

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 4th December 2017

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Giles Scott Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave 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.** There were apologies for absence from District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

3. **Declarations of Interest.**

Planning:

19.4. 2 Little Gransden Lane. Alan Rowbotham declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a neighbouring property.

4. **Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 6th November 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for eight minutes. Councillor Richard West spoke about the changes in planning to try to cut down the workload of the Development Management Committee. If the member does not think there is a problem with a planning application, it can go ahead on delegated powers. Councillors commented that this is further erosion of a parish council's opportunity to make representations. The new process will rely on district councillors being pro-active with planning. He also noted the item about dog mess on the playing field and wondered if the new Dog Control Order will assist with enforcement. Councillor Julie Wisson reported her disappointment that nothing has been announced about the A428 although they are looking at the A1 strategic study. There was good news in the budget with the Government's commitment to go ahead with the Oxford to Cambridge rail link. She also confirmed that the Secretary of State has appointed the sponsor for the new primary school at Loves Farm and the same academy will be running both schools.

6. **Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Plan.** Stephanie Beaumont reported that 7 villagers and 4 parish councillors will form the steering group. A training session has been arranged in January with Cambridgeshire Acre for those 11 people. A further meeting will also be arranged to enable the group to undertake some preparatory work before the training session.

6.2. **Reading Room Cottage Damp.** Apollo, the damp specialists, have advised that no damp was found. There is an area with a small amount of efflorescent salt on the surface. If the recommended work is carried out, there should be no further problems. Should a re-inspection for damp be necessary, there would be no further charge for this.

6.3. **Little Gransden Airfield Local Consultative Committee and Gliding Club Consultative Committee.** Nick Ginn reported on the 2 recent meetings. Fullers Hill had received one complaint about noise, the logs were inspected by the representative from South Cambridgeshire District Council and £7,500 was raised for Children in Need with £5,000 going to local charities. The Gliding Club had received a couple of complaints. The club will be applying for a change in planning guidelines to increase the number of launches, but had yet to agree a legal definition of sunset. Noise measures previously requested had now been done. The club has experienced serious problems with hare coursing on its land.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.4. MUGA. Stephanie Beaumont reported that the specification had been sent out for the refurbishment of the old tennis court and the details also put on Contracts Finder. The deadline for tenders was 29th November 2017 and 8 tenders were received. The sub-committee recently met and 4 bids have been shortlisted. There are differences in the bid specifications and the committee is working on a like for like approach before bringing a recommendation to the parish council. Planning permission is needed as the previous planning expired in 2015. Once planning is in place, the committee will then look for funding. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously that an application is now made for planning permission for a muga on the site of the old tennis court. It was also agreed to apply to remove a tree on the far corner of the court as this would impede the refurbishment. The recent fundraising event, which was very poorly supported by the village, raised £100.10.

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1. Councillors commented on the proposals to phase out PCSOs as they retire and to replace them with police officers, although there will be less in number. Councillors also noted the email from PCSO Lee Hurley and the request to promote the police’s Facebook page.

8. Reading Room Water Leak. A water leak had been identified at the Reading Room and an emergency ‘find and fix’ service was required. This had now been successfully repaired by Anglian Water. The invoice has been addressed to the Parish Council although the cost of the repair will be borne by the Reading Room.

9. Cemetery Plots. A resident was seeking a refund for the cost of a plot purchased in 2009 for £55 as it was no longer required. The resident was moving away and would have no family ties to the village. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention that the refund for £55 is made. It was agreed that each case would be decided on its merits.

10. Cheques for approval. The following payments were approved:
Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Ann Cosgrave.

Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (October)	£276.60
Clerk’s salary for November 2017	£490.85
Clerk’s office expenses for November	£6.90
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£15.00
Defib Store Ltd for 2 sets of replacement defibrillator pads	£76.74
Defib Store Ltd for Defibrillator Cabinet for sportsfield	£550.80
Anglian Water Business Ltd for Emergency Find & Fix Service	£1,487.23
Mrs C Ward for refund of plot 480	£55.00

The invoice from Balfour Beatty for the replacement street light at Sand Road was not approved for payment as the light is still not working.

11. Financial Statement for November 2017. 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 November 2017.

12. Dates for Next Year’s Meetings. The proposed dates that had been circulated were agreed. These are Jan 8th, Feb 5th, March 5th, April 9th, April 26th (for the Annual Parish Meeting), May 14th, June 4th, July 2nd, Aug 6th, Sept 3rd, Oct 1st, Nov 5th and Dec 3rd. The July meeting may need to be changed and an alternative date of 4th July was proposed if needed.

13. Play Equipment Safety Report. The safety report from Sportsafe UK had been circulated. Michael Capps proposed that the swings in Mandene Gardens be chained up putting them out of use to the public. The swings are due to be replaced when two houses are developed on land between 31 and 32 Mandene Gardens and there is little point in spending money as detailed in the report. Clerk to notify residents. Councillors had also inspected the slides, found no sharp edges but will continue to monitor.

14. Church Yard Path. A third quote had now been received from John Course. All three varied considerably in price from £1,400 up to £2,875. Ann Cosgrave proposed acceptance of the quote from John Course for a £950 plus £450 if hard core for a base is needed, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention. One councillor thought the work to relay the path was unnecessary.

15. CIL Money. £10,095.64 had been received from the development of 5 houses on Eltisley Road. Councillors considered possible projects, including a footpath along Meadow Road, the muga and the purchase of speedwatch equipment. A resident had again raised the issue of speeding traffic along Meadow Road but the cost of a footpath is in excess of £100,000. The present speedwatch equipment, which is borrowed from the police, is not capable of recording speeds other than 30mph. It is also bulky and heavy. Whilst this would benefit villagers, councillors unanimously agreed to use the whole of the CIL money towards the muga project. Proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Nick Ginn. Councillors noted that further CIL money would be forthcoming from the second phase of the development off Fox Street for other projects.

16. Cemetery Grass Cutting Contract 2017/18. The existing contractor had re-tendered for the cemetery grass cutting contract for 2018. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton that the quote from DP Garden Works & Grounds Maintenance for £100 per cut be accepted. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

17. Highways. Alan Rowbotham reported the kerb outside his property has become much worse and now dips. As pedestrians use this stretch of the footpath it has become a hazard. Debi Pearce spoke about the upturned gully cover on the corner of Crow Tree Street which has been reported.

Ann Cosgrave reported the edge of Caxton Road is breaking up at the Caxton end. It is becoming much worse and the rain and frost will lead to the edges of the road subsiding. Jeff Gorton reported the bridge leading to the cemetery has become elevated and is a trip hazard. Stephanie Beaumont reported the kerbs opposite Apple Tree cottage which are a hazard. Michael Capps once again raised the trees in Fox Street which the parish council is still waiting for Highways to fell. One of the water main covers is breaking up in Meadow Road, toward Collings Bros corner. The directional sign at the corner has still not been reinstated. The leaves need sweeping particularly in the gutters.

Giles Scott reported the broken gate to the footpath by College Barn.

Councillor Julie Wisson left

18. CORRESPONDENCE. 18.1. A resident had written about dog mess on the playing field. There are signs at each of the entrances prohibiting dogs on the field. Clerk to put a note in Roundabout and the website citing HDC's new Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2017. Residents must clear up after their dogs.

18.2. Email from Little Gransden Parish Council clerk asking to share the cost of a moveable flashing light. Whilst councillors were sympathetic, as Little Gransden residents have supported the speedwatch sessions, it was not thought appropriate to share the cost with another authority. It was agreed, however, to offer advice on obtaining funds through a LHI Bid.

Correspondence – continued:

18.3. Email from Nic Pillinger for permission to use the playing field for hosting the start and finish area for the Muddy Fun Run. Councillors proposed their support, requesting that the Parish Council and the Reading Room committee are kept informed of the arrangements.

18.4. Email from Caxton Parish Council who had not been consulted on the proposals for ‘a couple of hundred houses’ and were concerned about the impact on traffic on Gransden Road and Caxton. Councillors noted that the proposals were contained in the HELAA Consultation (Call for Sites) and Caxton would be consulted if firm proposals were put forward.

19. Planning. 1. 17/02299/HHFUL & 17/02300/LBC Fire damage repairs and erection of garden room and plant room, 22 West Street. Michael Capps commented that planning policy now dictates that an addition to a property is seen as an extension. Whilst older cottages are unique, and many have been extended, our heritage is being destroyed by unsympathetic extensions to these cottages. The present application is an example of this with a box shaped extension linked to the existing cottage. Notwithstanding this, councillors were sympathetic to the owners to rebuild their cottage. Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is restoring a heritage cottage to its former glory with a modern extension. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention. It was further agreed to add that Great Gransden Parish Council is sympathetic to the application to rebuild this cottage but find that present design constraints diminish the character of the village.

2. Land, top of Sand Road. Councillors noted that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site and the owners had denied residing on the land in breach of planning. They are now preparing an application for a temporary residential use. Councillors commented that this is planning by the back door and expressed concern as to how the matter is being dealt with by the Enforcement Officer. It is understood that Councillor Boddington has taken the matter up with HDC’s Corporate Director.

3. 17/00979/FUL Demolition of existing garages and erection of two detached houses with car parking between 31 And 32 Mandene Gardens – revised plan. Councillors noted that the revised plan showed the removal of 3 trees to allow for the play area. Councillors agreed to the removal of the trees. Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the same grounds as previously approved namely that it improves and enhances a residential area with appropriate housing. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

4. 17/02226/TREE Fell and reduction of various trees, 2 Little Gransden Lane. Alan Rowbotham, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the hall. Councillors agreed the proposed work. Stephanie Beaumont proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that they accept the advice of the consultant and are pleased the householder is prepared to manage the trees. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 8th January 2018

This meeting closed at 9.40pm.