

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6th February 2017

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Chairman

Andrew Pett Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce 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 9 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 Alan Rowbotham. The chairman Ian Selkirk also gave his apologies for having to leave the meeting early.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

6.1. 18 Middle Street. Debi Pearce declared an interest as the owner of a nearby property.

6.2. 16 Church Street. George Craze declared an interest as a close relative of the owner.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 9th January 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for four minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington congratulated the volunteers on their recent village litter pick with 60 bags collected. She also reported that the work at Eltisley junction will last until the end of March with lights being checked, signs and road markings. Also, preparation work along the A428 with the clearing of trees. HDC is providing funding for 2 voluntary organisation, Hunts Forum and CAB (rural). Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the county council budget which will be debated on 14th February. The majority are in favour of a 2% increase for adult social care and a 0% or 1% council tax increase, a possible total increase of 3%. She also reported that Abbotsley has purchased its own speed watch equipment and following the intervention of Jason Ablewhite, (Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner) there will be police speed traps in Great Gransden next week.

6. Planning. 1. 16/02552/FUL Erect three dwellings and garage/cycle store and construct access and hard landscaping, Land East Of 18 Middle Street. Having declared an interest, Debi Pearce chose to withdraw from any discussion and left the room. The chairman read out the names of residents who had written a total of 12 letters of objection. One letter had also been received in support of the application. Councillors agreed with most of the points of objection that had been raised by residents in particular the proposed development will dominate a listed building, the safety of children going to school as the access is directly opposite the school entrance, back-land development, over-development and Local Plan policy H33 which sets out that the sub-division of large curtilages will normally be resisted where the setting of a listed building or the qualities of a conservation area are not preserved or enhanced. Concern had been raised by residents about the destruction of the land and trees. The chairman read out the emails from Richard Siwicki, HDC enforcement officer, stating that the tree officer had inspected the site in October 2014 and although a substantial amount of felling had taken place no drastic harm had been done and the owners were advised which trees needed to remain. On further inspection in January 2017 all the trees included in the tree officer's report were still there. Stephanie

Planning – continued:

Beaumont proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the grounds that (1) this site has historically been a garden and this development constitutes an overdevelopment of a back-land site more appropriate to an urban setting, (2) the removal of trees and vegetation constitutes the destruction of wildlife habitat including the possible habitat of an endangered species, namely Great Crested newts, (3) the development will dominate a listed building within a conservation area, (4) the development will cause an increase in activity of cars arriving and leaving the development at this narrowing of the road on a bend, on an access which is directly opposite a school. The dropped kerb of this access point is used twice daily as a crossing point for parents and children to access the school, (5) loss of privacy for houses on Church Street, and (6) this development will set a precedent for other owners of large gardens. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

6.2. 17/00140/LBC Change of use of barn and refurbishment to create dwelling, Barns at Rippington Manor 16 Church Street. Councillors noted this was a renewal of a listed building consent. Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously with no further comment.

6.3. 17/00117/S73 Application for variation of condition No 2 on planning permission 16/01376/FUL 16 - 20 Eltisley Road. Councillors noted the history. The applicants had been refused permission to vary condition 13 and remove the requirement for a footpath. This application is for slight revisions to the siting of plots 2, 3, and 4 to allow the carport to be repositioned for plot 4 and revisions to the car port for plot 5. Jeff Gorton proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it provides a footpath as required for safe access to Fox Street. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

7. Matters Arising: 7.1. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2107/18. The chairman reported, having attended the panel meeting, the application was well received. The only negative comment was the percentage cost contribution the parish council was proposing (20%) as it was not uncommon for bids to offer contributions of 50%. The outcome will be known in March.

7.2. Village Trees and Hedges. Michael Capps reported that 58 trees had been delivered around the village. He reported on the site meeting with Ian Winfield, Highways, Ian Selkirk also attending. It was agreed that the Caxton Road/Audley Close hedge was a problem although it is not clear who will carry out the work. Ian Winfield also agreed that work was needed to the Sand Path footpath which has a bush growing in the middle of the path as well as the arched tree in the middle of The Riddy path. The Fox Street trees, although dead, were not considered dangerous and no work will be carried out. He did not accept that the tree in Church Street was on highways land. 5.5m of the tree’s height can be cleared and the owner is to be asked to do the work.

7.3. Crow Tree Street Raised Footpath. This was also discussed during the site meeting with Ian Winfield. Whilst he noted the difficulties of residents walking on the road rather than the path the parish council will wait to see if there is some money to level up a section of the path. If there are concerns, it was suggested that the parish council should consider putting up a handrail. It had previously been suggested that an application under the LHI Scheme may be appropriate.

Ian Selkirk left the meeting and Andrew Pett took the chair.

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

9. Financial Statement for January 2017. 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 January 2017.

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

Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Ann Cosgrave.	
Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (January)	£225.00
Clerk's salary for January 2017	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for January	£3.84
PCC for churchyard maintenance 2016	£1,500
Mr Sewell for graveyard maintenance 2016	£120.00
Roundabout for newsletter (S.137)	£125.00

11. Reading Room Cottage Roof. The previously appointed contractor had failed to carry out the work and 2 further quotes had been obtained to repair the roof using a single membrane system. Stephanie Beaumont proposed acceptance of the quote from Reed Roofing in the sum of £1,870, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.

12. Parish Council Web Forum. Debi Pearce had prepared a report on the 6-month trial of the web forum concluding that the facility should continue but look at ways of amalgamating the forum into the website to avoid too many places where online information is available. This would also consolidate the status of the Parish Council website as the official place to seek information. It would take time to modify and amalgamate the forum. Michael Capps proposed that the web forum should continue with modification and attachment to the website. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

13. Speedwatch Equipment. Debi Pearce reported that equipment to carry out varied speed limit checks including the 20mph limit was needed. Funding sources will be investigated and suggestions reported at the next meeting.

14. Highways. Stephanie Beaumont reported the drain cover opposite Ladies Hill House. Michael Capps reported that Ian Winfield had been shown the pot holes along the edges of Waresley Road but Highways did not warrant it necessary to carry out any repairs. The width restriction signs were checked. The sign at Gransden end cannot be seen very well by traffic coming from the St Neots area and Highways will look into this, possibly repositioning the sign. Ann Cosgrave reported the potholes at the Caxton end of Gransden Road. Clerk to write to Caxton Parish Council asking that they be reported.

Debi Pearce spoke about the hedge that had been cut near the sportsfield as the cuttings had not been removed. The ditch has been cleared and it is assumed the brush will rot.

Pot holes at the entrance to the crane site will be dealt with when Highways repair that section of Caxton Road. £30,000 is being spent to do the work. The pot hole on the opposite side will be reported.

Councillors noted the recent incident in Middle Street when a large crane became wedged against a transit van when trying to navigate Middle Street. Councillors considered it unnecessary to write to John Taylor Cranes about the correct route into the village, as this was a rare occurrence. Highways has closed the file on the damage along Gransden Road near Redwood Farm entrance as no action was deemed necessary. Cracking along the road had originally been reported. Clerk will ask Little Gransden Parish Council for an update on the request for a litter bin near the windmill.

15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1. The cheque dated July 2016 for payment of the emergency cemetery grass cutting in the sum of £300 had not been cashed. The contractor has requested the cheque is reissued to a third party. Councillors agreed that it is not possible to do so and can only reissue to the contractor. Clerk to write to the contractor and advise accordingly. The original cheque has been returned.

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15.2. A resident had raised the loss of Public Rights of Way. Michael Capps clarified that rights of way on the definitive map cannot be lost. People who have walked on private property for a number of years can make a case for it to become a public right of way on the definitive map. Permissive paths are different, allowing people to walk on private property with the permission of the owner but do not become rights of way. Legislation will be changing to prevent the paths being added to the definitive map as outlined above.

15.3. Councillors noted the letter from Waresley Parish Council about the dangerous bridleway crossing. It was agreed to support Waresley Parish Council in their request for signs through the LHI Scheme.

15.4. Michael Capps agreed to snip drainage holes in the plastic tubing on the climbing frame to allow water to escape. It is not possible to replace the tubing as the equipment is no longer available.

15.5. Councillors noted that Alwalton has been designated a neighbourhood area.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th March 2017

This meeting closed at 9.00pm.