

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3rd February 2020

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Catherine Fox Clerk

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Lisbeth Ricciardi Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Richard West,
and 3 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7:30pm with a silent prayer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Councillor Ginn and Councillor Scott.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 6th January 2020 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for fifteen minutes. District Councillor Richard West commented on the recent announcement that the East West Rail Link will follow Route E. This chosen route makes maximum use of existing infrastructure corridors, meaning that the impact on surrounding countryside will be limited. However, until the final details are disclosed, the direct impact the route will have remains unclear.
 Cllr West also mentioned that early indications of the 2020/21 budget are that council tax may rise by 2.6%. Discussions will be had over the next few weeks at Scrutiny and Cabinet before the Full Council meeting on 26th February 2020.
 Cllr Wisson reported that unfortunately the County Council Childrens and Young People Committee who provide funding for high needs children were currently running at a £6 million deficit. The school's forum (comprising of primary and secondary school representation) had voted in opposition to the County Council's proposed cuts. This is unfortunate, but Cllr Wisson said that sadly the County Council have no viable funding alternative.
 A member of the public raised concerns around the latest update to the developer's application (**17/01375/OUT Land North East of Mandene Gardens**). Having spoken in depth to the planning officer at HDC, he was able to give a detailed update on the current situation. The application was originally approved subject to conditions being met (specifically those relating to the junction between Sand Road and Mill Road.) In the original application, the developer stated that the land needed was owned by either themselves or Highways. However, this has transpired not to be the case with plans resubmitted on the HDC planning portal that more accurately reflect the reduced footpath widths. It is possible that this mis-information may leave the application open to a judicial review, although this has not been confirmed. Cllr Catmur commented that there are no legal minimum widths for the footpaths. However from a safety perspective, the Parish Council hold concerns over the proposed footpath widths. The junction works and visibility splay form a critical pre-condition of the application being approved and these conditions have not been met. The Parish Council will be asked to comment on the revised plans submitted (although at the current time of the meeting they had not been formally asked to do so). The member of the public queried the case officer at HDCs suggestion that the application would not be passed back to the DMC. It was asked that the Parish Council seek clarity on this point. The Clerk will contact HDC for further information.

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6. Matters Arising:

6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Cllr Pett reported that the committee had last met on 8th January 2020. Both Bourn and Gamlingay (as local GP surgeries) had been contacted to request meetings around the possibility of medical facilities being re-instated within the village. Bourn Surgery had previously provided a service but this had been withdrawn. Cllr Pett also reported that the NDP were looking at the introduction of a development boundary for the village. Currently there are no development boundary plans in the Local Plan which covers up to 2036 but HDC have said that if the NDP could make a sound case for such a boundary this could be incorporated before the Plan goes out to consultation.

6.2. Cambourne to Cambridge Local Liaison Plan. Cllr Catmur had attended this forum and reported that the proposed plans had no direct impact on Great Gransden. There may be potential for some of the additional bus services to stop in the village, but this would be at the service providers discretion. No specific details were given around points such as car parking. The route is due for construction in 2025 although this may be subject to change due to the East West Rail announcement.

6.3. Operation London Bridge. Cllr Pett confirmed that a protocol had been received from Cambs County Council. This will be circulated to all councillors for information.

7. Grass Cutting Contracts.

Sportsfield- Cllr Ginn was not present to report back from the last GRSA meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute the same amount as in the previous year with any additional costs to be met by the Sportsfield association.

Cemetery- It was unanimously agreed to approach the existing service provider to re-tender for the coming year. The Clerk will follow up on the initial enquiry made and present the new quote to councillors for consideration once it is received.

8. Cemetery Extension.

Adlams Solicitors had enquired as to whether the Parish Council may wish to commission additional searches on the land for the cemetery extension. As the land has always been common land, Cllrs deemed these additional searches to be unnecessary. A local surveyor (recommended by Adlams) will visit the site to assess and prepare a quotation for providing documentation for the land registry transfer. This is expected to cost around £250 ex VAT but will be confirmed when the quote is received. This will then be brought to the next meeting for councillors to consider.

The existing boundary fence of the cemetery will not be moved until such a time that the new land is required. In the interim period, a more permanent marker than the current wooden stakes will be erected so that the area is clearly defined for the future. Cllr Gorton agreed to look into this.

9. Reading Room Cottage Refurbishment. The occupant of the Reading Room cottage had enquired as to progress with the works to be done on the door and windows of the cottage. Cllr Pett recalled submitting the planning application but no further information was available. The Clerk and Cllr Pett will look into the status of the application, and if all has been approved will seek to move this forward.

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10. Play Equipment Safety Report. Cllr King reported that the inspection of the play equipment at the park had been completed. Findings from the report had highlighted the need for remedial works on both the see-saw and the climbing frame. The see-saw is in need of urgent repair with broken wooden boards that could potentially be dangerous. Works required on the climbing frame though highlighted in the report are cosmetic. The quote received from Sportsafe UK to rectify the problems was considered high for the work involved. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr King suggested a ‘working group’ be put together to address the maintenance that is required. Discussions were had around the liability of the Parish Council if a registered contractor was not used. However, it was decided that the works were not structural and as an inspection would be conducted again by a registered contractor once works were complete, it would be acceptable to proceed. Cllr King will organise this working group. Cllr Wisson suggested ROSPA as an alternative company for inspections and maintenance in the future. ROSPA currently maintain the play equipment in Abbotsley and it may be possible to join their inspection rota at a more favourable price than Sportsafe. Clerk will look into this.

11. Financial Statement. for January 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 January 2020.

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

Proposed Cllr Pett, seconded Cllr Capps.

1. Mrs C Fox – clerk’s salary for January 2020	£593.45*
2. Mrs C Fox – clerk’s expenses for January 2020	£5.76
3. Cambridgeshire CC – Parish Energy 2019/20	£1220.36
4. Sportsafe - Inspection of Play equipment Invoice no 550026	£54.00
5. Sportsafe - Attendance fee for Play equipment inspection Invoice no 557832 (balance against 550026)	£54.00
6. Branching Out- Play Area/Churchyard works	£600.00

*It was noted by councillors that the Clerk’s salary payment was higher than in previous months. This was due to the Clerk being new to role with additional hours required in this initial month to ensure a smooth and effective handover from the retiring Clerk. It is expected that the Clerk’s salary will return to a standard amount from next month. Weekly hours will continue to be monitored and will be formally reviewed in April.

13. Highways.

Councillors reported no new potholes though the following issues were raised:

13.1 Crow Tree Street – Cllr Capps commented that the repairs on the pothole on Crow Tree Street had been poor and had already disintegrated. Clerk will contact county Highways again.

13.2 HGVs- Larger lorries remain a problem in the village. Cllr Capps suggested that a road sign diverting lorries away from unsuitable roads may be of benefit to the village. This was agreed- Cllr Pett will pursue this.

Cllr Day reported that a villager had raised concerns about a large lorry obstructing the road on Mill Road. Cllr Pett confirmed that as it is an offence to block a highway, and if the driver is not co-operative, advice to the resident should be to call the police.

13.3 Mud on West Street – Cllr King noted the mess left by those working on the entrance to the field adjacent to 37 West Street.

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14. Correspondence.

14.1 Ike Saul Memorial Road Race Notification. Councillors noted the advanced notice of the upcoming road race on Sunday 15th March 2020.

14.2 Nalc Spring Conference. Councillors noted the invitation to the Spring conference on 17th March 2020.

14.3. Invitation to Cambs Local Councils Peer Learning and Networking Event. Councillors noted the invitation to attend on 31st March 2020.

14.4 Additional Village Speed Sign Cllr Pett had received correspondence from village residents who currently move and look after the moveable flashing speed sign in the village. The question of purchasing a second sign had been raised. Cllr Pett reported that previous requests to highways to fund a static sign of this nature had been declined, with the opinion being that the fixed signs were of limited effectiveness after a period of time. Cllr Pett confirmed that at over £2000 each, these signs were expensive. However, it may be possible to use CIL monies as a sign like this would be considered an enhancement to the community. It was decided that the Clerk and Cllr Pett should look into this. Cllr Pett will respond to the village resident who had raised the query initially.

14.5 Waresley and Gransden Woods – Notification was received of the closure of the woods due to deterioration of footpaths.

14.6 Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Adoption of the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document. This has been received as the Parish council had previously requested to be notified. Councillors noted its content with no further action required.

14.7 Email from Mark Gay (Hayfield) in response to comments raised re reserved matters application (19/01467/REM - Land north-east of Mandene Gardens)

At the time of the meeting, a response had been received from Mark Gay relating to comments previously made by the Parish Council. These responses were noted. The Parish Council will give further comment when formally asked.

14.8 Notices on Barn at 18 Middle Street Cllr Pett had received correspondence from residents at 18 Middle Street confirming that due to the barn undergoing extensive renovations, it would no longer be able to be used for displaying village notices. However, the resident had offered permissive use of a section of their fence (between the 20mph sign and the school sign) as an alternative. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Gorton conveyed his thanks to the residents for their consideration. This offer of the use of the fence was unanimously supported. Cllr Pett will respond to the resident to both pass on the thanks of the Parish Council; and also to suggest that they put a post on Touchbase / Roundabout to make village residents aware of the new arrangements.

15. Planning.

15.1 1. APPLICATION REF. 20/00034/HHFUL

Demolition of existing porch, and construction of front and rear single storey extensions.21 Caxton Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AW Councillors noted that the proposed development was just outside the permitted development guidelines. Cllr Gorton proposed ‘*Approval*’ on the grounds that it would be creating reasonable accommodation for a family whilst maintaining a small property. Seconded by Cllr Pett and unanimously carried.

2. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 18/00958/FUL

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Hybrid planning application comprising: 1) Applying for outline planning permission for the erection of 38 custom/self build houses with roads, services, attenuation pond and infrastructure; and 2) Full planning permission for the erection of 5 custom/self-build show houses with sales centre & car parking following demolition of factory and offices Potton Ltd Eltisley Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AR. Councillors agreed to submit comments to HDC expressing that the green quadrant surrounding the tree on the corner of Fox Street and West Street must not be lost for either/both of the proposed crossings. The Parish Council also wished to raise concerns around the proposed drainage works. It is felt these plans will exacerbate the existing problem of the slow permeating culvert in Fox Street. Clerk to submit these comments to HDC Planning by the 6th February deadline.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7:30pm.

This meeting closed at 8:54pm.