

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL.
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3rd August 2020
by remote conference.

Those present were:

Giles Scott, Vice Chairman;	James Catmur, Parish Councillor;
Catherine Fox, Clerk;	Nigel Day, Parish Councillor;
Michael Capps, Parish Councillor;	Peter King, Parish Councillor;
Nick Ginn, Parish Councillor;	Lisbeth Ricciardi, Parish Councillor;
Jeff Gorton, Parish Councillor;	
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 Councillor Andrew Pett and County Councillor Julie Wisson.

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

4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 6th July 2020 and also of the planning meeting held on 20th July 2020, which had been circulated, were approved and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for 7 minutes.

Councillor West reported that due to the redeployment of staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been a backlog of planning applications to be registered and an increase in the amount of time applications are taking to be determined. National Government are due to make changes to the planning system to make it more effective.

As Chairman of the Reading Room Committee, Anne Constantine requested that the trustees be fully involved when considering the implications of the Review of the Reading Room Cottage Tenancy Agreement (Item 13.5).

6. **Matters Arising.**

6.1 NDP Steering Group Update. Councillor Day reported that the work of the NDP Steering group had been progressing albeit slowly. The steering group would like to present to the Parish Council to get views and input on the plan before it is submitted. No decisions about it need to be made immediately but it was felt that it would be prudent to make plans in good time. It was suggested that a focus group from the Parish Councillor meet with the NDP Steering group and feedback to Councillors at the next Parish Council meeting. Queries were raised on the necessity of a Neighbourhood Development Plan given the proposed reform of planning procedures. Councillor West commented that the presence of a neighbourhood plan would be hugely beneficial and that any future planning applications would be put against it. A plan that has been submitted for consultation carries further weight still.

6.2 Gate at Doctors Lane. Speeding cyclists have been causing concern on Doctors Lane. A request had been made previously for the installation of a kissing gate to try and mitigate this. The Parish council had investigated this at great length but, due to the need to keep access for pedestrians with buggies, prams and wheelchairs it was felt that anything preventative would also be restrictive. Councillor Capps provided a quote for the replacement of the old metal gate, although it was noted that sadly, this would not prevent cyclists from building up considerable speed down the path. In light of this, it was agreed that new signage should be installed at both ends of the path. This would serve to highlight the restrictions on the pathway without restricting

its usage for other user groups. Councillor Capps will remove the old damaged gate and obtain quotes for new signage. Clerk to contact Highways about the replacement/restoration of the existing public footpath signs.

6.3 GSRA Update. Councillor Ginn reported that the committee had costed and designed a gate for the Caxton Road entrance of the sports field, which would be funded by the GSRA. This was in response to growing concerns around objectional use and unlawful occupation of the sports field. The pedestrian access to the field will remain unobstructed. The Parish Council offered unanimous support to the plans for the gate; offering minor feedback on the hinging of the proposed gate to make it less susceptible to vandalism.

6.4 Replacement Sign at playing field entrance. Councillor Capps had obtained a quote for £172 plus VAT to replace the one that had been damaged. Discussions were had around the height of the new sign, and its vulnerability to vandalism. The new sign will be placed in front of the tree. Due to the proposed cost of the new sign, councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the quote available. This was proposed by Councillor Gorton and seconded by Councillor King.

7. Local Highways Improvement Bid 2021/22. Councillors noted the deadline of 27th September for new applications. Councillor Scott will draft a document summarising all suggestions received so far and send to clerk for distribution and discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Consultations

The North East Cambridge Area Action plan dates were noted.

Similarly, dates for the Buckden Submission (Regulation 16) Neighbourhood Plan were also noted.

9. Audit of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020. Councillors noted the internal auditors report although no matters had been raised that required immediate action. It was noted that the issue of the closed burial ground maintenance is historic but will be reviewed again in April 2021 where full consideration can be given to the auditor's comments.

10. Financial Statement for July 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 July 2020.

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

Proposed Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Gorton.

Clerk's salary for July 2020	£ 561.08
Clerk's expenses for July 2020	£ 27.28
LGS Services (<i>Internal Auditor Fees</i>)	£ 114.00
CAPALC	£ 75.00
DP Garden works & Grounds Maintenance (<i>cemetery grass cuts – July</i>)	£ 230.00
Buchans Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance	£ 289.95
R McIntosh (Garden of Remembrance – July 2020)	£ 7.50
BT (<i>Broadband installation at the Reading Rooms</i>)	£ 42.50

12. Highways.

Councillors reported no new potholes.

Councillor Capps requested that councillors continue to monitor the health of the commemorative trees on Church Street. It is likely that provision for the removal of these trees

due to age and infirmity would need to be made in the next budget. Councillor Capps will photograph the trees for future reference.

13. Correspondence.

13.1. Councillors noted the revision of dates for the NVM Surface dressing 2020 Program.

13.2. Following a query from a resident, around the Sports field being used for commercial use, it was re-iterated that this was a matter for the GSRA committee. Councillor Ginn confirmed that evidence of insurances and proposed terms of use had not been received by anyone currently undertaking commercial activity on the field and therefore no formal approval had been given. This matter will be referred back to and investigated by the GSRA.

13.3. Concerns had been raised by a resident around the proximity of the electric tape fencing on the dole field to the footpath and the potential trip hazard presented by the hose pipe providing the horses with water. Councillors felt that the electric fencing was not in breach of any safety standards and/or laws and similar fences had been in place for a considerable number of years. Councillors noted that the signage may not be adequate enough to appropriately warn people and therefore the Clerk will make contact with the landowner to request that additional signs be installed.

13.4. A Letter received from the Reading Room Committee regarding the Reading Room Car Park had requested that the Parish Council consider resurfacing the car park to the rear of the reading room. Councillors agreed that this would be a substantial undertaking and would need further more detailed consideration. A working group consisting of Councillor Ginn, Councillor King, Councillor Ricciardi and Councillor Capps will convene to discuss sensible and feasible changes to the car park to ensure it is a useful asset to the village. Feedback will be given to the remainder of the Parish Council at the next meeting.

13.5. This item was considered confidential and therefore moved to the end of the meeting.

13.6. Councillors noted the correspondence from Bluebell-19 seeking ideas for the commemoration of village life during the covid-19 period. Councillors unanimously agreed that the planting of a tree would be a fitting reminder. However, given that the pandemic is still very much ongoing, a final decision will be made at a later date.

13.7. The notification of the temporary closure of Caxton Road was noted. Clerk to obtain clarity on the exact dates of closure to ensure minimal disruption to the Gransden Show / harvest traffic.

14. Planning.

1. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/01041/LBC.

Retention of works carried out to address previous fire damage.

Old Cottage 22 West Street Great Gransden.

Councillors noted that a large proportion of the works undertaken had been a vast improvement on those which had been carried out historically prior to the fire. Councillors unanimously agreed *approval* on the grounds that the works were both necessary and sensible. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Ricciardi.

2. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/00752/FUL.

Erection of a first floor extension over existing post office and shop, including external access stairs to rear of post office, to form a single apartment dwelling.

Land At And Including 6 To 8 Fox Street Great Gransden.

Councillors felt that the new information provided gave no reason for reconsideration of previous points made and that therefore, on this occasion no further comment would be submitted. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Capps.

3. PLANNING APPLICATION CCC/20/026/FUL - Replacement Mobile Classroom – Barnabas Oley.

According to the plans submitted, the proposed locations for the planting of replacement trees were not on Parish Council land and therefore Councillors felt that as approval of the replacement classroom had previously been given, there was no further comment to make. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Ricciardi.

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

This meeting closed at 9:09pm.