

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7th December 2015

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West,

County Councillor Julie Wisson and 1 member 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 interest.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 2nd November 2015 and the planning meeting held on 18th November 2015 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for eight minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington spoke about the planning application that had been made for a wind turbine and had advised a neighbouring property owner of the procedure if the application is referred to panel. Highways have put out a press release detailing improvements to digital signs on the A1(M) starting 7th December until the spring 2016. She also provided details of the CCTV report for November 2015 detailing various incidents in St Neots. District Councillor Jason Applewhite has been successful in securing the conservative nomination for the Police and Crime Commissioner as Sir Graham Bright will be standing down in May 2016. Councillor Richard West spoke about the forthcoming Environmental Scrutiny meeting when Neighbourhood Plans will be discussed and what help the District Council can give parishes. The new Community Infrastructure Levy has resulted in a lot of letters with towns and parishes believing they have lost out on a lot of money. He noted the e-consultation planning system which concerns him and spoke about the work for youths being done by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the recent speedwatch session in Abbotsley. There was a lot less traffic at the weekend with 50 vehicles passing through during a one hour period and none were speeding. On Friday 4th December between 8am and 9am there were 135 vehicles with 24 travelling above 35mph and 2 travelling at 54mph in a 30mph zone. The police will visit these 2 offenders and speedwatch will be repeated. She also provided information about a small grant available from the county council for any community which can come up with an idea within the village which will save the county money. Also she had been approached by a resident who wants to set up a youth group for older children and is seeking any support to help run it or if there is a demand.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Local Highway Improvement Bid. The chairman reported that both she and the vice chairman will be attending the panel meeting on 13th January 2016 to present the Parish Council's bid for funding.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.2. Churchyard Trees. The chairman reported that a branch had come down from one of the large trees in the churchyard. Town and Country Tree Surgery have been asked to look at the trees. Rob and Jamie Chignell had offered to clear the broken branch and clerk to convey the Parish Council's thanks.

6.3. 'No Parking' Middle Street. The chairman reported that Andrew Pett, Debi Pearce and herself had taken part in the first week of the 'No Parking' in Middle Street during the morning drop of school children and the afternoon pick up. The feedback had generally been positive. All parents will be surveyed along with residents living in surrounding streets. There had been an increase in the number of parents parking in West Street. There had only been a few complaints, with 3 from the same complainant. However, one resident of Middle Street had been verbally abused by a parent who had parked across the resident's drive.

6.4. Anglian Water. The chairman had been approached by a number of villagers following the recent interruption to the water supply. There had been 3 recent occasions close together when the supply had affected some of the village. Clerk to write asking for recompense for the poor service.

6.5. Webbs Meadow. In response to a survey completed by the chairman a number of months ago, an email had been received from Luminus stating that there are no outstanding complaints regarding residents in Webbs Meadow. Jeff Gorton stated that there has been no improvement, the problems continue with parking, oil leaking on the pavement and that he personally had written to Luminus but had received no reply. Luminus had written to residents advising of the terms and conditions of their tenancy agreements. Two residents are in breach of a number of these. Councillors were surprised to learn that the District Council has a say in who is offered housing with Luminus advising that they rarely have a say in who is offered the home. Clerk to write in response, pointing out the ongoing problems and will ask our district councillors to find out about the selection process.

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1. There have been a number of shed/garage burglaries and clerk to contact Sir Graham Bright and Rebecca Avery to refer the matter to the Problem Solving Team.

8. Financial Statement for November 2015. The sheet filed as Appendix No.2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of November 2015 which had been circulated.

9. Cheques for approval. Councillors approved for payment the 5 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 3.

10. Dates for Next Year's Meetings. The proposed dates that had been circulated were agreed. These are Jan 4th, Feb 1st, March 7th, April 4th, April 21st for the Annual Parish Meeting, May 9th, June 6th, July 4th, Aug 1st, Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th and Dec 5th.

11. Highways. Alan Rowbotham spoke about the corner of Little Gransden Lane and Crowtree Street. Despite cones having been placed on the corner, nothing appears to have been done about the problem of water coming up when it was first reported. The manhole covers in Caxton Road are due to be repaired in January 2016.

Highways – continued:

Ian Selkirk reported that despite the road having been marked for repair near the verge in Meadow Road, nothing has been done and the markings have almost disappeared. The 30mph sign is still obscured in Meadow Road.

Andrew Pett reported the yellow zigzag lines outside the school have worn and are incomplete in many areas following the digging up of the road at various times. There are also a number of faded roundels. Clerk to report the 2 in Mill Road to South Cambridgeshire.

George Craze reported the potholes at the edge of Waresley Road. This has previously been reported to Highways but they do not agree that repairs are necessary.

12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1. Email from Emma Saul concerning haulage lorries through the village using Mill Road. They are not grain lorries. Councillors discussed whether a letter should be circulated to the village businesses about using the correct route into and out of the village although Barbara Boddington had previously visited the industrial estates highlighting the problem. Councillors decided to try to find out where the vehicles are going and target the business if necessary.

12.2. Email from the Connections Bus Project offering the use the charity's double decker bus for the benefit of village youths. The subsidised cost of £5,000 still makes it expensive. Councillors noted that there is already a village youth club although acknowledged this does not include 14 to 17 year olds.

12.3. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council is obliged to provide a pension scheme for its employees and has registered with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). The level of the clerk's pay is such that the Parish Council does not have to contribute but provision of a scheme has to be in place by 1st June 2016.

12.4. Email from HDC advising that as from April 2016, an e-consultation system will be used to notify Parish Councils of planning applications. Paper copies will no longer be sent out as part of a cost saving initiative. The chairman and vice chairman had recently attending a planning training session at HDC where concerns had been raised about the difficulty of viewing applications on a screen, particularly when comparing existing and proposed plans with scaling also being a problem. It may be necessary to project plans onto a large screen at council meetings. One council had enquired if papers copies could still be sent out if the cost was borne by the parish council, but this would not be an option. Debi Pearce is able to print up to A2 size and agreed to print any plans needed with the parish council funding the cost. Ian Selkirk also spoke about the list of planning considerations when councils consider planning applications including those which are inappropriate and how planning has changed over the years with a more relaxed view on back land development and building on a flood plain. There will be two further training sessions in the new year.

12.5. Email from Sean Walton asking why draft minutes cannot be put on the parish council's website. This has been considered previously, most recently in September. One view expressed was that a draft does not have the authority of the Parish Council and should not be published until vetted and approved. Councillors agreed clerk to make enquiries with Capalc before a final decision is made.

13. Planning. 1. 15/02054/HHFUL Ground floor extension to front of dwelling, 7 Meadow Road. Councillors expressed surprise that this had not been dealt with under permitted development. Michael Capps proposed '**Approval**' on the ground that it does not detract from the existing property. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2015 – concluded

Planning – continued:

2. 26 Middle Street. Councillors commented on the extension that is part built. Planning permission was granted in 1997 but as there are no plans to view on HDC's website councillors are unable to check that the extension is in accordance with the permission granted. Clerk to make enquiries.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 4th January 2016

This meeting closed at 8.40pm