

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson and 4 members of the public

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Stephanie Beaumont.

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

**Matters Arising:**

6.4. Sand Path Stile. George Craze declared an interest as the land owner,

**Correspondence:**

13.6. Noise from Crown & Cushion. Ian Selkirk declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of the public house.

4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the vice chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for fifteen minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington raised on behalf of the shop owner the lack of parking in Fox Street when there is an event taking place during the day at the Reading Room. There is some parking available at the back of the Reading Room and the matter will be discussed at the next Reading Room committee meeting. There is no further information on the A428. Councillor Julie Wisson reported that she had been accepted on the Board of Governors at Barnabas Oley School. She also reported on the campaign to encourage smokers to give up during October as well information on the Cromwell Museum for which the Town Council has a 999 year lease but now needs a freehold if the charity is to be up and running by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Councillor Richard West spoke about the distressing telephone call from a man hit by a van and noted that the parish council is doing all it can to reduce speeding traffic. He also spoke about the burglary crackdown email for reporting burglary. Angela Steele spoke about hazards for cyclists and horse riders particularly where there are no signs by bends and with cycling time trials taking place around Abbotsley, suggested inviting the Cambridge Safety Campaign to advise on safety. Jo Hicks spoke about the letter she had written concerning the parking in Middle Street,

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Ian Winfield of Highways has revised the quote as plastic grasscrete would be unsuitable to use at this location. The new quote is £6,600 for concrete grass grid and CCC is seeking a contribution of £3,000 from the parish council. The parish council had already agreed to pay half the previous quote of £5,655.98. Jeff Gorton proposed payment of £3,000 towards the cost of concrete grass grid, seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

**6.2. Meadow Road Verges.** Following a site meeting, Highways has marked the area in Meadow Road, opposite Hall Farm Road, for repair. Marker posts will then be installed to deter further damage.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**6.3. Speedwatch/Speeding.** Debi Pearce reported that over the past 3 weeks there have been 13 sessions trying to quantify the flow of traffic. The recorded information showed that the through traffic is from the Abbotsley side of the village, along Meadow Road with the majority going up Crow Tree Street and Middle Street rather than along Little Gransden Lane. The severity of speeding is in the morning along Caxton Road with home traffic continuing on the A428 rather than coming back through the village. There was little speeding traffic along Eltisley Road. The lay-out and narrowness of Middle Street gave the perception of vehicles travelling too fast but only 2 were recorded as travelling over 35mph. There was major speeding along Meadow Road from Gransden Hall to Waresley Road corner. She thanked her fellow councillors Ian Selkirk and Andrew Pett for their research and assistance.

**6.4. Sand Path Stile.** CCC has agreed to replace 3 stiles along the footpath running across George Craze's land.

**6.5. Village Tennis Court.** Ian Selkirk reported that the cost of a G2 surface is £17,000 and replacement fencing would cost a further £15,000. Councillors discussed a cheaper surface to enable the tennis court to be used safely. Alan Rowbotham agreed to look into the types of alternative surface. The fencing also needs some repair and the restraining wires will need some maintenance to preserve it. This matter will be considered again at next month's meeting.

**6.6. Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016/17.** Ian Selkirk had prepared draft recommendations which had been circulated to councillors following the meeting with the County Traffic Engineer. Whilst there is no magic solution a package of highways improvements and signage will form a basis to increase awareness. The data from speedwatch has identified 'hot spots' and the police should be asked to check the speed of traffic leaving the village in the morning along Caxton Road. The recommended scheme includes (1) signs to improve awareness of 30mph speed limit entering the village along Meadow Road, (2) 20mph zone in Middle Street, (3) tactile paving crossing on Caxton Road, (4) highlight Eltisley Road as an area that needs attention and (5) purchase of a portable flashing speed sign. A scheme can be put forward for the village encompassing a number of proposals. There is a maximum fund of £10,000 per scheme with a minimum contribution of 10%, although more than 10% is needed to be taken seriously based on the points scoring system. A contribution of £10,000 from CCC would require a minimum contribution of £1,000 from the parish council but probably £3,000 to £5,000 to stand a good chance of success. Jeff Gorton spoke about the cost to rate payers if the precept is increased to fund a bid and councillors discussed phasing the bid to spread the cost over several years although some thought the recommendations would not be as effective if made as individual bids. There was insufficient councillor support for a tactile paving crossing in Caxton Road, although this would be better for pedestrians. Whilst Meadow Road was acknowledged as having a traffic problem, countdown signs into the village could be left out of a scheme bid as continued speedwatch presence would be effective and the police have already agreed to return at a later date to carry out speed checks. A portable flashing speed sign could be used throughout the village. Following further discussion, Michael Capps proposed a bid is made to include a 20mph zone in Middle Street, clearer signage closer to the crossing point at Caxton Road and the purchase of a portable flashing sign, a total cost of £6,000 - £7,000 with a parish council contribution of £2,000. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**6.7. Cherry Trees on Playing Field.** An offer had been made to plant a row of cherry trees parallel to the bowls club and tennis court fencing, to provide shade. The head teacher of the school had been consulted and was in agreement. It was proposed that the trees be planted a good distance from the fencing and approximately 8 metres apart. Councillors agreed the proposal with one councillor abstaining.

**7. Ecops Report.** There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden. The clerk had again emailed the Problem Solving Team to prioritise the village and was waiting to hear from Sgt Thorne. Police to be asked to carry out speed checks north bound along Caxton Road during the morning.

**8. Financial Statement** for September 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.1 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the vice chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of September 2015.

**9. Cheques for approval.** Councillors approved for payment the 7 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 2.

**10. Storage of Parish Council Papers and Archiving Policy.** Nalc's legal topic note on local councils' documents and records had been circulated. Michael Capps commented that ancient and historic documents should be retained including heritage statements found in planning applications. Planning papers are available to view on the District Council website. Andrew Pett proposed that an archiving policy is drawn up based on Nalc's recommendations. Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried unanimously. Documents and papers to be disposed of will require secure shredding and quotes will be needed.

**11. Play Equipment Safety Report and Repairs.** The report has flagged the swing seats both at the playing field site and Mandene Gardens. The quote for repairs also includes a replacement baby swing seat although this was not flagged at the time of inspection. Jeff Gorton proposed acceptance of the quote for repair to replace 3 swing seats at a cost of £74.50 each plus the labour charge. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried with 6 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. David Brown will be asked to repair the wooden side panel to the see-saw. Clerk to order bark for the Mandene Gardens Play Area.

**12. Highways.** Ian Winfield had visited the village to look at the outstanding repairs. Michael Capps commented that the rocking manhole cover in Caxton Road is getting worse but this has been reported to Anglian Water. Ian Selkirk commented that vegetation needs trimming to ensure visibility of speed signs.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE. 13.1.** Letter from Jo Hicks detailing the problems of parking in Middle Street outside the school and the dangers to children. Stephanie Beaumont had met with the head teacher to discuss a possible solution to include a 3 month trial to ban parents parking on Middle Street at school drop off and pick up times. Councillors discussed whether there was a need to ban parking further down the road. Michael Capps proposed that the Parish Council fully supports the efforts of the school provided parking is only restricted in Middle Street north of the entrance to the school.

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**Correspondence – continued:**

Seconded by George Craze and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Ian Selkirk also proposed that the area behind the Reading Room is also offered as a site for alternative parking. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried with 5 votes in favour and 3 against. This would also relieve congestion on Fox Street, enabling parents to walk their children to school across the playing field.

Councillor Julie Wisson left.

**13.2.** Councillors noted the external audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was completed with no issues raised by the external auditor.

**13.3.** Councillors agreed to defer village tree planting to the next meeting. Michael Capps stated that the elm trees in Church Street need pollarding. Clerk to obtain quotes.

**13.4.** Councillors agreed to defer the litter bin in Middle Street to the next meeting.

**13.5.** Email from Angela Steele suggesting that Cambridge Cycling Campaign are asked to visit the village to advise on safety. Clerk to enquire if anyone is available.

**13.6.** Email from Jim Watkins about the noise from the Crown and Cushion public house. Ian Selkirk, having declared a pecuniary interest took no part in this matter. Jeff Gorton reported that it now seemed the loud music had resulted from the Harvest Moon event at the Reading Room and not from the pub with Mr Watkins intending to withdraw the complaint.

**13.7.** Email from CCC detailing the funding that has been secured towards costs of £115,000 to enable phases 2 and 3 of the work programme for the windmill to be undertaken.

**13.8.** A donation of £5,000 towards the cost of maintaining the Garden of Remembrance has been received. The donation will be ring fenced and used solely for that purpose. Jeff Gorton raised the issue of a tarpaulin having been left in the cemetery bin following the recent interment. As a result bagged dog mess which had been left on top had fallen onto the path. Councillors agreed clerk to write to the undertakers to ensure all rubbish is taken away in future.

**13.9.** Councillors noted the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document.

**13.10.** Email on behalf of East Anglian Air Ambulance enquiring about grants. The Parish Council does not provide grants.

**13.11.** Councillors agreed to the request from the Reading Room to purchase a new oil tank as the present one is leaking.

**14. Planning. 1. 15/01624/TREE Removal and section fell, 1 Baldwins Manor.**

Councillors queried whether the tree is on the verge rather than the landowner's property. Michael Capps proposed that the Parish Council accepts the decision of the tree officer. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**2. 15/01703/TREE T1: Willow – remove dead wood and prune branches away from drive and telephone line; T2: Willow – re-pollard back to 3 to 4 feet below previous points; fell and grind stumps of T3, T4, T5 and T6, 19 Middle Street.** There was confusion about the application which stated the trees were subject to a TPO. Michael Capps proposed that the application is not supported on the basis that the applicant hasn't established why trees T3, T4, T5 and T6, which are the subject of a TPO, need to be removed. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

This meeting closed at 10.10pm