

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd Nov 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, 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.** Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson, Parish Councillor Debi Pearce and for the late arrival of Parish Councillor Ian Selkirk who arrived during open forum.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 5th October 2015, which had been circulated, were amended after item 13.1 to record the departure of Councillor Julie Wisson from the meeting. The amended minutes were accepted and accordingly signed by the chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for ten minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington spoke about HDC electoral arrangements and the cuts at CCC. She asked about parking in Fox Street having raised the matter last month. Ann Cosgrave reported that the Reading Room chairman will have a word with the shop owner. Organisations will be asked to use the car park at the rear to free up Fox Street although some events were so popular both the car park and Fox Street are full. Michael Capps asked about HDC electoral arrangements. The preference to change to whole elections is due to voting costs whereas the one third option provides continuity of experience. Councillor Richard West also spoke of the electoral arrangements stating that the Boundary Commission does not consider rural and urban areas to have different issues. Any changes will come in by 2021. He also provided the email address to report burglaries, reported the situation at Webbs Meadow and asked about areas that need weed removal.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - 6.1. **Mill Weir Lay-by.** Highways have provided a design for the grasscrete and details of time scale will be provided.
 - 6.2. **Village Tennis Court.** Councillors agreed to defer this item until discussion of the precept.
 - 6.3. **Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016/17.** The bid has been submitted. The chairman thanked councillors Ian Selkirk, Andrew Pett and Debi Pearce for putting the bid together.
 - 6.4. **Archiving Policy.** The draft policy had been circulated. Jeff Gorton proposed adoption, seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously. Two quotes had been obtained for secure shredding. As both quotes were very similar, councillors agreed the clerk to arrange the most convenient although onsite shredding was preferred.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.5. Play Equipment Repairs. Councillors had already agreed to replace the 3 flat swing seats. The baby swing seat at Mandene Gardens had also deteriorated. Jeff Gorton proposed replacing the baby swing seat, seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried unanimously. Two quotes had been obtained for replacing all 4 seats and a quote for repairing the see-saw. Jeff Gorton proposed acceptance of the quote from Wicksteed to replace 4 swing seats to include the labour charge of £160 and acceptance of the quote from David Brown of £78.50 for repairing the see-saw. Seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously.

6.6. Village Tree Planting. Debi Pearce had suggested a strategy to safeguard against the onset of ash tree disease and the resources available from HDC for lines of trees to connect two parishes or areas of a village. Councillors raised concerns about trees and road safety with overgrown trees already obscuring speed signs at the entrance to the village. As tree warden, Michael Capps receives information from HDC about trees prone to disease including elm, horse chestnut, oak and ash. Most tree planting is by householders. The Parish Council receives advice from HDC and will continue to monitor.

6.7. Middle Street Litter Bin. Councillors decided against moving the litter bin opposite the school entrance in Middle Street as it is well used and often full.

6.8. Cycling Safety/Walking. Following the last meeting, the clerk had contacted Cambridge Cycling Campaign to invite them to visit the village to advise on safety. No response had been received. The chairman reported on her discussions with the school for Road Safety Week commencing 23rd November, run in conjunction with BRAKE and also the CCC Education Department. The school will instigate a no parking for parents in Middle Street during school drop off and pick up times, with letters being sent out before hand to advise of the initiative and offering alternative street parking. 'NO PARKING' cones have been purchased and a number of parish councillors have agreed to help. As a joint initiative, the school will be eligible for a National School Travel Gold Award.

6.9. Reading Room Oil Tank. Two quotes had been received for replacing the oil tank. Councillors unanimously agreed acceptance of the lowest quote from Anglia Oil Tanks for £1,735, proposed by Michael Capps and seconded by Jeff Gorton. The oil tank has already been installed as the existing tank was leaking.

6.10. Elm Trees. Three quotes had been requested for pollarding the Church Street elm trees. Of the two received, Ann Cosgrave proposed acceptance of the quote from Town and Country Tree Surgery Company for £448 to include cutting the ivy at the base. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

7. Ecops Report. There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden.

8. Financial Statement for October 2015. 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 October 2015 which had been circulated.

9. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the 5 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 2.

10. Precept 2016/17. Councillors considered the notes that had been circulated. The Chairman reported that the expected expenditure is £18,500, existing ring fenced reserves are £8,000 and general reserves of half the precept are £11,750. Additional reserves are needed for the Highway Bid, chestnut paling, play equipment and street lighting. As reserves are high with an expected bank balance of £26,500 at the end of the financial year, councillors agreed that in addition to the items already identified, further reserves could be ring fenced, namely £2,500 for refurbishment of the village tennis court and £2,500 towards resurfacing the Sportsfield car park without the need for increasing the precept. The village tennis court project will need community support and further funding of the same amount set aside the following year as well. Jeff Gorton proposed a precept of £23,500, the same level as last year, seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously. Alan Rowbotham asked about the weeds around the tennis court. Most have been sprayed by Michael Capps.

11. Highways. Michael Capps reported the man holes in Caxton Road which have been reported to Anglian Water but has still not been repaired. Clerk to report again directly to the water company.

Jeff Gorton reported the water coming from Crow Tree Street and onto Little Gransden Lane. This has been reported and Highways are investigating. Also the Waresley Road grid outside Mr Ward's plot is getting lower. This was pointed out to Highways during the recent village inspection and the gullies have been cleaned.

Ann Cosgrave reported the manhole cover in Church Street which was gushing water during the recent downpour although Highways have already investigated this. Also the corner of the road outside the church in Caxton is very poor with a number of potholes. Grips are needed along the resurfaced section of Caxton Road as the water does not drain away and is a danger in icy weather.

Michael Capps reported that the HDC tree allocation will close shortly. The allotments are having some parish trees and as landlord of the site, councillors agreed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1. Jeff Gorton reported on the continuing parking problems at Webbs Meadow. He thanked District Councillors Barbara Boddington and Richard West for their support. Luminus has written to all the tenants reminding them of the terms and conditions of their tenancy agreements. There has been no improvement. The Parish Council will continue to support the residents affected by the parking issues.

12.2. Councillors are unable to provide information on the areas requiring weed removal until the spring but will continue to monitor.

12.3. Councillors noted the Hunts Forum AGM on 19th November.

12.4. Councillors noted the Capalc AGM on 10th December.

12.5. Email from HDC on Civil Parking Enforcement in Huntingdonshire. Councillors agreed to report parking issues in Middle Street and Webbs Meadow.

12.6. Councillors agreed to publicise the volunteer gritting scheme for this winter.

12.7. Details of training dates are available for councillors should anyone wish to attend.

12.8. Councillors noted the guidance on the Community Infrastructure Levy. A Neighbourhood Plan would be needed to obtain a larger percentage.

12.9. Councillors unanimously agreed to support the present one third election process rather than changing to whole council elections.

12.10. Councillors will notify CCC that the footpath running along the boundary of Berry Studios has not been cut.

12.11. Councillors noted the Cambourne to Cambridge bus consultation which councillors can respond to in a private capacity.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2015 – concluded:

13. Planning. 1. 15/01558/HHFUL Bay window extensions to kitchen and sitting room, extension to utility room and formation of en-suite within existing roof space, 30 Fox Street. Following discussion, Ann Cosgrave proposed ‘Refusal’ on the grounds that (1) the aluminium and glass extension to the front of the property is completely out of character in a conservation area, (2) it would change the character of the street scene and (3) the house is built in an old traditional style. Seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried unanimously.

2. 15/01841/TREE Horse Chestnut (L/TPO/35) crown thin by approx. 15%, clear phone lines and crown lift where required to give a 2 metre clearance to the adjacent houses, 40 West Street. Jeff Gorton proposed acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously.

The Next Meetings have been arranged for Wednesday 18th November 2015 (planning) and Monday 7th December 2015

This meeting closed at 9.15pm