

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

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Chairman

Andrew Pett Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Stephanie Beaumont Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson

and 9 members of the public

**1.** The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer

**2. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillor George Craze.

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

**4. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

**5. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for thirty-three minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Boddington provided information for circulation about the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. She had visited Alconbury Airfield where the first houses have been built. Eventually 8,000 jobs will be created over the next 20/25 years. The nuclear bunker has been retained on the site for heritage purposes. She has supported a motion to replace the Offord level crossing with a bridge although Network Rail consider it too expensive. She has also received a complaint about car parking charges in St Neots. With new out of town shops, it is more difficult for High Street businesses. This will be going out to consultation. Councillor West reported on the ongoing problems with missed bin collections in Whittets Close and Middle Street. There have been no problems for the past 35 years but now with collections at school drop off time, the refuse lorry is unable to reverse into the close due to parked cars. There has been a complete breakdown of service, with the suggestion of putting the bins out on Middle Street unacceptable due to the safety of children walking to school as the bins will block the path. He had spoken to a number of officers at HDC. In the short term the bins are being collected but a long-term solution is needed. Councillor Wisson reported that, using her delegated powers, she had voted to support the Local Highway Improvement Scheme despite some objections. She also referred to the gritting routes which have been emailed out to parish councils.

Before taking comments from members of the public, the chairman reminded residents that they could make their views known by either emailing the clerk, approach councillors direct or join the forum. The latter will not lead to an immediate response as comments made need to be discussed at council meetings. Craig Santus commented on the proposed Mandene Gardens development on land presently occupied by the garages at the bottom of the road. Removal of the garages will result in a lack of off street parking with the road already lined with parked cars. If the plans go ahead, Luminus should make plans for a playground, drop kerbs and driveways for those properties they manage and investigate if the land is unstable as it slips away to a brook. Anil Rastogi, spoke about the bin collections, citing the lack of communication between HDC officers, factually incorrect correspondence and the policy to reverse into the close despite there being a turning bay within the close. Claude Smith reiterated the comments that had been made and put forward the solution of a short distance of double yellow lines across and between the entrances to 14 and 16 Middle Street. This will only result in the loss of only 1 car parking space in Middle Street. In the short term, there are no planned collections after tomorrow. Ian Selkirk

**Open Forum – continued:**

responded stating that double yellow lines have been discussed previously. There are none in the village and double yellow lines are regarded as a last resort. There is turning room within Whittets Close and this should be referred back to HDC. Councillor West further commented that collection times should avoid the school drop off period and that he would continue to speak to HDC. Deirdre Lee spoke about the dangers of Meadow Road with poor visibility coming out of driveways and the hazards for horse riders. A pinch point is needed before the start of the village and the importance of this before all the road works start for the A428. Tim Mason and Helen West reiterated the dangers of Meadow Road with more traffic using it as a cut through.

**6. Matters Arising: 6.1. A428 Public Meeting.** This has been arranged for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the school hall. Notices will be placed outside the school and at the crossroads to further advertise the meeting. The second forum meeting has been arranged for 30<sup>th</sup> November at Cambourne. Andrew Pett and Ann Cosgrave agreed to attend.

**6.2. Village Trees.** A further response has yet to be received from Highways about village trees in Little Lane, Fox Street and Church Street. The landowner has trimmed the tree in Church Street which had been shrouding the street light.

**6.3. Gransden Matters Forum.** Debi Pearce reported that 5 new members have joined this month and lots of residents have viewed. A valid point had been made that perhaps there are too many places to view information and a possibility is to integrate comment on the Parish Council website. This will be for discussion at the end of the 6 month trial period.

**6.4. Sportsfield Pavilion.** Alan Rowbotham reported that the very small windows cannot be double glazed and have been taken out of the original contract, reducing the cost to £2,054.52.

**6.5. Tree Warden Post.** Michael Capps reported that the notes following the last meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October had been circulated. Out of 14 ideas to keep the post running, there are 4 options left: (1) parishes pay for the post although it may not be legal to give money to HDC for this purpose; (2) sponsorship although there are problems; (3) a trust donation which is doubtful; (4) lottery funding although this rarely supports funding for an individual. It is doubtful that HDC will change its decision to cut the post next year.

**7. Ecops Report.** The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix 1.

**8. Financial Statement** for October 2016. 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 October 2016. Councillors also agreed to amend the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to correct the payment for the old chapel graveyard from £110 to £120. Proposed by Andrew Pett, seconded by Jeff Gorton.

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

Proposed Michael Capps, seconded Stephanie Beaumont.

Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (October)	£225.00
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (October)	£90.00
Clerk's salary for October 2016	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for October	£54.31
Mrs D Taylor for anti-virus subscription	£24.50
Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£15.00
The Helping Hand Company Ltd for litter pickers	£63.12
Aran Services Ltd for sportsfield pavilion insulations	£876.84
Trulight for sportsfield pavilion windows (balance)	£1,110.81
Retrospective approval of the cheque for £943.71, deposit for the pavilion windows.	

**10. Safeguarding Policy.** The policy had been circulated. Councillors agreed no changes were necessary. Andrew Pett continues as Safeguarding Officer. Councillors agreed to review all council policies annually in June and the policies will be circulated to councillors in May. Proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Debi Pearce.

**11. Old Tennis Court.** Stephanie Beaumont reported that 4 companies had been approached to quote for a MUGA but only 2 quotes received. The sub-committee had met to discuss these and subject to the council's approval decided to enter into further discussions with Sportsafe UK, the lower of the 2 quotes. Due to the costs, the aim is to resurface and re-fence the old court as well as a pathway around the court, but not linking up to the school. Anything extra such as seating, footpath extension to the school can be considered at a later date. The idea of a footpath is to encourage parents to utilise the car park at school drop off/pick up as an all year option. Ian Selkirk suggested that the existing court could be used as a car park and a new MUGA installed on the field. Stephanie Beaumont expressed concern as the school has use of the existing field. The existing car park is already underused despite the school's joint venture to encourage parents to walk five minutes to avoid parking congestion in the centre of the village. The village was surveyed on improving the existing facility. The aim is to secure funding by next March/April. 10% of the cost will need to come from the parish council. There is already £2,500 set aside. Jeff Gorton proposed that the sub-committee adhere to the original mandate for development of the MUGA site. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

**12. Future of Village Trees.** Debi Pearce spoke about taking pre-emptive action for the loss of future trees including the loss of horse chestnuts and other significant trees which will have an impact on the village. Michael Capps commented that the Fox Street trees will be replaced and that the village already has an effective system which is documented. The chairman asked for a proposal to be brought back to the council if needed.

**13. Review of Cemetery Grass Cutting.** Jeff Gorton reported that having been let down by the previous contractor, DP Garden Works are now cutting the grass and the cemetery is in good order. The contractor is reliable and cost effective. Jeff Gorton proposed that DP Garden Works be invited to re-tender for one year, on a rolling one year contract, with an option to renew. Seconded by Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously. Jeff Gorton to discuss with the contractor the timing of the first cut for 2017.

**14. Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2017/18.** Andrew Pett reported the working party had recently met with Scott Parsons, CCC project engineer. He advised that the B1046 Meadow Road did not lend itself to a 40mph in accordance with speed limit policy. A road needs to be self-enforcing and unless the Parish Council can prove vehicles are travelling around 40mph, a speed limit of 40mph cannot be installed. The road may lend itself to a 50mph from the village sign with a 40mph buffer zone approximately 200 metres before the 30mph. Scott Parson did not expect the police to support a 40mph limit. The cost to reduce the speed limit is £3,500, white gates at the entrance to the village at the 50mph speed limit and the 40mph limit along Caxton Road is £2,000 per gate and dragons' teeth and additional lining to visually narrow the entrance to the 30mph limit costs £1,500; total cost £9,000. The Parish Council has to contribute at least 10%. The cost of a pinch point and chicane is £8,000 and whilst highways have previously been against a chicane along Caxton Road Scott Parsons volunteered his opinion that this could be used in Caxton Road coming into the village as traffic approached the 30mph limit. A bid must be acceptable to Highways and the police otherwise it will fail. Last year's bid was for £9,000 with a parish council contribution of £2,000. Ann Cosgrave proposed a bid for 50 and 40mph limits along Meadow Road, 2 sets of gates and dragons' teeth with a contribution of £2,000. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**15. Play Equipment.** The safety report from Sportsafe UK had been circulated. Michael Capps commented that he had been unable to find any sharp edges on the slide or loose concrete as highlighted in the report. Clerk to seek clarification and request photographs. The swings in Mandene Gardens play area will be replaced if the planning application is made by Luminus. Alan Rowbotham had checked the tubing for rusty water. The tubing needs replacing. Clerk to obtain a quote for the cost. The tennis net and one of the posts lying on the ground need removing. Alan Rowbotham volunteered to do so.  
(Councillor Julie Wisson left)

**16. Precept 2017/18.** Councillors thanked the clerk for the notes that had been circulated. Councillors noted that very little was spent on village maintenance last year and reserves have been built up. Councillors agreed that there was no case for an increase or reduction in the precept. Ian Selkirk proposed a precept of £23,500, the same level as last year, seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried unanimously.

**17. Consultations. 17.1. District and Town/Parish Elections from 2018.** Councillors noted the proposals for town and parish councils' elections be held in 2018 and every 4 years thereafter.

**17.2. National Improvement Strategy for Town & Parish Councils.** Noted.

**17.3. Enforcement Plan for Planning Minerals and Waste Development in Cambs.** Noted.

**18. Highways.** Stephanie Beaumont asked about the Sand Road light. A quote has been requested for the cost of replacing the light. Clerk to chase this up.

Alan Rowbotham reported the raised path along Crow Tree Street as one of the slabs is cracked. Michael Capps reported the village trees which need reporting again.

Andrew Pett spoke about the fire hydrant opposite 101 Meadow Road. A resident had concerns that whenever lorries or buses pass over the hydrant this is causing her property to shake. This had been raised previously with highways at a site meeting and clerk to raise the concern again.

Jeff Gorton reported on the West Street hedge. The overhanging brambles have been cut by a villager but the hedge is overhanging considerably and needs cutting to avoid the recurring problem of brambles growing down. Clerk to contact the landowner again.

The hedge at the top of Meadow Road and along Caxton Road need cutting to improve visibility; both have been reported.

**19. CORRESPONDENCE. 19.1.** Correspondence about the missed bin collections.

Councillors noted that Councillor West will continue to seek a resolution.

**19.2.** Details of the community gritting scheme. Councillors commented that they had always gritted footpaths when necessary. The salt bins will be checked by councillors and clerk will ask for them to be refilled if needed.

**19.3.** Details of the highways gritting routes had been provided by CCC. The B1046, B1040 and Caxton Road will be gritted. Eltisley Road has never been gritted as it is not a bus route.

**19.4.** Details of the Capalc AGM were noted.

**20. Planning. 1. Proposed New Homes at Mandene Gardens.** 2 properties are proposed with a play area in the middle and 6 parking spaces, 2 per house and 2 for visitors. Councillors considered whether the parking provision was adequate. Concerns had been raised about parking along Mandene Gardens which will increase with the loss of the garages. The concern raised by a resident about the condition of the land would be a matter for the planners and building regulations. Councillors agreed to write to Luminus thanking them for the advance notice and ask that they consult with their tenants about introducing dropped kerbs to provide off road parking.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

This meeting closed at 9.32pm.