

**Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 10th of March 2026 in the Parish Office at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs P Foster – Chairman
Cllr Mr N Blackmore – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Osborne
Cllr Mrs Z Smale
Cllr Mr C May
Cllr Mr J Neal
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.
Members of the Public – Mr B Funnell and Mr S Brown.

Apologies: Mrs H Easton, Borough Councillor Mrs L Lashbrook and Mr P Lashbrook.

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 Mr 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.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL POSITION –10th March 2026

INCOME.

VAT Refund = £ 1,211.34
= **£1,211.34**

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	February and March	= £ 960.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 14.84
Website	Hosting Fee	= £ 20.64
Lewis	Electric Gate CCTV Monitoring	= £ 50.00
Barclay and Phillips	Architect Fees	= £ 510.00
		= <u>£1,555.48</u>

Bank Account Summary.

Lloyds Current Account	£ 6,145.44 (27/2/2026)
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 660.52
	<u>£ 6,805.96</u>

PLANNING.

26/00326/VARN – Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 21/01264/VARN (Solar farm and associated development) to allow for alterations to the site layout including changes in the location and design of panels and associated infrastructure – Land at Hatherden Farm, Hatherden Lane, Andover. – NO COMMENT.

26/0407/TPON – Application to fell Sycamore Tree – 19 Weyhill Gardens, Weyhill.

The Parish Council have received a letter from the applicant giving history of this tree that dominates their small garden. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.

The Chairman reported that Rivendale, the developers of the Weyhill Fair have contacted her asking if the Parish Council would still like the Old Weyhill Fair Pub Sign? The Parish Council all agreed that they would as it is part of the history of the Village and would be a welcome addition to the Fairground site.

DRAFT BOROUGH PLAN.

Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that there were some 1,800 submissions to the consultation. TVBC Planning Policy are now proceeding to develop those plans in the light of the consultations, land withdrawals, and recent speculative proposals. The revised plan will be published as a Section 19 plan for consultation in late summer 2026. Following the consultation this revised plan will be presented to the Government in December 2026.

CLLR MR N BLACKMORE'S REPORT.

Highways.

The A342 traffic island and pedestrian crossing –

The current situation is that our County Councillor Chris Donnelly is pursuing this. County Highways have been asked to design and quote for a replacement Traffic Island/Pedestrian Refuge correctly positioned for safe crossing. In the absence of County funding, it is hoped that TVBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding can be obtained. Our District Councillor Linda Lashbrook is supporting this. - Ongoing. Weyhill Bottom Crossroads – Parishioners have raised a visibility concern regarding the positioning of the Brown "Lion" sign. This has been taken up yet again, and again with County Highways but has not as yet been addressed. -Ongoing

The promised Solar powered Crossroads Speed Signs have still not been installed. This is now over 18 months. - Ongoing.

Last week pothole repairs were undertaken by HCC Highways on Red Post Lane.

The New Solar powered - Speed signs appear to be working well, and from my general observation seem to be having a positive effect. Hopefully we will be collecting traffic data shortly. This data will be available to the Parish council, A342 W/G, and will be made available to other authorities/organisations at the council's discretion. – ongoing.

The A342 Working Group.

The A342 Working Group is progressing well and making good headway with collecting information, data, and evidence. The Survey is currently underway. Thank you to all those who helped deliver the Survey Forms. Survey closes on the 7th of April. The group is hoping to produce the first draft of their report (transport assessment) by the late summer in time for the Section 19 Consultation of the Draft Local Plan (DLP) by TVBC. – ongoing.

Weyhill.

A recent RTA outside the Pink Olive involving a car and a motorbike was noted.

5 YEAR PLAN – Cllr Mr N Blackmore.

Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that due to other ongoing projects work on the 5 Year Plan has been put on hold.

Resilience.

The generator was purchased some months ago and wiring is all complete. Also, a Generator House has been installed. A full commissioning test will be conducted as soon as possible. – ongoing.

Flooding.

The Upper Anton Parishes Flood Forum continue to work towards improving the flooding and sewage problems. The last meeting was last week. It was attended by Southern Water. The New Appleshaw and Penton Mewsey Infiltration Plan has been published. Work on lining the SW and Private sewers is well underway. Phases and Timescales have been published and circulated. SW have written to residents affected.

The weather and in particular the recent significant rainfall, has resulted in high groundwater levels. This has resulted in the need for over pumping. The tankers are back but hopefully for the last time.

Some problems with the tanker operations which is by a new contractor to Southern Water has proved problematic. Issues included tankers using Rectory Lane. Hopefully this has been resolved.

The issue of Landowners not maintaining watercourses is now being pursued as the primary focus of the group. – ongoing.

EA Report on Flooding at Weyhill Bottom in 2000/2001.

As reported at the last meeting the flooding problems for this Parish are being considered, and particularly the recommendations of the EA Report. The EA Report recommended that the Parish should have a Flood Plan. Previously the Parish Council has rejected that recommendation. Having assessed the situation and the fact that there are only a small number of properties affected it is my opinion that a Flood Plan is not required. However, it would be sensible for the residents involved to be encouraged to have individual flood plans and avail themselves of the official warning systems available. Possibly a volunteer Flood Warden could be encouraged. - ongoing

Penton Road Bus Shelter -

This shelter is in a poor state of repair and its appearance somewhat less than desirable. The HCC grant scheme mentioned last month proved to be for new shelters only. A quote has been provided for refurbishing this shelter. The Parish needs to consider this refurbishment when funding permits. With regard to other Bus Shelters the situation regarding funding opportunities will be monitored. – ongoing.

Devolution

The next development in this process is the selection of the proposals for the new Unitary Authorities. Following the consultation the decision on the new Authorities is scheduled to be announced by Central Government later this month. Whilst the election of the new Solent and Hampshire Mayor has been delayed the setting up of the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority (MCCA) continues with the appointment of Dr Ruth Adams as the interim Chief Executive.

FOOTPATHS.

Cllr Mrs Z Smale reported that the footpath from Ancient Lane down to the Penton Road is clear and walkable.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY

Cllr Mr C Donnelley reported:

- Hampshire County Council have a budget of £3.1 Billion and an income of "2.95 billion, this leaves a shortfall of £180 Million. HCC have managed to secure savings of £100 Million on this year's Adult Social Care, this still leaves a shortfall of £80 Million. The shortfall will be met by a proposed sell of £40 Million of land held by the Council and using reserves. A lane charging scheme will be implicated to charge Utility Companies for road closures while work is carried out.
- HCC have secured £15 Million a year to resurface roads in the county. It is planned that this will be rolling programme.
- All of the Traffic and Highways responsibilities will eventually transfer to the New Hampshire Mayor under Devolution.
- Planned drain repairs on the A342 are due to start in April 2026.
- Cllr Mr C Donnelly stated that he was very disappointed in the reply from Hampshire Highways regarding Landowners not clearing their ditches/gullies.
- Harrowway School have been successful in securing a £1 Million grant from HCC to build two new classrooms for Children with special needs.
- HCC are holding County Elections in May 2026.
- HCC are dealing with planning issues at the Old Penton Sawmill site regarding a change of use to a soil re-cycling depot.
- Cllr Mr C Donnelly wished to thank the Current and Past Parish Councillors for all the work they have done over the last 5 Years.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MR C MAY – Stated that it is encouraging to hear that there has been a good response to the A342 Survey from the Villages concerned.

Flashing Speed Signs – The Penton Grafton Cottage Charity Trustees have purchased a new Solar Powered Flashing Speed Sign (the same model to the ones on the A342 in Weyhill) from Grateley Parish Council at a considerable discount. This will be erected in Clanville and will give data on the true volume of traffic and speed. It is hoped to get the sign position within the next few weeks.

Cllr Mr C May reported that the pond is still coping well and water that collects is being drained away. However, Highways still need to check the ditches as some have filled up again with silt and need clearing.

Cllr Mr C May gave a brief up-date on the Conholt Estate saga and the road repairs.

It was noted that there are problems with flooding at the exit from the Car Boot site on the Penton Road, this is being caused by the Landowner/Tenant not clearing drainage ditches. The Landowner/Tenant has been contacted.

CLLR MRS J OSBORNE – Reported that there is an article in the latest addition of ARC regarding work on the damaged road leading to the Conholt Estate. It was noted that the report has been submitted by Tangley Parish Council, there is no mention of the Weyhill and Clanville end of the road. Cllr Mrs J Osborne would like confirmation that the whole road will receive repairs.

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that Hampshire Highways are due to undertake substantial repairs to the road between Weyhill Bottom and the County Border in Clanville. Cllr Mr C Donnelly could not confirm if this will include re-surfacing.

Cllr Mrs J Osborne confirmed that the drainage ditches in Weyhill Bottom are still blocked, and water is still running off the road into the driveway of Weyhill Bottom Cottages.

Cllr Mrs J Osborne reported that Southern Water are pumping 24 hours a day at Weyhill Bottom. The tankers have trashed the recently cleared footpath that HCC spent days clearing.

CLLR MR J NEAL – Stated that he was also encouraged by the good response to the A342 Survey.

CLLR MRS Z SMALE – Reported that there is still a problem with Dog Fouling in Weyhill and would like the Parish Council to seriously consider an additional Dog Bin in the centre of the village along the A342. The Clerk was asked to get a firm price from Tet Valley Borough Council.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr Brown the owner of Motley Mill addressed the meeting regarding his plans for the site:

- Mr Brown reported that he has been in consultation with Mr Nathen Glasgow from the Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department over the past months regarding the development of the site.
- Mr Glasgow made some suggestions that would make the site more conducive to getting planning permission. These suggestions were taken on board and Mr Brown's Architects came up with a new proposal.
- The revised proposal included the removal of the industrial buildings, reducing the number of dwellings from 25 to 23 and the provision of an open space. A plan of the new layout was shown to the Parish Council. The cost of this additional work has been considerable and was undertaken under the suggestion of the Planning Officer.
- Test Valley Planning have rejected the proposal insisting that the Industrial building remain due to Planning Policy.
- Marks and Spenser have in the meantime approached Mr Brown to gauge interest in converting the industrial buildings to an out-of-town Food Store.
- Mr Brown stated that he has brought this to the Parish Council to make them aware of the situation.

The Parish Council understood the problem Mr Brown is facing but could not make comment until a Planning Application is submitted. However, the scheme looked promising either with or without a potential M & S out-of-town food outlet. It was also felt that the development would also help with the shortage of low-cost housing in the Parish.

Cllr Mr J Neal suggested that Mr Brown contacted Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook to discuss the Planning issue. Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook has the power to bring any planning application to the Planning Committee. Mr Brown thanked Cllr Mr J Neal for the advice, and he would make contact with Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for coming and asked him to keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

12th of May 2026.