

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6th July 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 7 members of the public

George Craze Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

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 Councillors Andrew Pett and Jeff Gorton.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

12.2. 5 East Street. Michael Capps declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a neighbouring property.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 1st June 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for twenty five minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington spoke about her recent visit to the businesses on the Sand Road and Hardwicke Road industrial estates. Accompanied by Councillor Richard West, she had delivered a letter suggesting that all HGVs come into and leave the village via Caxton to alleviate the problem of large lorries travelling through the village. She also spoke about shared services with IT being centralised and the operations division being re-organised. Also if any pavements/kerbs need weed spraying, operations will come out to do this. She has also received complaints about how the road in Abbotsley has been left following the work by Anglian water. Alan Rowbotham asked about the debris left on the road following the recent storm as it is a hazard for cyclists. The HDC sign sited at the entrance to the village has fallen off and Councillor Boddington agreed to report this. A resident asked for an update on the A428 improvement. It could take another 12 months to sort out the route and there are no plans to upgrade part of the road whilst waiting to build the new road. Councillor Julie Wisson had put in an objection to the Boundary Commission proposals and the matter will be debated by full council on 21st July. The county council is not happy that the number of councillors is being further reduced from 63 to 61. The final proposals will be known in September. (Councillor Wisson left the hall). Mr Sturt-Hammond raised the issue of the roundel outside his house which needs repainting. The clerk will follow this up as Highways had previously agreed to repaint it. Also the stile along Sand Path is unstable and he asked if it could be replaced with a gate. The bin opposite the school needs emptying and seems to be missed frequently. Speeding in the village continues to be a problem and Nik Johnson asked what councillors are hoping to achieve, in particular traffic calming measures. Councillors commented that the police had recently carried out a speed check along Meadow Road. The Parish Council needs to prove that there is a speeding problem in the village and Speedwatch should help to provide this proof to the police. Martin Davies reported on the progress with the repairs to the windmill. The millwright is returning this week to carry out repairs to the trestle, replacing the pier pads and fitting reinforcing plates to strengthen the joints at the end of each of the quarter bars. The repairs are more costly than originally envisaged.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Mill Weir Lay-by. Highways had filled in the potholes but will not continue to do so. The solution was to install plastic grasscrete which Highways had agreed to pay half. Since the Parish Council agreed to the division of cost in April 2015, CCC has been appraising the situation with no further progress. Clerk to chase.

6.2. Meadow Road Verges. No response has been received from Anglian Water since the last meeting when councillors raised various repairs following the water pipe replacement work. The flooded ditch has not yet been repaired. Clerk to chase.

6.3. Register of Purchased Graves. Capalc had advised that as long as the council is satisfied that it is meeting its requirements it does not need to do anything else. Councillors decided not to change its present method of recording purchased graves. Councillors also considered whether the cemetery regulations should be changed to allow machinery to dig graves. As mechanical diggers are now much smaller, councillors decided to change the regulations to allow machinery subject to a specified size and weight. Clerk to draft some suitable wording but in the meantime Michael Capps proposed to allow a mini digger with rubber tracks to be used to dig the grave for the burial taking place this week. Seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried unanimously.

6.4. Sportsfield Trustees. Ian Selkirk commented that having looked through information from the Charity Commission he concludes that the trustees are the executive committee which is made up in accordance with the GSRA constitution. A committee can apply for grants in a way that the Parish Council cannot. Councillors agreed that the GSRA was right to raise the matter as it is a grey area. The committee will need to deal with amending the trustees and lodging the updated constitution. As the GSRA operates under licence from the Parish Council, councillors will ask for the minutes of their committee meetings to be circulated.

6.5. Boundary Commission Review. An amended letter had been sent to the Boundary Commission objecting to the proposed boundary changes for Great Gransden. The amendment included a reference to Yelling, Abbotsley and Waresley Parish Councils supporting the points of objection. Great Paxton had sent its own letter setting out similar objections.

6.6. Luminus Seminar. Ian Selkirk reported on the recent seminar he had attended. Luminus is looking to purchase land to build and house disadvantaged people. When asked if Luminus's duty of care extended to neighbours, he was informed if there were any problems discussion took place with the tenants. Councillors commented that the situation does not appear to be as bad as it was, although there is a car parked across the pavement. Clerk to write to Luminus stating that the situation has improved but there is still a parking problem.

6.7. Speeding. Debi Pearce reported that there are about 15/16 people willing to be involved with Speedwatch. Stephanie Beaumont had been in contact with the county co-ordinator who has offered a number of dates in July for a training session. The Speedwatch equipment can be hired but it is necessary to book it first and presently some 200 villages are involved. Caxton Parish Council is thinking of buying the equipment at a cost of £2,635. The chairman set out how Speedwatch operates, with drivers breaking the speed limit being reported to the police. The purpose will be to demonstrate the concern in the village. Traffic calming measures are expensive and Speedwatch will help to first prove need. A bid for traffic calming measures can be made to CCC under the Local Highway Initiative with Parish Councils contributing 10%. Any proposed bids need to be taken into account when setting the precept in November. Councillors discussed possible measures including altering priority at junctions, position of speed signs. Debi Pearce spoke about the safety of children and reminding drivers of speed. Children wearing jackets marked with the 30mph sign may raise consciousness. Parking outside the school remains a problem. Playgroup and Greenfields Nursery needs to be involved in considering possible measures. Debi Pearce and Ian Selkirk agreed to form a sub-

Matters Arising – continued:

committee to consider possible traffic calming measures and to prioritise these. A Speedwatch training session will also be arranged and the sub-committee will report back at the next meeting.

6.8. Wooden Train Repairs. David Brown had provided a quote detailing 3 options for repairs to the wooden train. George Craze proposed option 3 to rub down and revarnish, renewing both carriage roof and engine roof at a cost of £240 plus £40 for materials. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Clerk to investigate the cost of obtaining a replacement steering wheel.

Michael Capps reported that there is a depression in the grass where Anglian Water dug down to the drainage and the area was not compacted properly. Clerk to report.

6.9. Waresley Road Surface Dressing. Councillor Julie Wisson had reported to Highways the remedial work which should have been carried out before the road was surface dressed. The edges had been missed and the work needs doing urgently. Clerk to chase up.

6.10. Safety Surface Repairs. The chairman reported that the work to renew the safety surface under the slide and repairs to the climbing frame surface had been completed. Details to be reported in Roundabout.

6.11. Gransden Windmill. Martin Davies had updated councillors about the ongoing repairs. CCC is paying for the emergency repairs although the costs have increased.

7. Ecops Report. Councillors agreed an ecops report should be compiled each month as it provides evidence of village crime. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No.1.

8. Financial Statement for June 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

9. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the 6 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 3.

14. Highways. George Craze reported the edges along Waresley Road.

Michael Capps commented that the manhole covers in Caxton Road have been marked for some time but no work has yet been done.

Ian Selkirk spoke about the grass verges outside the Crown and Cushion with work partly completed around the tree stump. The 30mph speed sign in Meadow Road is obscured by overgrown trees.

Ann Cosgrave reported water gushing from the Church Street drain during the recent storm.

Alan Rowbotham commented that the manhole covers have already started to sink. This is the responsibility of Anglian Water. Also debris has been washed down Crow Tree Street and Meadow Road following the recent storm.

11. CORRESPONDENCE. 11.1. Email from Ann Girling pointing out that the mini roundabout appeared unloved. This was being looked after by the owners of Old Tailor's cottage and Debi Pearce has also agreed to keep an eye on it.

11.2. A resident had raised the problem of parking at the very end of Middle Street, on the bend to Church Street, when dropping off school children. A suggestion of using the village court tennis area as a pick up/drop off point was discounted. The future use of the tennis court will be discussed at the October meeting. The chairman agreed to speak to the school about the parking. (Councillor Boddington left the hall).

Correspondence – continued:

11.3. Councillors noted the Flood and Water consultation.

11.4. Councillors noted the letter about a community oil buying club system but considered it was a matter for the company to advertise its system.

11.5. Councillors noted the consultation on the Houghton & Wyton Neighbourhood Plan.

11.6. Details of a planning training a course run by the Suffolk Branch of LCPAS were noted.

12. Planning. 1. 15/00877/HHFUL Proposed two storey extension, replacement of existing conservatory with a single storey extension and addition of a second storey over an existing single storey, 6 Winchfield. The chairman read out the letter of objection from Richard Falconer, owner of the neighbouring property. Councillors commented on the size of the extension, almost doubling the size of the property. George Craze proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the ground that the size of the proposed extensions is disproportionately large to the size of the existing property. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried with 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

2. 01010/HHFUL Replacement of section of monopitch roof over existing two storey projection with new slate pitch roof, 5 East Street. Michael Capps having declared a pecuniary interest left the hall. No letters had been received. Ann Cosgrave proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is necessary work and an improvement to the property. Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 3rd August 2015

This meeting closed at 9.50pm