

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2018

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

and 6 members of the public

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

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

2. Apologies. There were apologies from Parish Councillors Nick Ginn, Giles Scott and Debi Pearce and County Councillor Julie Wisson.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 27th April 2017 had been circulated to councillors soon afterwards and were considered at the Parish Council meeting on 8th May 2017. The minutes were then approved and accordingly initialled. At this meeting the initialled minutes of 27th April 2017 were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

4. Chairman's Report. The chairman spoke about the achievements during the year including the successful Local Highway Improvement Bid for 2018/19 to level the Crow Tree Street footpath and a 40mph buffer zone along Meadow Road, a new fishing sign by Mill Weir, relaying of the Church yard path and a number of concerns relating to the Reading Room and cottage which were resolved. A survey of the village trees was carried out in March highlighting future maintenance issues. The Parish Council had also engaged with other parish councils; Little Gransden for the provision of a litter bin by the windmill which South Cambridgeshire District Council has agreed to empty free of charge but which Great Gransden will purchase, Waresley Parish Council which requested financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing a Horse and Rider sign and Abbotsley Parish Council for assisting with the need for a 40mph buffer zone. Many thanks to the village litter pickers who collected 29 bags of litter earlier this year and to Desmond Merrill and Jeff Gorton for cleaning the village signs. Ongoing projects include the upgrading of the old disused tennis court to a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). A preferred contractor has been agreed and planning has been applied for to increase the height of the fence. Finances need to be in place and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £10,095.64 has been received from the development of 5 houses in Eltisle Road. Councillors had unanimously agreed to use the CIL money towards the Muga. The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is making positive progress, with a well-qualified, enthusiastic committee. Following a well-attended public meeting, councillors agreed to proceed with a plan which will provide greater control over the sort of development within HDC's constraints and planning laws. There have been issues with bin collections, although these now seem to be fewer. Two street lights need replacing; a replacement lamp in Mandene Gardens is on-going and the West Street lamp is the subject of an insurance claim. A new heritage light at the corner of Sand Road was finally installed. There have been no issues with grass cutting of the cemetery and sportsfield which has been carried out by the Parish Council's contractors although County cuts have been an issue with insufficient cuts during the season allowing the grass to grow too long. The Windmill Trust is in the process of being formed. There

Chairman's Report – continued:

have been changes in planning with a further erosion of a parish council's opportunity to make representations. The Local Plan to 2036 defines Great Gransden as a small settlement. There is no resolution as yet of the planning application by Catesby Property Group to develop land in Sand Road. Kingspan Potton gave a presentation on the proposed use of the Potton site for self-build housing units. The Parish Council commented on the Housing and Economical Land Availability Assessment 2017 in which the sites at West Street, Waresley Road, Sand Road and the Potton site had been put forward for allocation. Draft letters have been agreed for the Housing Needs Survey to ascertain the need for affordable housing. Other matters include Highways to which the Parish Council makes regular reports on issues affecting the village, Risk Management Policy for which an asset check and risk management will be carried out each year, General Data Protection Regulations will become effective in May. Finally, Councillors Barbara Boddington Richard West and Julie Wisson were thanked for attending meetings and providing very useful information with special thanks to Barbara Boddington, who will be retiring from office, for her constant help and support. Councillors thanked the chairman for leading the council during the past year.

5. District Councillor Barbara Boddington spoke about her retirement after 15 years as a District Councillor and 4 years as County Councillor. There have been many changes at Huntingdonshire District Council, endeavouring to keep residents informed and attending many local events to serve the needs of residents and the Parish Council. She was proud to have served for two years as chairman of the District Council as well as chairman on various committees. She thanked the councillors who will be standing down, noting that Ann Cosgrave had served for 30 years. She also thanked her husband John for his support and wished her colleague Richard West, well for the future.

6. District Councillor Richard West spoke about his duties at Huntingdonshire District Council and his role as Chairman of the District Council over the past year. He expressed his appreciation of parish councillors and although sorry that Barbara Boddington had chosen to retire, wished her well for the future. He also expressed his disappointment that the route announcement for the A428 had not yet been made public although all indications point to the orange route. His report is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1.

7. County Councillor Julie Wisson. In her absence, Richard West read out the report from Julie Wisson which is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 2. The report covered the change in boundaries for the County council division, her work on the Children and Young Peoples Committee, concerns about speeding and the year on year reduction of the Local Authority budget.

8. Financial Statement. The clerk's summary for the year had been circulated. The summary is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 3.

9. The Poor's Land Charity. The Chairman reported that there had been no new requests for financial assistance with 4 villagers receiving winter fuel payments. Grants had also been made to village bodies including the Living Nativity, the Guides, the Baptist Church, the School and other Great Gransden activities. The trustees had met four times during the past year. The decision was made to reduce the level of income and to increase the capital sum because inflation was eroding the capital. This may now change with the possibility of increasing the income if there is more demand. The trustees continue to receive advice from the charity's financial advisor and the capital sum is looked after by a fund manager. The Investment Policy Statement has been signed and the trustees continue to oversee the portfolio performance, agreeing any changes in strategy subject to the financial advice provided. The estimated income yield is presently 2.46%.

10. The Parish Council Cemetery. Jeff Gorton presented the report that is filed as Appendix No. 4. The report commented on the excellent grass cutting and the Garden of Remembrance has also been well maintained. There was an unfortunate accident with one of the older headstones which is currently being progressed.

11. Reading Room Management Committee. Stephanie Beaumont read out the report prepared by Celia Chignell on behalf of the Reading Room Management Committee. The report is filed as Appendix No. 5 together with the accounts. The re-thatch of the Reading Room will take place in the summer at a cost of around £20,000.

13. The Gransden Sportsfield and Recreational Association. Alan Rowbotham read out the report prepared by Nancy Kyle on behalf of the GSRA. This year all seems to have been ticking over nicely with communication between the Nursery and the Football club much improved. A defibrillator was purchased at a reduced rate and will be installed shortly. Buchans, the grass cutting contractor, have been doing a good job, the grass is in good condition and the area behind the tennis court has been cut. The 2 lights permanently on at the tennis courts have been disabled. The fireworks in October were enjoyed by all and Guy Davies and his team were thanked. Des Merrill has harrowed both the sportsfield and the tennis club car parks. Financially the committee is in a healthy position and will be looking to get the car park resurfaced. Graham Coulson has stepped down as secretary and is advertising for new members. Guy Davies is also stepping down as the fireworks organiser. The committee was unable to elect a secretary at the AGM due to a lack of numbers. The accounts are filed as Appendix No. 6.

14. The Gransdens Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Society. Andrew Pett read out the report prepared by Andrew Pearce on behalf of the Society. The report is filed as Appendix No.7.

Before closing the meeting, the chairman added his personal thanks to his fellow councillors for their hard work during the year with a special thanks to Stephanie Beaumont for stepping in as vice chairman and with thanks also to the clerk.

There being no other business this meeting was closed at 8.12pm.