

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Chairman

Andrew Pett Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Stephanie Beaumont Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, 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.** Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson.

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

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for fifteen minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington advised councillors of the devolution briefing taking place later in the week. The pot hole along Waresley Road has been reported and Ian Winfield is looking into this. There is possible damage to cars due to the size of the pot hole and it is hoped it will be repaired quickly. Councillor Richard West spoke about the peer review at HDC, looking into the District Council's procedures and whether it is delivering the right services. Mr Donovan, the owner of the site at Sand Road introduced his son and daughter in law and they explained their plans for the land. They intend to start a market garden, selling vegetable boxes. Of the 5.5 acre site, about 1.5 acres will be cultivated. The site is well wooded but no trees will be taken out. When asked by councillors if they were living on the site, they stated they lived in Gamlingay. They are working 7 days per week and have a caravan for use as an office and for welfare purposes although they have also stayed there. They leave a car on site as there are tools and want to ensure none go missing. People are going onto the land and treating it as an amenity with rubbish being left and they want to deter people wandering in. Councillors commented that by leaving vehicles overnight leads to an assumption that they are living there, particularly when the cars are seen early in the morning with frosted windows. They acknowledged that an application for planning permission will be needed for poly tunnels. Ian Selkirk explained that there has been considerable concern about staying on the site and the parish council is in touch with the enforcement officer. He thanked them for coming to talk to councillors and wished them well with their business.

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Parish Council Communications.** Debi Pearce spoke about the creation of a Google forum as described by Phil Taylor at the last meeting. The working group involving herself and Ian Selkirk is looking into accessing the forum via the parish council website. Decisions need to be made about who will contribute and how the forum will operate which will be for Great Gransden residents only. It will be a forum for people to exchange views, a useful source of information. There were concerns about how to regulate use of the forum, whether residents must first register to contribute. Residents would need to understand that they would not receive a response from councillors via the forum. Debi Pearce commented that councillors would not have access to the forum and wouldn't be able to make contributions thus avoiding councillors being drawn into discussions and ensuring parish council discussions only take place at the monthly meetings. Ian Selkirk commented that communication with the

**Matters Arising – continued:**

parish council is a process which first needs to be defined. Debi Pearce agreed to look into this further as well as drafting an opening statement about the forum for consideration by councillors at the next meeting.

**6.2. Church Yard Trees.** A new application for work to the 2 beech trees has been submitted to HDC. If no response is received by 4<sup>th</sup> July, the work can go ahead.

**6.3. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Councillors are still waiting for an update from Highways that the issues have been investigated with the contractor.

**6.4. Audit of our Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.** The internal audit has been completed with no concerns raised. The papers will now be sent for external audit.

**6.5. Cemetery Grass Cutting.** The parish council had been let down by the contractor and complaints had been received about the length of the grass. New quotes from 3 contractors had been obtained and councillors agreed that a new contractor should be appointed. Jeff Gorton to thank the contractor for his many years service and advise on the appointment of a new contractor. Councillors considered the 3 quotes. It was proposed by Michael Capps that Daniel Pettit be awarded the contract at £90 per cut for this season with the number of cuts to be determined as required and the council will review the situation at the end of the season. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 against. As an emergency measure the chairman had authorised the cutting of the cemetery to a manageable level at a cost of £300. This was endorsed by councillors, proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried unanimously. Councillors expressed their thanks to Anthony Malone for helping with the emergency cutting. Councillors will look at the Garden of Remembrance for discussion next month as this may need some additional maintenance.

**6.6. Local Highway Improvement Bid.** Scott Parsons, project engineer at CCC had provided plans for the scheme to include posts on Caxton Road, Meadow Road and Eltisley Road for the new mobile interactive speed sign, 20mph speed limit along Middle Street and tactile paving and a timber post with a reflective band together with new signage at the crossing point near to the sportsfield entrance. Concern was raised about liability for costs. The chairman confirmed there is a liability of £2,000 from the parish council but should the project overrun the initial £9,000 budget cost, the parish council would be liable for any additional cost. As yet there are no firm costing except for the mobile interactive sign although there should be sufficient flexibility to bring the project in budget. Concern was also raised about the village becoming cluttered with too many posts and signs. Councillors agreed the scheme details and decided against ordering any extra items for the interactive sign. The working party has met again to discuss ideas for future applications and will visit the Highways Open Day on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**7. Ecops Report.** There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden.

**8. Reading room Cottage Insurance 2016/17.** Councillors agreed to renew the policy with NFU at a cost of £424.02, proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously. There is a leak in the kitchen roof. Councillors agreed to give the chairman and vice chairman authority to make a decision as time may be short with a limit of £500 on expenditure. Proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.

**9. Joint Local Forum.** Stephanie Beaumont and Michael Capps had attended the meeting. Stephanie Beaumont reported on a number of points including the setting of precepts which have to be in by 1<sup>st</sup> March each year although a number of parish councils submit by the end of January rather than the earlier date in December. The grey bins are to be reduced in size to

**Joint Local Forum – continued:**

encourage recycling. Andy Moffat, HDC planning, was at the meeting. Numerous complaints were made about the e-consultation and although several suggestions were made to help parish councils, the paperless system of planning consultation will remain. Jason Ablewhite, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire was also in attendance.

**10. Bowls Club Rent Review.** The rent is presently set at £1 pa. Michael Capps proposed that the rent remain at £1 pa, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**11. Financial Statement** for May 2016. 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 May 2016.

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

Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (May)	£225.00
Clerk's salary for May 2016	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for May	£5.76
Clerk for printer paper	£7.00
Phil Taylor for website domain renewal	£11.99
Capalc for 2016/17 affiliation fees	£286.45
NFU for Reading Room cottage insurance	£424.02
Local Council Public Advisory Service for training course	£25.00

**13. Highways.** Stephanie Beaumont reported overgrown shrubbery outside Old Dixies, causing it difficult to use the footpath. Councillors agreed a note in Roundabout reminding residents to cut their hedges/shrubs.

Michael Capps spoke about the poor grass cutting. The area behind the elm trees in Church Street had been missed again.

Ian Selkirk reported the tree across the road from Old Dixies. The branch is almost touching the thatch. This has already been reported to Highways.

Alan Rowbotham reported the pavement outside his neighbouring property which is broken up and could be a safety issue.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE. 14.1.** Councillors noted the new draft recommendations for the Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire. St Neots East and Great Gransden ward allows for the growth of Loves Farm and no changes have been made despite previous representations.

**14.2.** Highway Depot Open Days. Ian Selkirk and Debi Pearce will be attending.

**14.3.** Councillors noted the request for nominations for this year's Etheldreda Medal.

**14.4.** A resident had complained about dog fouling. This is a recurrent village problem and a note will be put in Roundabout.

**14.5.** Councillors noted the next meeting of the Cambourne to Cambridge Local Liaison Forum.

**14.6.** Andrew Pett and Ann Cosgrave agreed to be part of the A428 Improvement Scheme Community forum.

**14.7.** A resident had requested a litter bin by the windmill. Clerk to ask if HDC would empty it.

**14.8.** The Reading Room committee wishes to install a loop hearing system. Two quotes had been obtained. Stephanie Beaumont proposed acceptance of the quote from Action on Hearing Loss for £1,240.79 excluding vat. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

**14.9.** Invitation from Luminus to attend their residents' conference. Jeff Gorton reported on a resident's application to Luminus for housing in West Street.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – concluded

**15. Planning. 1. 16/01045/HHFUL Replacement of garage following demolition of existing garage, 22 Little Gransden Lane.** Councillors noted the difficulty in looking at the plans on a computer screen. A paper copy had been obtained from the applicant. Councillors noted some old plans had been used. The proposal is twice the size of the existing garage and 50% taller. Jeff Gorton proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that demolition of the pre-fabricated garage and replacement with a traditionally built garage will be in-keeping with the attractive listed building. Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried with 4 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention, the chairman exercising his casting vote.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

This meeting closed at 9.28pm.

DRAFT