. Clerk to contact the Swan Sanctuary.
b	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting: Venue: Peace Hall. Monday 2nd December, 7.30pm. All residents and Press very welcome to attend.</p>

Clerk

Clerk

Appendix 1: Items for payment.

Mr Simon Skyes Lengthsman	Lengthsman invoice Oct 2019: £115	£115.00	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skyes Private contractor	Sinton Green mowing invoice received 04/10/2019. £75 per cut. 30 th October x 1 cut.	£75.00	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [September 2019] As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses and overtime October 2019. GPC201903.	£204.18	VAT under calculation

Chair (2nd December 2019)

Appendix 2

GRIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL - CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY DECLARATION.

Introduction. Following the recent IPCC Climate Change report which warned that humanity has only 12 years to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C, and the Government amending the Climate Change Act 2008, Grimley Parish Council declares that it recognises the urgency of addressing this Climate Change crisis. The Parish Council acknowledges that whilst its ability to take direct action is very limited, the Council will also endeavour to exercise further action through information, education and influence.

Objectives. The Council will pursue actions and support the delivery of three objectives that require

First. A significant and ongoing reduction in the use of energy in buildings, transport, food, and consumption. This contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, pollution and biodiversity loss. The consumption of energy, particularly fossil fuels is a primary cause of Climate Change.

Second. The regeneration and rebuilding of our natural ecosystems which will contribute to drawing down carbon from the air into carbon stores in our soils, woodlands and grasslands. Such action in our gardens, allotments, woodland, grassland, verges, wetlands, farmland etc will also contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, wildlife, flood and drought mitigation, pollution reduction.

Third. Promote and support adaptation measures to reduce the risks to our community arising from Climate Change. Areas of our parish are regularly inundated by floodwater with distressing impacts to homes, businesses and farmland. The forecast with climate change is for the frequency and severity of such occurrences to increase. More extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and expanding ranges of new species of insects, birds, plants etc will have pose a threat to our familiar native species of wildlife, crops and farm animals.

To some, this may appear to involve little but pain and frugality. This is not so. It does involve a change of mindset.

As an example, consider transport. Taking a car to drive into town is considered to be readily accessible, convenient in terms of time of leaving, comfort and low-cost. In contrast walking, cycling, taking public transport is perceived as none of these things BUT results in a reduction of fossil fuel use and climate change, a reduction in noise and local air pollution that benefits residents and our children's health and mental wellbeing, hence a reduction in NHS costs, road maintenance costs etc.

Our Emergency Declaration is about creating a better and sustainable future for ourselves and our children, that will enhance our community, environment, local economy and our overall well-being.

Grimley Parish Council will have full regard for the above three Objectives specifically in regard to:

- 1) The management of Parish staff, land, commons and greens
- 2) Contracts and the commissioning of projects
- 3) Promoting local food production, businesses and enterprises.
- 4) Commenting on planning applications, developments – green spaces, transport, infrastructure
- 5) Information to individuals and Parish, businesses, organisations and schools in our area
- 6) Information to wider authorities and colleagues, lobbying higher tier councils and Government
- 7) Creation of an Environment Working Party of local volunteers, in order to harvest resident ideas on changes that can contribute towards a more sustainable, climate friendly Parish.
- 8) This declaration will be reviewed annually. It will be supplemented by supporting documents identifying specific targets and actions that will be developed by the Council and Environmental Working Party.