

**GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Those present were:

Stephanie Beaumont Chairman

Ian Selkirk Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton 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. Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously that **Ian Selkirk** be elected chairman. Ian Selkirk signed the appropriate 'Declaration of Office' and took the chair. Ian Selkirk thanked members for electing him and proposed a vote of thanks to Stephanie Beaumont during her three years as chairman.

**3. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Andrew Pett Parish Councillor.

**4. Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Election of Officers.** 1. Vice Chairman. It was proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously that **Andrew Pett** be elected vice chairman, having agreed to his name being put forward. The remaining officer elections were taken on block. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously that the following officers be elected:-

2. **Jeff Gorton** elected **Cemetery Manager**.

3. **Ann Cosgrave** elected **Playing Field Manager**.

4. **Stephanie Beaumont** elected to the **Reading Room Management Committee**.

5. **Michael Capps** elected representative to the **Gransden Society**.

6. **Alan Rowbotham** elected **Sportsfield Representative**.

7. **Michael Capps** appointed **Tree Warden**.

8. **Michael Capps** elected representative to the **Church Tower Restoration Trust**.

9. **Ian Selkirk** elected representative to the **Little Gransden Airfield Consultative Committee** and also to the **Gliding Club Consultative Committee**.

Councillors identified a role for a communications officer. It was proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 against that **Debi Pearce** is elected **Communications Officer**.

**6. Minutes** of the previous monthly meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 were approved for recommendation to the next year's Annual Parish Meeting and initialled by the chairman.

**7. OPEN FORUM.** The meeting was closed for thirty minutes and members of the public were invited to speak. Councillor Barbara Boddington congratulated Ian Selkirk on his election as chairman. She reported that Jason Ablewhite, former leader of HDC, had been elected as Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. A new leader at HDC has been elected. Alan Rowbotham asked if there was any possibility of Parish Councils receiving paper copies of planning applications. Councillor Richard West reported on a meeting he had had that afternoon

**Open Forum – continued:**

with Andy Moffat, head of planning raising the problems of smaller councils with limited resources moving to the paperless system. A suggestion had been made that the applicant should supply an extra paper copy to avoid additional costs to Parish Councils. Stephanie Beaumont commented that following attendance at a planning forum, most applications are now made on line and are already paperless. Councillor West also reported his election as vice chairman of HDC for a second year. Due to a change in the leader, councillors are still waiting their allocated jobs. Councillor Wisson spoke about the Highways England development of the A428 improvement from the Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet. The chief executive of CCC is looking into alternative uses for Shire Hall. Michael Capps asked for councillors' support concerning the Sand Road site. The owner had been invited to this meeting. There is concern that the owners are living on site and a clear direction is needed on enforcement. Both District Councillors expressed concern about the situation. Enforcement officers need to obtain proof and the Parish Council will again write.

At the request of councillors, Phil Taylor was invited to advise on parish forums. Firstly he spoke about the Parish Council domain for the website. The domain will lapse on 24<sup>th</sup> May unless renewed. The chairman thanked Phil for establishing the website and his willingness to transfer ownership to the Parish Council. Speaking about internet forums and platforms, he advised that first the scope and requirements need to be considered. He spoke about the 2 free platforms available from Google, Google Groups and Google Sites. It is possible to set up a Google group with several discussion forums. Residents would need to join the forum as well as knowing what groups there are. A test group could be set up initially. Phil Taylor was thanked for his input.

**8. Matters Arising: 8.1. Parish Council Communications.** Councillors agreed a working group, involving Debi Pearce and Ian Selkirk should consider the options that had been outlined by Phil Taylor. Councillors unanimously agreed to renew the website domain for 1 year, proposed by Jeff Gorton, seconded by Stephanie Beaumont.

**8.2. Church Yard Trees.** Michael Capps reported the on the site meeting with HDC's consultant. He was concerned about a proposed reduction in the height of the lime trees and advised only the dead wood should be removed from these 2 trees and also 2 further lime trees at the Lychgate. He also advised on the exact work needed to the 2 beech trees for which a renewed application for permission is needed. Global Tree Solutions have provided a revised quote for the work to include the additional 2 lime trees. Stephanie Beaumont proposed acceptance of the revised quote from Global Tree Solutions in the sum of £1,380, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously.

**8.3. Mill Weir Lay-by.** Councillors are still waiting to hear from Highways that the issues have been investigated.

**8.4. Litter Bins.** The new bin liner has been installed at the cemetery. It is not possible to have the grey village bin emptied weekly. The commercial arrangement for the Reading Room bin is also only emptied fortnightly when the village domestic grey bins are emptied.

**8.5. Manholes Caxton Road.** Councillors noted that some repairs had been carried out last week resulting in closure of the road. The manholes in the middle of the road are due to be repaired by Anglian Water on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**8.6. Speedwatch.** Debi Pearce spoke about fundraising to purchase a speedwatch kit. Councillors agreed as this will be at no cost to the Parish Council but questions were raised about insurance of the kit and personal insurance for the volunteers. The results of the recent speedwatch sessions were presented. Three motorists had now received visits from the police and 10 are on their second warning.

**Matters Arising – continued:**

**8.7. Audit of our Accounts for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.** The accounts for audit had been circulated to all councillors. The accounts were unanimously approved and accordingly signed by the chairman together with the accounting statements in section 2 of the Annual Return. (Councillor Boddington left)

**8.8. Local Highway Improvement Bid.** A site meeting had been arranged with Scott Parsons, Traffic Engineer. The work may be completed by the end of the year. The sub-committee were looking to the next round of bidding.

**8.9. Village Tennis Court.** Stephanie Beaumont spoke about the possibility of having a footpath on the playing field, extending from the back of the tennis court, along the contour of the hedge towards the school back gate which could be used by children using the walking bus, if established as well as access to the MUGA from the school. Councillors agreed in principle for the purposes of funding applications.

**8.10. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations.** A letter had been received on behalf of the Brownies seeking permission to plant flowers around the village to commemorate the Queen's birthday. Councillors agreed to the planting of bulbs by the village sign as well as the signs on each road into the village. Financial assistance was not available although an application could be made to the Poor's Land charity.

**8.11. Cemetery Grass Cutting.** Jeff Gorton reported that due to circumstances beyond his control the contractor had been unable to cut the cemetery grass in April. The first cut will take place in the next few days.

**9. Ecops Report.** The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix 1.

**10. Financial Statement** for April 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 April 2016.

**11. Parish Council Insurance 2016/17.** The renewal quote from Zurich had been circulated. This year's premium is £1,818.28, a 6.4% increase although insurance premium tax had increased from 6 to 9.5%. It was proposed by Stephanie Beaumont, seconded by George Craze and carried unanimously that the policy with Zurich for £1,818.28 is renewed.

**12. Cheques for approval.** Before considering the cheques for approval, councillors approved the additional cost for the Sportsfield heating and lighting for £361.82. The following payments were approved:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (April)           | £225.00   |
| Clerk's salary for April 2016                                 | £470.81   |
| Clerk's office expenses for April                             | £5.71     |
| Clerk for stationery and files                                | £28.39    |
| Glasdon UK for bin liner                                      | £42.97    |
| Datashredders for paper shredding & disposal                  | £105.00   |
| Zurich Insurance for PC insurance 2016/17                     | £1,818.28 |
| Allphase Electrical Service for Sportsfield lighting/heating  | £8,324.88 |
| Allphase Electrical Services for lighting/heating extra costs | £361.82   |

**13. Cambridge Gliding Club Consultative Committee Report.** Ian Selkirk reported that the club had asked for a public enquiry into the mid-air collision in 2014. The publication of the report has been delayed as one of the parties involved is contesting the findings.

**14. Highways.** Stephanie Beaumont reported a pot hole at the Waresley end of Waresley Road. Michael Capps reported that a number of trees need removing near the village sign. Permission to plant a replacement tree will be sought.

Debi Pearce reported debris/gravel at the corner of Waresley Road.

Alan Rowbotham reported debris and excess soil on the elevated section of Crow Tree Street footpath which had been left by contractors building a fence. Clerk to contact the home owner.

Ian Selkirk reported that 2 matters on Meadow Road had been reported to Ian Winfield following his last visit to the village.

The village grass cutting is due to take place this week.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE. 15.1.** Letter from TL Cobbold requesting approval for a memorial in the Garden of Remembrance. Councillors decided not to approve the request as the proposed tablet is not flat in accordance with regulations. Proposed by Michael Capps, seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried with 6 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

**15.2.** Letter from Highways England advising on the early stages of developing proposals for improvements to the A428 from the Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet.

(Councillor Wisson left)

**15.3.** Councillors noted Stukeleys application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area.

**15.4.** Councillors noted the invitation to HDC's website presentation.

**15.5.** There is a possibility that the contractor will be interested in extending the present sportsfield grass cutting contract. Councillors agreed that the GSRA should pursue this. The present contract does not expire until March 2017.

**15.6.** Councillors noted the consultation on future pharmacy services.

**15.7.** Councillors agreed to renew the Capalc membership for 2016/17 at a cost of £286.45.

**15.8.** Alan Rowbotham asked about the possibility of a village bus service being reinstated. As funding from CCC has been withdrawn, Cambourne is used as a hub, serving outlying villages.

**15.9.** Email from UK Power Networks advising of tree pruning near the power lines in Sand Road. As concern had been expressed about the level of the hedge reduction, councillors suggested that the pruning go no lower than the previous pollarding. To avoid problems with drainage, the chippings must not go in the ditch.

**The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

This meeting closed at 9.35pm.