

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5th December 2016

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Chairman

Andrew Pett Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Stephanie Beaumont Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 7 members of the public

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

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from District Councillor Richard West and Parish Councillor Debi Pearce.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 7th November 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for thirteen minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Boddington reported that the proposed increase in parking fees has been put on hold. A task force is being formed to include representatives of market towns to look into car parking over the next 6 months. She reported having received a number of complaints this morning about green bins not having been emptied. Operations had stated that due to the sharp frost it had not been possible to dislodge the contents even after shaking the bins. Crews will be running late and they do not return to collect frozen bins. Councillor Boddington advised that she will follow this up. She reported that Councillor West was at the budget meeting and will be trying to get the tree strategy changed. Councillor Wisson spoke about gritting. Following a nasty accident in Toseland, that road has been gritted this evening. Parts of the road had been resurfaced which may have exacerbated the problem. The Yelling road is used as a 'rat run' but gritting routes have been reduced due to budget constraints. She will be discussing this further in the hope of getting the road back on the gritting route. Jeff Gorton spoke about Eltisle Road which is not gritted although Potton Timber lorries are directed out of the village via that route. School buses also use that road. Councillor Wisson advised that school bus routes are not taken into account but agreed to put forward the concern. It is possible for parishes to pay to have roads gritted which some parish councils did last year. Jack Kenny raised the problem of parking at the Madingley Road Park & Ride due to the number of contractors parking there despite notices advising 'No Parking'. The car park can be full by lunchtime with the spaces taken by workmen's vans. Councillor Wisson agreed to look into this.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. A428 Improvement Scheme. Andrew Pett reported that he and Ann Cosgrave had attended a second parish forum meeting. The main issues related to the maps which do not show possible routes, but where people had drawn on them at the forums. The routes will be published in the new year although the time scale could slip to spring for the public consultation. There was discussion about 'rat runs' and the cost, with any scheme having to satisfy value for money. Data is still being collected. One of the maps notes the environmental constraints which are massive south of the A428 but with very few environmental constraints north of that road.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.2. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2017/18. The bid has been submitted and the panel will sit in January for presentation of the applications.

6.3. Village Trees. Emails had recently been received closing the files on the overgrown hedge along Caxton Road and the corner of West Street/Meadow Road as no action was considered necessary by highways. Clerk to re-submit with photos to show the problem of poor visibility for motorists. A substantive response has still not been received about the 3 village trees although a full reply has been promised by the end of the week.

6.4. Crow Tree Street Raised Footpath. An email had recently been received closing the file, stating no action is necessary. Jeff Gorton reported that the footpath is dangerous during icy weather due to the camber and the outer edge of the pathway drops. There is a steep drop with no barrier. Clerk to report again directly to the Highways Officer as the path needs levelling.

6.5. Missed Bin Collections. It would appear that the problems experienced by Middle Street and Whittets Close residents has been resolved. Stephanie Beaumont reported that this morning's collection had taken place after school drop off time.

6.6. Reading Room Cottage Roof. Following acceptance of the preferred quote, no start date had been provided for the work despite efforts to contact the contractor. Councillors agreed, clerk to send a recorded delivery letter giving the contractor until 16th December to provide a start date failing which the work will be placed with an alternative contractor. Further quotes will be necessary.

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

8. Financial Statement for November 2016. 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 November 2016.

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

Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Jeff Gorton.

Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (November)	£225.00
Clerk's salary for November 2016	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for November	£2.56
Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£15.00

10. Dates for Next Year's Meetings. The proposed dates that had been circulated were agreed. These are Jan 9th, Feb 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, April 27th for the Annual Parish Meeting, May 8th, June 5th, July 3rd, Aug 7th, Sept 4th Oct 2nd, Nov 6th and Dec 4th.

11. Contracts for 2017/18. 11.1. Cemetery Grass Cutting. The existing contractor had re-tendered for the cemetery grass cutting contract for 2017. Jeff Gorton reported that the quality of the work was excellent with the grass cuttings also being cleared off the paths. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton that the quote from DP Garden Works & Grounds Maintenance for £95 per cut be accepted. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

11.2. Sportsfield Grass Cutting. The sportsfield committee had obtained 4 quotes. It was agreed to defer this item until the sportsfield committee had met to discuss the quotes.

12. Consultations. 12.1. Huntingdonshire Design Guide 2016. Noted by councillors.

12.2. Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Wind Energy Developments. Noted by 8councillors.

12.3. Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. Noted.

13. Highways. Michael Capps reported the amount of leaves from trees. The gutters are full and the road sweeper has not been round. The whole of the village needs sweeping in particular East Street, Middle Street and Church Street.

Andrew Pett reported the broken paving slabs in Crow Tree Street. These have been reported.

Jeff Gorton spoke about the raised footpath in Crow Tree Street which will be reported again.

Also, the path though the church yard and cemetery is covered in leaves and needs sweeping. It is a steep path and could be a danger.

Ann Cosgrave reported Caxton Road. It is cracking from just past the lay-by at Caxton end and is getting wider.

14. Little Gransden Aerodrome Local Consultative Committee and Cambridge Gliding Club Consultative Committee. Ian Selkirk advised that the report about the 2 gliders colliding had been held up at the last meeting but was now available for those who wished to see it. The Gliding Club had acted in a very responsible way towards the findings in the report.

15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1. Correspondence from Little Gransden Parish Council concerned about weed in the pond and offering assistance to clear this if appropriate equipment could be provided. Councillors commented that this is an annual problem although the weeds tend to sink. Michael Capps reported that some fishermen did clear a path for fishing but as the pond is fed from further up, the water is not pure and weed will thrive. Councillors noted that the problem of water soldiers appears to have gone. Councillors agreed to leave the matter on the table and see what happens next summer. Clerk to write to Little Gransden councillors thanking them for the offer of help.

15.2. Email from the new PCSO Richard Braddick. Clerk to send him the monthly meeting dates giving him the opportunity to visit. The local school may also be keen to see him.

15.3. The chairman read out the email from Balfour Beatty setting out the delay since August in providing a quote to replace the streetlight in Sand Road. The reason given was ‘staff attrition and the influx of works’. Clerk to seek an alternative if the quote is not forthcoming.

15.4. Email from CCC about secondary gritting routes. This has already been addressed.

15.5. Letter from a resident concerning Meadow Road speeding restrictions. The chairman reported that the traffic engineers would not support a request to reduce the limit to 40mph and neither would the police. Councillors commented that the limit should be 30mph along Meadow Road but an application for a 50mph limit with a 40mph buffer zone was the best that would be supported. If there is widespread support from residents for a lower limit, this may have an impact with the bid already submitted under the local highway improvement scheme. The Parish Council will invite support from local residents at the appropriate time.

15.6. Councillors noted the final recommendations for the Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire.

15.7. Letter from CCC detailing the voluntary code of conduct for commercial vehicle operators. Councillors considered writing to all the local companies although our District Councillors had previously visited the local businesses to discuss HGV routes into and out of the village.

Problems occur when foreign drivers rely on car Satnavs. Councillors agreed to leave the matter on the table noting that the CCC covenant is to prevent HGVs driving through villages to reach their destination and the major companies have already signed up to it.

15.8. Email from Sportsafe Uk following clarification of 2 matters raised in the recent play equipment safety inspection. Councillors had inspected the slide but had been unable to find any sharp section. The Mandene Gardens swing had also been inspected by councillors but no loose foundations had been found. This had since been clarified to refer to exposed foundations and councillors did not believe this to be dangerous. A quote for replacement tubing to the climbing frame had been sought. The original manufacturers, Hags, no longer make this unit. It is difficult to identify the relevant replacement parts from the catalogue supplied and councillors agreed to take a look again and defer the matter to the February agenda.

Correspondence – continued:

- 16. Planning. 1. 16/02199/FUL Extension to an existing grain store and change of its use to B8-storage and distribution from agricultural use, and construction of a concrete apron, Eltisley Business Park Potton Road.** Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that the change of use will curtail a number of lorry journeys through the village. Seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.
- 2. 16/02377/S73 Application for the removal of Condition 13 on 16/01376/FUL relating to provision of a footpath link to Fox street, 16 – 20 Eltisley Road.** Councillors noted that the application has been made due to the applicant being unable to secure the footpath link within a contract which will leave residents using Eltisley Road. Stephanie Beaumont proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the ground that a footpath is required for safety reasons. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously. Stephanie Beaumont also raised the matter of CIL money. Clerk to investigate this further as councillors are not satisfied with the information provided so far.
- 3. 16/02431/FUL Erection of 2 dwellings and garages including creation of a new access, land between 33 And 43 Meadow Road.** The chairman reported that 5 separate letters of objection had been received. The objections included the unsuitability of the proposed dwellings, inappropriate site, outside the existing residential boundary, road safety and it would set a precedent. Councillors commented that there was no justification for building outside the village limit and the design was inappropriate considering the neighbouring residences. George Craze proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the grounds (1) it is outside the village limit as laid down in planning policy and (2) no justification has been given for building outside these limits and this application is purely speculative. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.
- 4. 16/02381/CLPD Erection of a conservatory following demolition of existing conservatory, 38 Winchfield.** Noted by councillors. The parish council is not required to vote on the matter.
- 5. 16/02458/CLPD Erection of a porch to the front of the house, replacing existing front entrance, 3 Whittets Close.** Again, noted by councillors.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 9th January 2017

This meeting closed at 9.22pm.