

**Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 18th of November 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 C May
Cllr Mr J Neal
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Michelle Penn – Test Valley Borough Council Community Liaison Officer.
Members of the Public – Mrs H Easton, Mr B Funnell and Mr T Giblet.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs J Osborne, Borough Councillor Mrs L Lashbrook, Mr P Lashbrook
and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Michell Penn the
Test Valley Borough Council Community Liaison Officer.

Michelle Penn gave a brief summary of her role at Test Valley Borough Council.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

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.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL POSITION –18th of November 2025

INCOME.

PMPC – FSS Maint share = £587.16
 = **£587.16**

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	Oct and Nov	= £ 960.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 10.50
Website	Hosting Fee	= £ 20.64
Lewis	Electric Gate CCTV Monitoring	= £ 50.00
Barclay and Phillips	Architect Fees	= £ 954.00
Slingsby	Notice Board	= £ 244.00
C. Wilkins	Village Maintenance	= £ 107.00
Speed Sign Maintenance Ltd	– New FSS	= £ 638.14
Michelle Shill	– Website Maintenance	= £ 250.50
Cottage Charity	– VAT Refund	= £ 722.28
Wel Medical	– Defibrillator Pads	= £ 389.04
Generator and Office Supplies	– Amazon	= £ 270.00
Simon Nightingale	– Closing Account FSS	= £ 212.72
Electric Works	- Generator Shed Electrics	= £ 301.84
HCC	- Street Lighting	= £ 64.77
		= <u>£5,195.43</u>

Bank Account Summary.

Lloyds Current Account	£12,082.69
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 660.52
	<u>£12,743.21</u>

VAT to be claimed £316.29

END OF YEAR AUDIT 2024/2025

The Clerk reported that BDO LLP the external Auditor has signed off the 2024/2025 Accounts and has raised three issues:

1. The smaller authority must have an email address that belongs to the authority, but it is not being used for email correspondence. The smaller authority must use the email address for all correspondence relating to the authority's business.
2. The smaller authority has answered 'N/A' to AGS Assertion 9 which is incorrect. Evidence has come to our attention to suggest that the smaller authority is a managing trustee, and therefore this should be ticked 'Yes'.
3. We note that the council is holding a low reserves balances as at the 31st of March 2025. The council should ensure that expenditure is closely managed. The council have acknowledged reserves are low and are looking to build up to a more appropriate level.

The Parish Council noted the points the External Auditor has made.

PLANNING.

25/02666/FULLN – Ground floor extension to provide bedroom – 4 Grafton Place, Penton Grafton.

The adjoining neighbour has objected to this planning application due to the close proximity to their boundary and the potential loss of light to their property. The Parish Council have NO OBJECTION but note the comments of the adjoining neighbours.

25/02436/OUTN – Outpine application for Erection of up to 25 residential dwellings With access, parking, open space and landscaping, and associated works, all matters reserved except access – Motley Mill, Weyhill Road (A342), Weyhill.

The Parish Council agreed in principle but have OBJECTED. Concerns have been submitted to the TVBC Planners – one being the entrance and exit of the site being out of the 40mph speed limit – Full details of the Parish Councils submission can be viewed on the TVBC Planning Portal.

25/01322/ADV N – 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.

Cllr Mrs Z Smale reported that to date the planning permission conditions are being adhered to. Cllr Mrs Z Smale will monitor these conditions.

COUNCILLOR MR N BLACKMORE – VICE CHAIRMAN. REPORT
Highways.

The A342 traffic island and pedestrian crossing – This facility was severely damaged again on the 21st of October. The vehicle responsible left the scene but was discovered parked outside the cemetery. It was photographed and details given to HCC Highways. Yet again we await the actions of County Highways to repair this vital crossing which is in a very dangerous state and unlit, the traffic island, and pedestrian refuge need to be re-sited and rebuilt to the correct standard. Our County Councillor was informed immediately who has written to the Director of Universal Services Patrick Blogg. The last report received by our Councillor on the 4th of November was that County Highways were seeking comments. - 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, with County Highways but has not as yet been addressed. -Ongoing

Also, the promised Solar powered Crossroads Speed Signs have still not been installed. This is approaching 18 months. - Ongoing.

New Solar powered Speed signs have been installed and set up. They went operational on the afternoon of Friday the 7th of November.

Currently the situation of collecting and processing Traffic Volume and Speed Data from the Speed Signs is being set up - ongoing

The A342 Working Group is progressing well and making good headway with collecting information, data, and evidence. A major problem for the group is that Hampshire County Highways have not been collecting data from the three of the four Automatic Traffic Counters since 2010. They are insisting upon charging for activating them. So far various funding sources have been approached without success. How any Transport Plan or HCC input to the TVBC DLP can be trusted without accurate data is beyond my comprehension.

Weyhill.

Nothing to report

Fly tipping.

Nothing to report.

Resilience.

The generator and wiring are all complete. Also, a Generator House has been installed. A full commissioning test will be conducted shortly. Also, a Resilience Grant from TVBC is being applied for supporting Resilience Equipment - ongoing

Flooding.

The Upper Anton Parishes Flood Forum continue to work towards improving the flooding and sewage problems. The last meeting was earlier today and was attended by Southern Water who provided information on the revised Appleshaw and Penton Mewsey Infiltration Plan which has been produced, and work should be commencing shortly. Once completed the over pumping (Tankers) should be a thing of the past. The issue of Landowners not maintaining watercourses is being addressed. - ongoing

Clanville Pond.

The pond was dug out and had its volume increased back in the summer. Some improvements to the roadside ditches which were damaged by Conholt Estate lorries (contractors) has been improved. Currently there are no flooding issues with the pond. This winter's rains will see how effective the work has been.

5 YEAR PLAN – Cllr Mr N Blackmore.

Cllr Mr N Blackmore reported that work is beginning on the 5 Year Plan. Hampshire County Council have made a grant fund available for the provision and repair of Bus Shelters. Cllr Mr N Blackmore will be applying for a grant.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MRS Z SMALE – Reported that the Rough Sleeper has not been seen for some time. TVBC are still cleaning the bus shelter and are monitoring the situation.

Cllr Mrs Z Smale reported that a wheelchair bound parishioner living in Rectory Place is having difficulties accessing the Garage Shop and crossing the road when exiting the bus from Andover direction due to their being no dropped kerb. This has been reported to Hampshire County Council.

The Litter Bin by the Petrol Station has been over-flowing on several occasions. This has been reported each time, and the bin has been emptied by TVBC.

CLLR MR C MAY – Reported that that during the recent wet weather the Clanville Pond has been coping well. This has been helped with the digging out of the Drainage ditches by Hampshire and Wiltshire.

The caravan is still on the track along the back road to Penton Grafton despite it being reported to both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. Michelle Penn noted this and said she would do a land search and would liaise with Hampshire Highways.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

13th of January 2026.