

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 1st June 2020
By remote conference

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Catherine Fox Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Lisbeth Ricciardi Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Peter King Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson

District Councillor Richard West

And 3 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm with a silent prayer.

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from Jeff Gorton.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th May 2020, which had been circulated, were approved and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for 22 minutes. Cllr West reported that the Annual meeting of the District Council will be held on 17th June by virtual meeting. There will be a round of meetings in July looking at starting preparation of the budget and also scrutinising decisions taken during the lockdown period. The plan is for a return to scheduled meetings in September. Cllr West expressed his thanks to Cllr King and Mr Dixon for their help in looking to resolve the issues with the Reading Room cottage doors and windows. (see item 9) Cllr West also expressed his concerns around the behaviour of Hayfield Homes as developers of the Sand Road site. The enforcement team is now involved as there is a continuing need for strong action in protection of local residents.

Cllr Wisson reported that the recycling centres across the county have reopened as of the 1st June. This included permit holders.

A village resident requested the support of the Parish Council in escalating concerns around the actions of Hayfield Homes and asked that a formal letter be written to the planning department as a matter of urgency. Councillors agreed to look at this (see item 16).

David Prest, as chairman of the NDP Steering Group gave an overview of its activities. Since the start of lockdown, there had been no face-to-face meetings. However, it was agreed that meetings via remote conference would go ahead. The societies fair had been postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak, but it was hoped that this could be rescheduled. Meetings had taken place between the NDP and the Local Authority with regards to the implication of increased building works within the village on school numbers. This is an ongoing process requiring further meetings. A survey undertaken by the NDP group had shown that residents were keen to see improvements to road safety within the village, improved sports and leisure facilities and better access to open spaces. Mr Prest agreed to give a more formal presentation to the Parish Council in a couple of months.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Bluebell-19 Group Update Cllr Catmur reported that the Covid-19 support group was running well, though demand for services had dropped which in turn meant that the level of

involvement of village co-ordinators was reduced. Cambs County Council had given the group a grant of £1000 subject to conditions being met around issues such as GDPR compliance.

6.2 Unauthorised signs around the village During the lockdown period, several signs had been put up around the village advertising local businesses. Councillors agreed that though the erection of signs showed entrepreneurial spirit in difficult times, the law is specific and the signs having been up for a month must now be removed. Councillors noted the legal issues/ public liability risks associated with signs being attached to Highways signage. Clerk to contact the company concerned and ask them to remove the signs.

6.3 MUGA There have been no further incidents of antisocial behaviour at the MUGA. Children have been congregating around the area and in the playground, however this has not resulted in any significant anti-social issues. Cllr King has made enquiries around the cost of lockable gates at each end of the MUGA and also CCTV. This quote will be shared with Councillors when obtained. The signage put up in the playground by the Parish Council to prohibit the use of the equipment has repeatedly been moved. After discussions, Councillors decided that the signs had done their duty and that to keep replacing them as they were being removed was not a productive use of Councillors time.

Cllr Pett reported that the metal sign at the top of the playground had fallen over. This will be removed for safety reasons and re-sited at a later date.

7. Review of Policies. Copies of the council's Equal Opportunities, Safeguarding, Archiving and Health and Safety policies had been circulated together with a copy of the current Financial Regulations. Councillors agreed no changes were needed. Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Giles Scott.

8. Risk Assessment At the time of the meeting, no risk assessments had been undertaken. Cllr Pett and Cllr Scott will liaise to undertake these whilst adhering to social distancing regulations.

9. Reading Room Cottage Insurance 2020/21

Due to the nature of the insurance policy required and in line with previous years, only one quote (from NFU Mutual) had been sought. The renewal premium is £444.73. This is an increase of £14.34 on last year's premium of £430.39 and includes a mutual bonus saving of £84.24.

The sum insured is now £331,712 up from £324,371 and the declared value up from £282,375 to £288,446 (increased by indexation). The renewal quotation was accepted. Proposed by Cllr Pett, seconded by Cllr Capps and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk provided an update on the current progress on the replacement windows and doors at the reading room cottage. Jason Dixon (of Dixon Surveying and Design Services) has offered to provide the outstanding drawings ~~free of charge~~. Councillor King has agreed to visit the cottage with Mr Dixon so that all parties can be assured that the next drawings submitted are enough to satisfy all outstanding conditions (consent has already been received from the occupants of the cottage and social distancing will be observed).

Once this meeting has taken place, drawings will be submitted so that the outstanding conditions can satisfactorily be discharged. Councillors wished to extend their grateful thanks to Mr Dixon for his assistance in this matter.

10. Community Infrastructure Levy A payment of £8,602.80 had been received in October 2018. Councillors considered possible projects with focus on updating the play equipment in the park. Councillor King suggested that a trim trail would be a welcome addition to the existing equipment. A basic enquiry had suggested that quotes from Wicksteed for this installation would be in the region of £5000 - £8500. The possibility of obtaining external grants for this were

discussed. Cllr Pett and Clerk will liaise to see if any schemes exist for matched funding. Councillors will investigate quotations from alternative suppliers and send to clerk so that a comparison document can be produced.

11. Gransden Recreational and Sports field Association Cllr Ginn reported that the GRSA committee had met via zoom. The sports field is currently in excellent condition, with grass cutting being performed regularly and well. The GRSA have asked that the clerk contact the contractor to remind them to notify the PC each time a cut has been done. The nursery has re-opened as of 1st June with slightly reduced numbers. The government furlough scheme and the rent-free period granted by the GRSA/PC has been essential in allowing them to stay in business. The Tennis club and the Football Club have also benefited from a break from rent over the last 6 months. Jonathan Smith has applied for a £10,000 small business grant which has been awarded. Football should resume in September subject to further guidance from the FA. A request was received regarding use of the Sports field by another team on Sundays. Prior to lockdown, the pitch had been playable for one weekend between December and March due to water-logging. Gransden FC will have 3 teams using this pitch next season and it would not withstand any additional play. It was decided that at this time, it was not appropriate to allow any team other than Gransden FC to use the facilities. The Clerk will respond to the original enquiry to notify them of the decision.

12. Financial Statement for May 2020. 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 May 2020.

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

Proposed Cllr Pett, seconded by Cllr Capps.	
Mrs C Fox – Clerk’s salary for April 2020	£561.08
Mrs C Fox – Clerk’s expenses for April 2020	£25.88
SSE (Street Lighting April 2020)	£106.33
Mr N Day- Renewal of greatgransdenpc.org.uk for 9 years	£125.09
NFU Mutual – Reading Room Cottage Insurance 2020/21	£444.73
DP Garden works & Grounds Maintenance (2x cemetery grass cuts – April)	£230.00
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Mr R McIntosh (Garden of Remembrance)	£15.00
HM Revenue & Customs for clerk’s tax Jan – Mar 2020	£3.00
Buchans Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance	£500.29

14. Highways

Councillors reported no new potholes though the following issues were raised:

14.1 The pavement along Little Gransden Lane (where the hedges have been removed) are in poor condition. Cllr Julie Wisson will report this on the online portal.

14.2 Councillors noted that the works started on Hardwicke Road, were not yet complete.

14.3 The road between Waresley and Great Gransden has become problematic. There are now trees encroaching onto the road forcing drivers to take a wide driving line through a blind bend. Cllr Wisson will log this on the Highways online portal.

14.4 The sign directly next to the lay-by at the school is at an angle. This has previously been reported but as no action has been taken the Clerk will follow this up again.

14.5 A dead tree remains on Caxton Road alongside Audley Close. Again, this has previously been reported – Clerk to follow up.

15. Correspondence

15.1 Councillors noted the cancellation of the 2020 April-June Micro Asphalt Program.

15.2 Councillors noted the forthcoming disruptive works outside 23 Sand Road.

15.3 Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the broken gate at the foot of Doctors Lane. Concerns had been raised that cyclists were using this path which due to its size and blind corners was potentially dangerous. Previous investigations had suggested that the land belonged to the landowners and therefore there may be potential ownership issues. Councillors unanimously agreed that a kissing gate would be the only way to stop cyclists. Clerk will investigate the possibility of Highways providing one that could then be installed. The possibility of a gate with Radar key technology was discussed, though it was agreed that the width limitations of the path would not make this possible.

15.4 Councillors noted the re-opening of the Wildlife Trust Car Park at Waresley and Gransden Nature Reserve.

15.5 Councillors noted the removal of the LHI Grant Funding Scheme application deadline. Cllr Scott, Cllr Catmur and Cllr Day are currently looking at this. Cllr Scott will draft a document and circulate to councillors within the next 10 days. Councillors unanimously agreed that it was important that an application was submitted sooner rather than later.

16. Planning

1. SNN7348 - 40 New Dwellings at Sand Road, Great Gransden The Parish Council had been asked to comment in relation to naming of Sand Road Development. The suggested name put forward had been 'Chapel Fields'. As no valid objections to this name could be found, Councillors unanimously decided to accept the proposed name with no further comments.

In response to the request received during the open forum session, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to write a letter to Andrea Dollard (Planning enforcement officer at HDC) in support of the points raised. These points include hedge ownership, removal of hedges during nesting season and ongoing concerns around the junction and the sometimes questionable behaviour of the developer. Clerk will draft this correspondence for submission to HDC immediately.

2. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/00633/HHFUL Replacement roof structure and refurbishment of detached garage opposite property and proposed garden building 15 Church Street Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AF

Councillors noted the benefits to the Parish of good and sympathetic renovation of the garage building. Cllr Pett proposed '**Approval**' on the grounds that it was required maintenance and refurbishment of an existing structure. This was seconded by Cllr King and unanimously carried. No objections were raised in relation the proposed garden building at the rear of the property, development of which was also unanimously approved.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th July 2020 at 7:30pm

This meeting closed at 9.04pm

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