

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 13th April 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Celia Chignell Parish Councillor

Alex Castle Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Phil Taylor Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson

District Councillor Richard West

and 3 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Graham Coulson and Jeff Gorton and District Councillor Barbara Boddington.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 2nd March 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the Chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for six minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on her recent involvement with Cambridge Sensory Education Service following a resident's concern about proposals to change the structure of the service. Representations were made to CCC and the service will continue as it is which allows visually and hearing impaired children to receive mainstream education. Councillor Richard West spoke about the lack of planning enforcement. Looking to set up working groups and parish councils will receive information. Barry Girling spoke about the problem that not all the village is connected to superfast broadband. Work to the exchange is needed but the time scale is unknown. Residents are advised to register on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website to receive notification when the service will be available.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - 6.1. **Defibrillator.** The defibrillator has been installed. Councillors agreed to publicise this in Roundabout and on the noticeboard. Councillors considered the practicalities; knowing when it has been used, how soon replacement pads can be obtained. Clerk to obtain further information.
 - 6.2. **Mill Weir Lay-by.** The cost of installing plastic grasscrete is £5,655.98, which is a more permanent solution for cars parking off the road. CCC is willing to fund 50% and councillors thought it unlikely that the offer to part fund the project would be available in the future. Phil Taylor proposed the quote for £5,655.98 provided by CCC is accepted, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.
 - 6.3. **Webbs Meadow.** Following the meeting between District Councillors Boddington and West with Luminus, there has been no improvement to the issues of parked cars and general untidiness. One car has been dripping oil on the footpath and complaints received from residents about the car parked in West Street. Councillors agreed to report the car to the police and write again to Luminus. Councillor West agreed to pursue the matter once again. The camper van parked on the driveway of a West Street property has also been reported and a response is waited from Luminus.
 - 6.4. **Litter Pickers.** New volunteers have come forward to help keep the village tidy. A small team of volunteers has also litter picked all roads leading to the village, collecting well over 100 bags of litter. Clerk to write and thank Des Merrill and all the volunteers.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.5. Meadow Road Verges. Clerk to contact Anglian Water for a date to inspect the verges following completion of the water pipe replacement.

6.6. Maintenance of Reading Room. The management committee had met and agreed to continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the Reading Room. Clerk to draw up an agreement with the Reading Room committee.

6.7. A14 Improvement Scheme. Councillors noted that it had not been possible to register for subsequent submissions.

6.8. HACT. Letter requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the ring and ride transport service. Councillors declined.

6.9. Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036. Councillors noted the representations that had been made by a number of other parish councils including Houghton and Wyton but the concerns raised do not affect Great Gransden.

6.10. Cemetery Regulations. As requested, the relatives are intending to remove the kerb stones that have been placed around one of the graves in order to comply with the cemetery regulations.

6.11. Sportsfield Pavilion. Michael Capps commented that the plan provided by the football club showing proposals for an extension needed further thought. Councillors had only agreed the principle of extending and had not approved any plans.

7. Neighbourhood Watch. On behalf of Desmond Merrill, the Chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix 1. Michael Capps commented that there had also been 2 recent industrial estate incidents.

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

9. Financial Statement for March 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 March 2015.

10. Review of Cemetery Charges. These were last increased in 2013. Councillors agreed that there should be no increase. Councillors also unanimously agreed that the following should remain the same:

Pay for Gardeners. No gardeners are presently employed. Stuart Hildyard currently undertakes the cemetery grass cutting at a cost of £120 per cut. He has not tendered a higher price so the cost remains fixed at £120 per cut. Councillors considered that the cost continues to provide value for money.

Payment for Churchyard Maintenance. Payments for the churchyard remain at £1,400 pa and £110 for the old chapel graveyard.

Fees for Bowls Club. The Bowls Club rent is presently £1pa and is subject to the terms of the lease.

Contribution to Roundabout Costs. The contribution should remain at £100.

Review of Clerk's Core Hours. Councillors agreed there should not be a reduction in clerk's hours and that these should remain at 10 hours per week.

Tennis Court Rates. The cost this year is £288. The area needs maintaining and future use will be considered in November when the precept is set.

11. Audit of our Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2015. The accounts for audit had been circulated to all councillors. Councillors thanked the clerk for the presentation of the accounts. The accounts were unanimously approved and accordingly signed by the Chairman. Councillors also considered the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 of the Annual Return. Councillors unanimously approved each of the eight statements and also confirmed that the Parish Council had met all of its responsibilities as sole trustee for two trust funds. Councillors agreed to appoint LGS Services as internal auditor and considered that the present system of internal control is adequate and effective. They had taken into account the matters raised by the internal auditor at last year's audit including cheque signatories, low bank interest, trustees and burial fees.

12. Transparency Code and the Parish Council Website. Councillors noted the list of documents that require publication. Some additional documents need publishing and these will be included on the parish council's website.

13. Date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. In view of the contested Parish Council election, councillors agreed to change the date to Tuesday 12th May to comply with the requirements for the annual meeting, where the chairman is elected, taking place between 4 and 14 days after an election.

14. Highways. Phil Taylor reported the sinking drain covers in the middle of Caxton Road and pot holes at the entrance to Winchfield.

Ann Cosgrave reported the pot holes in Caxton, some of which had been marked but the marks have faded.

Michael Capps reported loose kerb stones on East Street and the missing industrial estate sign on the mini roundabout.

Councillor Boddington had emailed with a number of issues raised by residents including the HGV traffic through the village. She has offered to visit the industrial estates with the message to use Caxton Road. There is also concern about dog mess. A note will be put in Roundabout. The responsibility for 2 lime trees in Church Street needs checking. The verge on the corner of Fox Street and Middle Street is a mess and is often churned up by lorries. Highways will be asked to erect some posts.

15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1. Letter from CCC about replacement of road markings and studs following surface dressing. Some roads will not have them replaced while others will have additional markings.

15.2. Emails about the availability of superfast broadband. This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

15.3. Email advising that issues relating to paths should now be reported using CCC's online fault system.

15.4. Email from Cambridge Gliding Club detailing plans to request minor changes to the present planning consents. Clerk to find out details of the procedure from South Cambs District Council to ensure councillors are notified of the application and can make formal comments.

15.5. Grants are again available from HDC's Community Chest Fund. An application will be made for a £3,000 grant towards the cost of replacing the safety surface under the slide.

15.6. The Gransden branch of the Royal British Legion is looking for volunteers to form a committee to organise a celebration to commemorate the end of WW2. Councillors suggested liaising with next year's air show which is being held the day before.

Correspondence – continued:

15.7. There are no projects currently eligible for a grant application to AmeyCespa.

16. Planning. 1. Permitted Development. It is not possible for HDC to notify the Parish Council of permitted development enquiries.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 12th May 2015

This meeting closed at 9.10pm