

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015**

Those present were:

Jeff Gorton Chairman of the meeting

Diane Taylor Clerk

Phil Taylor Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson and 5 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Jeff Gorton was nominated to chair the meeting.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Stephanie Beaumont, Graham Coulson, Michael Capps, Celia Chignell and Alex Castle.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the Chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for eighteen minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Boddington reported that budgets are being finalised. Council tax will not rise for the third year in succession and no front line services will suffer. She also reported that the next step for the A428 improvement scheme is the publishing of the Highways Agency Delivery plan at the end of March. Councillor Richard West spoke about the importance of infrastructure with the possible delivery of the A428 improvement within 5 to 6 years. As the Local Plan goes on to 2036 the infrastructure could be in place before all the houses are built. He commented on his disappointment at not having been able to meet with Luminus about Webbs Meadow. Councillor Julie Wisson reported that CCC has agreed the budget with a 1.99% increase in council tax. Information was provided on the A14 improvement scheme. An application for planning has gone to the Government and anyone wanting to make representations must register by 12<sup>th</sup> March. It is hoped the work will be completed by the end of 2019. Nancy Kyle provided details of a fund raising event in May and asked if the Sportsfield can be used for other sports in the future. The field is open to any type of sport although football is a permanent feature within the football season. Russell Tompkins on behalf of the football club provided details of potential plans for the extension of the pavilion to divide the pavilion into 2 separate areas to accommodate the nursery and the football club. The area for the nursery will be an extension and will be completely separate from the pavilion. Councillors advised the need to consult with the nursery.
6. **Matters Arising:**
  - 6.1. **Defibrillator.** A frame has been made for the defibrillator to be fixed to the wall and details have been sent to HDC. It may be necessary to attach the cabinet directly to the wall using the mortar joints for drilling to safeguard the fabric of the building.
  - 6.2. **Cemetery Regulations.** The regulations do not permit kerb stones. One grave has surrounding kerb stones and councillors agreed to follow up the matter as no response has been received since the family was advised of the regulations.
  - 6.3. **Playing Field.** Councillors agreed that the climbing frame posts need repainting. Councillors agreed to leave the boundary hedge until after the summer growth and to look at it again in the autumn should the hedge then need replacing.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**6.4. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Highways have advised that plastic grasscrete seems to be a suitable product for the lay-by providing a more permanent solution for cars parking off the road. The cost is £5,655.98 and CCC is willing to fund 50%. In view of the costs involved, councillors decided to defer the matter to next month's meeting when all council members should be present.

**6.5. Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036.** Councillors commented that a comprehensive plan had been prepared and noted the document.

**6.6. Webbs Meadow.** Jeff Gorton reported that there are continuing concerns about numbers 8 and 9 Webbs Meadow in relation to parking and the general appearance with rubbish left outside. Councillors Boddington and West are continuing to pursue the matter with Luminus. As the properties are in a conservation area, Councillors commented whether there are any powers to prevent bins and rubbish being left outside the frontage. More cars are now being parked in West Street which affects visibility for traffic coming out of Webbs Meadow.

**6.7. Litter Pickers.** The original list of volunteer litter pickers was drawn up in 2007. Clerk will contact the existing volunteers and if necessary put a note in Roundabout seeking new volunteers. George Craze commented that he had recently spoken to a resident who been picking up litter along Waresley Road.

**6.8. Meadow Road Verges.** The clerk had spoken to Colin Lindsay of Anglia Water. Once all the pipe work is completed in Little Gransden Lane and Meadow Road in 4 to 6 weeks time, the verges will be tidied with top soil and re-seeded where necessary. He will ask the Parish Council to inspect to check that all is in order. Jeff Gorton commented that a number of councillors may wish to be involved with the inspection of the verges.

**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 four invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 2.

**9. Financial Statement** for February 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 February 2015.

**10. Reading Room Village Hall Insurance 2015/16.** The policy is due for renewal on 26<sup>th</sup> March and on the advice of the insurers, as the Parish Council owns the Reading Room, the buildings and contents will be transferred onto the Parish Council insurance policy. A separate policy will be unnecessary thus producing a saving on insurance costs. The Parish Council insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June and the cost of covering the building until then is £190.49. The Reading Room Management Committee will require its own separate public liability and hirers' liability insurance and the committee will be discussing this at the forthcoming AGM. The responsibility for maintaining the building also needs consideration and a formal agreement will need drafting if responsibility falls on the management committee. Councillors proposed that this matter be discussed fully next month following the committee's AGM. Phil Taylor asked whether the Sportsfield insurance can also be transferred to the Parish Council policy. Clerk to make enquiries.

**11. Highways.** Jeff Gorton gave an update on the matters reported last month. Fox Street footpath has been inspected. The surface was found to be within Highway's intervention levels but will only be monitored. Clerk to seek clarification. The sunken cover in Caxton Road has been reported to Anglia Water and inspected. Clerk to follow this up. The pot holes in Caxton opposite the church have been marked for repair.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1.** The A14 Improvement Scheme is due to be examined by the planning inspectorate. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should register as an interested party to reserve the right to comment.

**12.2.** Phil Taylor spoke about the pavilion and the football club's plans as outlined by Russell Tompkins in open forum. The building has always been a pavilion although the use of it by the nursery keeps the sportsfield's costs down. Councillors agreed the principle of extending the pavilion to provide the nursery with separate accommodation but the nursery must be consulted.

**12.3.** Letter from HACT requesting financial support was read out. Councillors commented that financial assistance is not usually provided by the council. There is no indication as to the amount being sought and councillors decided to defer the matter to the next meeting. A resident has sought the council's assistance to extend the times of the Service 28 on a Thursday. Councillor Wisson advised that as this service is contracted by CCC and provided by HACT, the times cannot be changed. The resident could use the ring and ride service instead although there is a registration cost of £15.

**12.4.** Email confirming that Gamlingay has been designated a Neighbourhood Area.

**12.5.** The new bench has been installed and added to the Parish Council insurance. John Course has been asked to bolt the bench to the paving slabs.

**12.6.** Email from Rachel Fogg was read out advising of external repair works to the church commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> April. The contractor will establish a compound on Church Street to store materials. Whilst she will be writing to all the church's neighbours councillors commented that those who park their cars outside the church will also need notifying.

**12.7.** Email from Little Gransden Parish Council about Agricole's village oil buying group rebate. Approximately £100 is thought to be available between the two villages. Councillors agreed that Great Gransden's share should be donated to the youth club.

**13. Planning. 1. 15/00150/FUL Erection of 2 bed detached dwelling (amended scheme pursuant to extant planning permission for 1 bed detached dwelling reference 1400293FUL) 8 Middle Street.** Two letters of objection had been received. Councillors commented that it is a small site and whilst planning was originally granted for a separate annexe, councillors had anticipated that an application for a larger separate dwelling would be made. Ann Cosgrave proposed '**Refusal**' on the grounds that it is overdevelopment on a small site, it is back land development and for the reasons given by the Huntingdonshire District Council Development Management in application 1300157FUL namely (1) the proposal would result in a cramped, incongruous intrusion into an important green open space that will result in significant harm to the Conservation Area and (2) the proposal will result in harm to the residential amenity of No.14 Middle Street. Seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously. Councillors asked for the matter to go before the panel.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

This meeting closed at 9pm