

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd July 2018

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West, County Councillor Julie Wisson

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 Parish Councillors Jeff Gorton and Giles Scott. James Catmur signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** It was noted that councillors had an interest in item 15.1. as trustees of the Great Gransden Public Recreation Ground incorporating the Multi-use Games Area site.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th June 2018, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for twenty minutes. County Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the decision of the Traffic Manager on the 40mph buffer zone along Meadow Road. Councillor Wisson supported the views of residents who wanted the buffer zone extended further along Meadow Road, citing the number of properties where horse riders exit onto the road, the bends and the hill but the Highways Officer was adamant that the zone should not extend further. If residents want a lower speed limit, a 50mph limit after the 40mph zone is more likely to be supported. Andrew Pett commented that had the Parish Council not supported the published proposal for a 40mph zone, funding for it could have been withdrawn. Residents of Meadow Road commented that the 'research' was biased towards the motorist as it is difficult for pedestrians to walk to the village. Councillors also commented that there appears to be a set of guidelines that has to be adhered to; other villages such as Longstowe have long 30 and 40mph limits. At the request of councillors, Julie Wisson agreed to find out if there would be support from Highways to move the 30mph to the 40mph zone. A resident also asked if there could be an additional open forum session at the end of the meetings but this would mean extending the length of meetings. District Councillor Richard West confirmed his support for the Local Highway Improvement Bid. Having also supported the Parish Council's planning application for the Multi-use Games Area (Muga), he was not able to vote in support at the Development Management committee and this will need consideration in the future when planning applications are supported by District Councillors. A Mandene Gardens resident spoke about the move by Catesby Properties to purchase the listed cottage on the corner of Sand Road and Mill Road enabling a footway improvement scheme to be submitted for the Sand Road development. Comments on the District Council's website highlight the limitations of the scheme due to the topography.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - 6.1. **Local Highway Improvement Bid 2018/19.** The County Council's decision was made on the 14th June 2018 and the 40mph buffer zone is to be implemented as published, rather than being extended further along Meadow Road.
 - 6.2. **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet.** Nick Ginn reported on the recent project progress meeting presented by Highways England. They are having to remodel their traffic predictions at the Black Cat to adjust the traffic data for their preferred route application to the Secretary of State. Whilst a preferred route has been selected this has not yet been announced. The predicted

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2018 – continued

Matters Arising – continued:

timelines include submission of the preferred route application for approval by the Secretary of State by the end of the year. If the route is approved, it will be 12 months before a planning application can be made; the application process takes 16 to 18 months, with 3 to 4 years for the projected construction. It would appear that traffic flow and costs are the deciding factors. There is funding available to communities affected by the project to mitigate its effects such as noise reduction measures or ways of managing increased traffic on alternative routes.

Councillor Julie Wisson left

7. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2019/20. The chairman reported that the deadline is 31st July 2018 for bids. The traffic sub-committee had met in June, and based on the experience of previous bids and residents' feedback, the recommendation was for a 50mph zone from the village limits on Meadow Road to the 40mph zone, a second moveable interactive speed sign and an extra post. The total estimated cost is £8,000 with a suggested 20% contribution from the Parish Council up to £2,000. Councillors considered making a more aggressive bid, applying to move the 30mph to the 40mph limit and moving the 40mph zone further out. Evidence will be needed in support and whilst there is a good case to make such a bid, if it doesn't fit the criteria of Highways, the bid will fail. Andrew Pett proposed that a bid is made for a 50mph zone along Meadow Road and an additional interactive sign up to a maximum cost of £10,000 with the Parish Council's contribution at 20% up to a maximum of £2,000. Seconded by Nick Ginn and carried unanimously. Chairman to draft the submission bid.

8. Audit of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018. The internal auditor's report had been circulated. Councillors noted the matters raised relating to hand annotated page numbers which are now printed, the minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings which will now be sequentially numbered, discussion of salaries which should take place in a closed forum and claiming vat on projects where the parish council is the sole trustee. Clerk to seek further guidance from Capalc on reclaiming vat and will also ask Cambs Acre to advise on Parish Councils as sole trustee.

9. Gransden Matters Forum. Nigel Day reported that members of the forum have from time to time continued to post on the forum. Peter King reported that if the forum is to continue, further work is needed to highlight the privacy policy. Councillors commented that when it was first launched, a lot was posted by villagers to raise issues of concern, but now it is just being used for notifying members to look at the website when copies of minutes and agenda are available. Councillors unanimously agreed to close the forum, giving notice of the intention to do so. Proposed Nick Ginn, seconded Peter King.

10. Financial Statement for June 2018. 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 2018.

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

Proposed Nick Ginn, seconded Nigel Day.

Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (May)	£481.20
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (June)	£200.00
Clerk's salary for June 2018	£499.23
Clerk's office expenses for June	£12.37
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2018 – continued

Cheques for approval - continued

LGS Services for internal audit 2017/18	£90.00
Mrs D Taylor for HDC planning fee (Reading Room cottage)	£103.00
Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (June)	£257.40

12. Trees. Michael Capps reported that there is one tree in the cemetery requiring emergency work. The elm trees in Church Street need 1 metre taken off when next pollarded and 3 need removing as recommended in the Tree Survey Report. Councillors unanimously agreed to carry out the recommended work on the trees and quotes will be obtained. Proposed Michael Capps, seconded Andrew Pett. The survey also recommends work on trees in the churchyard and playing field including a horse chestnut tree for which removal is recommended. Clerk to seek the advice of the HDC's Tree Officer as the District Council's policy has been to manage horse chestnuts rather than remove. Some work recommend by the Tree Survey Report can be carried out inhouse, such as removal of ivy. The Tree Survey specifies the work needed on village trees over the next 2 years after which further inspection will be required. Michael Capps agreed to prepare a list of the tree work for the clerk to submit a tree works application to HDC. Quotes will also be obtained.

13. Highways. There are a number of overgrown hedges making some footpaths difficult to use. Clerk to put a note in Roundabout. There is a sink hole along Dick and Doles Lane, which may have been reported by Little Gransden Parish Council. The pothole on the corner of Fox Street has still not been repaired. Hardwicke Road is also in need of repair.

14. Correspondence. 14.1. The Crown and Cushion Public House has been nominated as an Asset of Community Value. A panel of District Council officers will assess the nomination and make a decision by 25th July 2018.

14.2. A quote has now been received for the cost of installing a new window and door making a total cost of £1,584 for supply and installation. This is the lowest quote obtained and councillors unanimously agreed to accept the combined quotes. Proposed Michael Capps, seconded Nick Ginn. Planning permission will first be needed.

14.3. Training courses for councillors are available to book through Capalc. Councillors to notify the clerk should they wish to attend a course.

14.4. The Mandene Gardens light has now been installed and connected. A resident had emailed with his thanks.

14.5. The letter to HDC seeking designation of the neighbourhood area following the parish boundary, as recommended by the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee, was agreed.

15. Planning. 1. 18/00507/FUL To upgrade an old disused tennis court to a multi-use games area (MUGA) to create a safe games area for the local community, Tennis Court, Fox Street. Planning was granted at the Management Development Committee. Peter King agreed to join the Muga committee as the Parish Council representative.

15.2. 17/01375/OUT Outline planning permission for residential development of up to 40 dwellings, Land North East of Mandene Gardens Great Gransden. Councillors noted that the proposed footway improvement scheme makes no significant difference to sight lines which is based on traffic travelling at 22mph rather than the actual speed of traffic. The proposal takes some of the garden of the listed cottage on the corner of Sand Road. The planning consultation response from Highways suggests that no one has been out to look. Councillors noted the letter of objection and comments from Mr Thomas. The proposal will also involve the moving of the street light. It was proposed by Andrew Pett that the scheme should be rejected citing (1) the

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2018 - concluded

Planning – continued:

proposal adversely affects a listed cottage in the conservation area which would be significantly harmed by the proposed scheme; (2) the proposed new sight lines will not materially address the safety issues given the typical speed of existing traffic and (3) children going to and from school and the village shop are still having to cross too close to the junction impacting safety. Seconded by James Catmur and carried unanimously. Councillors agreed that the conservation officer should be consulted and Councillor West agreed to follow this up.

15.3. 17/00979/FUL Demolition of existing garages and erection of two detached houses with car parking between 31 And 32 Mandene Gardens. Councillors noted the revised description to demolition of existing garages and erection of two affordable housing units with car parking. Councillors agreed to comment, asking how changing the name to affordable housing units make them affordable with no evidence given of affordability such as shared ownership, assisted rent or Housing Association. Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Nigel Day.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th August 2018

This meeting closed at 9.45pm.