

## Clerk's Report

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

**2. Apologies** To receive apologies for absence

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Minutes.** To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and also of the extraordinary meeting held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### **6. Matters Arising**

1. Update on recruitment of new Reading Room Caretaker To discuss any further action required by the Parish Council.

2. Reading Room Car Park Update – Update from Cllr Capps. To discuss any additional information/quotations available ahead of item 11 (Precept for 2021/22 and budget Review)

3. Neighbourhood Plan – report and update from Cllr Pett

4. Water Bailiff – Councillors to note the water bailiff vacancy.

5. Repair of broken swing

Quote received from Wicksteed for a replacement (exc VAT and fitting)

| <u>CODE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>UNIT PRICE</u> | <u>QTY</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 5901-048    |                    | £160.00           | 1          | £160.00      |
|             |                    |                   |            |              |
|             |                    | Subtotal          |            | £160.00      |
|             |                    | Carriage          |            | £13.60       |
|             |                    | Total Ex VAT      |            | £173.60      |



*Please note this is not an official quotation.*

*All prices exclude VAT.*

*Errors and omissions excluded.*

*Wicksteed terms of sale apply.*

**7. Sports field Grass Cutting/Maintenance** Councillors to review the specification for Grass cutting at the Sportsfield for 2021/22 (if received from GSRA).

**8. Cemetery Extension Grazing Licence** Councillors to consider the revised Grazing Licence received from Adlams Solicitors. (this has been circulated previously)

**9. Clerks Financial Statement** for September 2020 and Budget Review.

**10. Cheques for Approval.** These have been sent previously.

**11. Precept for 2021/22** Councillors to consider and approve the budget for 2021/22.

**12. Highways** Any repairs or maintenance needed.

### **13. Correspondence**

Luton Airport – Proposed new hold area.

The consultation period runs between 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

[https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6\\_luton\\_arrivals/user\\_uploads/executive-summary-two-pages.pdf](https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6_luton_arrivals/user_uploads/executive-summary-two-pages.pdf)

Gransden Woods Closure (email from the trust previously forwarded to Cllrs)

In response to notification from the trust of the closure of Gransden Woods, the following correspondence has been received direct to the Parish Council:

*Whilst I support sensible moves to prevent too much damage to our local natural environment, I'm disappointed that we will not be permitted to walk in these woods at a time when we're entering the bleakest time of the year from a weather and mental health perspective, exacerbated exponentially by a need to adhere to COVID-19 guidance. We need to encourage people to go outside, to get some exercise, to surround ourselves in the towering beauty of the trees, to smell the plants and enjoy the freedom away from the four walls; not removing access for the sake of a narrow strip of flora alongside the paths that would otherwise be protected by policies that made sense pre-COVID but need revising during COVID.*

*Not everyone can travel to the other woods, so would it be possible to ask the Wildlife Trust to please reconsider the closures, perhaps limiting access but not closing full access?*

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*We write to you once again to ask for your help regarding the sudden closure of Gransden wood.*

*The Wildlife Trust, without giving any notice, closed the woods this week claiming that wet weather is likely to cause damage to sensitive woodland flora.*

*We have been walking in these woods on a regular basis for the past 40 years, throughout the year. Up until last year the woods had never been closed whatever the weather or under foot conditions.*

*The trust claims the paths are being widened by constant use. There has been no change at all in the width of the paths. In fact when we walk through the woods most of the time we walk in single file as the paths are so narrow.*

*There has not been a significant increase in the number of people walking in the woods. Indeed on many days we fail to meet anyone else at all.*

*The main ride down the centre of the wood can be muddy but this has been the case for a number of years ever since the trust carried out work on the ride which was unsuccessful.*

*We would ask for more information of which flora is actually being damaged.*

*The only time we actually see damage done is when people are encouraged into the woods by the Trust to look at the bluebells and even these plants quickly recover.*

*The trust appears to carry out little or no management of the woods. Indeed on two occasions trust employees have lifted up a bridge to prevent walkers ....;and dumped it where the bluebells grow !*

*The restrictions we are all facing at the moment because of the pandemic means the woods even more vital for local residents. Why take this away from us for the following autumn and winter months when we really need to be able to experience the changing seasons which the woodland has to offer?*

*We would urge the parish council to strongly support us, and other residents, in urging the trust to re-consider its decision and re open the woods without delay.*

**Nuisance Noise at the MUGA** – Email received from resident:

*We are writing regarding the subject of loud music on the MUGA resulting from a lunchtime exercise group.*

*We fully accept that the MUGA should be used to help village residents get fit and stay fit especially in the current crisis but we would be grateful if the PC could remind this group to be more considerate of their neighbours. The music is very loud and intrusive together with the instructor's voice shouting encouragement over it. It can be heard indoors with windows and doors closed. It is especially annoying as, in accordance with government guidelines, I have to work from home and I often have to phone in to meetings around this time, but in any case I imagine it is equally annoying to residents who are simply trying to enjoy a quiet lunchtime.*

*Please could you discuss this at your next meeting and clarify the Parish Council's position on loud music on the MUGA and Parish Meadow?*

*Incidentally, it would also be nice to know if this activity has any commercial aspect as I suspect that this would be outside of the terms of use for the facility.*

## **14. Planning**

PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/02014/LBC

To paint the exterior of No.18 Middle Street in the same colour as No.16 Middle Street  
18 Middle Street Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AD