

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West

County Councillor Julie Wisson and 2 members of the public

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

2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Ian Selkirk and Andrew Pett.

3. **Declarations of Interest.**

**Matters Arising:**

6.5. Sand Path Stile. George Craze declared an interest as owner of the adjoining field.

**Planning:**

13.2. 15 Crow Tree Street. Alan Rowbotham declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a neighbouring property.

4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. **OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for six minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington reported that there was no news on the alignment of the A428. Last week she had visited Bury St Edmunds, a unitary authority and looked at the amalgamation of shared services. She had written to Jonathan Djanogly MP about the sale of premium bonds being taken away from Post Offices. Councillor Richard West spoke about buildings at risk. The District Council will be writing to Parish Councils about particular buildings of concern. Officers will be coming out to each village and will draw up a list. The Huntingdonshire sign that had fallen off in Little Gransden Lane will not be replaced by HDC. Alan Rowbotham offered to remove the sign. Councillor Julie Wisson reported that there had been a good response to speedwatch in Abbotsley and there will be a campaign in the village.

6. **Matters Arising: 6.1. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Ian Winfield of Highways is looking into this to see whether the cost is similar to that first quoted. A meeting has been arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> September to discuss village maintenance and repair issues.

6.2. **Meadow Road Verges.** Anglian Water has confirmed that the scheme has been signed off by the local highways inspector. Clerk to ask Anglian Water representatives to attend the meeting scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

6.3. **Cemetery Regulations.** Councillors agreed an additional amendment to the regulations specifying mini diggers must be rubber tracked. Jeff Gorton reported that he had made a number of crosses to be used for marking graves. These will be kept in the cemetery shed. He was thanked by the chairman.

6.4. **Speedwatch/Speeding.** Debi Pearce reported that it was hoped to start speedwatch this week but for a number of reasons this did not prove possible. Another date is being arranged, hopefully for next week. The village has sole use of the speedwatch equipment for 28 days and further slots will be booked for later in the year. Councillors

**Matters Arising – continued:**

discussed the purchase of 30mph stickers for wheelie bins. Whilst councillors did not believe this would cause a problem with bins being left out longer, they questioned the effectiveness as bins are only on public display for a short period of time. Councillors agreed not to pursue funding the purchase of stickers.

**6.5. Sand Path Stile.** An application for a kissing gate has been made on behalf of the land owner to CCC.

**6.6. Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016/17.** Notes of the meeting attended by Ian Selkirk had been circulated to councillors. A meeting has been arranged with Scott Parsons CCC Project Engineer on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to view the sites under discussion. The sub-committee will meet later to formulate a recommendation to the Parish Council. Debi Pearce asked whether there was any merit in approaching playgroup and nursery to support any traffic calming measures along Caxton Road. Clerk to write to both organisations.

**6.7. Street Lighting Energy Charges.** From October 2015 CCC will be increasing the administration charge from 5% to 15% of the energy costs. Enquiries had been made about energy charges from other suppliers but even with the increased administration charge, CCC's costs are presently slightly cheaper. Councillors agreed to continue with CCC.

**6.8. Playing Field and Village Planting.** Councillors noted the cost of chestnut paling for the boundary adjoining Little Lane. A sum of £300 will be needed in the precept. Additional planting will also be needed but it is likely that this can be provided free of charge under the HDC planting scheme. Debi Pearce requested a small sum for the purchase of plants for the roundabout. Councillors agreed a sum of £30. An offer had been made to fund a row of flowering cherry trees along the tall fence of the tennis court and bowling green to provide shade. The location of the trees will need consideration to take into account ease of grass cutting between the trees and the possible refurbishment of the tennis court. Councillors asked to see a plan of the proposed planting.

**6.9. Village Tennis Court.** The facility is in need of refurbishment. The school had hoped to use the area but the quotes they obtained for a MUGA were expensive. Councillors agreed that a quote is obtained for a rubberised surface for multi-use to include markings for netball, basket ball and 5-a-side football, as well as a tennis court. Boarding will be also needed each end.

**7. Ecops Report.** The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No.1. An email had been sent to the Problem Solving Team requesting that they prioritise the village. Clerk to follow this up.

**8. Financial Statement** for August 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 August 2015.

**9. Cheques for approval.** George Craze asked to discuss the invoice from HDC for £1,117.54 for electoral services. The cost has risen and is higher than expected when shared with the district and parliamentary election. It is a statutory cost and has to be paid. Councillors approved for payment the 6 invoices as listed on the sheet and filed as Appendix No. 3.

**10. Use of Social Media for Parish Council Communications and Posting of Draft Minutes on the Website.** Following discussion councillors agreed not to put draft minutes on the website as they may contain incorrect information. Councillors discussed the use of social media raising concerns about whether the posts are personal views or official parish council views. The council's website is the official site and another site running parallel may be confusing particularly if different information appears on both. Stephanie Beaumont acknowledged that the younger generation use multimedia with Touchbase almost akin to a chat room. Debi Pearce commented that many are active on that system as a means of dialogue. Any communication should direct people to the parish council website. Michael Capps proposed that all official business continues on the Parish Council website and the Parish Council has no objection to other sites referring people to the official website. Councillors unanimously agreed.

**11. Highways.** George Craze again commented on the edges along Waresley Road as nothing has been done. Julie Wisson will again ask the question although had been told by Ian Winfield that contractors do not necessarily fill the pot holes when top dressing roads. Ann Cosgrave commented that the pot holes are much deeper than the intervention level.

Michael Capps reported the Caxton Road manhole cover once again. He also provided details of the parish planting scheme with information for the website.

Debi Pearce reported a developing pot hole in Caxton Road.

Ann Cosgrave reported the edges of Meadow Road near Gransden Hall as well as near the junction of Waresley Road.

Stephanie Beaumont reported cracks along the Caxton Road pavement which are getting worse. Also there is a hole marked with yellow paint along Little Gransden Lane opposite the entrance to Dick and Dolls Lane.

Julie Wisson left

**12. CORRESPONDENCE. 12.1.** Councillors noted the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

**12.2.** Councillors noted the availability of Tree Inspection Courses.

**12.4.** Councillors noted the Funding and Support Events in South Cambridgeshire. The chairman may attend.

**12.4.** Letter from HDC with a map to identifying areas of land owned by CCC, HDC and the Parish Council. Clerk to include the Parish Council owned land and seek clarification as not all land owned by HDC has been included.

**12.5.** Letter from Balfour Beatty inviting the Parish Council to enter into another 3 year street lighting maintenance contract. Two options are available with option 1 providing the more comprehensive cover at a cost of £22.39 per lamp. Councillors agreed to enter into a 3 year contract to include option 1.

**12.6.** Michael Capps expressed concern about any proposed use of the area behind the Reading Room being used as a car park for the school when dropping off and picking up children, stating that it would be dangerous and the surface of the area would soon become pot holed. The chairman commented that this had just been one of the ideas mooted by the sub-committee when considering traffic issues and parking in Middle Street.

**12.7.** Email from Mark Jefferies detailing the permission he had received from the civil aviation authority to perform an aerobatic display following a complaint by a member of the parish council who had made the complaint as a private individual and not on behalf of the parish council. To clarify the situation, clerk to write pointing out that the complaint was not made by the parish council. (Barbara Boddington left)

**13. Planning. 1. 15/01225/HHFUL Proposed single storey extensions and associated works 11 Meadow Road.** Although councillors noted that the side and top of the proposed extension will be seen from the road, George Craze proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it will not impede on the street scene. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried with 5 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

**2. 15/01355/HHFUL and 15/01356/LBC Conversion of existing detached garage and dormer extension, 15 Crow Tree Street.** Alan Rowbotham having declared a pecuniary interest left the hall. Councillors commented that the application was similar to that made for an annexe in Middle Street. No letters of objection had been received from neighbours. Councillors noted the height of the dormer window and the proximity of the building to the fence. The design and lay-out made it similar to an annexe. Ann Cosgrave proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the grounds that (1) it is effectively an independent dwelling, (2) the scale of the development is inappropriately large, (3) it is only 10/12 feet from the curtilage and (4) it would alter the character of a listed building. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5th October 2015**

This meeting closed at 9.20pm