

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

George Craze Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson and 2 members of the public

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

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Ann Cosgrave.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 1st August 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for twenty-one minutes. Councillor Boddington reported that she will be attending a meeting about the A428 on 28th September at Eltisley. The project is scheduled to commence in Spring 2020, with the development of a preferred route scheme in Spring/Summer 2017, formal consultation on the preferred scheme in Autumn 2017 before the Secretary of State's decision in Winter 2019. She also reported that the final phase of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme is due for completion in 2020 with work having begun on the compounds at Brampton and Swavesey. Councillor West also reported that he will be attending the meeting on 28th September. He spoke about a number of issues on the agenda, including the Tree Warden post, which is still under consideration and village trees with both HDC and CCC having denied responsibility for maintenance. He also spoke about the forthcoming Scrutiny meeting. Following the passing of a balanced budget, district councillors had thought it could be changed depending on for example the public's reaction, but this is not now the case. Councillor Wisson reported having spoken to the county engineers, giving her support to the Parish Council's proposal under the Local Highways Improvement initiative. She reminded councillors of the Hauliers' covenant on the CCC website and suggested inviting local farmers to sign up in view of the concern about the speed of agricultural traffic in the village. She also reported on the proposed merger of the two NHS Trusts running Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough and Stamford hospitals. A public meeting will be held on 19th September in St Neots. Neither Hinchingsbrooke nor Peterborough and Stamford can continue as both are in financial deficit. Hinchingsbrooke has a vacancy rate of 12% and is having to pay locums at a higher cost. If the two hospital trusts merge, there will be a financial benefit of £9million per annum saving year on year although there will be a one off transition cost of £13million. The NHS regulator will look at the proposal and if all is agreed, the start date will be 1st April 2017. Hinchingsbrooke will not lose services. It is hoped consultants will move between the hospitals with one executive board.

Martin Davies provided councillors with an update on the repairs to the windmill with this phase due to complete in the New Year. Some of timbers have been replaced and the 4 corner posts also need replacing in oak. The historic timbers will be conserved and the pine used in the 1970s restoration will be replaced. The stones have been removed and will be reconstructed before being reinstated. The extra costs are being met by juggling the budget with some of the work to be done by volunteers.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Parish Council Web Forum. The chairman congratulated Debi Pearce on setting up the forum. She reported some 22 members have joined so far and hoped the forum will be a two-way conversation, suggesting topics should be posted as a question. It was agreed to post details of the proposed Hinchingsbrooke merger.

6.2. Publication of Background Papers. The chairman reported on the difficulty of establishing general principles for publication of additional papers although the council should be as open as possible. He suggested considering this further as particular items crop up.

6.3. Garden of Remembrance. Jeff Gorton reported that the gardeners had finished raising the under canopy as well as scarifying and weed killing around the stones. New grass seed will be sown in the spring. Ongoing maintenance will be approximately one hour per month. Jeff Gorton also reported that the cemetery shed was found open, suggesting someone else had a key. Councillors agreed to purchase a new padlock. Proposed Stephanie Beaumont seconded George Craze.

6.4. Tree Warden Post. Michael Capps reported that there will be a meeting on 4th October when more information will be available about the possible proposals to retain the post. He spoke about the decision to cut the post which was taken by HDC without consultation who then criticised the Tree Warden co-ordinator for contacting parish tree wardens to report the decision.

6.5. Mill Weir Lay-by. The chairman reported that CCC has confirmed in writing that the parish's financial contribution of £3,000 will be waived. Councillors raised concerns about the bollards, in particular if any planting could be done to hide them. The chairman asked for a proposal if councillors wished to put this forward.

6.6. A428 Public Meeting. Highways England had today emailed postponing the scheduled meeting on 14th September. Clerk to rearrange another date in October although concern was raised that the deadline for replies was being pushed back.

6.7. Village Trees/West Street Hedge. Michael Capps reported that Richard Jones, tree consultant for HDC, had already inspected the dead elm trees on the verge in Fox Street but neither HDC nor CCC were taking responsibility for the maintenance work. Clerk to raise the matter with Ian Winfield, Highways as the trees are on Highways land. The West Street hedge has been reported to Topham Farms. The clerk reported that the owner will come out to look at the overgrown hedge and do the work in the next month or two, once harvest has finished.

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

8. Financial Statement for August 2016. 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 August 2016.

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

Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Andrew Pett.

Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (August)	£225.00
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (August)	£180.00
Clerk's salary for August 2016	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for August	£5.12
Mrs D Taylor for Parish Council laptop & software	£429.90
Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£90.00

10. Reading Room Cottage Roof. Three quotes had been obtained for the repairs to the roof ranging from £790 to £1,265. The quotes were not like for like as some had included additional and/or unnecessary work. It was proposed by Michael Capps that the chairman and vice-chairman consult with the tenant, David Brown, before deciding which of the three quotes to proceed with. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

11. Speedwatch Equipment. Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the A14 Community Fund. Debi Pearce suggested bidding for speedwatch equipment costing £2,400 and white village gates for Meadow Road costing £3,200. There is a 10% contribution cost. Councillors unanimously agreed to apply for the cost of speedwatch equipment with a parish contribution of £240 if successful. Proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Jeff Gorton. Debi Pearce also reported on speedwatch during the past year which has included 33 sessions resulting in 510 drivers being reported and 1,500 who could not be reported as they fell within the category of over 30mph but under 35mph. It was noted at the last speedwatch session speed appears to be coming down.

12. Updating and Reviewing the Parish Council Website. Debi Pearce requested support about items for the website. Councillors agreed the information about the proposed hospital merger, traffic safety and the application for funding should be included on the website with the minutes giving the stimulus. This month the postponement of the A428 public meeting will also need including as well as on the noticeboard and in the shop. The website will be used to publish matters of concern such as the hospital merger and the forum for a two-way dialogue.

13. Parish/Neighbourhood Plans. Andrew Pett reported on the four choices available; a neighbourhood plan, a parish plan, a village design statement or nothing. A neighbourhood plan would cover planning whereas a parish plan would be based on what villagers' thought but would have no statutory back up. A neighbourhood plan would be helpful for larger parishes. Comment was made about the difficulty of any committee involved in producing a plan being subjective. The Local Plan refers to the development of the large towns with limited development for the rural villages. HDC does not see Great Gransden as growing although there could be limited development. A special meeting is needed if the matter is to go forward. Andrew Pett was thanked for all his work in producing his report and finding examples of plans of similar size villages.

(Councillor Julie Wisson left)

15. Highways. Michael Capps reported the state of Hardwicke Road. Although Highways have agreed to fill the pot holes down to the last farm building, the repairs need to be carried out beyond this. Clerk to ask Ian Winfield to look at this again.

Andrew Pett reported a tree that has fallen into the stream on the right hand side of Waresley Road just past the pumping station which is blocking the culvert.

Alan Rowbotham reported the raised path along Crow Tree Street which is breaking up.

Debi Pearce reported the gully outside Gransden Hall. Ian Winfield is investigating as gravel continues to wash down Meadow Road in wet weather.

Ian Selkirk reported overgrown verges at the corner of West Street and Meadow Road. The visibility is poor when turning right onto Meadow Road. Clerk to refer the matter to Highways. Parking in West Street near the Webbs Meadow junction was reported as dangerous as it is affecting visibility when leaving Webbs Meadow. Councillors noted there was little that could be done.

A resident had reported an overgrown footpath off Little Gransden Lane. The growth is from the neighbouring properties and clerk to report to the land owner.

Scott Parsons, CCC engineer, has requested details of road markings that need refreshing in the village. Councillors to provide the clerk with the information before the end of next week.

A resident had requested yellow lines on Middle Street to solve the problem of parked cars causing an obstruction for the refuse lorries. The working party for the Local Highway Improvement Initiative had decided against this and any on-going difficulties with non-emptying of bins should be passed back to HDC.

Highways – continued:

The chairman reported on the working party's discussion for a future bid, focusing on Meadow Road entrance to include a 40mph buffer zone between the village sign and the 30mph limit. Following discussion with Highway engineers, they have suggested a 50mph buffer zone as being appropriate. However, the working party is gathering evidence for a 40mph zone and will produce a draft bid for the next meeting.

16. CORRESPONDENCE. 16.1. Letter from a resident pointing out that aggregate is being stored on the airfield. Clerk to refer the matter to planning.

16.2. Councillors noted Cambs Acre's AGM on 27th September.

16.3. Letter from a villager objecting to the proposed 20mph limit in Middle Street. The consultation refers to the positioning of the new signs rather than a consultation on the principle of a lower speed limit. Clerk to reply. Concern was also raised about lorries through the village. Signs direct lorries through the village to avoid Fox Street although it was noted that this entails lorries navigating the mini roundabout at the top of Crow Tree Street which is not ideal.

16.4. Alan Rowbotham had raised a concern about litter left at Mill Weir although it now appears to be all cleared up and no longer a problem.

16.5. Letter about CCC's Community Highways Volunteering. Jeff Gorton had taken part last year and was willing to do so again this year with the help of other volunteers.

16.6. An estimate has been sought for the cost of replacing the Sand Road street light which was knocked down.

16.7. A resident had complained about Mandene Gardens Play Area as the grass has grown long. The bark that had been delivered will need spreading before the next safety inspection due this week and a number of councillors volunteered to do this if necessary.

1.72. Planning. 1. 16/01233/HHFUL and 16/01234/LBC to amend previously approved drawings. North elevation to add a velux window and increase the size of the front window to match the kitchen window. South elevation rear, to modify the dormer window to match the height of the adjacent dormer window and to add a pair of doors which also match the adjacent doors. East elevation, to remove the previously approved chimney. Interior alterations to form a larger opening between the new extension and the kitchen, 26 Middle Street. An amended plan had been submitted which had addressed the council's previous comments about obscure glass.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 3rd October 2016

This meeting closed at 9.40pm.