

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd February 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Graham Coulson Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Phil Taylor Parish Councillor

Celia Chignell Parish Councillor

Alex Castle Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson

District Councillor Richard West

and 1 member of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from District Councillor Barbara Boddington and Parish Councillor Ann Cosgrave.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Cheques for Approval:

Celia Chignell declared an interest for approval of the cheque to Jamie Chignell.

4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 5th January 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the Chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for ten minutes. Councillor Richard West spoke about the Local Plan presentation he had attended and the GP Out of Hours consultation. Councillor Julie Wisson provided presentation dates for this consultation. The Chairman read out an email from Councillor Barbara Boddington emphasising the need to watch closely the planning lists to keep up with all proposed developments including permitted development decisions. The Parish Council is not notified of applications for permitted development although neighbours are given 21 days notice to write to HDC if there are any objections, failing which the application is granted. Councillor West commented that the initiative came from central government with a view to speeding up decisions. Stephanie Beaumont outlined the criteria for a planning application under permitted development. Individual District Councils can decide whether to send the applications to parish councils although HDC does not do so.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Defibrillators. HDC has responded that an assessment is currently being made to determine whether planning permission is required to fix the defibrillator to the Reading Room wall. The conservation team has requested details of the proposed fixing to ensure the method of attaching is sensitive to the fabric. The G5 has now been delivered.

6.2. Cemetery Regulations. A copy of the council's regulations has been sent to the family of the grave with surrounding kerb stones. The regulations do not permit kerbing and footstones and to assist with maintenance the parish council requests that all new graves are grassed over so that they can be included in the regular grass cutting carried out by the cemetery caretaker. Councillors noted that the chippings on the grave in question will cause problems with grass cutting.

6.3. Playing Field Safety Report. Michael Capps reported that whilst the rubber of the swing seats is split, this is a comfort issue rather than a safety one. Having inspected the swing seats and carried out a risk assessment councillors were satisfied

Matters Arising – continued:

that they complied with safety standards. The roof of the wooden train will be re-varnished in the spring. This is a maintenance matter, not a safety aspect. Michael Capps reported that the blue wooden posts of the climbing frame require some maintenance work. He also spoke about Little Lane following the hedging work. There are a number of wooden posts which need removing and suggested that these along with the hedge are removed and replaced with chestnut paling which will require less maintenance. Councillors to inspect both the climbing frame posts and the hedge before the next meeting.

6.4. Salt Bins. Not all the salt bins were replenished. The bins at Sand Road and Mandene Gardens need refilling and a lot of mess was made when the other village bins were refilled. The bin by the Reading Room was moved by the contractors to a more prominent position and will need moving back.

6.5. East Street Footpath. Highways have advised whose responsibility is it for damage caused by tree roots.

6.6. Mill Weir Lay-by. As an alternative to erecting bollards to prevent vehicles further damaging the surface of the lay-by, highways has suggested a grasscrete area for vehicles to park but funded by the parish council. Councillors agreed this was a good solution as this will allow vehicles to continue to park off the road, but the lay-by belongs to Highways. Clerk to enquire about the cost and whether highways will fund or partially fund the work.

6.7. Cambridge Rambling Club. CCC has asked for an estimate for the cost of improving the footpath running adjacent to Berry Close Studios. The parish council does not know the cost having put forward the footpath in response to suggestions on behalf of the Rambling Club for an improvement scheme.

7. Neighbourhood Watch. On behalf of Desmond Merrill, the Chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix 1.

8. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the eight invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 2.

9. Financial Statement for January 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.3 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of January 2015.

10. Highways. Phil Taylor was pleased to note that Waresley Road will be repaired sometime in the coming 6 months. He also commented that Meadow Road is a mess following the water pipe replacement work as the verges have been churned up. Clerk to speak to Anglian Water to ensure the verges are made good once the work is completed. He also pointed out that a lorry had gone over the corner of Fox Street and Middle Street.

Celia Chignell suggested that a note is put in Roundabout concerning the proposed closure of Little Gransden Lane and Waresley Road.

Jeff Gorton reported that the work at the end of Little Lane has been completed and the dip filled with tarmac. This appears to have solved the problem of the area puddling in wet weather. Also the wall at the crossing on Caxton Road is leaning. Graham Coulson reported a number of loose kerb stones along East Street which need watching.

Michael Capps reported the foul water drain cover in Caxton Road which is sinking. It is a hazard for cyclists.

Highways – continued:

George Craze asked if the gullies will be cleaned out along Waresley Road when the repairs are done. The village gully cleaning schedule has been requested.

Stephanie Beaumont reported the terrible state of Caxton Road at the Caxton end. Councillors noted the Highways fault reporting tool, which is a new system for reporting issues in place of emailing individual officers. Parish Councils and members of the public are encouraged to use the new system to save costs and to centralise logging faults. Clerk to include details in Roundabout.

11. CORRESPONDENCE. 11.1. Councillors noted that the chairman had been nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party. Councillors decided against putting forward any recommendations for the New Year 2016 Honours List.

11.2. Due to the estimated cost of £1,400, councillors decided against sharing the purchase of a portable speed sign. A power source would also be needed.

11.3. Councillors noted the GP Out of Hours consultation.

11.4. John Gillett has suggested a village event to celebrate the end of WW2. He has booked Little Gransden Village Hall for 31st August 2015. Councillors suggested that he puts a note in Roundabout on behalf of the Royal British Legion inviting support and any ideas as well as contacting the school and the Gransden Society.

11.5. Councillors noted Godmanchester Town Council's application for designation of a Neighbourhood area.

11.6. Letter from the Local Highway Improvement Initiative advising that the council's bid for signage along Eltisbury Road was not successful, although successful applications have been made on two previous occasions.

11.7. The chairman reported on the recent presentation she had attended on the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. The documentation will be circulated.

11.8. Copy letter from Barney's Club addressed to the Reading Room committee requesting a telephone line at the Reading Room. The management committee will be discussing this at their next meeting. Councillors commented that there is an adequate mobile phone signal at the Reading Room, sufficient to contact the emergency services.

11.9. Letter from HDC confirming the level of precept requested at £23,500 for 2015/16.

11.10. Councillors decided the Rural Affordable Housing event too expensive to attend at £110 per person.

11.11. Letter from Beryl Bentley noting a number of concerns including the problem of crossing the road at the Mill Road, Sand Road, Church Street junction due to the narrow footpath and verge. Councillors considered whether a change of precedence, with priority given to traffic from Sand Road and Church Street would improve safety of pedestrians. This has been suggested in the past but success will depend on accident statistics. There is little the parish council can do. Councillors agreed that the footpath along Fox Street is uneven and will report to Highways. Councillors noted the problem of litter along Mill Road. The village has nominated litter pickers and clerk will check who is responsible. A copy of the letter will be passed onto Little Gransden Parish Council as the litter problem also falls in their parish.

12. Planning. 1. Permitted Development. This had been discussed earlier. Clerk to ask HDC to notify the Parish Council of any permitted development planning applications.

Planning – continued:

2. 1401814TREE Felling and removal of an oak, 9 Little Gransden Lane.

Councillors noted the proposal to fell the oak and hawthorn and dead wood 8 silver birch trees to allow more light into the garden and space for the silver birch trees. The application does not state that the oak is diseased and councillors commented that it should be preserved. Celia Chignell proposed '**Refusal**' to preserve a precious oak tree in the village in a conservation area. Seconded by Alex Castle and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2nd March 2015

This meeting closed at 8.58pm