

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Peter King Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

and 1 member of the public

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

**2. Apologies.** Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson and District Councillor Richard West.

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

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** No matters were raised during open forum.

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan.** Andrew Pett reported that more funding is being applied for and a community involvement event will be held later in the year.

**6.2. Multi Use Games Area.** Peter King reported that the Muga was officially opened on 29<sup>th</sup> June, with the work having been satisfactorily completed 2 days earlier. The sub-committee has been very happy with the contractor. Since opening, it has been enormously well used despite having been advised by the contractor that very warm weather can affect the surface in the first 12 months. The old sign stating 'No dogs' has not been reinstated. It is bent and the wording illegible. A decision on whether to replace the sign will be discussed at next month's meeting. Any vehicles driving down past the muga towards the playing field need to avoid driving over the edge of the wheelchair access footpath to avoid damage. There are no plans at present to seed the area around the site, instead wait to see whether the grass grows through.

**6.3. Village Roundabout.** Peter King reported that probably all the sections of rhinoboard had been replaced, the contractor having given an assurance that a stronger board than the previous one had been used. All seems to be fine, although it does not seem to be 100% centrally aligned and this will be looked at. One of the metal straps needs tightening and rubber caps will be obtained to cover the bolts underneath the outer boards.

**7. Consultations.**

**7.1. A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet.** James Catmur reported on the information that had come from the public event he had attended at Eltisley. There will be a subsidiary roundabout at the shell garage to access the A428. Comments were made about horse-riders, bridleways and footpaths. The public are invited to comment with the consultation open until 28<sup>th</sup> July. Views are also being sought on how to build the new road. There is no clear discussion involving the proposed rail route. There being no critique to make, councillors agreed it was unnecessary to formulate a Parish Council response.

**7.2. Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan.** Noted.

**7.3. Draft Bourn Airfield New Village Supplementary Planning Document.** Councillors noted that transport to Cambridge is being planned into the new development.

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**8. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2020/21.** Submissions are due by 4<sup>th</sup> August. The sub-committee is meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July to formulate an application. Suggestions relating to improvements to the Reading Room car park will not qualify as this is Parish Council owned land, not highways. Other suggestions included pedestrian safety along Meadow Road, further signage and a zebra crossing in Middle Street. The sub-committee will consider proposals taking into account comments made by the panel at last year's bid and whether an application should be made this year. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will contribute a maximum of £2,000 towards a bid if one is submitted this year. (Proposed Giles Scott, seconded Michael Capps).

**9. Highways England Local Improvement Funds.** James Catmur reported that there is a lot of focus on environment, road safety and cycling. A cycle route is already being considered from Papworth to Cambourne. He has suggested a new cycle path between Cambourne and St Neots via the villages. The funding is typically £10,000 per project but can be higher. Councillors considered a cycle path/pedestrian walk way along Meadow Road. James Catmur agreed to investigate further and the sub-committee will look at proposals at its planned meeting later in the month.

**10. Audit of our Accounts for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.** Councillors noted the internal auditor's report although no matters had been raised that required action.

**11. Parish Council Policies.** Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies. (Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Jeff Gorton). It was proposed by Andrew Pett that the Model Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations remain unamended. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

**12. Financial Statement** for June 2019. 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 June 2019.

**13. Cheques for approval.** The following payments were approved:

Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded James Catmur.

Buchan Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (May)	£495.41
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (June)	£210.00
Mrs D Taylor – clerk's salary for June 2019	£539.14
Mrs D Taylor – clerk's expenses for June 2019	£51.14
HM Revenue & Customs for clerk's tax April, May & June 2019	£4.20
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50
LGS Services for internal audit 2018/19	£150.00
Signwork Ltd for Muga signs	£189.00
Capalc for Annual Conference 28/6/19	£50.00
Peter King for paint (roundabout) and sundries	£44.26
Ashley Downes, AMD Sport Services for roundabout repair	£1,276.00
ETC Sports Surfaces for second stage balance payment for Muga	£5,637.66
ETC Sports Surfaces for final stage payment	£2,279.82
ETC Sports Surfaces for landscaping around perimeter	£588.00

Councillors noted that the damage to the Reading Room drive, which may have been caused by the contractors when materials were delivered for the muga, did not make it unsafe, thus the cheques to ETC were approved.

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**14. Highways.** The elm trees in front of the Old Vicarage in Church Street may not all survive. Some are dead and hollow. Councillors to take a look and will consider again in the Autumn. Church Street continues to flood during heavy rain. This has been reported previously with Great Gransden having been added to the maintenance schedule over the next 2 years. The drain has collapsed internally and heavy rain causes it to overflow. Clerk to raise this matter again and ask when the general maintenance will be carried out. The area outside the village shop also floods. There is a pothole in Church Street which will be reported.

**Old Chapel Graveyard.** A contribution of £130 pa has been offered to the trustees towards the cost of maintaining the graveyard. The trustees would prefer the work to be carried out by the Parish Council. Historically this financial contribution has been paid to the charity trustees out of fairness as the Parish Council also makes an annual contribution to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the closed churchyard. The maintenance of the old chapel graveyard is not the Parish Council's responsibility although councillors are willing to continue to make the financial contribution towards the cost of the trustees maintaining the area.

**15. Correspondence. 15.1.** Jeff Gorton reported that a number of graves have been planted although the Parish Council's regulations specify that all new graves are grassed over to enable them to be included in the regular grass cutting carried out by the cemetery caretaker. As this is not currently causing a problem for the cemetery grass cutter, councillors agreed not to take any action at the present time.

**15.2.** A resident had requested a 'No Cold Calling Zone' for the village. Jeff Gorton reported that these no longer exist, although leaflets and warning stickers are available. Instead CCC is promoting 'Spot Scams' and 'Stop Scams' and encouraging becoming a 'Friend Against Scams'. Clerk will pass on the information to the resident.

**15.3.** The Bowls Club has asked for a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the wooden fencing which no longer joins onto the new fencing following completion of the muga. A contribution towards the cost has also been requested. Michael Capps and Peter King agreed to meet as well as provide some posts if needed.

**15.4.** Councillors noted the Cambourne to Cambridge project update.

**15.5.** Councillors noted the proposals to build above the village shop for security reasons following the recent break in. It was noted the shop extends beyond the length of the attached dwelling, both at the front and back. Whilst appreciating the problem, the viability of the shop and the continued security risks, any such development would affect the neighbouring properties unless it was restricted to part of the existing shop length. Councillors agreed that a development above the shop, in keeping with planning, would not be viewed detrimentally, but such a development across the whole length of the shop would be considered detrimental to neighbours.

**15.6.** Councillors noted the Govia Thameslink Railway Passenger Benefit Fund. Whilst users of St Neots station were inconvenienced during the disruption which followed the implementation of the May 2018 timetable, councillors did not see this as a parish council issue.

**15.7.** A volunteer has offered to help maintain Mill Weir by removing the excess weed. Concern had been expressed that the weed is making the water slightly stagnant and effecting the oxygen levels causing fish to die. Councillors agreed to accept the offer but to ensure that the lilies are not damaged during the maintenance work and that the weed is taken away. Permission was granted for the volunteer to fish at the pond.

**15.8.** Councillors noted the recent copy correspondence addressed to Little Gransden Parish Council. A Great Gransden resident had expressed concern that access through the hedge along Dick and Dolls Lane had been closed. Councillors noted that the footpath, as shown on the definitive map, is still open. In the past, when very wet, permission has been granted by the land owner to step through the gaps in the hedge and it is only these gaps that have been closed up as they cross private land. The footpath remains open.

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It was agreed that item 16 be taken next.

**16. Planning. 1. 19/01010/HHFUL and 19/01011/LBC Fenestration changes, demolish conservatory and boiler room and replace with new porch and various internal structural changes, 1 Meadow Road.** Councillors commented that the proposals were not detrimental to the house or the barn. Andrew Pett recommended ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is a suitable improvement and a necessary updating of accommodation. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried unanimously.

In accordance with S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 press and members of the public were excluded from the meeting whilst item 15.9 was considered. The minutes from this part of the meeting remain confidential.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

This meeting closed at 9.15pm.