

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 1st February 2016

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 2 members of the public

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

2. Apologies. There were apologies for absence from Parish Councillors Michael Capps and Ann Cosgrave.

3. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th January 2016 which had been circulated were amended to include no increase in council tax at HDC in open forum and on page 3 under correspondence 13.1 to include the words 'in the past' with reference to the friction referred to between the nursery and the football club. The amended minutes were accepted and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for eight minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington reported that Operations were doing various work and now was the time to make any comments. She had received a call from Luminus to discuss Webbs Meadow. A Scrutiny meeting tomorrow will discuss Hinchingsbrooke Hospital which is still in special measures. There will be an early inspection in late Spring/early Summer. Sensory bands are being introduced for dementia patients to show which patients may not be able to speak up for themselves. There is also an excellent chaplaincy service. She also passed on information about road closures during the forthcoming Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. Councillor Richard West spoke about sports facilities in villages, Webbs Meadow and reported that full council will discuss the budget on 24th February. Councillor Julie Wisson reported the Winchfield road closure for repairs on 17th February. She will be notified of the Local Highway Bid results by the panel in March. The county council budget will be discussed by full council on 16th February. Stewart McLellan spoke of his objections to the Potton Ltd planning application to permanently retain the marquee due to environmental noise.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Anglian Water. The response from Anglian Water to the request for financial recompense for the disrupted water supply had been circulated. Anglian Water had investigated the interruptions but refused any payment at this time as supplies had been restored within 12 hours and thus did not meet the criteria for a payment.

6.2. Webbs Meadow. Jeff Gorton reported that the situation had improved. The resident had jetted the oil spillage on the pavement and was parking his vehicle on the driveway. The police had written to all Webbs Meadow residents about parking on the street. Whilst there are no parking restrictions in Webbs Meadow, vehicles should be parked on a private driveway wherever possible or on the highway in a considerate manner so as not to obstruct any access or obstruct the passage of vehicles on the highway. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.3. Transparency. Councillors discussed the publication of other documents on the parish council website in particular financial information. It was agreed to publish the cheques for approval within the body of the council minutes.

6.4. Parking in West Street. The chairman reported that following the concerns from a resident about the increase in the number of cars parking in West Street, this was no longer a problem. Three councillors and the head teacher had checked and all agreed, along with the resident who had first raised the concern, that this is not a problem. A questionnaire had been circulated to all parents and residents living in the roads near the school will also be receiving a questionnaire. Debi Pearce agreed to remove the cones in Middle Street on the odd occasions that they had not been collected.

6.5. Sportsfield Pavilion. Three quotes had been received for the electrical upgrade to the pavilion. Jeff Gorton proposed acceptance of the cheapest quote from Allphase for £6,937.40 (excluding vat), seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried unanimously.

6.6. Fibre Broadband. The chairman read out the email from David Sturt-Hammond, one of the residents affected by the lack of superfast broadband, detailing his efforts to obtain a date when the matter would be resolved. He had emailed County Councillor Julie Wisson, Sarah Marsh of Connecting Cambridgeshire, CEO of BT Openreach, Jonathan Djanogly MP and BT Regional Partnership Director Eastern Region. The Parish Council had also been in correspondence with Sarah Marsh and our MP. Councillors agreed to take up the offer of a meeting with Sarah Marsh and the BT project manager. The chairman agreed to contact Mr Sturt-Hammond asking for dates when he would also be available to attend.

7. Ecops Report. There was no report this month as nothing relevant to Great Gransden had been reported on Ecops. Councillor Boddington reported that some arrests had taken place following a burglary in Abbotsley and there had also been a break-in in Eltisley. A car had also been seen driving around the villages and subsequently noted to have false number plates.

8. Financial Statement for January 2016. The sheet filed as Appendix No.1 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of January 2016 which had been circulated.

9. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the following invoices:
Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (January) - £225
Clerk's salary for January - £470.81
Clerk for printer paper - £6
Town & Country Tree Surgery for elm tree pollarding - £537.60.

10. Church Yard Trees. Two quotes had been received for work to 4 trees. There was quite a difference in the two quotes. Councillors agreed that 3 further quotes should be sought and in the interim, clerk to seek permission from HDC for the work.

11. Risk Management. It was proposed by Andrew Pett, seconded by Jeff Gorton and unanimously agreed that the revised risk management policy be adopted to bring into line all insurance policies renewal on 1st June each year with the level of the insurances considered each May.

12. Highways. Alan Rowbotham spoke about Anglian Water covers in Caxton Road which were due to be repaired in January. Clerk to chase this up.

Debi Pearce spoke about the overhanging branch in Mill Road. The location of this was unclear and a photograph will be provided to enable the clerk to follow this up. The red bin in Middle Street had not been emptied for the second time and clerk to report.

Jeff Gorton reported that the light in West Street was now working again. A new bin liner may be needed for the churchyard bin.

Ian Selkirk reported the repair needed to the edge of Meadow Road.

Stephanie Beaumont reported the light out in the alley way between Williams Close and Audley Close. Also the amount of dog mess in the alley way, Crow Tree Street hill and Middle Street. Note to be put in Roundabout. Some litter bins may need replacing and clerk to obtain details of the cost.

13. CORRESPONDENCE. 13.1. Councillors confirmed the chairman's nomination for the Royal Garden Party.

13.2. The chairman reported that she had booked the Reading Room for a community lunch on Sunday 12th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Details will appear in Roundabout and a number of residents and councillors have agreed to assist with face painting, children's games and music. There will also be a poster competition.

13.3. The chairman reported on the recent Joint Local Forum meeting detailing the county council cutbacks. She had raised the concern that the parish council had asked the Police Problem Solving Team to target the village following an increase in crime but no response to this request had been received.

13.4. Letter from Jo Philpott manager of HACT offering to attend a parish council meeting to provide information on the door to door transport services available to residents. Councillors suggested it might be more appropriate to attend an Evergreen's meeting.

13.5. Letter from HDC with details of the district council's sports strategy. The chairman is setting up a committee to look at the development of the village tennis court. Three residents have agreed to be involved including Nancy Kyle, Iain Strath, Sheila Smith-Rawnsley as well as the chairman. Alan Rowbotham also agreed to join the committee. The first task will be to show community support without which funding will not be available. Alan Rowbotham reported that he had been contacted by HDC asking about sports facilities in particular if there was a bus stop in the village.

13.6. The chairman and vice chairman had attended the Local Highway Bid presentation meeting last month with 4 county councillors and 3 council officers on the panel. The 3 officers had seemed quite positive and congratulated them on the quality of the presentation. It is hoped a positive response will be received by 1st March.

13.7. Debi Pearce raised the issue of a village emergency plan suggesting that it would be useful to create a structure to establish who would be responsible if for example, phones stopped working, the internet went down, lack of power supply, checking on the elderly, roads blocked and whether this was worthwhile pursuing. Councillors commented that this would involve a lot of work. The chairman suggested that if the village had a community plan, this sort of information would be part of that plan. The drafting of a community plan would take a lot of time and would need involvement from people outside of the parish council. Andrew Pett pointed out that both CCC and HDC have emergency plans. Councillors agreed to consider the matter again next month.

13.8. Ann Cosgrave will be stepping down from the bin rota and a new rota will be prepared.

14. Planning. 1. 15/02401TREE 3 Audley Close. Jeff Gorton proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is for necessary work. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

2. 15/02381/S73 Variation/removal of condition 1 of Planning Application 1201691S73 to allow retention of marquee, Potton Ltd, Eltisley Road. There had been 2 letters of objection and a letter from Barford & Co on behalf of Potton Ltd suggesting that the permission is extended indefinitely. Councillors noted that the marquee does not have sound proofing for which a permanent building would be needed and the business has had ample opportunity to build a permanent structure. Jeff Gorton proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the grounds (1) the adverse impact on the community and the environment, (2) this is a temporary building with no sound insulation and causes noise and disturbances resulting from the use and (3) this permission was sought on a previous occasion and rejected and continuity over the previous 3 years was a concession to assist in the running of the business and this concession should not be extended. Seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.

3. 15/01558/HHFUL Bay window extensions to kitchen and sitting room, extension to utility room and formation of an en-suite within existing roof space, 30 Fox Street. (The owners of the property were present to hear the discussion). There was comment that the materials and design would ruin the property. The revised plans had changed very little and still included a glass front. Stephanie Beaumont proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the ground that the front elevation of the property is out of keeping with the surrounding area. Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried with 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

4. 16/00004/LBC Repairs and minor alterations to Gransden Post Mill, Mill Road. George Craze proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground of necessary repairs. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

5. Installation of 15 metre wind turbine, land west of Highbury Fields, Eltisley Road. Councillors noted that that the application has been withdrawn.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 7th March 2016

This meeting closed at 9pm