

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th January 2017

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

George Craze Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West and County Councillor Julie Wisson

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

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 5th December 2016 (having noted typographical changes and apologies for Richard West), which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for ten minutes. Councillor Julie Wisson reported on the good news that CCC had decided to reinstate gritting routes. A review of the whole grid routes will now be carried out to see if the right roads are being gritted. When asked if this would have an impact on the budget, Councillor Wisson advised that the original saving of £150,000 from this year and next year's budget was not there to be found and savings will have to be looked for elsewhere. The decision to turn off street lights has also been reversed. She also reported that her motion for an alternative route over the Offord crossing, as the level crossing is dangerous, was unanimously supported by CCC. Councillor West reported that car park charges will be re-considered and it is hoped that a partner can be found for the CCTV to improve this. He had met with the Executive Leader and a working group will be set up look at the tree strategy which was to run for 5 years from 2014 to 2019, although nothing appears to have been done for the past 2 years. A new Tree Officer has recently been appointed and it is hoped that the tree strategy can be implemented with the added expertise from parish councillors. The Tree Warden post will continue to run for a further 6 months until September.

6. Matters Arising: 6.1. Local Highway Improvement Bid 2107/18. The chairman reported that last year's improvement bid is now being implemented with the 20mph in Middle Street and the posts for the interactive speed sign. The chairman and vice chairman will attend the panel meeting on Wednesday to present this year's bid. Councillors noted that Abbotsley now has a 40mph buffer zone.

6.2. Village Trees and Hedges. Councillors noted that Highways are refusing to take responsibility for the work needed to the trees in Church Street, Little Lane and the fallen trees along The Riddy. The trees on the verge in Fox Street were not deemed dangerous and did not therefore meet any criteria for work to be undertaken. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Ian Winfield to discuss further. Clerk also to seek advice from the Tree Officer about the trees in Little Lane as householders are concerned about overhanging branches. There was confusion as to the roles of the Tree Officer and the Tree Warden. Richard West agreed to provide at the next meeting details of the Tree Officer's responsibilities. The Tree Warden is the co-ordinator for the volunteer tree wardens in the villages within HDC.

Matters Arising – continued:

6.3. Crow Tree Street Raised Footpath. The damaged kerb has been repaired but no action is deemed necessary by CCC to repair the surface of the raised path. Councillors considered the surface slippery and dangerous and will add this matter for discussion at the site meeting with Ian Winfield.

6.4. Reading Room Cottage Roof. The clerk reported that work was due to begin last week but the contractor had now informed the caretakers that he was waiting to be signed back on as fit for work. Councillors agreed to give the contractor until the end of the week to provide a revised start date, failing which action will be taken to terminate the contract and find an alternative contractor.

6.5. Sportsfield Grass Cutting. Alan Rowbotham reported that all bar 1 of the sportsfield committee agreed the preferred contractor as Buchans. Four quotes had been obtained for the 2017/18 grass cutting contract and councillors unanimously agreed to appoint Buchans at a cost of £2,108.75 (plus vat) to commence 1st April 2017. Proposed by Alan Rowbotham, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont.

6.6 Sand Road Street Light. As no estimate for a replacement light had been received from Balfour Beatty, an alternative quote will now be obtained.

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix 1. There was one reported incident affecting the village when a vehicle was taken and further damage was caused to the allotment site.

8. Financial Statement for December 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 December 2016.

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

Proposed Andrew Pett, seconded George Craze.

Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (December) £225.00

Clerk's salary for December 2016 £470.81

Clerk's office expenses for December £3.02

Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance £15.00

Information Commissioner for data protection renewal £35.00

Sportsafe UK for play equipment safety inspection £60.00

Following discussion of item 14.3 the following payment was added:

Cambridgeshire Acre for membership £54.00

10. Review of Financial Regulations. The revised regulations had been circulated. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously that the revised regulations be adopted noting that regulation 11.1.h. to require the clerk to strive to obtain 3 quotations where the value is below £3,000 and above £500.

11. Publication of Draft Minutes. Councillors had first agreed to publish draft minutes at their meeting in January 2016 and to review after 12 months. There had been no problems and councillors unanimously agreed to continue to publish the draft minutes.

12. Consultations.

12.1. Draft Corporate Energy Strategy for Cambridgeshire County Council. Noted by councillors with no comments to make.

13. Highways. Michael Capps spoke about the trees in The Riddy, some of which have fallen over. They are the responsibility of Highways not the neighbour properties and will be pointed out at the site meeting.

Stephanie Beaumont raised a concern about HGVs driving through the centre of the village. Meadow Road and Middle Street are lorry routes although lorries have been seen using Sand Road, the surface of which is not suitable for HGVs and the drivers should be using Caxton Road. Clerk to contact the haulage company. Lorries have also been seen using Waresley Road, a restricted route. The signs may be missing at each end and if so will need reinstating.

George Craze reported the pot holes on Waresley Road which are getting progressively worse. This will be added to the list for discussion with Ian Winfield.

Andrew Pett reported on a meeting with the head teacher as a complaint had been made about parking in Middle Street next to dropped kerbs. More education is needed with encouragement to park in the car park behind the Reading Room. Ian Selkirk suggested a footpath to the rear entrance of the school is needed. Stephanie Beaumont reported that the cost to include this within the MUGA development is an extra £10,000 making it too expensive at the present time. Ann Cosgrave reported the gutters full of leaves. The road sweeper has been in the last few months. Clerk to enquire how often the sweeper comes each year and to request the gutters are cleared along with the path down to the cemetery.

Debi Pearce reported the pot hole opposite the crane yard in Caxton Road. This will also be added to the list for discussion at the site meeting.

Ian Selkirk spoke about the Highways England website. Information has been posted on the forum about expressways which provides a valuable insight into how the A428 road may operate. Councillors discussed the 3 possible options; dualling the A428, a route to the south or to the north. Nothing has yet been published. Andrew Pett spoke about the environmental constraints for a southern route. Councillors noted that access will be needed for the new developments at Bourn and Camborne as well as access to the station at St Neots. They considered what action if any the parish council can take at this stage to support a preferred northern route. It was agreed to prepare arguments in favour of a northern route in readiness for when the options are published.

14. CORRESPONDENCE. 14.1. Response from Luminus concerning off road parking for existing tenants when the planning application is submitted for the proposed new homes. The response will have no impact on the parking situation unless Luminus are pro-active and consult with their tenants. Clerk to write accordingly.

Councillor Julie Wisson left.

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

14.3. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously to renew the Cambridgeshire Acre membership fees for the year in the sum of £54. This payment was then added to the cheques for approval and initialled by the chairman.

14.4. Letter from a resident concerned about the speed of traffic in Meadow Road advising that the Police and Crime Commissioner would support a lower speed limit along the road and asking that the parish council contacts him. Councillors agreed to take it forward at the appropriate time as there will be scope to discuss speed restrictions once the council's bid has been put forward. Any speed limit is subject to investigation by the Highway's authority and the police.

14.5. Email from Little Gransden Parish Clerk concerning Agricole Oil's village rebate. It was proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Debi Pearce and carried unanimously that the rebate should benefit the Windmill Trust.

14.6. Email from a resident concerned about the level of work being carried out to land at rear of 18 Middle Street. The site is in a conservation area and work may have been undertaken without permission. Clerk to contact the HDC's planning enforcement officer and check on any TPOs.

Correspondence – continued:

14.7. Letter from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation advising that the parish council had been unsuccessful in its application for funding to purchase speedwatch equipment. The link between the project and the new A14 was not as strong as other applications. Councillors to discuss at the next meeting how to progress funding for this equipment.

14.8. Councillors noted the email from CCC updating the gritting of roads.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th February 2017

This meeting closed at 9.28pm.