Grayshott Parish Council

Meeting of the Full Council held in the lounge at the sports pavilion on
Monday 21st September 2026 at **7:30pm.**

Present:

Cllr Nigel Harrison (Chair)	Cllr Dennis Homer
Cllr Julie Baldwin	Cllr Simon Philp
Cllr Pam Miller	Cllr Lauren Green

Also present:

Ms Serena Thompson (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford (Hampshire County Councillor)

OPEN SESSION

The meeting opened at 7:32pm

F26/96 Receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Byrom, Weir, Georgii and Jones and EHDC Cllr Tom Hanrahan

F26/97 Declarations of Interest

a) Receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

b) Receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

c) Grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate

None.

F26/98 Confirm minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20th July 2026

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Philp proposed them as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Miller and **RESOLVED** by all. Cllr Harrison duly signed the minutes.

a) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that all fixed-term deposit accounts had been established, the scheduled tree works were completed in August, and Hidden Gardens of Grayshott had awarded a £3,000 grant towards the Beacon View Parade project, with works expected to begin shortly. A pension calculation error had also been corrected and the required payments made; this will create an approximately £400 discrepancy in the 2025/26 accounts, with updated figures and supporting evidence to be provided as part of the 2026/27 audit in accordance with the Internal Auditor's advice. The Sports Field Committee had been dissolved with all agreed balances transferred to the Council for earmarked reserves.

F26/99 Receive the Minutes of the Planning & Conservation Committee held on 4th August and 1st September 2026

The minutes were received.

a) Planning Update

Councillor Homer provided an update on various planning matters of wider significance. Councillors noted the forthcoming National Scheme of Delegation,

which is expected to place most local planning applications under officer determination; EHDC's decision to resume work on its Local Plan and progress a supplementary plan following notification of the withdrawal of Local Government Reorganisation plans; and Natural England's proposed 129 km² extension to the Surrey Hills National Landscape, including areas along Grayshott's northern and southern boundaries. The Planning Committee supports the proposed boundary extension and will report back when the Secretary of State has made a decision.

F26/100 External Reports

a) Receive a report from Hampshire County Councillor

Cllr Curnow-Ford has provided a report prior to the meeting noting, specifically, Hampshire County Council's response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's withdrawal of proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire. Cllr Harrison thanks Cllr Curnow-Ford for her updates and asked her to stay on for a discussion regarding Traffic Calming later in the agenda.

b) Receive a report from East Hampshire District Councillor

No report was provided.

F26/101 Project Updates

a) Receive an update on the Asset Transfers Project

The Public Consultation is still open, with over 1,200 responses received at the time of the meeting. The working group were considering how they planned to interpret the data once the consultation has closed on 30 September. A full report would be presented to Council for consideration of next steps on 19th October.

b) Receive an update on Traffic Calming

The Road Safety Working Group reported on its meeting and site visits with Hampshire Highways. A package of traffic-calming measures for Headley Road and the Village Centre will be explored, potentially including speed tables, road markings, illuminated speed reminders and improved crossings, with Highways to consider strategic CIL funding. Improvements to the proposed Safe Walking Route to School were also identified, including better visibility and footpath works; the Parish Council will address obstructing hedges at Crossways Road and Whitmore Vale Road. Cllr Curnow-Ford confirmed that this was her understanding of the project as well and would continue to liaise with Hampshire County Council decision-makers on Grayshott Parish Council's behalf.

c) Receive an update on The Rec Hub Phase 2 project and Award Contract

Council considered the outcome of the tender process for Phase 2 of the Rec Hub. One quotation was received and, following revision, the contractor confirmed that scrub clearance, ground levelling and turfing could be completed for **£7,564** within the £7,902 CIL allocation. The new hedge and ground-mounted goal were excluded from the revised scope, with the remaining £338 available for repairs to the existing public goal. Cllr Miller requested clarification regarding any biodiversity concerns with the proposed works. The Clerk confirmed that the ecology survey received in April 2026 confirmed that the proposed scrub clearance posed no threat to the wildlife in the area, as long as it was completed outside of bird nesting season. The existing oak tree would be kept in situ. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Financial Regulation 5.5ii) due to only one quotation being received and to award the contract for the revised works.

The contractor is *Swansborough Landscaping Ltd*

d) Agree the Spend Allocation for the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

Cllr Philp provided an update regarding planning for the Christmas event. Thus far, 46 stalls had been signed up for the market along with a full timetable of live performances and support from a number of local businesses towards the presents for Santa's Grotto. It was **RESOLVED** to spend of £1,510 for a stage, PA system and lighting from Top Gear Sound.

F26/102 Receive Audit Conclusion Notice

The completed AGAR with auditor's comments had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the auditors had not raised any concerns regarding the accounts and an audit conclusion notice had been published on the website and in village noticeboards.

F26/103 Agree the Asset Register and changes to the Insurance Policy

The Asset Register had been presented prior to the meeting. Cllr Baldwin questioned some of the values on the register and the Clerk confirmed that Local Council best practice is to record the purchase price of any assets, not the insurance value, a separate record is kept supporting the insurance policy. The Clerk confirmed that the insurance policy had increased by £348 for the year, to provide cover for new equipment at The Rec Hub and to ensure cover following the closure of the Sports Field Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Asset Register and the new insurance cost of £3,120 per annum. There are 2 years remaining on the Long-Term Agreement with Hiscox (via AJ Gallagher brokers).

F26/104 Agree the Award of Books to Grayshott Primary School

For a number of years, the Council had awarded books to Year 5 schoolchildren at Grayshott Primary School from the Jack Smith Legacy Fund. A stipulation of the legacy was that the funds should support the young people of the village. The request was for 34 of the *Oxford Primary Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Dictionary* at a cost of £185. It was **RESOLVED** to acquire the books and award them to the school. Cllrs Harrison and Baldwin agreed to attend the award assembly.

F26/105 Award the Contract for Applegarth Meadow Path Resurfacing

Cllr Harrison reminded the Council that an extension to the resurfacing of the path running parallel to Miller Avenue had been included in the budget and the forward plan for Applegarth Meadow capital improvements at the beginning of the financial year. Quotes had been sought to complete the works, with the tender advertised on the Council's website, social media and with local contractors. Only one contractor had presented a quote.

Cllr Baldwin raised concerns as to the necessity and costliness of the resurfacing. This was considered by all, and it was agreed to withdraw the project until the forward plan for Applegarth Meadow could be reconsidered.

F26/106 Agree a new Tenancy Agreement for the Grayshott Community Orchard

Since the Grayshott Community Orchard resolved to establish itself as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in July 2026, they have requested an updated tenancy agreement. This was presented to Council for consideration incorporating new terms that were integrated across other allotment sites in April 2025. Cllr Homer raised a concern regarding the conditions for termination. It was agreed that this clause would be updated. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk could complete the agreement following the changes agreed at this meeting.

F26/107 Consider a Grant Application from St Luke's Church

Shortly before the meeting, St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) informed the Clerk that sufficient funds had been raised through their Spire Appeal to warrant withdrawing their application for grant funding. The Council wished to congratulate the PCC on raising such significant funds.

F26/108 Chair's Notices

Cllr Harrison informed the Council that the Hampshire Association of Local Council's AGM would be held on Saturday 17th October and if any councillors wished to attend they should register via the Clerk.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

CHAIR