

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 8th January 2018

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Giles Scott Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, County Councillor Julie Wisson

and one member of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.32 pm with a silent prayer
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Andrew Pett and Michael Capps and District Councillor Richard West.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

17.1. 18 Middle Street. Debi Pearce declared an interest as the owner of a nearby property.

4. **Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 4th December 2017, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the vice chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for ten minutes. Councillor Barbara Boddington reported HDC are employing an Affordable Housing specialist; there is a new cemetery north of Huntingdon and Councillor Richard West had taken up the new planning rules - if an application needs to be refused, he can call it in but Parish Councils must be prepared to back it up if the application goes to the Development Management Committee. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the inclusion of Comberton Village College as a second secondary school within Barnabas Oley's catchment. The school applied for this some 2 years ago, the Local Authority agreed but on an admission basis only, meaning that no transport is provided. Transport is provided for pupils attending Longsands. Appeals were made and discussions have taken place between the school and CCC. The issue has been referred to the Children and Young Persons Committee. As the majority of children are attending Comberton VC, CCC has been asked to provide free transport to Comberton rather than to Longsands. Councillor Wisson is unable to support some children losing their transport in favour of others receiving it, although she has suggested a subsidised service as a compromise. The opinion of the 3 schools is being sought before the committee considers the matter.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. MUGA. Stephanie Beaumont reported that clarification of the bids had been sought from the 4 companies who had been shortlisted to enable a like for like comparison. Three of the four companies had responded by the deadline of 5th January. As one bidder was not able to quote for rounded corners, the tender bid is between 2 companies. The information will be circulated to the sub-committee to recommend a preferred bidder. A planning application has been prepared but not yet submitted, pending a final decision on the preferred bidder to enable the relevant plans/drawings to be used in the application.

6.2. Elder Tree, Tennis Court. Following Notice of Application to fell the elder tree at the far end of the tennis court, HDC has agreed the work can proceed. Quotes will now be obtained for the felling of the tree, along with the removal of a bush and tree roots.

6.3. Sand Road Light. Councillors reported that the light is now working. The outstanding invoice from Balfour Beatty for £3,892.70 will be added to the cheques for approval for payment.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.4. Parish Online. The clerk reported that although the digital mapping service may be useful for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, it was unclear whether it was necessary in view of the annual cost of £120. The 30-day free trial ends on 16th January. Councillors agreed to defer a decision until after the forthcoming training session on the NDP.

6.5. Neighbourhood Plan. Stephanie Beaumont reported that whilst an initial meeting had taken place with members of the steering group, little had been achieved save for the decision to invite Little Gransden Parish Council to consider preparing a joint plan. The inclusion of both villages may be difficult with each having different district councils. The support of both HDC and SCDC will be required. Two representatives for Little Gransden will be attending the training session later this month.

6.6. Planning Training. Giles Scott reported on his attendance at a planning training session organised by HDC. Subjects covered included what planners do, enforcement and listed buildings. Enforcement is discretionary and the key word is ‘harm’ – if permission would have been granted, there will be no enforcement action as this would not be a prudent use of resources. There are legal instruments, such as enforcement notices, to make people comply with planning conditions. HDC officers gave a presentation on why it is a criminal offence to do work on a listed building without consent. The training session was useful but unfortunately degenerated as some attendees had gone with an agenda. He will forward the slides of the session when received.

7. Ecops Report. The vice chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1. Jeff Gorton commented that, with the focus on removing PCSOs from Cambridgeshire, E-cops reports in the future may be lost.

8. Cambridgeshire Acre. Councillors agreed to renew the membership fees for the year at a cost of £55.50.

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

Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Giles Scott.

Clerk’s salary for December 2017	£490.85
Clerk’s office expenses for December	£3.25
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50
Information Commissioner for data protection renewal	£35.00
Michael Capps for lock for Mandene Gardens swings	£7.50
Global Tree Solutions for church trees and ash trees	£1,740.00
Cambridgeshire Acre for membership renewal	£55.50
Balfour Beatty for replacement street light at Sand Road	£3,892.70
Following discussion of item 16.6. the following payment was added:	
The Helping Hand Company for litter picking equipment	£83.99

10. Financial Statement for December 2017. The sheet filed as Appendix No. 2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the vice chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of December 2017.

11. Trees. Three quotes had now been received for the cost of surveying the village trees. Michael Capps had advised that all three companies have the expertise to provide the information required. One quote was considerably less than the other 2 but extra charges would need to be added to the quote for a true cost. Clerk to clarify the extra costs and councillors will consider the matter again at next month’s meeting.

12. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2018/19. Scott Parsons, Highways Project Manager, had carried out a feasibility study of the parish council's bid. The study recommended flattening out the surface of Crow Tree Street footpath rather than reconstructing it completely. Installing a 40mph buffer zone along Meadow Road was also included in the study. Councillors agreed the solution and the application will now be progressed to the panel meeting. (Proposed Ann Cosgrave, seconded Jeff Gorton). Debi Pearce and Giles Scott (if available) agreed to attend the panel meeting on 17th January to present the application. Clerk to book a time slot.

13. Parish Council Lights. A resident had reported the lamp in Mandene Gardens (PC9) had been cut down by Balfour Beatty on 3rd December for safety reasons. The clerk had asked for a reason why the lamp was taken down without any prior notification to the Parish Council but as yet had received no response. The cost of replacing with a heritage style lamp is over £3,000, considerably more than the cost of an urban style lamp. There is £3,000 presently in reserve for replacement lights which will increase once the precept has been received in the new financial year. The light in West Street which was knocked down will also need replacing but will be an insurance claim. Councillors agreed to consult the residents of Mandene Gardens on the type of replacement lamp, explaining the costs involved. Debi Pearce agreed to prepare and circulate the details.

14. Consultations.

(a) Local Plan to 2036. Great Gransden is defined as a Small Settlement. Developments in the built-up area will be treated on their merits. Councillor Boddington commented that of the 250 sites submitted under the 'Call for Sites', only 13 were considered viable to look into but none were around Great Gransden. The 13 sites covered the shortfall should the government ask for more development. Barbara Boddington confirmed that the Local Plan was approved by council on 13th December and as a lot of work had gone into producing the plan it is hoped that it goes forward. There were no specific comments to be made by the Parish Council although it was appreciated the amount of work that had gone into drafting the Local Plan.

15. Highways. Although Highways had emailed advising that the repair to reinstate the directional sign at Collings Bros corner had been cancelled, the sign has now been erected. The flooding in Church Street reported earlier in the year was deemed by Highways to not require immediate attention but will be added to a three-year rolling programme of work. A resident had raised the problem of water tricking down West Street. This had been reported to Anglian Water, but no leak was found. Councillors will keep an eye on the matter as it may be due to a general rise in the water table.

16. CORRESPONDENCE. 16.1. Letter from Mark Deas, Cambs Acre offering to provide information on Rural Affordable Housing. Stephanie Beaumont reported that Mark Deas had been asked by the Sand Road developer (Catesby) to undertake a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) for Great Gransden. HDC appear reluctant to approve the current proposal for 40 dwellings and have suggested the developer consider a smaller rural exception site proposal. This could result in a proposal for 30 dwellings with 60% affordable housing (18 affordable, 12 market). Under the rural exception site policy, the developer is required to demonstrate there is a need for this number of affordable homes from households with a connection to the parish. He is only being asked to carry out a HNS but to do this he will need Parish Council support. The survey will not focus on the Sand Road development but a standard questionnaire is used to canvas opinion and understand the scale and nature of housing need in the parish. Following discussion, councillors agreed there was no conflict of interest and that Mark Deas should continue to be instructed to advise the steering group on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillors Barbara Boddington and Julie Wisson left.

Correspondence – continued:

16.2. Alan Rowbotham reported that the village bin at the far end of the tennis court is difficult to empty. The foundations have gone and it is of little use. Councillors agreed to dispose of the bin. Giles Scott will check to see if it is salvageable and if not, Michael Capps will be asked if he can dispose of it.

16.3. Martin Davies, former chairman of the working party, had contacted the clerk concerning the use of the Great Gransden Windmill Restoration funds to pay for the cost of felling a tree which is being donated for use in refurbishing the inner workings of the windmill. The funds are due to be transferred to a trust but this has not yet been finalised. Councillors agreed that the trust now needs to be formed urgently in view of the length of time that has elapsed since the terms of reference of the original working party had been achieved. There is £555 in the account from donations and the cost of felling the tree is £260. An invoice is awaited before payment can be made.

16.4. Councillors noted the Police Precept survey, offering 3 options; 2 for increasing the budget, one of which will allow for the provision of extra officers.

16.5. Email from Capalc requesting nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Councillors unanimously agreed to nominate Stephanie Beaumont.

16.6. Email from Desmond Merrill advising councillors on the recent village litter pick and requesting the Parish Council writes to Kingspan Potton asking that they provide litter bins opposite their premises in view of the level of litter collected from the ditch adjacent to their smoking hut.

16.7. Email from Phil Taylor requesting the purchase of 3 litter picks and handiloops to replace broken equipment to enable the village litter picking to continue. 29 bags of litter had recently been collected. The cost of the equipment is £83.99 from The Helping Hand Company. Councillors unanimously agreed the purchase of the equipment and this payment was added to the cheques for approval and initialled by the vice chairman. (Proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Alan Rowbotham).

17. Planning. 1. 17/02683/HHFUL & 17/02684/LBC Single storey side extension to link to hobby barn and converting hobby barn to bedroom, ensuite and dining room 18 Middle Street. Debi Pearce, having declared an interest, chose to withdraw from the discussion and left the hall. Councillors discussed the overall design, the view of the proposed extension from the street and whether it was in-keeping with the existing barn and house. Stephanie Beaumont proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that the design is a sympathetic modern addition to an existing listed building. Seconded by Giles Scott and carried with 4 votes in favour and 2 against.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5th February 2018

This meeting closed at 9.40pm.