

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

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West, County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 3 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 Barbara Boddington and Parish Councillor George Craze.

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

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 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 Julie Wisson spoke about the announcement of the 3 proposed routes for the A428 with options for the Black Cat roundabout. There are information points at Papworth and St Neots libraries along with a number of drop in clinics where information will be available. The consultation lasts for 7 weeks, with the preferred route announced this summer. There will be a landowners' meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March for those affected. Other news – Sgt Kevin Thorne was in the village this morning carrying out speed checks. Drivers travelling at 40mph in a 30mph zone would be ticketed. None were but he agreed to return to carry out checks in the evening. Councillors commented that speed checks will only work if they are carried out on an irregular basis and drivers are aware of the possibility of getting caught. Debi Pearce reported that the speedwatch officer was in attendance at the recent speedwatch session but no tickets were issued. Councillor Wisson commented that the 40mph buffer zone at each end of Abbotsley appears to have helped with reducing the speed of traffic within the village. Councillor Richard West spoke about the launch event he had attended that day for the A428 proposed routes. The 3 options will need to be considered and the district council may support the orange route. The change in the bin collection days did not work along Meadow Road due to the repair taking place; the closure of the road meant that bins were not collected. Some assisted collections have also failed with the bins not being returned to the householder. He will be taking this up tomorrow. He has also been trying to arrange a meeting on how to get trees maintained. He suggested that it would be useful for a parish councillor to attend the conference later this month to provide feedback. He also suggested that all clerks should have a list of officers' names thus ensuring the correct point of contact, a point he will be making at a forthcoming performance meeting. A resident spoke about the A428 options urging councillors to publicise it as much as possible to ensure people have a voice. Councillors confirmed that they do not have any more information than that already published.

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Speedwatch Equipment.** Councillors considered suggestions for funding the purchase of equipment to carry out varied speed limit checks costing £1,995. Debi Pearce agreed to look into a lottery grant, village fundraising and a direct approach to a local funding source.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**6.2. Uncashed Cheque.** The chairman agreed to speak to the contractor.

**6.3. Pothole Caxton Road.** Councillors agreed to keep this under review and raise it again in the summer should the hole become larger.

**6.4. Climbing Frame.** Michael Capps reported that he had snipped the plastic tubing, allowing the dirty water to drain away.

**7. Ecops Report.** There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden, although councillors noted that there had recently been an attempted break-in at the village shop.

**8. Financial Statement** for February 2017. 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 February 2017.

**9. Cheques for approval.** Councillors discussed the invoice for £490.32 from Balfour Beatty for year 2 of 3-year maintenance contract. Balfour Beatty had not yet provided the annual maintenance report and no response had been received to the request for the information. It was proposed by Ian Selkirk, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously that payment is delayed until the report is received. Councillors had also received a copy invoice for damp work to the party wall between the Reading Room and the cottage. Councillors had already agreed to pay half to the Reading Room committee but due to additional work the cost had increased by £66.48. It was unanimously agreed to pay the increased cost (proposed Ann Cosgrave, seconded Stephanie Beaumont).

The following payments were approved:

Proposed Michael Capps, seconded Jeff Gorton.

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| Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (February) | £225.00 |
| Clerk's salary for February 2017                       | £470.81 |
| Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance            | £15.00  |
| Cambs County Council for street light energy 2015/16   | £826.44 |
| Great Gransden Reading Room for cost of damp work      | £508.98 |

**10. Cemetery Tree.** Jeff Gorton reported that he had been informed of a fallen tree in the cemetery. He was not able to deal with it but councillors thanked Michael Capps for removing it to prevent any danger. He had also cut away some of the brambles. Alan Rowbotham reported a large branch hanging over towards the neighbouring pond. Jeff Gorton agreed to take a look.

**11. Highways.** Councillors noted that the culvert in Meadow Road had now been repaired. All the work under the Local Highway Improvement bid had been completed. The mobile speed sign is presently sited in Eltisley Road. Despite the edges along Waresley Road becoming worse, Highways will not undertake any repair. The hedge in West Street has now been cut back.

**A428 Improvement** – councillors agreed that the information published today, detailing the 3 proposed routes, needed to be digested and a meeting arranged to consult with local residents to avoid information becoming fragmented. Councillors noted that there is no indication of how the Caxton Gibbet junction will appear and clarification was needed. Serious environmental concerns were noted for both southern routes along with the significant number of bridges needed. It was noted that there would be 2 disturbances to mineral sites on the northern route. Councillors agreed to arrange a public meeting at the end of March, allowing time for residents to attend local events and obtain information presented by Highways England. Clerk to write to neighbouring villages about the meeting and details will be published on the website and forum.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1.** Councillors had sought the advice of the tree officer for work to two ash trees in Little Lane. The response suggested that the parish council should seek the advice of a tree surgeon and any suggested work be authorised by HDC through submission of a notification for tree works. The parish council needs the advice of the tree officer before instructing commercial companies for quotes. Richard West agreed to take the matter up.

**12.2.** A resident had offered to help with the cleaning of the village signs. Councillors agreed to take up the offer.

**12.3.** Stephanie Beaumont and Alan Rowbotham agreed to attend the Huntingdonshire Town and Parish Council Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**12.4.** Councillors considered the draft Capalac Membership Agreement agreeing to comment on nominating a representative to attend AGMs and the request for councillors contact details. Councillor Julie Wisson left.

**12.5.** Letter from Paul Jose raising concerns about the parish council's decision to recommend approval for the development of 5 houses in Eltisley Road; by recommending approval the matter was not automatically referred to panel and the subsequent variation for re-siting of a garage/carport will result in a double sized garage with increase height thus having greater impact on properties in Winchfield. Councillors were of the view that by objecting the application would not automatically have been referred to panel as the rules have changed. Councillors had listened to comments made to the original application and recommended approval with provision for a footpath. Councillors had received no letter of objection to the subsequent application for variation, having based the recommendation for approval on safety reasons to ensure the provision of a footpath from the site to Fox Street. The recommendation was made in good faith. It is HDC which makes the final decision. Clerk to clarify the rules for referral to panel before responding.

**13. Planning. 1. 17/00257/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and workshop and erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage, 46 Meadow Road.** No letters of objection had been received. Michael Capps proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that the replacement of an older building with a more modern well designed building set back will enhance the street scene and improve the environment. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

**13.2. 17/00292/TREE Pruning to 16 trees, 18A Meadow Road.** The trees are subject to a TPO but need maintenance. Ann Cosgrave proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that it is good tree maintenance. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

This meeting closed at 9.10pm.