

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 4th March 2019

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West, County Councillor Julie Wisson

Martin Page (Brown & Co), Paul Marshall and Jamie Baker (B&S Farming)

and 7 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer. Brian Dickinson, former chairman of the Parish Council was remembered.

2. Apologies. There were apologies for absence from Parish Councillor Nigel Day.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

16.2. 5 Baldwins Manor. Andrew Pett declared a pecuniary interest as a neighbouring land owner.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th February 2019, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for nine minutes. County Councillor Julie Wisson spoke about the accident which had occurred in Meadow Road earlier that day. A concerned resident had contacted her about it and the speed of traffic. Councillor Wisson agreed to speak to Highways about signage, but was not hopeful. Councillor Richard West spoke about the East West Rail's 5 options; Routes B and E would best serve St Neots. The A428 preferred route has been chosen – the Orange Route. He also reported on the exchange of emails with a resident concerning the West Street light. Martin Page, Brown & Co Barfords, spoke about the application by B&S Farming Ltd to expand the pig rearing unit at Redwood Farm, a successful business breeding top quality Large Whites. He outlined the need to replace the existing buildings in 2 phases to include additional buildings constructed to the latest welfare standards. The number of staff will increase but the number of vehicle movements will not due to efficiency of vehicle movement and a routing plan. Details on access, drainage and environmental impact have been provided in reports accompanying the planning application. Martin Hewitt spoke about his proposals to purchase a piece of land from Highways next to his property wishing to ensure there will be no objections for removal of the right of access over the piece of land.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Andrew Pett reported that the committee had attended a 'Scoping the Plan' workshop on 12th February to discuss the issues that should be addressed by the Plan. A broad consensus was reached of the NDP and the report just issued will be brought to the April meeting.

6.2. Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Peter King reported that condition 6 of the planning permission required a Tree Protection Report which has now been prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority. It is hoped the 8-week response time can be shortened and that an indication that the report is sufficient will be given in the next few days. The report specified a pre-commencement meeting involving the planners, tree consultant and the contractors, but the erection of fencing to show the exclusion zone with photographs will be sufficient to show compliance. Last year Global Tree Solutions quoted for the removal of an elder which is

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Matters Arising – continued:

necessary for the construction of the new fencing. Permission has already been obtained from the Tree Officer for its removal. Councillors agreed to accept the quote for £264 with the cost to come from the village maintenance budget. (Proposed Peter King, seconded Jeff Gorton). All funding agreements are now in place and a date for commencement will be agreed. Residents had asked when the roundabout would be repaired. The contractor had indicated the end of February. A revised date had been sought but was not yet forthcoming.

7. Consultations.

7.1. East West Rail. Jeff Gorton reported on the non-statutory consultation following the briefing session for Parish Councils. A number of points were raised including why there was no route through St Neots, the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge bus route would negate the benefits of a northern rail link stopping at Cambourne, Government financial support was expected to follow the route that was chosen allowing expansion of house building along the route. There was a divide between those Parish Councils who wanted to see expansion of their housebuilding and those that wanted the rail route to avoid their parishes. The majority of those Parish Councils present at the briefing session supported the southern routes, these being the cheapest passing through areas of lower population density. All proposed routes would enter Cambridge from the south, the northern routes ‘pinch’ on the outskirts of Cambourne where it is anticipated a Cambourne station would be built. It was not possible for the route to follow the line of the old route – part was already built on, guided bus routes use the old route as well as the Bedford cycle route, the old route meandered a lot. Some demolition would be necessary along the proposed route but the new rail route was unlikely to have any impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Wimpole. The District Councillor for South Cambridgeshire disagreed with a southern route. Councillors discussed the 5 proposed routes and the impact of the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge Bus route which would be built first. The rail link is not due to be completed until 2027. Comments were made about a Sandy South or Sandy North rail station, with the railway owning land both to the south and north of Sandy. Concern was expressed about a lack of discussion between the 3 consultations – A428, East West Rail and Cambourne to Cambridge bus route. Councillor Julie Wisson advised that the Greater Partnership will be talking to each other as some councillors sit on all three committees. Councillors agreed the need to preserve the Abbotsley valley with a southern route causing the least environmental impact. The chairman and vice chairman will draft the formal response for circulation to councillors for agreement before submission.

7.2. Cambourne to Cambridge Better Transport Project, Phase 2. Three options are proposed for the bus route; option 1 an off-road segregated route; option 2 on road along St Neots Road with junction improvements; option 3 on road with public transport priority lanes. Scotland Farm was the preferred location, during the Phase 1 consultation, for the Park & Ride facility. Two Park and Ride sites are being consulted upon in more detail in conjunction with the 3 different route-type options. Councillors unanimously agreed to support option 3. Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Giles Scott.

7.3. Huntingdon Town Neighbourhood Plan. Noted. Great Gransden will be unaffected by the plan.

7.4. Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan. Noted.

7.5. Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire Planning Consultations. Noted.

8. Great Gransden Village Risk Register. James Catmur outlined the Village Risk Register, having identified 24 risks to the Parish, with an equal mix of those to be worked on, some to be monitored and some to plan for. The 7 to be worked on included bus services, internet and

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mobile services, HDC going bankrupt and how the Parish would operate some of the services, HDC's lack of a plan (details to be shared with the NDP team), CCC going bankrupt although not much that can be done about that and also Brexit if there is no deal. Councillor Richard West advised that should the district council go bankrupt, it would continue as a unitary authority and most of the services would continue. He also offered to enquire whether Connecting Cambridge could investigate the poor internet speeds in parts of the village. James Catmur will continue to monitor the Register.

9. Financial Statement for February 2019. 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 February 2019.

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

Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Giles Scott.

Clerk's salary for February 2019	£496.23
Clerk's expenses for February 2019	£8.66
Global Tree Solutions for tree work	£3,204.00
PCC for churchyard maintenance 2018	£1,500.00
Mr Sewell for graveyard maintenance 2018	£120.00
Roundabout for newsletter (S.137)	£125.00
OMC Associates for Arboricultural protection report (muga)	£348.00

11. Village Bins. Playgroup, the Nursery and the Football Club had each been asked to contribute £85 towards the cost of emptying one of the sportsfield litter bins. Of the three, only one was agreeable to do so, with the Nursery already incurring costs for emptying their own bins and the Football club suggesting it should be the responsibility of the GSRA. Under the terms of their licence, the GSRA is responsible for "keeping the premises clean and tidy and clear of litter". Clerk to refer the matter to the GSRA suggesting they can either pay for the cost of emptying the 2 sportsfield bins or taking the rubbish away voluntarily.

A new location is needed for the Parish Council black waste bin. Clerk to ask whether David Brown, the caretaker of the Reading Room would be willing to put the bin out if stored at the rear of the village hall. The bin is now only being emptied fortnightly.

12. Gransden Sportsfield and Recreational Association (GSRA). The AGM takes place at the beginning of April after which the status of the Association and the new committee will be known. The surface of the car park has again deteriorated. Some repairs have been carried out but the GSRA cannot afford to resurface the car park as the estimated cost is around £70K.

13. Street Lighting. The West Street light is still not working. Peter King reported that the matter has now been escalated to the manager as there has been no response from the sub-contractor with a date for connection. The manager is away on holiday until 7th March and will be contacted on his return.

Balfour Beatty have now issued the new contract for the maintenance of parish street lights. An analysis of the new proposed contract with the previous one had been made showing the changes which primarily relate to the cost of replacement lamps no longer being included. The cost has increased slightly for maintenance to £23 per lamp per annum. Councillors agreed not to replace the 3 Sox lamps but to replace the bulbs while stocks last and only replace the lantern with an LED type when stocks run out. Clerk to check the street light list supplied as not all have been correctly identified. It was unanimously agreed to renew the contact with Balfour Beatty at a cost of £23 per lamp per annum. Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded James Catmur.

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14. Highways. Hardwicke Road has a very large hole which has still not been repaired, nor has the Hardwicke Road sign. The 30mph repeater sign along Little Gransden Lane is also awaiting repair. The gate to the footpath next to College Barn has completely broken off, is now propped up and in need of repair. The drains in Church Street are blocked although Highways has already added this in to a 3-year rolling programme of work. A reminder will be sent. Residents had raised concerns about the mud on Mill Road caused by lorries. This is an intermittent problem heightened in this case due to the renovation work being carried out at number 19. The chairman agreed to speak to the developer. Concern had also been raised about parking in Mill Road near the junction with Sand Road.

Signs around the village – this will be deferred to the May meeting.

A428 Route – this had already been discussed with the Orange Route being the preferred choice.

Proposed purchase of Highways land – councillors agreed the area near to the corner of Fox Street and Caxton Road will be improved and had no objections to the proposals to purchase a section of Highway's land and change the access at 25 Fox Street.

15. Correspondence. 15.1. Gransden and Waresley wood was temporarily closed 2 weeks ago and will remain so for some 2 months. The reason given is to allow the muddy rides to dry out. Councillors expressed concern at the loss of a local amenity and commented that the rides where people walk are muddy every year. There was no prior notification of the intended closure and no reason why people should not be allowed to wander the rest of the woods which are fine. Clerk to write to The Wildlife Trust expressing disappointment at the action taken, it is a very important public amenity and asking if the woods will be ready for walkers to enjoy in time for the bluebells.

15.2. Letter from St Neots museum requesting a financial donation. No financial contribution had been made in the past by the Parish Council.

Councillor Julie Wisson left.

16. Planning. 1. 19/00198/FUL Replacement pig rearing unit with new buildings, feed mill and staff facilities building, slurry tank, surface water attenuation pond, hardstanding, landscaping, access improvements and associated infrastructure Redwood Farm Caxton Road. Councillors asked for clarification concerning impact of fumes. Paul Marshall of B&S Farming Ltd spoke about the design the company had worked with concerning odour omissions which should lead to a reduction. Jeff Gorton proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that it is an expansion of an existing business and a modernisation but with a rider that the proposals must satisfy current legislation for units of this size as well as all legislation relating to animal production and the prescribed traffic route referred to in the application must be adhered to. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

16.2. 18/01388/HHFUL and 18/01389/LBC Replacement kitchen window and front door, 18 Fox Street. The clerk had met with the conservation officer who required profile drawings of the window and door to show how they will look in the building. She will support the proposed wooden window and door, provided the latter is painted black but would not support the door frame being replaced, only the rotten sections of the frame. Clerk to obtain the necessary dimensions to enable the drawings to be prepared and submitted. Jason Dixon will once again be asked to carry out the work. Approval was unanimously agreed on the ground that it is necessary repair work on a listed building. Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded James Catmur.

16.3. 18/02645/FUL Erection of a single family dwelling with attendant landscaping and bin and cycle storage. Relocation of access. Land Between 33 And 43 Meadow Road.

Councillors considered the points previously raised when the application was first made, noting the proposal is outside the village limits. Although the proposed access has been moved, nothing has changed and councillors continued to recommend refusal on the grounds previously notified with 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

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Planning – continued:

16.4. Residential Development, Land North East of Mandene Gardens. Councillors noted that the Development Management Committee approved the application, the approval running to 15 pages with numerous conditions attached.

16.5. 18/02519/TREE T1 horse chestnut, remove to ground level and re-plant with more suitable species, T2 and T3 sycamore reduce by approx. 3m, 5 Baldwins Manor. Andrew Pett having declared an interest left the hall and Giles Scott took the chair. It was noted that although the horse chestnut was not a very old tree, it had been planted close to the house. Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is sensible management of tree stock in the village. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried with 5 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

16.6. 19/00307/PIP Planning in principle for one dwelling Land Adjacent to The North West Of 43 Mill Road. The application relates to a smaller plot than the previous application made. Councillors considered whether anything had changed; is there less demonstrable harm? Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the same grounds as previously, namely it is outside the built-up area and a departure from the Local Plan. Seconded by James Catmur and carried with 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 1st April 2019

This meeting closed at 9.50pm.