

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

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Giles Scott 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. There were apologies for absence from Ann Cosgrave, Parish Councillor and District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

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

4. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd October 2017 and 30th October 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for seven minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Richard West provided news releases on the new Council Dog Controls which came into effect on 20th October and the Strategic Review of Car Parking. He also reported that Luminus is looking to merge with 'Places for People Group'. Budgets are again being considered later in the month and both he and District Councillor Barbara Boddington followed up on the HELAA consultation. Tamsin Miles, HDC's Tree Officer, has been encouraged to attend a parish council meeting in the light of tree safety. In her absence, the chairman read a report from District Councillor Barbara Boddington which included the car parking strategy, the merger of Luminus and budgets. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on forthcoming budgets at the county council. The biggest pressure is 'looked after children'. Although services for young children are being cut, numbers are increasing. This is a national problem and there is a need for foster carers.

Councillor Wisson left

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Stephanie Beaumont reported that 4 villagers had expressed an interest in becoming involved. Most parish councils opt to employ a consultant to assist with the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. If Cambridgeshire Acre is employed to help, there is an initial cost of £400 which is not recoverable. There is funding available of up to £9,000 towards the cost. Jeff Gorton proposed that the Parish Council commit £400 for the training of interested parties for a Neighbourhood Plan to be delivered by Cambridgeshire Acre. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried unanimously.

6.2. Parish and Town Council Conference. Stephanie Beaumont had circulated information on the conference including Rural Exception Sites which is a way of guaranteeing housing for people in the village. This is something that can be included in a Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Ecops Report. There were no reported incidents affecting Great Gransden. The chairman read out the response from Catherine Kimberley, Communications Officer concerning the lack of crime in the village being reported on Ecops. Councillors noted that there was a recent car break-in at Waresley wood car park which has not been reported on Ecops. As there have been a number of break-ins at this site it would be an appropriate place to set up a camera. Clerk to contact PCSO Braddick.

8. Little Gransden Airfield Local Consultative Committee Representative and Gliding Club Consultative Committee Representative. It was proposed by Andrew Pett, seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously that Nick Ginn be elected parish council representative.

9. Trees. One quote had been received for the cost of surveying the village trees. Two further quotes had been requested and the matter will be considered again when further quotes were to hand. Councillors agreed to invite Tamsin Miles, HDC Tree Officer, to either the February or March meeting next year. Michael Capps reported having cut the ivy on the dead elder in the churchyard. It is not in danger of causing damage and can be removed when any planned work is next carried out in the churchyard.

10. Sportsfield. The GSRA minutes had been circulated. Alan Rowbotham reported that of the two quotes received for next year's sportsfield grass cutting contract the preferred contractor is Buchans, the existing contractor, whose quote whilst comprising a 4.3% increase also included additional work behind the tennis court. It was proposed by Alan Rowbotham, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously that Buchans be awarded the sportsfield grass cutting contract for 2018 at a cost of £2,199.75 plus vat. It was also reported that the football club has purchased a defibrillator and the GSRA is looking to purchase a cabinet at a cost of £449 plus vat. Councillors agreed to purchase the cabinet on behalf of GSRA provided the vat element is underwritten by the Sportsfield committee. (Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Michael Capps). Alan Rowbotham also reported on the concerns of open access to the sportsfield and whether a gate should be installed for security. It was agreed that the sportsfield committee should investigate this further including installation of a top barrier. The fireworks were reported as having been quite successful.

11. Reading Room Cottage Damp. There is damp again in the cottage, along the wall previously treated by Apollo Damp and Timber Specialists in 2014. Before visiting, Apollo require a cheque for £102 which will not be cashed if it is agreed that the work is covered by the present warranty. Jeff Gorton proposed payment of £102 for the site visit, seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously.

12. Street Lights. The Parish Council's lamp PC15 in West Street has been removed during planned maintenance as the lamp was found to have been knocked down. Quotes have been requested for the cost of replacing with a heritage lamp on a 4.6m pole. The Parish Council's insurers have also been notified.

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

Proposed Michael Capps, seconded Stephanie Beaumont.

Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (September)	£394.50
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (October)	£95.00
Clerk's salary for October 2017	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for October incl telephone expenses	£67.66
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£20.74
CAPALC for Annual Catch Up Day training	£25.00
Apollo Damp and Timber Decay Specialists Ltd	£102.00
Signwork Ltd for supply and fitting of new fishing sign	£206.00
Sportsafe UK for play equipment safety inspection	£60.00

14. Financial Statement for October 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 October 2017.

15. Precept 2018/19. A CIL payment had recently been received from HDC of £10,095.64 relating to the development of 5 houses in Eltislely Road. CIL receipts are for the development of the local area including infrastructure. Councillors considered the possible projects for which the CIL payment could be used, such as the 40mph zone in Meadow Road, new speedwatch equipment, tennis court refurbishment. Full consideration will be deferred to another meeting. Stephanie Beaumont requested that a further £2,500 is set aside next year for the Muga project. This was agreed together with £1,000 for play equipment and £750 for replacement street lights and £500 for the sportsfield car park. It was also agreed to set aside £2,000 for tree survey costs and remedial work. Based on these additional reserves, Andrew Pett proposed a precept of £23,500, the same level as last year, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

16. Highways. The directional sign at Collings Bros has yet to be reinstated although has been reported and may take up to 3 months.

Michael Capps reported again the Church Street drain and the trees in Fox Street which have been reported.

Stephanie Beaumont commented on the recently cut grass verges.

Andrew Pett reported that the Local Highway Improvement Bid had been submitted. The 30mph speed sign along Meadow Road into the village is obscured by foliage. Clerk to contact the land owner.

A resident had raised the problem of school children safely crossing Meadow Road to catch the Comberton bus. Councillors had looked at this problem when considering the LHI Bid but had been unable to determine a solution to slow the traffic at this section of the road. They will look at the matter again when submitting next year's bid.

A resident had also expressed concern about speeding traffic along Caxton Road. Andrew Pett spoke about the problem during peak morning times, although the number of speeding drivers is decreasing, in part due to the number of cars now travelling in convoy.

A resident had raised the problem of the overgrown verge along Crow Tree Street and the overgrown nettles opposite making the path narrow. The verge had recently been cut and part of the LHI Bid included resurfacing Crow Tree Street along the elevated section.

A response had been received from DC Norris to the council's request to direct HGV drivers away from using Sand Road as a route into and out of the village. Whilst the company advises drivers and visitors to use the A428/Caxton Road access it is impossible for them to control the route every lorry delivering to the company takes. Councillors considered further possibilities for controlling access, such as width restriction signs and clerk will continue to pursue the help of Highways.

17. CORRESPONDENCE. 17.1. Councillors noted the Town and Parish Development Plan consultation.

17.2. Councillors agreed that should anyone wish to relinquish a pre-purchased burial plot this can be done in writing enabling the parish council to re-sell the plot.

17.3. A resident had suggested using the village telephone kiosk as a book exchange. The door will need repairing to ensure it closes properly. Clerk to investigate further including the installation of shelving and the responsibility for ensuring the reading material is appropriate.

17.4. Stephanie Beaumont agreed to attend the Town & Parish Planning Forum on 30th November with Giles Scott deputising.

18. Planning. 1. 17/02060/HHFUL Loft conversion to create two additional bedrooms and a bathroom, 37 West Street. Councillors noted that a similar scheme had already been completed to a neighbouring property. Giles Scott proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that it is in-keeping with the existing approved development in the area. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

Planning – continued:

2. 17/70223/SCOP SCOPING for expansion of a pig rearing unit, Agricultural Buildings, Redwood Farm, Caxton Road. No comments had been received from Caxton Parish Council. Councillors considered the disposal of the slurry, odour and the size of the proposed expansion as well as complying with current regulations. Andrew Pett proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is an expansion of an existing business and a modernisation but with a rider that the proposals must satisfy current legislation for units of this size as well as all legislation relating to animal production. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously.

3. 17/02001/HHFUL Extension and loft conversion, 22 Church Street. Councillors noted the increase in the roof height. No comments had been received from neighbours. Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is a modification of a family home without detracting from the design of the original house. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

4. 12-14 Eltisley Road. Councillors noted the street numbering of the second development on the corner of Fox Street and Eltisley Road.

5. Land, top of Sand Road. Councillors noted the response from HDC’s Enforcement Officer to concerns raised that the owners were living on site in breach of planning. They had been advised to apply for a temporary residential use on the land to expand the business. The response was disappointing with no intention by the Enforcement Officer of pursuing further. Barbara Boddington and Richard West will be asked to take the matter further.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 4th December 2017

This meeting closed at 9.38pm.