

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3rd July 2017

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 3 members of the public

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors George Craze, Jeff Gorton and Ian Selkirk.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 5th June 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for twenty minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington reported that the Chief Executive of Luminus had resigned. A car parking survey is starting today and will run for 6 weeks. The Community Chest grants are being decided tonight with applications from 2 Great Gransden organisations on the list for consideration. Councillor Julie Wisson spoke about the Ely southern by-pass. Ely has free car parking making it a honey pot for tourism. She also reported having passed on the concerns of Councillor Rowbotham about the sight lines on the A428 junction to Great Gransden. A site visit will take place to look at the issues. She had also received a complaint about speeding traffic in Meadow Road. Debi Pearce reported that there will be another speedwatch session on Meadow Road and the new PC will also be present. Councillor Wisson was asked about the traffic survey being carried out in Abbotsley but was unsure if this was connected to the A428 improvement scheme. She also spoke about a consultation concerning the footbridge over the river at St Neots costing £2 - £4 million which will use mainly S106 money. Four proposals have been put forward for consultation and the public's opinions are being sought. Councillor Richard West reported on 2 events this week including a members' summit where members were asked how to improve HDC. A quarterly newsletter has been suggested to keep residents involved and informed. He also spoke about the Tree Warden situation with a meeting scheduled next week; the need for a tree officer and additional support to ensure a wider service for parish councils. Due to short comings with planning services, 3 new planning officers are to be employed but this cost must be paid for out of planning fees, council tax or government grant to avoid corruption. Nigel Day addressed councillors on his proposed planning application to build a property on land forming part of Windmill House, his present home which includes fields surrounding the windmill. As Windmill House is now too big for them, he would like to split the site in two, building a new home and stabling for themselves but leaving most of the land within the curtilage of the existing house, approximately 10 acres. The proposed trustees of the windmill had approached him to acquire some land to enhance the windmill site, allowing the sails to be turned for maintenance and with a view to it becoming a working mill for visitors. As part of the proposal to build a new home, he would make available land to the parish council which could be leased to the windmill trust. The plot is outside the village limits, and a planning consultant is putting together a pre-planning meeting with HDC. Councillors thanked him for providing this information early on in the process commenting that any transfer of land would have to involve CCC, the present owners of the mill.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Stephanie Beaumont reported that a meeting has been arranged for Thursday 20th July at 7.30pm in the Reading Room. Debi Pearce agreed to create a banner, posters and leaflets advertising the meeting to try to ensure as many residents as possible attend.

6.2. Tree Safety. HDC does not at present offer a tree survey service. Michael Capps will be attending a tree safety seminar in August and councillors agreed to wait until after the seminar before considering a formal survey of the village trees. Michael Capps commented on the lack of support from HDC concerning a tree strategy, particularly as HDC's tree officer does not come out to give advice on village trees, instead referring parish councils to commercial organisations to assist. In view of the length of time that has elapsed since advice was first sought about the ash trees in Little Lane, Michael Capps proposed obtaining the advice and quotes of 3 contractors to carry out the necessary work to these trees. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

6.3. Sand Road Residential Development. Andrew Pett reported that no planning application had yet been received. Councillors who had attended the public exhibition commented that residents had the opportunity to put forward their views but felt that the land promotor, Catesby Property Group, were selling the idea of planning; on the diagram provided only 28 houses were shown and not the 40 proposed. The data from the feedback forms would be published within the planning application. Information was also available on Catesby's website.

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

8. Financial Statement for June 2017. 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 2017.

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

Proposed Stephanie Beaumont, seconded Debi Pearce.	
Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (May)	£238.80
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (June)	£190.00
Clerk's salary for June 2017	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for June	£64.88
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£15.00
Huntingdonshire District Council for tree safety seminar	£52.00
Councillors also approved for payment the cost of an additional place on the tree safety seminar in the sum of £52 if the extra place is confirmed by HDC.	

10. Fishing at Mill Weir. Councillors agreed that a new sign is needed, the old one being out of date as reference is made to the requirement for a permit rather than a licence. Clerk to obtain quotes for the cost of a new sign to be sited nearer the top of the existing post, with the agreed wording 'National Fishing By-laws apply concerning licences. Fishing restricted to the Gransdens' residents. By order of Great Gransden Parish Council'. Councillors agreed not to impose a closed fishing season but would review this if any problems arise.

11. Publication of Background Papers. Following the internal auditor's report, councillors considered the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. Many meeting papers are already available on the parish council website in accordance with the Transparency Code but should members of the public wish to seek additional papers a request can be made to the clerk. The website will be amended to include this. The chairman and the clerk will continue to liaise about the publication of background papers and the matter will be reviewed annually.

(Barbara Boddington left)

12. Highways. Stephanie Beaumont asked when the next grass cutting will take place. Debi Peace commented that there are rocks in the bank opposite the school. The bank is crumbling away and is a hazard for anyone cutting the grass. Clerk to flag this up. The footpath adjacent to the Berry Close Studios will be checked to ensure it is free of brambles. There are also brambles along Little Lane.

Michael Capps reported the hedge along Caxton Road, adjacent to Audley Close. Visibility is restricted when leaving the close. Highways has already agreed to cut it but the work has not yet been done. Clerk to chase.

Highways has reported that the section of Meadow Road where the edge of the road is sinking does not require any action at the present time.

13. CORRESPONDENCE. 13.1. One quote had been obtained for the cost of re-laying the church path and further quotes were being sought. Councillors considered the church's request to erect a noticeboard. Of the photographs provided, councillors agreed the smaller noticeboard was acceptable but that it should be erected to the right of the lychgate and behind the bench on the other side of the church wall. The previous noticeboard, which had been sited to the left of the war memorial, was removed because it spoiled the look of the church.

13.2. The cost of emptying village bins not on the HDC's bin route is £252.64 per bin per annum. A new rota has been drawn up and these bins will continue to be emptied by councillors.

13.3. Alan Rowbotham reported that Gransden Catering Company are seeking permission to hold a music event on the Sportsfield on 2nd September. There will be no parking on the field, Hardwicke Road and the industrial estate will be used for parking and security will be hired. The sportsfield committee has already provided information and advice including the need to maintain access to Hardwicke Road.

13.4. Email from residents concerned about the aircraft noise from planes carrying out aerobatics from Little Gransden airfield. A copy of the complaint form had been sent to the residents, which if completed and sent to the airfield, will be investigated by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the complaint has to be logged. There are designated areas where the pilots can practice aerobatics.

13.5. Letter from the Big Lottery Fund advising that the application for a grant to purchase speed watch equipment had been unsuccessful as traffic and road issues are not a priority of their funding. Further funding applications will be considered.

13.6. Alan Rowbotham reported that the Reading Room committee is looking into the purchase of a new projector.

14. Planning. 1. 17/01088/HHFUL Single storey rear extension, 35 West Street. Michael Capps proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it is an acceptable improvement to a village dwelling. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

2. 17/01188/HHFUL Single storey rear extension and alterations following demolition of existing lean to building, 8 Middle Street. Michael Capps proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it is an acceptable replacement to an old extension. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

3. 17/01182/HHFUL Extension to existing dwelling to provide new atrium, garaging (3 spaces), a domestic workshop and annexe comprising bedroom, shower, living room and kitchenette, Home Barn Eltisle Road. Stephanie Beaumont proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it is a large plot to support the extension proposed. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried with 5 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Planning – continued:

4. 17/01208/FUL Erection of 2 replacement and 2 new build dwellings following demolition of two bungalow properties and garages and widening of access onto Fox Street, Land at and including 12 And 14 Eltisley Road. Councillors commented on the difficulty in understanding the plot lay-out as the plots were not numbered on the plans. Comments were made on the proposed widening of the driveway leading to Fox Street, the density of the proposed development, over-development of the site and the need to retain the open space on the corner of Fox Street and Eltisley Road. The lack of garages for the size of property was also discussed. Councillors noted that existing houses would not be overlooked unlike the previous planning application on the adjacent site. Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Approval**’ seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried with 5 votes in favour and 1 against, councillors reluctantly accepting this high-density development in a rural environment. Councillors further commented that the existing fencing bordering Fox Street is of poor quality and needs improving.

(Julie Wisson left)

5. 17/01166/FUL Erection of garages, stables, store and tourist accommodation, Home Barn Eltisley Road. Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the ground that it appears to be a flagrant attempt to build a new residential property in the open countryside. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 7th August 2017

This meeting closed at 9.25pm.