

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3rd August 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West and County Councillor Julie Wisson

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

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Matters Arising:

6.8. Sand Path Stile. George Craze declared an interest as owner of the adjoining field.

Planning:

14.2. 2 Baldwins Manor. Andrew Pett declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a neighbouring property.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 6th July 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for ten minutes. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the meeting last month when the county council debated the Local Government Boundary changes and unanimously voted that the number of county councillors should not be further reduced from 63 to 61. The affected areas are to the north in Wisbech and March. The proposed alteration to the Gransden division was not discussed. The county council was objecting to the reduction in the number of councillors as proposed by the Boundary Commission review. Parish councillors commented that although their comments were made to the Boundary Commission objecting to Great Gransden being grouped with a large urban area, they had hoped for County Council support. Councillor Wisson commented that whoever represents Gransden must ensure that their voice is heard. If available, Councillor Wisson offered her help with speedwatch. She has also been involved with the sub-committee looking into speed reduction measures. Councillor Richard West spoke about the visit made last month to the industrial estates to try to alleviate the problem of HGVs through the village. He has written to the minister asking that the government looks into the use of Sat Navs for commercial vehicles as HGV drivers are using Sat Navs designed for cars, costing much less but routing inappropriately for lorries. He also asked if any paths need weeding. Michael Capps commented that the ideal time to treat weeds is in the spring. Councillor West is also due to have a meeting with the customer services manager and will suggest that there should be a pack available with telephone numbers of District Council officers which would be of help to parish councillors and clerks.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Mill Weir Lay-by. There was nothing further to report as the county council Highways officer dealing with the matter has now left. Clerk has contacted Ian Winfield for confirmation as to when the work to install the plastic grasscrete will go ahead. Councillors commented that if an officer leaves the county council, his work should be delegated to someone else and emails replied to rather than left unread. Councillor Wisson agreed to pass these comments on.

Matters Arising – continued:

Debi Pearce asked about responsibility for the pond as she had been approached by a fisherman asking if it was possible to clear the pond of weed. This is a seasonal problem and does not prevent continued fishing. The cost of treating the weed is expensive. It will die back and then sink.

It was suggested that a memorial bench could be installed by the pond. Councillors to consider this when deciding the precept.

6.2. Meadow Road Verges. Still no response has been received from Anglian Water concerning completion of the repairs following the water pipe replacement work. Some of the verges have been reseeded, but the road edges have not been repaired. One of the old fire hydrants was found dumped along The Riddy footpath. Clerk to write again to Anglian Water with a copy to Highways.

6.3. Cemetery Regulations. Councillors agreed an amendment to the regulations to allow grave diggers to use a mini digger weighing no more than 1.5 tonnes, with access to the cemetery through the Lych Gate. The regulations were also amended to clarify that wreaths should be taken away and disposed of rather than using the cemetery bin. Councillors also discussed a request by a villager to place a small wooden marker cross on an unmarked grave. Councillors agreed that the usual procedure must be followed, with approval to be sought in writing detailing the proposed memorial. Such applications are subject to a fee.

6.4. Speedwatch/Speeding. Ian Selkirk and Debi Pearce reported on the progress to date. Debi Pearce had organised the speedwatch training. Fourteen people have been trained and the equipment will be hired for September. The sub-committee had met to discuss speed reducing measures and had formulated a number of ideas. Moving the speed limit signs further out along Meadow Road and Caxton Road is one suggestion and although the Parish Council has tried this in the past, information gathered through speedwatch will add weight to any application. Seeking a 20mph speed limit in Middle Street is another option and may score more points in a funding application due to the location of the school. Some ideas will rely on discussions with the school. A change of junction priorities had also been discussed by the sub-committee, including Caxton Road/Fox Street, Waresley Road onto Meadow Road and Fox Street/West Street. The Parish Council had previously looked at changing the priority on Mill Road to stop traffic speeding along the road and thus making the Sand Road junction safer. The sub-committee will seek further information to ascertain the criteria for changing junction priorities and seek advice on what is achievable. It is a consultative process. Debi Pearce also reported on her recent meeting with the police training officer Brian Robins who has been very supportive both with the speedwatch campaign and ideas for speed reducing measures. During the walk round the village, he stopped 5 cars travelling in excess of the speed limit, 3 of which were mums with children.

A resident had provided the council with information on wheelie bin stickers.

Councillors agreed that the stickers were quite expensive and the money could be better spent elsewhere. Villages in South Cambridgeshire District have been provided with stickers by their district council. Clerk to obtain details of the cost and Debi Pearce agreed to establish if there would be any support from residents to purchase stickers.

Jeff Gorton spoke about the need for a greater police presence in the village following an increase in crime in the village, particularly the recent break-ins. Councillors agreed to refer the matter to the Police Problem Solving Team which can prioritise/target specific areas for a short period of time, requesting that Great Gransden is made a priority.

Stephanie Beaumont reported that PCSO Alan Newman had made several visits late at night following the vandalism at the playing field but it is not known if he spoke to any youths.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.5. HGVs. Ian Selkirk had spoken to DC Norris after following its delivery lorry up Middle Street at school pick up time and having to mount the kerb to pass parked cars. The driver had been following the Sat Nav direction. David Norris offered to write to his suppliers suggesting an alternative route. Jeff Gorton spoke that tractors through the village were adding to the problem as some are being driven too fast.

6.6 Wooden Train. David Brown has replaced the roof timbers with just the re-staining to complete. Playground Supplies Ltd had provided a quote for replacing the steering wheel. Councillors agreed with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention to replace the steering wheel at a cost of £52.50 plus vat. Should the new steering wheel be vandalised, it will not be replaced again.

6.7. Huntingdonshire Sign. Councillor Julie Wisson is chasing up the replacement sign.

6.8. Sand Path Stile. George Craze having declared an interest took no part in the discussion. CCC is able to provide a gate to replace the landowner's stile if the stile is serving a genuine purpose such as controlling livestock. Although the field is fenced for livestock, there is none in there at present. Michael Capps has in storage the old kissing gate from the cemetery and suggested offering this to replace the unstable stile. He will speak to the landowner.

6.9. Playing Field. Stephanie Beaumont spoke about replacing the two open playing field bins with covered ones, as they are collecting water making emptying difficult. Michael Capps agreed to make some holes in the metal liners to solve the problem. Following the vandalism on the field, Debi Pearce has removed the posts left in Little Lane. Michael Capps spoke about possible solutions to stop people going through the boundary hedge now that some posts had been removed. Chestnut paling or additional planting was suggested and the cost will need to be included in the precept. Clerk to obtain the cost of chestnut paling. The metal bench in the playing field will be recoated. (Julie Wisson left)

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No.1. Michael Capps commented that there have also been incidents at the industrial estate but these are not reported via ecops.

8. Financial Statement for July 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of July 2015.

9. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the 5 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 3.

10. Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016/17. The chairman read out the email from Jo Challis, District Highway Manager, advising that a depot open day on 1st September is being held to advise on Local Highway Improvement bids. Stephanie Beaumont and Ian Selkirk agreed to attend and clerk to book a place.

11. Reading Room Trustees. Councillors considered the advice from Cambs Acre and the two types of trustees – custodian and charity. The Reading Room management committee is responsible for the day to day running of the hall and the advice seems to be that the committee members should be registered as the charity trustees. Although the Parish Council is the custodian trustee, the parish councillors are registered as the charity trustees. Following discussion, George Craze proposed that there should be no change to the charity trustees as registered with the charity commission. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 5 votes in favour and 4 abstentions.

12. Highways. George Craze reported the edges along Waresley Road. Julie Wisson is chasing this.

Andrew Pett commented that the gravel has been removed at the junction.

Michael Capps reported the manhole cover in Caxton Road is getting worse. Despite being marked for some time the repair has still not been completed.

Stephanie Beaumont reported weeds coming up through the Caxton Road pavement from the corner of Fox Street.

Jeff Gorton reported the manholes in Waresley Road are too low causing a hazard.

Debi Pearce commented that the gravel wash-out by the Waresley Road junction originates further up the road from a disintegrating road repair and will reoccur.

Alan Rowbotham commented that the storm damage at the bottom of Crow Tree Street has been cleared.

13. CORRESPONDENCE. 13.1. George Craze reported that the Sportsfield car park needs harrowing and rolling again but the work will need to be done by a contractor in view of the potholes. Alan Rowbotham commented that due to the varying levels, the area will need digging out to level it before resurfacing at a cost of some £25,000.

Michael Capps commented when Caxton Road was resurfaced, the contractor rotavated the area to a depth of half a metre and rolled it before resurfacing with tarmac. This might provide a solution for the car park as there will be no need to remove any existing material. Clerk to try to find the details of the contractor.

Stephanie Beaumont read out an email from Phil Taylor requesting the parish council's support in upgrading the heating, lighting and electrical system in the pavilion .

Councillors agreed subject to the Sportsfield committee underwriting the cost.

13.2. Councillors noted the consultation on the Licensing Act 2003.

13.3. Councillors noted the Gambling Act 2005 consultation.

13.4. Councillors noted the letter about the community paint scheme.

13.5. Letter from HDC advising on the council's unsuccessful application for a Community Chest Grant. Future applications may be more successful if the Parish Council also made a financial commitment.

13.6. Letters from CCC advising there is to be no change in operational lighting times but there will be a 15% increase in energy costs commencing 1st October 2015. Clerk to seek an alternative supplier.

13.7. Public Rights of Way Grass Cutting. CCC has placed an order for 3 cuts this year and is asking for any paths not cut to be notified in October. Councillors noted the contractors are making a good.

13.8. Email from Barbara Boddington requesting any pavements with weeds in need of spraying. This has been dealt with under Highways.

13.9. Letter from Ann Girling on behalf of the Julia Norris Trust requesting a donation towards the cost of refurbishing the Alms houses in Little Gransden. Whilst not against the proposal, the Parish Council's policy is not to make donations as it is public money.

14. Planning. 1. 15/01122/HHFUL Barn extension to form carport and store,

Hayfield Cottage, 22 Little Gransden Lane. The proposed extension does not interfere with anyone. George Craze proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it will not be detrimental to the surrounding area. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

2. 15/01004HHFUL Fenestration alteration, 2 Baldwins Manor. Andrew Pett having declared a pecuniary interest left the hall. Michael Capps proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it has no impact on neighbouring residence. Seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 7th September 2015

This meeting closed at 9.50pm