

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Andrew Pett Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 4 members 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.**

**Planning:**

13.5. 5 Baldwins Manor. Andrew Pett declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a neighbouring property.

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for twenty two minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington reported the planning application by Kingspan Potton to retain the marquee will go to panel next Monday. She had also been contacted by a villager about Mill Weir lay-by in particular that the posts were not in-keeping. Councillor Richard West spoke about the HDC boundary review. He will also be attending more development control training. Councillor Julie Wisson reported that following a 12 hour meeting of full council, a budget could not be agreed. There will be a 2% increase in council tax for adult social care which is ring-fenced for the living wage of £7.20 per hour. The Local Government Boundary Commission has made the decision to reduce the number of county councillors from 69 to 61. As part of a Highways initiative, CCC is supporting a covenant between hauliers and communities asking hauliers to be more respectful when driving through villages or if possible to avoid driving through villages. Alex Castle spoke about the Mill Weir lay-by commenting on its size and the bollards. He also raised the problem of speeding and the need to do something to prevent vehicles speeding along Caxton Road in and out of the village. He would like to see monitoring of speed to support funding, leading to measures to slow traffic down. Ian Selkirk confirmed that speed watch had carried out at least one session along Caxton Road. Stephanie Beaumont confirmed that the council had been successful in a bid for funding for speed reducing measures and this was the first step of a longer term plan. Councillor Wisson confirmed that highways are aware speeding is a problem which is why funding is made available. Councillors commented that attempts have been made in the past to have the 30mph limit extended along Caxton Road but Highways have refused to do so. Another resident also raised the speed limit along Caxton Road, councillors commenting that the 30mph zone is defined by the residential area and the density of housing. Debi Pearce commented that everyone on the Parish Council is very concerned about speeding. Speed watch has not stopped and the purchase of speed watch equipment is being considered to share with 2 other villages. Funding of £800 would be needed. The issue of dog fouling was also raised.

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Webbs Meadow.** Jeff Gorton reported that since the last meeting, he had received a telephone call from Luminus enquiring about the relationship with neighbours. The situation has improved and he hopes it will continue.

**6.2. Fibre Broadband.** Connecting Cambridgeshire had confirmed that the work to connect the remaining properties to superfast broadband would be completed within the next 3 months. Since then, David Sturt-Hammond had been notified that BT will be coming this week and the remaining residents will be able to order fibre broadband by the end of April.

**6.3. Church Yard Trees.** Three quotes had been obtained for work to 4 trees. One of the quotes relied on access through a neighbouring garden. Although the quotes were not like for like with each contractor advising on the necessary work, councillors agreed to accept the lowest quote. Ian Selkirk proposed acceptance of the quote from Global Tree Solutions Ltd for £1,140, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**6.4. Local Highway Bid 2016/17.** The chairman reported on the successful bid for speed reducing measures to include a 20mph speed limit in Middle Street, highlighting the crossing on Caxton Road near the playgroup and the purchase of a portable flashing speed sign with mounting posts on Meadow Road, Caxton Road and Eltisley Road. The bid will be developed with Highways engineers who will make suggestions and review the scheme. One councillor commented on the car parked along the narrowest section of Middle Street forces lorries to mount the kerb and it would be preferable if the car parked elsewhere. Councillors agreed not to respond to the request for information from Roadwatch which had obtained details of parish councils operating speed watch from the police under the Freedom of Information Act. It was not clear who Roadwatch were.

**6.5. Village Emergency Plan.** Debi Pearce had met with Nejlja Sabberton who is obtaining advice and information from HDC. Debi Pearce will be attending a course on Neighbourhood Planning and the matter will be considered again next month.

**6.6. Litter Bins.** HDC had carried out an audit of the Public Highway litter bins, detailing the bins owned by HDC and those owned by the Parish Council. 4 bins owned by the Parish Council will not be emptied by HDC unless an annual charge is paid of £252.64 per bin. Two of the bins are at the Sportsfield and 2 are near the school including the open wooden bin in Middle Street, opposite Little Lane. The bins near the school are regularly used. Councillors agreed not to pay for emptying the parish council bins. Stephanie Beaumont commented that the old wooden bin will need removing and Michael Capps agreed to do so. A bin outside the school would be more useful than the bin near the telephone box in Middle Street and clerk to ask if HDC will continue to empty this bin or if they will move the Middle Street bin to outside the school in place of the existing bin. There is also an HDC bin at the entrance to Sand Path that needs adding to the list. Debi Pearce spoke about the need for a bin along Sand Road to avoid dog foul being left on the verge. Jeff Gorton reported that a new liner is needed for the cemetery bin.

**6.7. Village Tennis Court.** Stephanie Beaumont reported on the meeting of the committee to refurbish the village tennis court. Funding sources are limited and the new criteria for Sport England grants will not be known until later this year. Alan Rowbotham is looking into a specification, taking into account maintenance and what Sport England would recommend. Synthetic surfaces require monthly maintenance whereas tar macadam requires the least maintenance and can be used for most sports. The proposed refurbishment will include resurfacing, new fencing, 2 bays at either end for goals and markings for various sports including 5-a-side football, netball, hockey, basket ball and tennis with hidden sockets for a tennis court. Representation on the committee includes the school and the youth club. Whilst a workshop attended by the clerk advocated community support for funding, this no longer seems to be the case. Ian Selkirk also spoke of other options including the need for a car park in the village.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**6.8. Time Banking.** The chairman reported that due to budgets and cut backs, there will be more reliance on voluntary organisations. Many villages have set up Time Banks, where skills are offered on a barter system managed by a co-ordinator. Workshops are available. Debi Pearce commented that this could be incorporated in a village plan, although there is already system in the village through Touchbase.

**7. Ecops Report.** There was no report this month as nothing relevant to Great Gransden had been reported on Ecops.

**8. Financial Statement** for February 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 February 2016 which had been circulated.

**9. Cheques for approval.** Councillors approved for payment the following invoices:  
Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (February) - £225  
Clerk's salary for February - £470.81  
Clerk's office expenses for January and February - £3.78 and printer ink - £14.99  
Cambridgeshire County Council for street light energy - £807.26.

**10. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Councillors noted the original specification included 120m<sup>2</sup> of grasscrete, a sub base and topsoil. Concrete grasscrete was subsequently agreed as well as reducing the area to 42m<sup>2</sup>, sufficient for 2 cars to park. There was no agreement to install bollards. Councillors commented that the grasscrete has not been laid properly and an area has already sunk. Lorries have been parking there. Councillors discussed whether a notice should be put up to discourage HGVs from parking there. Michael Capps commented that the bollards are dreadful and will cause difficulty when cutting the hedge. Wooden bollards would be more in-keeping. Clerk to write to Ian Winfield.

**11. Highways.** Michael Capps commented on the delay in Anglian Water repairing the manhole covers in Caxton Road. Arrangements need to be made to close the road and this has not yet been organised with Highways.

Ian Selkirk reported a resident's complaint about vibration in his property when HGVs travel along Meadow Road. Ian Selkirk and Michael Capps agreed to look into this.  
(Councillor Julie Wisson left)

Debi Pearce reported that there is no longer a branch overhanging in Mill Road. The verge opposite the crane yard in Caxton Road is crumbling away.

Alan Rowbotham reported the poor condition of the pavement opposite the Crown & Cushion. The cones at the corner of Little Gransden Lane have been removed as the repair has now been completed.

Stephanie Beaumont reported that litter picking had been completed on the roads going out of the village. 70 bags were collected. Clerk to put a note in Roundabout thanking the volunteers as well as the residents who regularly litter pick around the village.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1.** Councillors commented on the electoral review of Huntingdonshire and agreed to write stating there is little point in commenting if the size of the ward is seen as paramount over all other factors as was the case with the electoral review of Cambridgeshire.

**12.2.** Councillors noted the final recommendations of the electoral review of Cambridgeshire. None of the parish council's comments had been taken into account and clerk to write.

**Correspondence – continued:**

**12.3.** A resident had written about horse owners clearing up after fouling the village streets. Councillors commented that although not ideal, it is part of country life. Horse manure does not have the same harmful effects as dog faeces.

**12.4.** Councillors noted that the Bike Bus Explorer service will end on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**12.5.** Councillors noted the information from Anglian Water about pollution watch to report sewage pollution incidents.

**12.6.** The chairman reported on the council's pension provision for employees. The Parish Council is registered with NEST, the government scheme in readiness for the start date of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

**12.7.** Councillors noted the County Associations (Parishes) consultation.  
(Councillor Barbara Boddington left)

**13. Planning. 1. 16/00175/HHFUL Resubmission – single/two storey rear extension, loft conversion/loft extension and fenestration alterations, 24 Mandene Gardens.** Councillors noted there had been no change. Jeff Gorton proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it is an appropriate development for the immediate neighbourhood. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

**2. 16/00135/HHFUL Proposed single storey extensions and associated works, 11 Meadow Road.** Councillors noted the roof line has been lowered. Stephanie Beaumont proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it will not impede on the street scene. Seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried unanimously.

**3. 16/00263/LBC Minor alterations and maintenance to the Old Barn at the Old Barn Farm. New rainwater goods, brickwork repairs, drainage works and repairs to the old barn timber doors, Barn west of Old Barn Farm, Meadow Road.** Councillors commented on the thorough report. Ann Cosgrave proposed 'Approval' on the ground that it is necessary work to a listed building. Seconded by Michael Capps and carried unanimously.

**4. 16/00329/HHFUL Proposed summer room, 8 Little Gransden Lane.** Councillors noted the existing extension can already be seen from the road. Jeff Gorton proposed 'Approval' on the grounds that it is an acceptable development and won't be detrimental to the existing building. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried unanimously.

**5. 16/00345/TREE TPOs, 5 Baldwins Manor.** Andrew Pett having declared a pecuniary interest took no part in the discussion of the application. Councillors noted that the householder has taken advice from a consultant. The horse chestnut is diseased and will go eventually. Michael Capps proposed 'Approval' on the ground that they accept the advice of the consultant. Seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

**6. Land at Sand Road.** Councillors had reported the matter to planning enforcement, believing the owners to be living on site. The new owners had assured the previous owner that they would only be coming at weekends. There is a caravan on site. The chairman had kept a diary, noting when vehicles were seemingly parked overnight. Richard Siwicki, HDC enforcement had visited and would be doing so again.

**7. 15 Crow Tree Street.** Notice of appeal has been lodged.

**8. Marquee, Kingspan Potton.** The application has been referred to panel with HDC recommending approval. The chairman agreed to speak on behalf of the parish council.

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

This meeting closed at 9.50pm