

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5th February 2018

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Giles Scott Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West, County Councillor Julie Wisson

and three members of the public

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

2. Apologies. There were apologies for absence from Parish Councillors Alan Rowbotham and Nick Ginn and District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

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

4. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 8th January 2018 and 17th January 2018, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for four minutes. Councillor Richard West noted the agenda item on trees, commenting on the error with terminating the tree warden's role. The budget is due which is always a concern. There is to be an employer's meeting focusing on 7 values, which staff and members should adhere to, with a view to improving the service. Councillor Julie Wisson also spoke about CCC's forthcoming budget meeting, in which a 2% increase for adult social care will be discussed.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2018/19. Giles Scott reported on the Parish Council's bid to the committee panel, which was also attended by Debi Pearce. The issues relating to the Crow Tree Street footpath were highlighted as well as the speed of traffic along Meadow Road. The response of the panel members was positive. A decision will be made by the 13th March 2018. Councillors noted that the proposal is to level the footpath by building up a kerb. Debi Pearce reported that the panel members thought the bid very modest which could provide leverage for future bids. Giles Scott and Debi Pearce were thanked for attending and putting forward the council's representations.

6.2. MUGA. Stephanie Beaumont reported that the committee's preferred bidder is ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd. They have been asked to provide drawings suitable for submission to HDC for the planning application. The cost is £37,000 being mid-range of all the tenders submitted. The tender and supporting documentation will be circulated to enable councillors to vote on the recommendation.

6.3. Neighbourhood Development Plan. Stephanie Beaumont reported on the scoping meeting held on 17th January 2018 for members of the steering group. David Prest was appointed chairman of the group. The session was taken by two members of Cambridgeshire Acre with 7 attendees from Great Gransden and 2 from Little Gransden who had been invited to consider the possibility of creating a joint NDP. No decision is expected from Little Gransden until May. If a joint plan is developed, there is grant funding available of up to £9,000. Two plans will qualify for 2 lots of funding. A joint plan will involve 2 district councils, SCDC and HDC, although HDC would be appointed the lead district council. There will be an initial survey of residents. The group has to decide on a Designated Area and once approved by HDC, which takes about eight weeks, funding can be applied for. The level of funding will determine the amount of work undertaken by the steering group. A further meeting is being arranged.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.4. Parish Online. Following the scoping meeting, it was considered that a digital mapping service was unnecessary for developing a Neighbourhood Plan as maps are available from HDC.

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1.

8. Financial Statement for January 2018. 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 January 2018.

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

Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Ann Cosgrave.

Clerk's salary for January 2018	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for January	£3.90
Clerk for printer ink	£21.98
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50
Cambridgeshire Acre for NPD project inception meeting	£480.00
Balfour Beatty for year 3 of street light maintenance contract	£511.92

10. Trees. Three quotes had been received for the cost of surveying the village trees. A decision had been deferred from last month until further information had been received about extra charges associated with one of the quotes to enable a true comparison of the costs. Of the 3 companies which quoted, OMC Associates was the lowest. Jeff Gorton proposed acceptance of the quote from OMC in the sum of £639.12 (plus vat) which included mapping and travel costs. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

Councillors considered the items for discussion at next month's meeting to be attended by HDC's Tree Officer. The primary concern was how the system operates as the village is within a conservation area. Problems have arisen, in particular, having to obtain quotes and advice from tree surgeons before submitting the notice of intended tree work. If the proposed tree work is not agreed by HDC, the quotes become outdated and the whole process has to be repeated. It would be preferable if advice could first be sought from HDC.

Councillor Richard West commented that it is HDC which has the legal responsibility for trees.

11. Street Lights. Councillors noted that Mandene Gardens is outside the conservation area. Of those surveyed, 10 householders had favoured a heritage light, 15 householders had not responded and those living immediately adjacent to the broken light favoured the standard lamp. The original decision to replace lamps with heritage ones related to lights within the conservation area. There are now different styles available, with LED lamps and different height columns. Councillors agreed that the replacement lamp in Mandene Gardens should direct the light downwards, and be a warm rather than a stark light. Clerk to obtain more information on the different lamps available. A quote had been received for the West Street light. Although it was for an LED light rather than a standard light, councillors agreed it would be sufficient to progress the insurance claim with Zurich Insurance.

12. Model Standing Orders. The new policy document had been circulated and was unanimously adopted by councillors. Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Jeff Gorton.

13. Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Main Modifications Consultation. Noted by councillors without further comment.

14. Highways. Michael Capps reported that Highways were unlikely to deal with the fallen tree over the Riddy footpath. A householder had agreed to deal with it. A resident had reported a broken steel pole, part of the safety rail overlooking the brook along Little Gransden Lane. Clerk to report to Highways.

Giles Scott reported, 2 residents had pointed out that there is no village sign on Eltisley Road, whereas other roads into the village have a Great Gransden sign. A sign will be requested. He also reported the puddle at the corner of Eltisley Road and Fox Street which is freezing over and causing a hazard for drivers. Michael Capps commented that the grip needs digging out, not helped by the partially blocked culvert under Fox Street which has been rodded in the past but is a recurring problem.

Michael Capps reported a large pot hole in Hardwicke Road which has been repaired on 3 previous occasions. The road is also breaking up by the Crown & Cushion but a pot hole has not yet developed.

Jeff Gorton commented that the replacement light in West Street is critical as the street is very dark.

15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1. Information from Capalc about the new General Data Protection Regulations which become effective on 25th May 2018. The Data Protection Officer must be independent and due to the cost to parish councils, Capalc is looking into possible solutions with 2 workshop sessions being offered. Further guidance is awaited.

15.2. Councillors noted that Capalc's AGM was inquorate. An Extra Ordinary Meeting has been arranged in March.

15.3. The Allotment Society is looking to obtain a new electricity supply and CCTV cameras in view of the number of break-ins at the site. Councillors agreed to follow the usual procedure to enable the reclaiming of the vat with the usual safeguard of the Allotment Society underwriting the vat claim if necessary.

15.4. Email from Tony Sargeant offering to present a village talk about better protecting our property. Councillors agreed that a parish council meeting would not be the appropriate forum; a separate meeting should be arranged with councillors agreeing to underwrite the hire of the Reading Room. The event will need to be advertised.

15.5. A resident had emailed with concerns about the proposed sale of land at the rear of West Street. Councillors noted that there is an option to purchase if planning is obtained although the land was omitted from the Local Development Plan as surplus to requirements.

15.6. Reply from Kingspan Potton concerning litter left in the lay-by in Eltisley Road, refuting the suggestion that the litter is being left by their employees. Contactors are now parking in the lay-by which could be the source of the litter problem. Councillors agreed to write to Kingspan asking if they would empty a litter bin if one was provided by the parish council.

15.7. Email from Martin Davies with an update on the windmill. The Gransden Windmill Trust is in the process of being formed and should be a fully Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Spring, with its own bank account. Discussions continue with CCC on the process and timetable for the future transfer of the mill to the trust. The county council made a grant application to Historic England towards the cost of the replacement sails, receiving £31,000 out of a total cost of £49,000. The balance will come from funds to be raised by the trust. Once the sails have been erected, the mill is likely to be removed from the Heritage At Risk Register and will then enable CCC to offer the formal 125-year lease of the mill to the Windmill Trust.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5th March 2018

This meeting closed at 8.42pm.