

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5th August 2019

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West and 1 member of the public

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

2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson and Parish Councillors Michael Capps and James Catmur.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning.

15.2. Reserved matters, land North East of Mandene Gardens. Nigel Day declared an interest as owner of land adjoining the development site.

4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 1st July 2019 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for eleven minutes. District Councillor Richard West spoke about the loss of bus service 28. He had hoped to speak to villagers had they attended tonight's meeting. He will see whether anything can be done, involving HACT which supports community transport but it is important that it is used. He has also been contacted about hospital transport. Although this is not an HDC issue, he will try to take this up. He will be asking people to contact him. He also reported that, following the appointment of the Waste Minimisation Officer at HDC, there will be articles in local magazines on how to reduce waste. Fly tipping continues to be a problem; crews collecting the waste will now be looking for evidence of the fly-tipper at the same time. David Prest, chairman of the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee, was invited to provide an update. He reported that the second grant funding had been received and by March 2020 the committee expects to be at pre-examination stage. Cambridgeshire Acre will again be helping with the structure of the plan. To gain as big a demographic as possible, there will be a societies fair on 29th September at the village pub; all the village societies will be invited to display their amenities, generate community spirit and the committee will present some of the options from the plan. Andrew Pett commented that the NDP committee have discussed the idea of a development boundary. Under the new Local Plan, there are no development limits, but this could be included in the NDP.

6. **Matters Arising:** **6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The update had already been provided in open forum.

6.2. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2020/21. Giles Scott reported on the recent meeting of the sub-committee. There was little point in applying for the same scheme as last year as the reasons the panel had rejected the application have not changed. It was decided not to apply for anything else and no application will be submitted this year.

6.3. Highways England Local Improvement Funds. Andrew Pett reported that James Catmur has suggested applying for a cycle track. He has already personally submitted an application for a Cambourne to St Neots cycleway which includes a cycle path along Meadow Road. A bid for a footpath/cycleway can also be made by the Parish Council. There is no time limit, but a footpath along Meadow Road will improve safety and whilst this may narrow the road in places, it will also slow traffic down. The matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

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Matters Arising – continued:

6.4. Multi Use Games Area. Peter King reported that there had been a few issues. The goal mouth was noisy when a ball was kicked but the contractors had fixed this as per the specification and the 2 panels no longer rattle. There have been reports of the Muga being used past 8.30pm but when this has been pointed out, the users have left without argument. A resident had reported discarded beer bottles and anti-social behaviour. Councillors noted that teenagers have been drinking on the playing field before the old tennis court was renovated. The remnants of nitrous oxide have also been found, but this is a not a Parish Council issue. The playing field bins are regularly emptied, and whilst they tend to be fuller in June and July, councillors had not noted a rise in the level of litter as a result of the Muga facility. Councillors will continue to monitor the situation and ask PCSO Richard Braddick to visit and speak to the youngsters. The issue of floodlights had been dealt with and would not be supported. A maintenance contract will need to be considered. ETC provide an aftercare service which includes an annual application of moss and weed killer, surface cleaning/power washing and minor surface plugging repairs with a one-year contract costing £500 or 5 years at £450 pa. The surface treatment will prevent slipping and will extend the life of the surface. Councillors agreed to obtain another quote for maintenance costs and discuss again at next month's meeting.

7. Consultations.

7.1. Local Transport Plan. The plan has been drawn up by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. As there is nothing new, the plan was noted.

7.2. Grafham and Ellington Neighbourhood Area Designation. Noted.

7.3. Greater Cambridgeshire Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document. Noted.

8. Cemetery Trees and Hedges. Jeff Gorton reported that the large branch that had fallen onto the cemetery path had been dragged to the side. The hedges at the bottom by the brook had been radically cut back but the hedge adjacent to the path leading to Little Gransden needs cutting back. The conifers are also excessively large. An offer had been made to donate a parcel of land to extend the cemetery site to allow for future expansion. Councillors agreed to accept the offer and arrangements will be made to discuss further at a site meeting.

9. Sportsfield, risk of encampment. Nick Ginn reported that a known vehicle associated with encampments had been seen driving in and out of the sportsfield. Councillors discussed possible ways of securing the grass area and whether such proposals would be viable. Councillors suggested that the idea of a height restriction should be looked at again and the sportsfield committee will be asked to consider this.

10. Street Light Energy. Cambridgeshire County Council is ending the current arrangements whereby the County Council purchased the energy on behalf of Parish Councils before recharging it back. Quotes will be obtained from energy suppliers.

11. Financial Statement for July 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 July 2019.

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

Proposed Giles Scott, seconded Jeff Gorton	
Buchan Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (June)	£287.13
Buchan Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (July)	£413.51
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (July)	£210.00
Mrs D Taylor – clerk’s salary for July 2019	£539.14
Mrs D Taylor – clerk’s expenses for July 2019	£21.08
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£11.25

13. Highways. There is an overgrown hedge along Little Gransden Lane which will be reported to the householder. There are a number of areas with overgrown weeds around the village. It was noted that a resident had cleared all the nettles/weeds growing along Crow Tree Street where the tarmac of the resurfaced footpath does not meet the boundary fencing. Last year the District Council sprayed the weeds. A note will be put in Roundabout as there are a number of overgrown hedges with brambles protruding at eye level. There are a number of fire hydrant signs which cannot be seen due to overgrown hedges. Clerk to enquire who is responsible for ensuring they can be seen. The road past the Crown & Cushion is becoming worse and appears to be sinking and the large pot hole along Waresley Road will be reported.

Gate to footpath from Doctors Lane. The County Council has not repaired the gate which is now missing completely. There had at one time been a stile at this location but was replaced by a gate a number of years ago. Originally there had also been a gate at the road side end but this also no longer exists. Highways advise that the gate is the responsibility of the land owner who will be asked to remove or make good.

Old Chapel Graveyard. The Parish Council has confirmed the offer to contribute towards the cost of maintenance of the area. There has been no further response.

14. Correspondence. 14.1. A waste minimisation officer has been appointed by HDC to tackle waste and maximise recycling, requesting details of any projects which can be supported.

14.2. There had been no tenders for the bus service 28 which will now be lost. The lack of a bus service leaves villages isolated although a service, if not used, cannot be sustained. Councillors discussed whether a ‘Dial-a-Ride’ service would better serve the community. Information on how many people would benefit from a bus or on-demand service could be included as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

14.3. The Gliding Club had asked for the name of a Great Gransden village charity to benefit from a £50 donation from funds generated through the Neighbours Open Day held in June. Councillors unanimously agreed the Windmill Restoration Fund should benefit. (Proposed Giles Scott, seconded Nick Ginn).

14.4. Councillors had been notified about the relocation of the Sand Road street light which is to be moved to the back of the reconstructed footpath on the corner of Sand Road. Councillors expressed concern about the amount of street furniture on that corner. A plan showing the new location for the light has not yet been received.

14.5. Councillors noted the Polling District and Polling Places Review 2019. Great Gransden is not affected.

14.6. Councillors agreed to advertise the clerk’s vacancy in the Roundabout and on Touchbase. Details of the cost of clerking services will also be obtained.

It was agreed that item 15 be taken next.

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15. Planning. 1. 19/01243/HHFUL and 19/01244/LBC Construct single storey barn style extension to the west elevation. Re-instate west elevation dormer window to match existing thatch roof. Replace west elevation bathroom window 19 Middle Street. Councillors commented that the proposed extension follows planning policies, as it is shown as a new extension to the existing dwelling. Jeff Gorton recommended ‘**Approval**’ on the grounds that it follows planning policies, with a modern extension to a listed property, and does not affect the street scene. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously. Councillors commented that during construction, access to the site should take into account the safety of school children as the entrance to the school is adjacent to the site. A rider will be added to the recommendation for approval.

15.2. 19/01467/REM Reserved matters application in respect of layout, scale, landscaping and appearance following permission of 17/01375/OUT - (Outline planning permission for residential development of up to 40 dwellings (Use Class C3) including means of access into site) Land North East of Mandene Gardens. Comments were made about the proposed layout, the closeness to the end of Mandene Gardens of the electricity sub-station and sewerage pumping station, the height of some of the dwellings, the number of car spaces (over 100), provision of a footpath along Sand Road, whether the road will be brought up to an adoptable standard and the retention of boundary hedges. Parish Councillors had no observations either in favour or against the proposal but agreed to seek clarification on the following matters which need resolving: (1) the layout details 105 car parking spaces, (2) boundary hedges must be preserved between Mandene Gardens and the new development and whether the boundary from the brook to the adjoining land be fenced, (3) footpath provision in Sand Road and (4) the reasons for siting the sub-station and pumping station between 2 sets of houses, those on the development site and the existing properties in Mandene Gardens, rather than on the other side of the development backing onto open land.

15.3. Strawberry Grove, Sand Road. Councillors noted the recent emails advising there is nothing to enforce, with the structures linked to the agricultural work on site and therefore do not need planning permission. The organiser has applied for the event licences although the events held so far have been with a Temporary Events Notice which limits the number of events per year if no premises licence is held. The Environmental Officer could become involved.

15.4. 19/01391/S73 Variation of Condition 7 for 18/01368/LBC (works to existing external walls) 18 Middle Street. Andrew Pett recommended ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is necessary work to a listed building. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

In accordance with S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 press and members of the public were excluded from the meeting whilst item 14.7 was considered. The minutes from this part of the meeting remain confidential.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2nd September 2019

This meeting closed at 9.45pm.