

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ian Selkirk Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

and 1 member of the public

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer.

1. Election of chairman. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously that **Stephanie Beaumont** be elected chairman. Stephanie Beaumont signed the appropriate 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and took the chair. Councillors signed Acceptance of Office forms, which were passed to the clerk. The chairman welcomed the new members to the parish council.

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson. District Councillors Barbara Boddington and Richard West also gave their apologies for having to leave the meeting early.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Correspondence:

15.5. Allotments. Ann Cosgrave declared an interest as a member of the Allotment Society. Debi Pearce and Jeff Gorton declared a pecuniary interest as allotment plot holders, the latter holding a dispensation.

4. Election of Officers. 1. Vice Chairman. Stephanie Beaumont outlined the role of vice chairman. No nominations were proposed and councillors agreed to defer this item until the next meeting to allow new councillors to consider nominations.

2. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously that **Jeff Gorton** be elected **Cemetery Manager**.

3. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously that **Ann Cosgrave** be elected **Playing Field Manager**.

4. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously that **Stephanie Beaumont** be elected to the **Reading Room Management Committee**.

5. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously that **Michael Capps** be elected representative to the **Gransden Society**.

6. It was proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously that **Alan Rowbotham** be elected **Sportsfield Representative**.

7. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously that **Michael Capps** be appointed **Tree Warden**.

8. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Jeff Gorton that **Michael Capps** be elected representative to the **Church Tower Restoration Trust**.

9. It was proposed by Ann Cosgrave, seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried unanimously that **Ian Selkirk** be elected representative to the **Little Gransden Airfield Consultative Committee** and also to the **Gliding Club Consultative Committee**.

10. It was proposed and seconded that **Desmond Merrill** be appointed **Chief Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch**.

5. Minutes of the previous monthly meetings held on 13th and 23rd April 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2015 were approved for recommendation to the next year's Annual Parish Meeting and initialled by the chairman.

6. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for three minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington welcomed all parish councillors and asked if the council wished her to visit the industrial estates in the village to try to persuade HGVs not to drive through the village. She had previously been successful in convincing Potton Timber to instruct all its drivers to leave the village via Eltisley Road to avoid driving through the village. Councillors agreed this would be beneficial. She also spoke about the problems in Webbs Meadow and the untidiness caused by tenants of two bungalows. Progress has been made and she hoped that things would continue to improve. Councillors congratulated her on her re-election as District Councillor.

7. Matters Arising: 7.1. Defibrillator. A spare set of pads has now been received and placed in the cabinet. A repeat notice will be placed in Roundabout to ensure residents are aware of defibrillator in the village.

7.2. Mill Weir Lay-by. Although Highways had agreed to fund 50% of the cost of installing plastic grasscrete in the lay-by, they are now appraising the situation with regard to CCC's contribution. The total cost is £5,655.98 which includes excavation, supply and lay/compact a suitable sub base material, laying the grasscrete plastic units and topsoil and seeding. Clerk to enquire further. Highways are also inspecting the verge on the corner of Middle Street and Fox Street following councillors' request for the installation of protective bollards. Ian Selkirk commented that the plastic tubes along Mill Road had been installed by CCC at the request of a resident and had proved to be effective.

7.3. Webbs Meadow. Jeff Gorton outlined problems experienced by residents in Webbs Meadow from tenants of two of the bungalows which included untidiness and numerous cars parked on the road. The properties are owned by Luminus. With the help of our district councillors, one tenant has now removed the shed erected on the area reserved for off street parking for the particular property. The red car parked in West Street has also been removed. Both properties continue to have cars parked on the road and one is dripping oil on the pavement. The campervan that was parked on the driveway of a property in West Street has been removed. Michael Capps commented that the bungalows in Webbs Meadow were originally built for retired people for the village but when the housing stock was transferred to Luminus, the social and age criteria was changed opening up the letting of the bungalows to people from outside the district.

7.4. Meadow Road Verges. The chairman, clerk and Michael Capps had met Colin Lindsay of Anglian Water to inspect the verges following completion of the work to replace the water pipe and had pointed out all matters of concern including the edge of the road all the way to Collings Brothers junction. The blocked ditch is still flooded. Anglian Water will now liaise with Highways. They will also contact the Fire Brigade for the removal of a number of fire hydrants. Alan Rowbotham reported that workers possibly from CCC were seen inspecting the area outside Dancers Cottage. Councillors commented that the edges of the tarmac patching have not been sealed with liquid tar. This no longer takes place as it is deemed a danger for cyclists. Some of the patching has sunk. Clerk to contact Anglian Water to confirm what was agreed and ask who is dealing with the matter at CCC.

Matters Arising – continued:

7.5. Litter Pickers. Desmond Merrill has requested that the Parish Council bear the cost of 4 litter pickers, including a long arm one, used by the volunteers who pick litter along the roads leading to and from the village. The total cost is £75.31 net of vat. Jeff Gorton proposed the parish council agree to fund the purchase, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously. Any future purchases will need prior approval of the council.

7.6. Cambridge Gliding Club. The District Council has confirmed that should the Gliding Club wish to request a change to the existing planning consents, a planning application will have to be made and the parish council will be consulted. Detailed information about noise will have to be included and it may be possible for any change to be temporary.

7.7. Internal Audit. This has been completed and no concerns raised. The papers will be sent to the External Auditor in June.

8. Neighbourhood Watch. On behalf of Desmond Merrill, the chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No.1. Desmond Merrill had asked councillors to consider whether the reports should continue as the information comes from e-cops and villagers can register to receive these reports. Councillors wish to keep Neighbourhood Watch active, emphasising the importance of reporting crime and sharing information with villagers. The use of Touchbase to report local matters may be an option. The existing list of street wardens may need updating. The chairman spoke about the Joint Local Forum set up for rural parishes in Huntingdonshire, enabling the rural voice to be heard not only on policing matters but also on policy issues. Stephanie Beaumont agreed to speak to Desmond Merrill and the matter would be on next month's agenda. Michael Capps spoke about Countryside Watch which covers the area outside the village. The response for circulating relevant information to its members is very quick.

9. Financial Statement for April 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman. This year's precept had been paid in one payment, leading to an unusually high cash balance. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of April 2015.

10. Parish Council Insurance 2015/16. The renewal quote from Zurich had been circulated. This year's premium is £1,708.64 but includes the village hall buildings and contents insurance. Last year there was a separate policy for the Reading Room but this year's combined policy has resulted in a saving of nearly £850. Councillors considered the sums assured and noted the 3% uplift for buildings and contents sums insured. Clerk to check with the caretakers the value of the gardening equipment which is presently insured for £800. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously that the policy with Zurich for £1,708.64 is renewed.

11. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the seven invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 3.

12. Review of Safeguarding Policy. Councillors agreed to defer to the next meeting.

13. Parish Council Website. The website had been set up by former councillor Phil Taylor. Debi Pearce expressed an interest in managing the site and agreed to find out more information.

14. Highways. Ian Selkirk spoke about the Fox Street footpath which had been reported for repair in February. Highways have closed the report deeming any repairs unnecessary. Clerk to ask for criteria for measuring any necessary repairs. Also the kerb stones are badly aligned. The kerb damage in East Street has been reported and Highways are investigating.

George Craze spoke about Waresley Road and the patching.

Michael Capps reported the grass cutting behind the elm trees. The area will need strimming if it is not dealt with at the next cutting. The industrial sign has been reinstated on the mini roundabout.

Ann Cosgrave reported the pot holes in Gransden Road, Caxton. These have been reported and are scheduled for repair.

Debi Pearce reported the verge outside the school which looks a mess where the grass has been killed off when the salt bin was replenished. The grass will recover if the salt is flushed out. Debi Pearce agreed to hose down the area before reseeding.

Alan Rowbotham reported the Crow Tree Street path which is cracking due to the bank moving and a large pothole in Poplar Close.

Stephanie Beaumont reported a pothole on the edge of the road in Little Gransden Lane which could be a safety issue for pedestrians.

The potholes reported last month in Winchfield have been deemed unnecessary by Highways and the report closed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1. Letter from The Pensions Regulator was read out detailing the parish council's duties for implementing a workplace pension. Stephanie Beaumont was nominated as the contact to receive further information.

15.2. Email from CCC agreeing to renew the grass cutting contract for the area surrounding Gransden windmill. The contractor had been unable to obtain information from CCC and had sought the help of the parish council. There has been no further update about the emergency repairs which were due to start in the spring. Clerk to contact CCC. Ian Selkirk commended the parish council's efforts to ensure the survival of the mill. A working party had been formed to look at ways to preserve the windmill and the creation of a trust to possibly take over responsibility for it although this is subject to the urgent repairs being completed.

15.3. Councillors agreed to renew the CAPALC membership.

15.4. Councillors noted the letter from CCC proposing to review the Local Validation List for applications for planning permission.

15.5. Jeff Gorton spoke about the Allotment Society's request to utilise the old red dog bin previously sited in Little Lane. Debi Pearce having declared a pecuniary interest took no part in the discussion. The society proposes to install it on the site if permitted. Councillors agreed.

15.6. Councillors agreed to update the village directory.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 1st June 2015

This meeting closed at 9.40pm