

Penton Grafton Parish Council

2026

Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 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

Heidi Easton Parish Clerk

Members of the Public – 1

0726/1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Cllr Foster welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Mr J Neal and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly apologised for their absence.

Members noted the continued absence of the Borough Councillor from meetings. Concern was expressed that the Borough Councillor had not attended a meeting for approximately ten months. No Borough or County Councillor reports were received.

0726/2 Declarations of Interests.

The Chairman declared an interest in the Fairground. No other declarations were made. All Cllr's renewed their Declaration of Pecuniary Interests as requested by TVBC. Clerk to email.

0726/3 Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a correct record. It was noted that actions arising from previous meetings were being progressed and several completed actions had been observed around the parish.

0726/4 Financial report

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council accounts were currently being transferred to electronic banking. Access issues with Lloyds Bank remained unresolved and a formal complaint had been submitted.

A Village Hall income and expenditure report was presented:

- Income received from hall hire, kitchen hire, shed hire
- Income totalled £746.25.
- Expenditure totalled £556.60.
- Current Village Hall account balance stood at £7,932.20.

Separate Parish Council monthly financial reports will be posted on the website as soon as available.

Cllr Foster discussed current hall bookings and noted that some regular bookings had been cancelled during periods of hot weather, although overall usage remained satisfactory.

0726/5 Village Hall report

The Clerk reported that whilst bookings, administration and financial management of the Village Hall were being undertaken, there was currently no designated person responsible for overseeing maintenance of the building.

A condition inspection had identified:

- Internal decoration requiring refreshment.
- Minor plaster repairs.
- Conservatory cleaning.
- Toilet maintenance issues.
- External maintenance concerns including guttering, soffits and conservatory leaks.

Members discussed the need for a formal maintenance oversight role and recognised that significant responsibilities previously undertaken by the previous Clerk and Parish Cllr's had not been fully appreciated.

It was agreed:

- To obtain quotations for external building maintenance and conservatory repairs.
- To explore whether Village Hall maintenance oversight could be incorporated into existing site management arrangements.
- To continue developing a longer-term management structure before Site Manager Richard waterman's anticipated retirement.

Members noted that planning for succession arrangements should commence well before 2028.

0726/6 Planning Applications for review

No planning applications had been received for consideration.

0726/7 5Yr Plan

Members discussed the revised Five-Year Plan approved in March.

The Plan includes projects such as:

- Bus shelter improvements.
- A342 crossing improvements.
- Active travel initiatives.

It was agreed that a detailed review of the Five-Year Plan would be included as an agenda item at a future meeting to establish priorities and next steps.

Members discussed a recently announced grant scheme for new and replacement bus shelters.

Cllr Blackmore outlined previous work undertaken to investigate a new shelter near Weyhill Gardens and repairs to the existing shelter at Penton Corner.

It was agreed that:

- Grant opportunities should be explored.
- Existing research and quotations should be reviewed.
- Applications for both repairs and new shelters should be considered where eligible.

Cllr May agreed to research and apply for grant.

0726/8 County and Borough Councillor's reports.

Full Cllr Reports can be found on their retrospective websites.

0726/9 Parish Councillor's reports

Southern Water Leak

Cllr May reported concerns regarding a significant water leak during the current hosepipe ban.

Although reported as a high-priority incident, Southern Water did not attend promptly. Members expressed disappointment regarding the response.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Cllr Blackmore reported progress on the installation of speed indicator devices. Previous monitoring indicated average vehicle speeds had reduced following installation, and use of existing signs. Further work is progressing to install additional signs using existing infrastructure where possible. There are to be new speed indicator devices in the Clanville area over the coming months.

Pavement Damage

Cllr Osborne reported ongoing concerns regarding pavement and verge damage caused by Southern Water contractors. Despite repeated contact with Southern Water, satisfactory remedial works had not been completed.

Members encouraged attendance at the forthcoming Southern Water Flood Forum to raise the issue directly. Cllr Osborne will attend.

Footpaths

Cllr Smale reported complaints regarding an overgrown footpath between Ancient Lane and the Car Boot Sale field. The matter had been reported, and the path had subsequently been cleared by the Lengthsman.

Overhanging Trees

A resident had raised concerns regarding overhanging sycamore trees affecting their property. Ownership of the trees remains unclear and further investigation is required to identify the landowner.

Highways and Transport Updates

Cllr Blackmore provided a detailed update on a number of highway and transport matters affecting the parish

- Weyhill Bottom crossroads improvements.

Cllr Blackmore reported positive progress regarding the long-running safety improvements at the Way Hill Bottom crossroads. He advised that all previously identified signage issues had now been addressed and the necessary highway signs had been installed or updated. The only remaining element of the scheme is the installation of the solar-powered vehicle activated speed signs.

- Progress of the A342 crossing project. The results of the current survey can be found on the new website www.pentongrafton-pc.gov.uk under local Interests.

Cllr Blackmore provided an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing improvements on the A342. He advised that progress had been slow and that the project had become caught up within Hampshire County Council's internal review processes. Discussions are now expected to take place involving senior highways officers, the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, parish representatives and the local Member of Parliament.

A meeting is anticipated during September, at which the future direction of the scheme will be discussed.

Whilst expressing frustration at the delays, Cllr Blackmore emphasised the importance of continuing to press Hampshire County Council for improvements to pedestrian safety along the A342.

The Clerk reported costs for a bleed control kit and cabinet:

- Cabinet: approximately £355 plus VAT.
- Bleed kit: approximately £85 plus VAT.

Members agreed that Village Hall maintenance remains a higher priority at present and no further action will be taken.

The Clerk requested all parish Cllr's use the new .gov.uk email address.

0726/10 Members of the Public

A local parishioner discussed current housing and planning issues affecting the wider area, including:

- Delays to Local Plan progression.
- National housing targets.
- Infrastructure concerns associated with future developments.
- Emerging planning proposals in neighbouring areas.

It was noted that future planning applications should continue to be assessed against infrastructure capacity and local impacts. Cllr Blackmore agreed strongly.

Close of Meeting 7.54pm

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 8th September 2026

Signed and Approved by Chairman