

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

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 6 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from District Councillors Barbara Boddington and Richard West and Parish Councillor Jeff Gorton.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meetings held on 7th and 23rd August 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for eight minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Wisson spoke about CCC's consultation on Children's Centres. There are 26 centres across the county and the council is reviewing the use of their buildings of which better use could be made. The help and support available to families will still be available but not in the present buildings with different settings being looked at. Andrew Pett invited the four residents who had put themselves forward for co-option to introduce themselves and speak in support of their applications to become a member of the parish council. Martin Davis provided councillors with an update on the repairs to the windmill. It is hoped the contract will be signed off shortly. The mill has been turned slightly and some adjustments are needed before the sails go up. The trust is making progress and fund raising will need to get underway.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Parish Council Vacancies. As letters had been received from Nigel Day, Nick Ginn, Nic Pillinger and Giles Scott a secret ballot was held to co-opt 2 members onto the parish council. Nick Ginn and Giles Scott were elected having received the most votes. They will join the council at the next meeting.

6.2. Neighbourhood Plan. Stephanie Beaumont reported that the council had not been very productive in engaging with the community and suggested that Touchbase may be a way of increasing publicity even though councillors had previously voted against the use of Touchbase for parish council business. The advantages of a neighbourhood plan need to be explained and the reasons why volunteers have been asked to get involved. Councillors agreed to produce a leaflet which will be delivered to every household in the village with the October Roundabout. Stephanie Beaumont and Debi Pearce agreed to draft the leaflet.

6.3. Tree Safety. Following the tree safety seminar attended by Michael Capps and Debi Pearce, councillors noted the need to establish a professionally approved baseline register of village trees. Debi Pearce reported that a common-sense approach was acceptable when assessing tree health, dividing the village into zones, with priority according to the level of public use, reflecting the regularity of inspections. Michael Capps agreed to contact HDC for advice on experts to contact before quotes are obtained for the cost of inspecting the village trees. To keep costs down, Debi Pearce agreed to prepare sketch maps showing the location of village trees.

Matters Arising - continued:

6.4. Banners. The chairman read out the response from Highways stating that all banners are banned from the highway and any street furniture. Banners for local charitable events are allowed as long as they are not put up too early and removed after the event but must not cause any vision issues. Banners can be placed on private land with the land owner's consent but checks should be made with the district council regarding their placement and size if planning permission is required.

6.5. Sand Road Light. The replacement light has been installed and will be connected within 6-8 weeks.

7. Ecops Report. There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden. No response had been received from PCSO Richard Braddick about concerns that crimes were not being reported on ecops.

8. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2018/19. The chairman reported that 4 areas had been identified for funding which had been discussed previously. These included a 40mph buffer zone on Meadow Road, a pedestrian safety rail on the elevated footpath on Crow Tree Street, priority narrowing on Ladies Hill to slow the downhill traffic and gateways designed to highlight the entrance to the village. Councillors agreed to discuss the matter further at next month's meeting.

9. Multi Use Games Area. Stephanie Beaumont reported that the funding application had been unsuccessful. The committee is arranging to meet next week when the project will be looked at again from the beginning. Sources of funding for smaller amounts will be considered and whether the project can be broken down into smaller components. Community involvement will be necessary for fund raising.

10. Ash Trees Little Lane and Church Yard Trees. Three quotes had been obtained for reducing the ash trees by 30% as well as removing a fallen cherry tree and 2 other trees in the church yard. It was proposed by Ann Cosgrave, seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously that the quote from Global Tree Solutions Ltd in the sum of £780 for the ash trees and £960 for the church trees be accepted. Clerk to notify HDC that the fallen cherry in the church yard requires urgent attention on safety grounds.

11. Financial Statement for August 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 August 2017.

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

Proposed Stephanie Beaumont, seconded Alan Rowbotham.

DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (August)	£190.00
Clerk's salary for August 2017	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for August	£13.29
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£15.00

13. Highways. Michael Capps reported the drainage gully in Church Street is blocked with grit. The blocked drains in Fox Street outside the shop and at the corner of Eltisley Road have already been reported.

Andrew Pett reported the sign by Collings Bros has been knocked down. The announcement of the preferred route for the A428 improvement has been delayed until the end of 2017.

Highways – continued:

13.1. Grain Lorries, Sand Road. Stephanie Beaumont reported that grain lorries have been using Sand Road which is not suitable for HGVs. The route should be along Caxton Road but one lorry had been unable to turn at the corner of Caxton Road due to parked cars. Councillors agreed to ask Highways for a ‘No HGVs except for access’ sign at each end of Sand Road.

13.2. Community Gritting Scheme 2017/18. Details of the scheme had been circulated. Councillors would continue to encourage residents to grit the roads using the village salt bins during icy weather. Councillors to check if the bins need filling and if the salt is still useable.

13.3. Caxton Road/Audley Close Hedge. Despite having met with the Highways Officer to discuss the problems of visibility, Highways maintains that the visibility out of Audley Close meets requirements for coming out onto a 30mph road. The concern is for pedestrians. Clerk to contact HDC to trim the hedges.

14. CORRESPONDENCE. 14.1. Councillors noted the date of Cambridgeshire Acre’s AGM on 26th September.

14.2. Councillors were unable to attend the Huntingdonshire Parish Council Conference organised by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

14.3. Councillors approved the clerk’s request to attend the Annual Catch Up Day.

14.4. Quotes for relaying the church yard path were still being sought. Another contractor had looked at the job and a quote is expected in the next week or two.

14.5. There had been emails concerning the extent of the sportsfield grass cutting contract. Alan Rowbotham reported that the grass was looking good and the grass is being cut weekly until the end of September. Any extra cuts will be paid for by the Football Club. The tennis court bank is being strimmed but as the grass is very long it is difficult to cut. The present contract is for 1 year and the Sportsfield committee will discuss arrangements for next year’s grass cutting.

15. Planning. 1. 17/01460/FUL Demolition of existing commercial premises and erection of single dwelling with detached garage and garden store Leycourt Farm Eltisley Road.

Andrew Pett commented that he had been unable to view the plans as HDC’s website is down. Whilst the plans were available to view at the meeting, councillors decided that extra time was needed to give the matter proper consideration before making a decision. Clerk to ask HDC for an extension of time to enable the matter to be discussed at the October meeting.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2nd October 2017

This meeting closed at 8.43pm.