

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd December 2019

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Richard West,

and 1 member 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 Councillor Lisbeth Ricciardi.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th November 2019 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for eleven minutes. District Councillor Richard West spoke about the election of Cllr Ryan Fuller as the new Executive Leader as well as the roles of the Chief Operating Officer and other officers within the District Council. County Councillor Julie Wisson asked whether the village gully cleaning had been carried out. Councillors noted that whilst some gullies had been done including Fox Street, the whole of the village had not. Cllr Wisson reported that there is no longer a county wide programme of gully cleaning and individual issues will need reporting online. She also spoke of the forthcoming opening of the A14 southern bypass although due to the timing of the general election, there has been no recognition of the people who have worked hard to get the road open.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Cllr Pett reported that the committee had met on the 13th November and were due to meet again in December. At the November meeting support had been identified for a village boundary, road safety was a major concern and although speed reducing measures were costly, grants would be looked into. At the invitation of the Reading Room management committee, a member of the NDP has joined the Reading Room management committee. Cllr Ginn commented that the views of the NDP committee would be helpful when considering planning applications in particular whether an application is aligned to the NDP committee's views although it was recognised that two members of that committee are also parish councillors.

6.2. Local Plan Workshop. Cllr Capps reported on the recent workshop attended by himself and 3 fellow councillors. The District Council officers highlighted the purpose of the Local Plan, its aims, the two major developments at Alconbury Weald and east of St Neots, the 4 spatial planning areas, the 7 key service areas and the 73 small settlements which includes Great Gransden. No specific allocation for development has been made; balance sustainability and protecting the village. Other matters raised included climate and flood risk, design, proper parking, affordable housing, housing mix and rural exception housing. HDC has 5.59 years of planned development, scaled back from the developers of 7 years but the officers would not be drawn on whether 'tilted balance' will apply if fell short of the 5-year housing supply. During the question and answer session, points raised included the anomaly of allowing building at one side of a village but not another and the reasons for not including a fixed village boundary. Cllr Day commented that should the NDP committee decide to have a fixed boundary, they will need to work out the built-up area, look at plots and take into account the type of building.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2019 – continued:

Matters Arising continued:

6.3. Little Gransden Airfield and Gliding Club. Cllr Ginn had been unable to attend the meetings but provided his report from the draft minutes. There had been no complaints for Fullers Hill, the log books had been inspected and no breach of planning. Next year's aerobatic competition will be held in May. The Gliding club will hold 2 competitions next August. They will be applying to have a permanent extension for aerotowing from 6pm to 7pm. There had been 29 complaints from 4 people since April, 11 from the same person. All complaints had been addressed and one attendee had commented that the new tugs were quieter. If possible, councillors agreed to send another representative to these meetings if Cllr Ginn is unable to attend. Councillors asked about referring complaints to the District Council in addition to the Gliding Club. The club's view is that doing so prevents the Gliding Club from responding until they have a response from the District Council. Councillors to consider this again before the next Gliding Club meeting.

6.4. Website Accessibility. Cllr Day reported having made some changes to the website and was still working on producing an accessibility statement. Capalc had not provided any guidance and the clerk will seek some assistance once again.

6.5. Street Light Energy. The clerk reported that quotes had not yet been received from Utility Aid although had been expected before the end of November. In the meantime, Npower have advised that they are unable to take on any more UMS accounts despite having provided a quote. The matter will be deferred to the January meeting.
Cllr Julie Wisson left.

7. Financial Statement for November 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 November 2019.

8. Cheques for approval. The following payments were approved:
Proposed Cllr Capps, seconded Cllr Catmur.

Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (October)	£287.13
Mrs D Taylor – clerk's salary for November 2019	£543.94
Mrs D Taylor – clerk's expenses for November 2019	£8.69
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£11.25
Wilkinson & Butler Solicitors for professional fees	£336.00

9. Consultations.

9.1. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Councillors noted the proposed submission plan consultation.

9.2. Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan. Councillors noted the advance information with the consultation starting on 20th December 2019.

10. Dates for Next Year's Meetings. The proposed dates that had been circulated were agreed. These are Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th, April 23rd (for the Annual Parish Meeting), May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, Aug 3rd, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, and Dec 7th.

11. Reading Room Wi-Fi. Cllr King provided a report on the work he had done over the past 12 months to source free Wi-Fi for the Reading Rooms via the ACRE/Connecting Cambridgeshire scheme. It is not known how long the current funding application process will take, but it could drag on for some time. An alternative funding source would be to use CIL money which the Parish Council received from the Eltisley Road development. He had

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2019 – continued

Reading Room Wi-Fi – continued:

investigated broadband speeds and the process that would be involved for its installation to include the costs of upgrading to fibre broadband once a landline has been established. Discussion included who should be responsible for the cost – the Parish Council or the Reading Room committee, whether a 4G device would be sufficient to provide adequate Wi-Fi speeds and the cost of the 2 options, both of which were similar. It was agreed to proceed with installing broadband; the cost would be approximately £360pa plus the set-up costs of £60. Cllr Pett proposed that the Parish Council pay the initial installation costs and an 18month contract for fibre broadband. Seconded by Cllr Gorton and carried unanimously.

12. Highways. The gutters have not been cleared of leaves throughout the village and there is a blocked culvert in Mill Road. Clerk to report. Stones and gravel are once again being stored on the airfield. This has occurred in the past and clerk will report to planning enforcement. Cllr Catmur agreed to attend the Cambourne to Cambridge Local Liaison Forum on 27th January to lobby for a C2C bus service that at peak times goes on to St Neots, via Caxton, Gransden, Abbotsley.

Traffic along Meadow Road. A villager had raised concerns about the volume and speed of traffic along Meadow Road. Cllr Catmur reported on the results of speedwatch. Some 400 vehicles per hour are recorded exiting the village by Audley Close, but very few speeders during the morning peak as the vehicles are travelling in convoy. Little Gransden Lane has less traffic during the morning peak, about 100 per hour but about 20% are speeding. The 40mph limit along Meadow Road has been tested and vehicles were not found to be speeding. Speedwatch continues to gather evidence. The ability to cross the road when 400 vehicles are travelling through the village at peak times may need to be looked at for future funding applications.

Maintenance of Village Roundabout (Church Street/Middle Street). Councillors agreed that the roundabout should be maintained and agreed to put a notice in Roundabout seeking a volunteer to help look after the planting. Should no-one come forward in the next 2 months, councillors agreed to tidy the area up and look for a contractor to take on the maintenance. It was also noted that the existing roundabout sign - a blue circle with an arrow - is confusing. Clerk to report to Highways and seek more appropriate signage.

13. Correspondence. 13.1. In consultation with councillors Cllr Pett agreed to complete the Voluntary and Community Sector Capacity Building Partnership(s) survey.

13.2. Councillors noted the clerk is seeking a quote for legal fees for the proposed transfer of land to extend the cemetery. Once the additional land comes into use as part of the cemetery, planning permission will be required for change of use.

13.3. The PCC is seeking permission on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to erect a sign indicating war graves in Great Gransden's churchyard. There are 2 war graves in St Bartholomew's churchyard. Councillors had no objection to the PCC making the application on behalf of the Parish Council but would wish to be consulted as to the placement of the sign.

13.4. Cllr Capps had been contacted by the architect instructed by the owners of Rectory Farm House concerning a number of trees in the churchyard which may be causing a problem to the boundary wall and are seeking their removal. Councillors agreed to seek their own advice on whether the trees are causing a deterioration of the wall and obtain quotes for their removal from tree surgeons. If they are to be removed, permission will be needed from the District Council. Clerk to contact the architect to advise on the council's proposed action.

It was agreed that item 14 be taken next.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2019 - concluded

14. Planning. 1. 19/02186/HHFUL Ground floor side extension and first floor rear side Dormer, 91 Meadow Road. Councillors noted that the proposed extension could not be seen from the road. No objections had been received from neighbours. Cllr Gorton proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the grounds that there is no detrimental effect on neighbouring properties and is an improvement of residential amenity. Seconded by Cllr Scott and carried unanimously.

14.2. 19/02282/FUL Erection of a detached dwelling-house and associated works, land West of 24 Little Gransden Lane. Councillors noted the pre-application advice from the planning officer, which although written when ‘tilted balance’ applied, the Local Plan to 2036 was also effective. Councillors noted the listed building next to the proposed site and another listed building further away. Discussion took place around planning policies, whether the site is well-connected to the built-up area, whether the proposed development is out of keeping and whether it spoils the neighbouring properties. Further comments were made about creating a precedent for further development along Sand Path. Cllr Pett proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the grounds that (1) the proposal conflicts with policies LP12, LP13 and LP36 by failing to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area and (2) the proposal will cause a degree of harm to the setting of a listed building within a conservation area. Seconded by Cllr Gorton and carried with 4 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

In accordance with S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 press and members of the public were excluded from the meeting whilst items 13.5 and 13.6 were considered. The minutes from this part of the meeting remain confidential.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th January 2020

This meeting closed at 9.49pm.