

Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday September 2026 in the Parish Office at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllr Mrs P Foster – Chairman
Cllr J Neal
Cllr Mrs Z Smale
Cllr Mr C May
Heidi Easton - Parish Clerk
Members of the Public – 2
Cllr C Donnelly
Cllr L Lashbrook
Cllr P Lashbrook

0926/1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Cllr Foster welcomed everyone to the meeting, giving a warm welcome to the Mayor of Test Valley Cllr Linda Lashbrook and Cllr Phil Lashbrook.

Cllr Blackmore sent an apology for absence.

Chairman Cllr Foster advised the council that Cllr Jacqueline Osborne had resigned from the Parish Council after many years of service. Cllr Foster thanked Mrs Osborne for her dedicated contribution to the village and parish council and wished her a happy retirement from the role.

0926/2 Declarations of Interests.

The Chairman declared an interest in the Fairground. No other declarations were made

0926/3 Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

0926/4 Financial report

Opening Balance (Total) as of 1 st April 2026	£10,569.87
Plus: Total Receipts	£16,097.21
Less: Total Payments	£18,189.84
Calculated Closing Balance as of 31 st August 2026	£8,477.24

0926/5 Planning Applications for review

APPLICATION: 26/01703/TPON
PROPOSAL: T1 - Sycamore tree - Reduce and shape by 3.5m back to old cuts, crown raise bottom branches leaving main row of leaders
LOCATION: 19 Weyhill Gardens, Weyhill, Andover, PENTON GRAFTON

No objections were raised.

0926/6 County and Borough Councillor's reports.

Full Cllr Reports can be found on their retrospective websites.

Cllr Donnelly gave a comprehensive update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):

- Government has withdrawn plans for the proposed Mid-Hampshire unitary authority.
- Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council will continue unchanged.
- Staff at TVBC now have long-term security following cancellation of the reorganisation.
- Ongoing funding pressures remain, particularly around social care and SEND.
- The Hampshire Air Festival has been cancelled due to investor withdrawal.
- Planning processes will need revisiting due to changes in national policy and the paused local plan.
- Members discussed concerns about speculative development in the absence of an updated local plan.

Cllr Donnelly and Cllr P Lashbrook provided an update on Hampshire Highways matters:

- The need for improved engagement between parish councils and Hampshire Highways.
- A meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways is being arranged.
- Issues raised included the A342, crossing safety, drainage, and infrastructure planning.
- National Highways involvement complicates matters around the A303 bridges.

Cllr L Lashbrook reported that there is a great deal of speculation over the prospect of an early general election, and should a Labour Government remain in power, it would give them a more solid platform on which they can go forward with the evolution on their own terms. Cllr L Lashbrook also noted the Hampshire Air Festival has been cancelled and advised anybody who purchased tickets to contact their debit or credit card holder.

Cllr P Lashbrook wanted to thank the New Forest, HCC and TVBC for its contribution for the future of its staff.

0926/7 Parish Councillor's Reports

Fairground Sign: Chairman Cllr Foster reported the sign previously offered by the Weyhill Fair pub was found to be in poor condition and too costly to restore. The Council declined to take ownership.

Footpaths: Cllr Smale had no recent concerns for the footpaths; however, she reported that the rusty dog bin had been replaced in Weyhill park at the end of Casterbridge. The new dog bin at the entrance of the car boot sale entrance had received lots of positive comments.

Dog Waste & Fairground: Cllr Foster reported significant dog fouling has been occurring on the Fairground. Members agreed this must be addressed. Cllr L Lashbrook noted that she would contact the local Dog Warden on the Parish Council's behalf.

Speed Signs: Cllr May reported two speed signs have stopped working and require battery recharge. Members noted a positive impact on vehicle speeds. Insurance coverage for the signs was confirmed.

Bus Stop Renovation: Cllr May reported the funding application remains ongoing.

Councillor Vacancy: Following Cllr Osborne's resignation, a casual vacancy will be advertised via Test Valley Borough Council and the parish website.

Clerk Report

The Clerk confirmed that **all governance documents were reviewed, agreed, adopted, and signed by the Chairman**, including:

- Accessibility Statement.
- IT Policy.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOI).
- General Privacy Notice (GDPR).
- Complaints Procedures.
- Transparency Regulations.
- Standing Orders.
- Financial Regulations.

Additional matters:

- **Allotments:** Correspondence received from local parishioners raised concerns regarding poor upkeep by some tenants. Governance of the allotments is to be reviewed by the Parish Council.
- **Website:** Some residents are still accessing the old website via search engines; the clerk will design posters which will be displayed directing residents to the new Hugo Fox site.
- **Flowers:** Mrs Osbourne sent a letter, thanking the Parish Council for the beautiful flowers she had received for her contribution to the parish.

0926/8 Members of the Public

A member of the public raised concerns about the lack of updates following last year's major planning consultation. Cllr Lashbrook explained that repeated changes in government policy had delayed progress and communication. The Council discussed the format of handwritten letters seemed to receive little or no response whereas an email would receive an automatic response via email.

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Close of Meeting: 7.54pm

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2026

Signed and Approved by Chairman