

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL.
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7th September 2020
By remote conference.

Those present were:

Andrew Pett, Chairman;	
Giles Scott, Vice Chairman;	James Catmur, Parish Councillor;
Catherine Fox, Clerk;	Nigel Day, Parish Councillor;
Michael Capps, Parish Councillor;	Peter King, Parish Councillor;
Nick Ginn, Parish Councillor;	Lisbeth Ricciardi, Parish Councillor;
Jeff Gorton, Parish Councillor;	
	District Councillor Richard West;
	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 County Councillor Julie Wisson.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 3rd August 2020 and also of the planning meeting held on 17th August 2020, which had been circulated, were approved and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for 5 minutes.

Councillor West reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the accounts for HDC were unaudited. The normal statutory submission deadline of 31st July had moved to 30th November 2020. Key financial highlights were an underspend of £265,000 against a budget of £17.157m. In addition to this, general Fund Reserves had been maintained at 15% of net expenditure. The Annual Governance Statement had shown key themes around outward looking affordability, morbidity levels, wider economic environment, skills level and educational attainment, partner agency operational pressures, environmental pressures and sustainability challenges.

6. Matters Arising.

6.1 Update on resignation of caretakers and service occupancy agreement at Reading Room. Councillors noted the resignation and notice period of the current caretakers. The details of the conditions and terms of employment will be discussed by the Parish Council as a confidential matter at the end of the meeting.

6.2 Reading Room Car Park Update. Councillor Capps reported that professional advice had been sought around the resurfacing of the current car park behind the Reading Room. The current surface is a good foundation - being very well compacted. At the time of the meeting, full quotations had not been received. The limitations of what would be possible were still unclear taking into consideration levelling out and drainage requirements. Companies that could provide the materials were available. However, organisations with the specific expertise to lay porous surfaces were proving difficult to source. Any recommendations would be gratefully received. Councillor King had obtained provisional quotes for the lighting of the carpark. These were around £1500 - £2500 but must be considered as part of the overall costings once other figures were available.

Councillor Ginn suggested that the gate could be moved away from the road – thus creating more parking spaces that could be rented to residents who do not have their own off-road spaces. The implications of this were discussed. Councillors expressed concern around the opening of the carpark being used as a turning circle for larger vehicles – potentially causing damage. The

Parish Council will revisit this item at the next meeting when hopefully further advice/quotations are available.

6.3 East West Rail briefing. Councillor Catmur provided a brief summary of discussions at the East West Rail briefing. Not much new information was provided. Testing is being undertaken outside of the proposed route corridor. However, this is for ecological reasons. The actual corridor remains unchanged.

6.4 Tennis Club Toilet Block. Councillor Ginn reported that the GSRA were looking to invest in the facilities at the Sports field. This would include the erection of a toilet block. Provisional drawings had been provided although it was noted that further consideration should be given to the dimensions of the disabled toilet. The Parish Council have no objections to the proposed building works but recommended that the GSRA committee seek further planning advice from HDC.

7. Review of Risk Assessments – MUGA/Playground. Councillor King confirmed that formal risk assessments for both the MUGA and the Playground had been undertaken. These, along with the risk assessment for the Reading Room, will be uploaded to the Parish Council Website.

8. Website Accessibility Review. Ahead of the deadline of 23rd September for adoption of the Accessibility Policy, Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the Accessibility Policy circulated by Councillor Day. This was proposed by Councillor Gorton and seconded by Councillor Capps.

The website is currently on Google Classic Sites, although the current version of this makes full compliance difficult and is also due to close in September 2021, meaning that an alternative platform will need to be sought. The new Google Sites has significant disadvantages (namely that there can be only one site owner – leading to vulnerability). It will also be a considerable amount of work to migrate and will not necessarily mitigate all of the problems of the Google Classic Sites platform. Ideally, the site will have been moved across to a new engine by the end of the financial year. Councillor Day will continue to investigate the possibilities available.

9. Local Highways Improvement Bid 2021/22. Councillor Scott had prepared a document summarising the potential areas that may benefit from LHI funding in the event of a successful bid. The three areas of particular concern were noted as Middle Street, Caxton Road and the Ladies Hill area of Meadow Road. Traffic speed throughout the village is a problem. The Parish Council must make a financial contribution of *at least* 10% of the total cost of any works, with the maximum grant funding available £15,000. Councillors discussed the availability of funds for contribution and the sources from which they could potentially come. In particular, whether the use of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies from the Eltisle Road development and any future monies from the Sand Road development could be considered. It was agreed that speeding in the village was a major concern and that the Parish Council should act to address it. After extensive discussions, it was agreed that one bid should be made for priority narrowing measures for both Ladies Hill and on Caxton Road. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Pett. There were 6 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Councillor Scott will draft the application and circulate to councillors.

10. Financial Statement for August 2020. 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 August 2020.

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

Proposed Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Gorton.

Clerk's salary for August 2020

£561.08

Clerk's expenses for July 2020

£27.28

SSE Street Lighting (August 2020)	£ 115.50
Start Traffic (Cycling Prohibited Signs – Doctors Lane)	£ 68.59
Glasdon UK Ltd	£ 57.40
Algar Signcraft (No dogs etc sign, fixings and posts for park)	£ 206.40
Algar Signcraft (replacement sports field sign)	£ 105.60
Vinnell & Son (repair of the damaged seesaw)	£ 300.00
Mr P King (paint for seesaw repair)	£ 37.00
DP Garden works & Grounds Maintenance (cemetery grass cutting August 2020)	£ 115.00
Buchans Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance	£ 289.95
BT (Broadband at the Reading Rooms)	£ 41.85
R McIntosh (Garden of Remembrance – August 2020)	£ 7.50

12. Adoption of Pay Scales for 2020/21. Councillors unanimously agreed to update the pay scales as agreed by the National Employers and the NJC Trade Union Side. This will be backdated to 1 April 2020 as per the guidance provided.

13. Highways.

13.1 Update on Sand Road. Planning enforcement are still monitoring the Sand Road works. The BT pole still needs removing, as does the streetlight. Lorries still continue to access the site from the Sand Road entrance - enforcement are aware of this but as yet there have been no changes. Councillors noted the sizeable area that has been cleared in the neighbouring field for use as a compound but agreed that it did not appear to have breached any restrictions.

13.2 Update on Middle Street. Councillor Pett reported that a meeting had taken place with Cambs County Council on Thursday 3rd September following objections that had been raised by the Parish Council in relation to the proposed closure of Middle Street at the start and end of the school day. A Risk Assessment document completed by Cambs CC had been provided and circulated to all Councillors. The Parish Council still felt that the concerns that had been raised previously had not been satisfactorily mitigated and that the proposed closure would still have a disproportionately negative effect on the rest of the village if it went ahead. Therefore, the Parish Council agreed that they could not offer support to the initiative.

13.3. Councillors noted the overhanging shrubbery particularly along Caxton Road on the Eastern side. Responsibility for these hedges needs to be established again. Clerk to put a note in the Roundabout magazine to remind residents of their legal responsibilities around tree maintenance.

13.4. Drains around the village still remain a problem with many being completely blocked. The Parish Council will continue to press for a ‘village-wide’ clearing rather than one or two at a time.

13.5 The pothole at the bottom of Crow Tree Street is starting to re-open despite being fixed earlier in the year. Clerk will continue to monitor this.

13.6. The drain cover on the corner of Fox Street/Caxton Road continues to lift as larger vehicles mount the kerb in order to pass each other. The drain cover should have a locking mechanism which stops the cover coming away. Clerk to contact highways to ask them to renew/repair the missing parts.

13.7. One of the conifer bushes in the cemetery has been damaged by high winds. One of the bows has fallen away and will need proper removal. Clerk to obtain quotations for the work.

14. Correspondence.

14.1. A letter had been received from a resident offering his services as a volunteer Water Bailiff for the village pond. Councillors agreed that there was a need at the pond for a Water Bailiff and were keen to accept. However, issues of liability and insurance need to be fully investigated. There is potential for confrontation in any enforcement role and this has to be considered as a

matter of risk. The applicant has previous experience working as a Water Bailiff for the Cambourne Fishing Club. Clerk will contact the fishing club on how they have addressed this to see if a satisfactory way forward can be reached.

14.2. Separate correspondence had been received from a resident enquiring about the enforcement of village fishing licences. At present, there is no requirement for a specific licence for the Great Gransden Pond. The Parish Council, with reference to the point above, are in the process of appointing a water bailiff with the sufficient knowledge and expertise to enforce action around the correct rod licences.

14.3. The amendments to Temporary Regulations 2020-L01 20 were noted.

14.4. Councillors noted the Cambridgeshire ACRE AGM on the 30th September 2020, Councillor King has booked to attend.

14.5. An offer of help to refurbish the train and the climbing frame in the park had been received. Councillor King will contact the resident and organise a working party to move this forward.

14.6. Electric Car Charging Points in the village had previously been discussed in January 2019. The situation around the installation points within the village had not changed in that there were still no suitable locations. The village does not currently have a public car park with 24-hour access. It was noted that residents are able to register private charging points that can be used by others for a fee. This could all be done online.

15. Consultations.

15.1. The Planning White Paper was discussed. The creation of a comprehensive and clear Neighbourhood Development Plan is important as it will support the planning reforms in planning for an area as a whole. The key areas of focus will be renewal, protection and location, all of which have been exhaustively covered in the draft plan. It is hoped that the NDP for Great Gransden will go to consultation in 2021.

15.2. Councillors noted the renewal of Hunts Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order.

15.3. Councillors noted the dates for consultation on the proposed relocation of Urgent Treatment Centre from City Care Centre to Peterborough City Hospital.

16. Planning.

1. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF.

20/00550/HHFULGarage conversion.

18A Eltisley Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AR.

Councillors noted that parking at the property would be minimally affected by the proposal. Councillors unanimously agreed *approval* on the grounds that the works constituted an acceptable change of use. This was proposed by Councillor Pett and seconded by Councillor Scott.

17. Presentation from the NDP Steering Group.

As Chairman of the NDP Steering Group, David Prest gave a presentation on the work of the steering group so far in drafting a plan. Councillors felt that the plan offered a valued and comprehensive insight into the priorities for action within the village. The Parish Council will ultimately need to take over the plan in the future and will need to continue the momentum behind it. Smaller working groups will be considered when the plan has been formally adopted.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5th October 2020 at 7:30 pm

This meeting closed at 10:30 pm.