

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Giles Scott Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West,

Tamsin Miles, HDC Tree Officer 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 County Councillor Julie Wisson.

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

**4. Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. Presentation by Tamsin Miles, HDC Tree Officer.** Tamsin had been invited to the meeting to provide councillors with information on the District Council's arboriculture services and the procedures involved in providing HDC with notice of proposed works. By way of background information, there are 843 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) across the district and 9,500 trees. Great Gransden has 10 TPOs with around 120 trees within the conservation area. Any householder who wishes to carry out work to a tree within the village conservation area must first give notice to HDC (6 weeks' notice or 8 weeks for a TPO). If there are objections, HDC can make a TPO which affords legal protection for trees and permission is needed to carry out any work. The tree officer's role includes supporting colleagues in planning as well as dealing with notices of proposed work, a total of 600 applications per annum. The role has changed, being more office based and whilst she is available to help, is unable to act as tree warden. There followed a discussion on the procedures involved for submitting a notice of proposed works which is now the only way to give notice to HDC to carry out work notwithstanding the more informal procedure for seeking permission, previously undertaken. This applies to all trees in the conservation area, including fruit trees although it is possible to obtain extended consent to carry out annual pruning of trees. HDC needs detailed information to enable a decision to be made on the proposed tree work. The procedure is governed by national guidance and legislation. If a tree is dead or dangerous, there is a 5-day exception. Owners do have the right of appeal if a scheme is refused by HDC and a TPO is imposed. The existence of a village tree survey will help parish councils when applying for permission, rather than having to rely on individual tree surgeons providing quotes for tree work. Andrew Pett thanked Tamsin Miles for the information.

**6. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for ten minutes. Councillor Barbara Boddington provided information on the District Council offices which now houses the call centre and will soon house the job centre. She also provided information on National Apprentice Week. Councillor Richard West commented on the error made by some members of HDC in losing the role of the Tree Warden co-ordinator. Bridget Halford had provided invaluable support to parish councils. He reported on the budget and will be attending meetings on licensing of taxis with an emphasis on safe-guarding issues, how the merger involving Luminus will work and increasing the number of houses due to the homelessness issue. He also confirmed that planning authorities have to report the effect of developments on neighbouring authorities.

**7. Matters Arising: 7.1. MUGA.** Stephanie Beaumont reported that of the 4 companies shortlisted, the committee's preferred bidder is ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd. The preference is for rounded corners, which only marginally increases costs. Jeff Gorton proposed that ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd be appointed the preferred contractor. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried unanimously. Councillors also agreed to submit the application for planning, required due to the increase in the fencing height.

**7.2. Litter Bin, Eltisley Road.** No response had been received from Kingspan Potton to the council's suggestion of installing a litter bin in the lay-by subject to it being emptied by the company. Councillors agreed to defer the matter until after the Eltisley Road development is finished as this will determine the litter offenders.

**7.3. Neighbourhood Plan.** Andrew Pett reported on the recent meeting of the steering group. The minutes had been circulated. There had been a number of ideas put forward and the village will be encouraged to be involved through local events. Eventually the group will be able to apply for a maximum of £9,000 funding. Little Gransden Parish Council is unlikely to be able to come to a decision on whether to be involved, until May.

**8. Ecops Report.** No reports had been received concerning incidents affecting Great Gransden. There had been another break-in at the allotment site, once again damaging the boundary hedge where the offenders had tried to steal a pick-up from the neighbouring crane site. The site owners are now storing test weights along the back of the hedgerow which may prevent a recurrence.

**9. Financial Statement** for February 2018. 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 2018.

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

Proposed Ann Cosgrave, seconded Michael Capps.

Clerk's salary for February 2018	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for February	£6.94
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50
John Course for relaying the church yard path	£1,025.00
PCC for churchyard maintenance	£1,500.00
Mr Sewell for graveyard maintenance	£120.00
Roundabout for newsletter (S.137)	£125.00
HDC for planning application (MUGA)	£117.00

**11. Village Trees.** The tree survey will be carried out tomorrow. Michael Capps and Debi Pearce will both be present. A quote had been obtained for the removal of the elder tree on the site of the village tennis court. Clerk to clarify the effectiveness of the treatment to kill the tree stump.

**12. Street Lights.** Balfour Beatty had provided a quote for two 36w cell lanterns on 6m columns at a cost of £1,356.74 each including connection. The light is very urban in style. A downward light on a 5m column is required for Mandene Gardens. A quote for a mini LED light had been obtained previously. The West Street light is the subject of an insurance claim. Michael Capps proposed that a heritage style light on a 5m column be installed in West Street and the LED light at a cost of £1,390.96 be installed in Mandene Gardens. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Clerk to await the quote for the heritage lamp.

**13. Reading Room Cottage.** Quotes had been obtained for the cost of replacing two windows and the front door. As the building is listed, new wooden windows will be needed as well as planning. Clerk to arrange for further quotes.

**14. Highways.** Andrew Pett reported on the outstanding highway matters. The cost of installing ‘No HGV’ signs on Sand Road would be £2,500 to £5,000 due to the requirement of a traffic regulation order. This is beyond the Parish Council’s budget. The lack of a village sign coming into the village along Eltisley Road is still being looked into. The dead trees in Fox Street should be removed in April although this work was due to be undertaken last year. Highways will continue to monitor Fox Street and Middle Street for flooding.

Debi Pearce reported the pot hole in Middle Street.

Ann Cosgrave reported the crate of logs partly on the road in Church Street. Clerk to write to the householder. Some residents are also leaving wheelie bins out for several days after collection. Clerk to put a notice in Roundabout along with a request for householders to cut back overgrowth on pavements before the full growing season and help tidy/cut verges.

Stephanie Beaumont spoke about the height of the grass around the village sign last year. Clerk to ask whether Mr and Mrs McIntosh would be willing to cut this area if it is once again overlooked and left by highways.

Michael Capps reported that the pot hole in Hardwicke Road had been filled but was once again breaking up.

Nick Ginn reported that Meadow Road is deteriorating, as is the entrance to the Crane yard along Caxton Road.

Andrew Pett reported a pot hole on the road into Abbotsley.

Councillors noted that Highways had done an excellent job repairing the top of the B1040.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1.** Andrew Pett proposed that Great Gransden’s share of the rebate from Agricole Oil should go to the windmill. Seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously. Councillors noted that Little Gransden Parish Council had suggested the donation go to Buzzi Bodies.

**15.2.** Councillors decided against making a financial donation to St Neots museum.

**15.3.** Councillors agreed in principle their support for the future development of the windmill site which will involve the transfer of land to the trust.

**15.4.** Councillors noted the proposed Eltisley Road street works which will involve the road being closed between 16<sup>th</sup> – 18 May. There were no observations.

**15.5.** Email from HDC seeking views on the operational processes of the Development Management Committee. Councillors commented they hoped that the committee would continue to listen to the views of the parish council but did not always receive sufficient feedback as to the reasons supporting a particular decision. It was also noted that due to planning procedure and policy, more decisions were being decided under delegated powers.

**16. Cambridge Gliding Club.** Due to the poor weather, the meeting to review the conditions attached to the original planning permissions granted in 1991 had been cancelled. Nick Ginn will be attending the re-arranged meeting.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

This meeting closed at 9.25pm.