

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Catherine Fox Clerk

Peter King Parish Councillor

Nigel Day Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Richard West,  
and 4 members of the public

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

**2. Apologies.** There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda.

Cllr Scott declared an interest in item 16.1 on the agenda

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for sixteen minutes. District Councillor Richard West confirmed that he would remain Chairman of the Council until May and remain a member of the Corporate Governance, Licensing and Protection/Licensing Committee, Chairman of the Employment Committee, along with Member of the Senior Officers Committee and Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Sub Group Chairman.

A member of the public raised concerns over potential damage being caused to listed buildings within the village by HGVs. (*These concerns were addressed in item 14.1 of the agenda*).

A second member of the public sought clarity on the status of the highways improvement works on the Sand Road junction. It was confirmed that these works would still need to be completed prior to the commencement of any building works. (Condition 20).

*Councillor Wisson left the meeting.*

**6. Matters Arising:**

**6.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).** Cllr Pett reported that the committee were involved with a village quiz event due to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> January. This event was at capacity with 60 people due to attend. Alternative larger venues were discussed. However, given that it was in conjunction with ‘village hall week’ it was decided that the quiz should remain at the Reading Rooms. Cllr Pett reported that the committee were due to meet Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and that Rachel Hogger had sent detailed draft policies for review.

**6.2. Website Accessibility.** Cllr Day reported that website accessibility reviews remain ongoing. There are currently minor issues that exist around small icons that are not compliant with the new accessibility rules. Although these icons are not specific Parish Council content, they are subject to the same regulations. These issues could be due to Google sites hosting. Cllr Day will draft a report and will investigate the possibility of other providers. Final adjustments to the website must be complete by mid-September of this year.

**6.3. Street Light Energy** Cllr Pett, at this point, acknowledged the enormous debt of gratitude that the Parish owed to Diane Taylor for her 20 years of excellent service as clerk. Council concurred on this. He was reminded of her as she had struggled for months to obtain quotes for

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our street lighting and had finally received them as the clerk reported that quotes had been received from Utility Aid. Cllr Pett proposed that the Parish Council go with the recommendation given. This was for SSE who were most competitive on a fully fixed, 100% renewable energy option with a contract end date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Gorton and unanimously carried.

**7. Cambridgeshire Acre – renewal of membership** Cllr Pett proposed that this membership be renewed at a cost of £57.00. This was seconded by Cllr Scott and unanimously agreed.

**8. Trees and Hedges (consideration of advice and quotes for churchyard trees and quotes for the playing field trees.)** Cllr Capps reported that he had obtained quotes from three providers. GTS, Charlie Vince and Branching Out. Each provider had quoted for both the churchyard and playing field works. Branching Out provided the cheaper quote and therefore it was agreed that the job be given to them at a cost of £500.00 ex VAT. (Proposed Cllr Scott seconded Cllr King and unanimously carried).

**9. Cemetery Extension**

Councillors agreed that Adlams Solicitors should act for both parties (Mr Nick Foster and the Parish Council) as there is no conflict of interest.

**10. Multi-Use Games Area** Cllr King reported that the MUGA is still in excellent condition with no signs of wear. However, in order to comply with the warranty of the MUGA it must be sprayed in mid-June this year. Peter King proposed that the maintenance contract with HDC (ETC Sports Services) be renewed at a cost of £475 +VAT for 3years. This was seconded by Cllr Pett and unanimously carried.

**11. Sportsfield Grass Cutting** Cllr Ginn reported that the last meeting of the GRSA had been cancelled and so he had been unable to put to the committee points requiring clarity by the Parish Council. These included improved monitoring of the frequency and authorisation of grass cutting. It was suggested that the current contribution made by the Parish Council remain the same and that a stipulation be that the costs come in within the budget. This was agreed in principle. However, this item will be looked at again in February when feedback from the GRSA committee meeting is available.

**12. Financial Statement** for December 2019. 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 December 2019.

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

Proposed Cllr Capps, seconded Cllr Catmur.

Mrs D Taylor – clerk’s salary for December 2019	£540.34
Mrs D Taylor – clerk’s expenses for December 2019	£32.38
HM Revenue & Customs for clerk’s tax Nov & Dec 2019	£1.00
Information Commissioner for Data Protection Renewal	£40.00
Cambridgeshire ACRE for membership renewal	£57.00
WJ Flinders & Son for Reading Room Cottage – new sockets	£94.94
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50

**14. Highways**

Councillors reported no new potholes.

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**14.1 HGVs through the village** A villager had raised concerns about large numbers of HGVs coming through the village, damaging grass verges and shaking the foundations of listed buildings. Restricting through traffic is unenforceable with width restrictions not a viable option due to agricultural vehicles that use the roads. Cllr Pett also confirmed that previous efforts to enforce weight restrictions had been unsuccessful. The problem lies heavily with Sat Nav devices (originally for cars) drawing HGVs into the village down roads that are not suitable. Cllr Pett confirmed that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Committee are aware of these problems and are also concerned. Cllr Pett will draft a letter to HDC asking for advice and guidance, and to highlight the problems. Cllr West will also contact Louise Brown (Conservation Officer) to convey the concerns of the Parish Council from a conservation point of view. Cllr Ginn reported that a refuse lorry had caused significant damage to the triangular grass verge opposite the Crown and Cushion public house. The Clerk will report this to County Highways through the website. As photographic evidence of the incident can be provided, it is hoped Highways will carry out any associated repairs and HDC will settle any costs incurred. HGVs have also caused issues in other areas of the village.

**14.2 Blocked Culvert Mill Road** Cllr Day reported that the blocked culvert on Mill Road is owned by a local land owner. However, the blockage is causing water to flow down Mill Road instead of down its intended route through Little Gransden. This could cause potential safety issues with sheet ice as the weather becomes more inclement. It was suggested that Highways may be able to intervene to encourage the land owner to take action. Clerk to contact County Highways about this and also to follow up on other blocked culverts and gully's in the village.

## 15. Correspondence

**15.1 Request to support the Local Electricity Bill** Councillors voted against supporting the Local Electricity bill on the basis that it would not be possible to implement within the village.

**15.2 Gransden Muddy Fun Run – request for permission** Councillors agreed to grant permission to the organisers of the Gransden Muddy Fun Run subject to the conditions imposed last year. It was noted that these conditions should also include the advisory notices on the MUGA. Cllr Pett proposed permission be granted, seconded by Cllr Catmur and unanimously carried. Clerk to notify event organiser.

**15.3 Badge of Office** Councillors agreed that silver bars should be bought. Clerk to obtain quotes from the supplier, Fattoni & Co.

**15.4 Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options** Councillors noted the advanced notice of upcoming consultation commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and running until 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**15.5 Buckingham Palace Garden Party** It was decided that on this occasion no nomination would be made by the Parish Council.

**15.6 Operation London Bridge** It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt the plans of the County Council and not seek to determine its own protocol.

*Councillor Scott left the meeting.*

## 16. Planning

**16.1 Removal of existing conservatory, proposed single storey rear extension, dormer, insertion of single storey extension/storm porch, fenestration alterations and retrospective application for the insertion of two windows in the side elevation of 4 Whittets Close, Great Gransden.** Councillors noted that the proposed changes could not be seen from the road. No objections had been received from neighbours. Cllr Catmur proposed 'Approval' on the grounds that it is a suitable improvement to upgrade an existing dwelling. Seconded by Cllr Pett and unanimously carried.

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*Councillor Scott returned to the meeting*

**16.2 Reserved matters application in respect of layout, scale, landscaping and appearance following permission of 17/01375/OUT - (Outline planning permission for residential development of up to 40 dwellings (Use Class C3) including means of access into site). Land North East of Mandene Gardens.** Councillors agreed to submit comments to HDC in relation to this application seeking further clarification around maintenance responsibilities for external hedgerows and also amenity areas within the proposed development. It was noted that the lighting at the entrance should be downward facing to avoid an urban feel for the houses opposite. Councillors also commented that the flags were noisy and could be heard in East Street, with alternatives being sought. Clerk to submit these comments to HDC Planning by the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 deadline.

**16.3 Airfield – Chippings** Following the email from Alison Twyford (enforcement officer) confirming that there had been no breach of planning control, it was agreed that no further action would be taken.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7.30pm**

This meeting closed at 8.59pm