

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2018

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Stephanie Beaumont Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

Giles Scott Parish Councillor

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West,

County Councillor Julie Wisson, PCSO Richard Braddick and 18 members of the public

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

2. Apologies. Parish Councillor Alan Rowbotham gave his apologies for having to leave the meeting early and County Councillor Julie Wisson had given her apologies for a late arrival.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

6.4. Tree Preservation Order, 6 Crow Tree Street. Alan Rowbotham declared a pecuniary interest as owner of a neighbouring property.

6.2. Tennis Court, Fox Street. It was noted that all councillors had an interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th March 2018, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for 18 minutes. Councillor Barbara Boddington commented on the forthcoming elections although some 70 parish councils have uncontested elections. Members of the public were invited to speak. Comments objecting to the planning application by Cambridge Gliding Club included the noise level from motorised gliders, safety and the level of accidents, the proposed extended fixed hours and the increase in traffic. PCSO Richard Braddick provided councillors with crime figures for 2016/17 and 2017/18. There had been an increase in crimes and although there had been a spate of crime through the village, Great Gransden is a safe place to live. The allotments have been targeted and the recent theft is still under investigation. Touchbase is being used to put out crime messages and whilst Ecops is still running, it will be used to put out good news rather than negative messages. The lack of support staff makes it difficult for crime reports to be put on Ecops. CCC is recruiting more police and although PCSOs will stay, 52 are being made redundant throughout Cambridgeshire. The rural areas hopefully will still be covered. Councillors noted that whilst there is a lot of suspicious activity reported on Touchbase, if it is not reported to the police it will not form part of the crime figures.

6. Planning. 1. 18/00325/HHFUL Raise roof height to provide first floor in room accommodation, erection of two storey side extension, replacement porch, dormers to front & rear, external alterations & alterations to driveway, 19 Mill Road. Councillors noted the 2 letters of objection. Councillors commented on the size of the redevelopment and ridge height but could find no planning reason for refusing. Jeff Gorton proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is a visual improvement on the existing property with a rider that the style of the dormer windows could be improved with a more sympathetic design. Seconded by Andrew Pett and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Planning – continued:

6.2. 18/00507/FUL To upgrade an old disused tennis court to a multi-use games area (Muga) to create a safe games area for the local community, Tennis Court, Fox Street. Ann Cosgrave proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is an improvement of and updating an older recreational village asset. Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried unanimously. (Councillor Julie Wisson arrives)

6.3. 18/00548/S73 Amendment to application 9000467FUL for the removal of C9 and the variation of C11, C12 and C13 Cambridge Gliding Club Ltd, Gransden Lodge Airfield, Longstowe Road. Nick Ginn, having attended a briefing meeting at the Gliding Club reported on the proposals. Condition 9 limits the number of aerotows to 40 per day and it is proposed that this is removed; condition 11 prohibits the use of self-launching sail planes and is proposed that this is varied to allow self-launchers with a maximum noise measurement of 68dB(A); condition 12 restricts the hours of launch from 9am to 6pm daily and it is proposed that this is varied to allow launches from 8am to 9.30pm; condition 13 to be varied to limit the noise levels of all aircraft used for aerotowing to a maximum of 70 dB(A).

Condition 9 – councillors commented that this was a radical step to allow unlimited aerotows. In the past there has been a specific route to use, towing around the village rather than over it with a complaint system in place for straying pilots. Nick Ginn reported that the majority of time the club is under the 40 limit only exceeding this on competition and very busy days. Recommend refusal on the ground that it is unreasonable to go to an unlimited number. (Proposed Giles Scott, seconded Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously).

Condition 11 – concern was expressed about the noise of self-launchers and use of the official route. Recommend refusal until and unless self-launch is governed by the same routes and noise levels as aerotows and included in the numbers in condition 9. (Proposed Giles Scott, seconded Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously).

Condition 12 – councillors commented that the proposed extension to the hours of launch until 9.30pm is unreasonable. Recommend refusal as the proposed change in hours is excessive, the current number of hours is sufficient and the club can use the winch. (Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded Stephanie Beaumont and carried unanimously).

Condition 13 – councillors agreed this was a sensible way of measuring noise based on decibel limitation rather than on horse power of the machine.

Andrew Pett proposed overall ‘**Refusal**’, seconded by Alan Rowbotham and carried unanimously.

6.4. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER L/TPO/2018/005 6 Crow Tree Street. Alan Rowbotham having declared a pecuniary interest left the hall. Councillors commented that it would be helpful to know the reasons for the TPO and for this reason it was proposed to make no observation or comment.

(Councillor Barbara Boddington left)

7. Matters Arising: 7.1. Grass Cutting around the Village Sign. The chairman reported that Mr and Mrs McIntosh have agreed to cut the grass around the village sign if needed.

7.2. Log Crate. The crate having appeared once again has now disappeared although on the last occasion, it was not left partly on the highway. Owners to be approached if the problem occurs again.

7.3. Wheelie Bins and Missed Collections. The village grey bin had not been collected on 2 separate occasions last month, although should be collected weekly. Councillor Richard West asked to be kept informed. A request had been made to villagers to return bins promptly to their own property after collection. Councillors noted the comments from a resident that a delay can occur when a collection has been missed as HDC can take up to 3 days to collect a missed bin during which time it must be left out.

8. Ecops Report. No reports had been received concerning incidents affecting Great Gransden. Michael Capps commented that in the past Ecops had been used to check reported crime and correct the police records. Note to be put in Roundabout reminding residents to report crime to the police otherwise it will not appear as a statistic and levels of resources are assessed on reported crime. Issues affecting the village for PSCO Braddick to look into include parking in Webbs Meadow, near the roundabout and Middle Street during school times and visiting the playing field in the summer months where damage to trees and play equipment has occurred in the past.

9. Financial Statement for March 2018. 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 March 2018.

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

Proposed Stephanie Beaumont, seconded Jeff Gorton	
Buchans Landscapes for sportsfield grass cutting (March)	£198.30
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (March)	£100.00
Clerk's salary for March 2018	£490.85
Clerk's office expenses for March incl telephone expenses	£42.46
Robert & Margie McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£7.50
South Cambs District Council for Dole Field rates 2018/19	£148.80
CAPALC for GDPR workshop	£35.00

(Alan Rowbotham leaves)

11. Review of Cemetery Charges. These were last increased in 2016. Councillors agreed that there should be no increase (proposed Jeff Gorton, seconded Stephanie Beaumont). The government's proposed changes for the waiver of child burial fees were noted. Councillors also agreed that the following should remain the same:

Payment for Churchyard Maintenance. Payments for the churchyard remain at £1,500 pa and £120 for the old chapel graveyard.

Contribution to Roundabout Costs. The contribution should remain at £125.

Review of Clerk's Core Hours. This was discussed in private and will remain at 10 hours per week to be reviewed in 6 months.

12. Risk Management Policy. The policy document had been circulated and councillors agreed that no changes were necessary although an asset check and risk assessment of parish council property will be carried out each year prior to the renewal of insurances in June. The clerk will prepare the necessary paperwork for the next meeting.

13. Review of Internal Controls. Councillors reviewed the internal controls considering them to be adequate and effective and agreed to appoint LGS Services as internal auditor.

14. Annual Governance Statement. Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement in Section 1, page 4 of the Annual Return 2017/18. Each of the 9 statements were read out and unanimously approved by councillors, answering yes, to those numbered 1-9.

15. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The chairman reported on the details of the check list and action plan which had been circulated. Whilst parish councils do not tend to hold a great deal of data, separate email addresses for councillors (as opposed to personal ones) should be used. A Data Protection Officer will need to be appointed; someone who is suitably trained and although the new regulations are in force from 25th May, Capalc may be able to provide this en masse for parish councils. The matter will be considered again at the May meeting.

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16. Trees. 16.1. The tree in West Street had been referred to HDC's Tree Officer who will be assessing it to see if it meets the criteria for a TPO.

16.2. Elder on Tennis Court. Global Tree Solutions confirmed that the treatment proposed will stop the tree from re-sprouting.

16.3. Tree Survey. Michael Capps reported that the risk assessment shows just one tree in the cemetery needs action and the rest can be dealt with next Autumn. Of the 2 diseased horse chestnut trees in the playing field one will need felling and the other reducing but a full schedule can be done in the Autumn. The allotment trees have also been inspected as have the commemorative elm trees on Church Street. It is recommended that 3 are removed and when next pollarded the height of the remaining elms is reduced by 1 metre. Councillors to take a look and consider whether the elm trees should be replaced. Debi Pearce commented on the importance of the street scene when managing the elms or planting replacement trees.

17.1. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The chairman reported on the background to the steering group's request for £600 to produce publicity at the first planned event on 20th May to cover the cost of printing flyers and merchandise costs. A plan typically costs £13,000 with grants available of up to £9,000. Councillors had already agreed to proceed with a plan which will provide greater control over the sort of development within HDC's constraints and planning laws. Any money spent prior to obtaining a grant cannot be clawed back. It was proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously that a sum of up to £600 be made available toward the costs of the NDP.

17.2. Housing Needs Survey. Councillors agreed the draft letters for the Housing Needs Survey and Letter of Parish Council support as prepared by Cambs Acre and amended by the Steering Group.

18. Highways. Pot holes on the corner of Fox Street and Eltisley Road and outside the Crown & Cushion will be reported for repair. Drains in the village are silted up, all white lining along Caxton Road needs repainting and the gully along Meadow Road is getting bigger. These issues will be reported to Highways.

19. Correspondence. 19.1. Councillors agreed the LHI Bid for 2018/19 which had been successful which includes the levelling of the Crow Tree Street footpath and a 40mph buffer zone along Meadow Road.

19.2. It was reported that the oil scheme donation had not been divided equally between the 2 village organisations which were the recipients of the oil scheme rebate. It was considered that any future rebate should not be divided but go to a single organisation.

19.3. Councillors had had the opportunity to complete the Nalc online survey.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 14th May 2018

This meeting closed at 9.53pm.