

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5th October 2020
By remote conference

Those present were:

Andrew Pett Chairman

Giles Scott Vice Chairman

Catherine Fox Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Nick Ginn Parish Councillor

James Catmur Parish Councillor

Lisbeth Ricciardi Parish Councillor

Peter King Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Richard West and County Councillor Julie Wisson
 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 Cllr Day.

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

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 7th September 2020 which had been circulated, were approved and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for 11 minutes.

Cllr West raised concerns around the 'Planning for the Future' Government white paper. (under consultation until 29th October 2020). The impact of the proposed changes could potentially undermine the integrity of Local Plans. Cllr West informed the meeting that the accounts for HDC were due to be signed off in November.

Cllr Wisson as County Councillor voiced her full support for the LHI Bid submitted by the Parish Council.

A village resident raised concerns around the ongoing works at Sand Road. It was noted that over three months into the development safety concerns had still not been addressed by the developer nor enforced by the Planning department. Cllrs agreed to discuss these concerns later in the meeting in conjunction with correspondence received around the same topic.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Reading Room Caretaker Update Cllr Ricciardi confirmed that there had been three applications for the role of live-in caretaker at the Reading Room. Interviews have been scheduled for Friday 9th October 2020 after which, a recommendation will be made by the panel to the Parish Council.

6.2 Bluebell-19 Coronavirus Support Group Update Cllr Catmur confirmed that there had been a gentle increase in the number of requests for support from the Bluebell-19 group. Volunteers remain in place and are ready to assist as required.

6.3 Reading Room Car Park Cllr Capps reported that it was still proving difficult to obtain full quotations for resurfacing works at the Reading Room Car Park despite 3 companies having visited the site. One quote had been received which had costed the job at £55 per sq/m equating to over £20,000 in total. Councillors discussed the viability of this given the financial restraints on the Councils budget. Alternative options could include the repair of the existing surface to fill the pot holes and to improve the hazards that were there. Councillors agreed that lighting for the car park would be useful, but that there was no immediate need for this given the much-reduced usage of the Reading Room due to the pandemic. Quotations received for the lighting ranged

from £1685 for one light to £2525 for 8 bollard style lights. It was agreed to revisit the Car Park as an item at the budget meeting to decide how to proceed.

6.4 Neighbourhood Plan – Report and Update Cllr Pett reported that the NDP Steering Group had been working hard to rewrite parts of the plan in an effort to counterbalance what might come with the adoption of the Planning White Paper. Similarly, HDC will have to revisit their Local Plan which currently runs until 2036. If the Local Plan requires significant amendment, it could see the return of ‘Tilted Balance’ planning decisions. Works on the Neighbourhood Development plan remain ongoing with the Steering Group committed to working in a quick and timely way to ensure that they are ready for any changes in the future. A request had been received from Bourn surgery to take part in the Patient Participation Group. Cllr Pett volunteered to join this as the NDP Steering Group wishes to focus on health facilities for the village.

6.5 GRSA Committee Update Cllr Ginn provided an update development plans drawn up by the GSRA Committee. The plans have been amended to include a small building housing a toilet, small kitchen and a changing room facility (for 5 football officials). The idea is that by moving away from the pavilion, this will create more space for the nursery who in turn could take on more children and therefore pay more rent. The committee, the football club and the nursery were all in agreement. The committee have requested that the Parish Council pay the invoices so as not to incur VAT. The monies will then be reimbursed to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to this request, subject to there being no breaches of VAT regulations; noting that the Sports field is owned by the Parish Council.

6.6 Middle Street Traffic Survey results The results collected by Cambridgeshire County Council show a significant proportion of traffic using Middle Street to be speeding with over a third of all vehicles driving in excess of the speed limit. The data was included in the LHI bid, serving to highlight the problems raised.

7. Approval of Cemetery Tree Works Three quotes had been obtained for the works required to remove the fallen branch of one of the conifers in the cemetery. Councillors unanimously voted to instruct GTS to carry out the works at a cost of £180.00 inc VAT.

8. Replacement Windows and Doors – 18 Fox Street Following the submission of revised drawings, HDC are still not satisfied that the conditions can be discharged. Cllr King has been in touch with the planning officer to discuss bringing this to a close and has obtained the information required to resubmit drawings. The Clerk will apply for an extension of time to allow for this. Councillors feel that the advice initially provided by HDC was not comprehensive and that a repair rather than a replacement door/window would have been preferable from the point of view of Heritage England – negating the need for full planning permission. It was unanimously agreed that if the conditions were not discharged at this next review an alternative approach should be considered.

9. Local Highways Improvement Bid 2021/22 The Parish Council thanked Cllr Scott for producing such a concise and compelling application. The proposed contribution of £4000.00 by the parish Council was formally approved. (Proposed by Cllr Pett, seconded by Cllr Scott and unanimously agreed)

10. Financial Statement for September 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 September 2020.

11. Cheques for approval. The following payments were approved:
Proposed Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Gorton.

Clerk’s salary for September 2020	£642.20
Clerk’s expenses for September 2020	£34.13

DP Garden works & Grounds Maintenance (cemetery grass cutting September 2020)	£230.00
Cambridgeshire County Council – Street Lighting Final Invoice (01/10/19 – 01/02/20)	£502.92
CAPALC – Councillor Training	£50.00
SSE Street Lighting (September)	£209.69
Buchans Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance	£324.64
R McIntosh (Garden of Remembrance – August 2020)	£15.00

Cllr King requested approval for the purchase of paint for maintenance of the play equipment in the park. This would likely be in the region of £40-£100. This was unanimously agreed pending copies of receipts.

12. Highways

12.1 A new battery is required for the Speedwatch equipment. This will cost approximately £20.00. Councillors unanimously agreed this expenditure. Clerk to order the battery, the invoice will be included in next month's payments.

12.2 The bench on Caxton Road is still in need of repair. Cllr King will contact John Vinnell to obtain a quotation for works to repair it.

12.3 A pile of debris has appeared up at the Mill Weir. Clerk to contact Water Bailiff to request its removal.

12.4 The Chestnut tree in the playground near the swings is succumbing to disease and will need attention. The annual inspection may highlight the need for more drastic action to be taken to ensure that it remains safe.

12.5 Concerns were raised around the new development at Sand Road being signposted and referred to as Hayfield Avenue despite the street naming consultation. It was noted that this was probably to aid delivery drivers to the site – the developer is not required to use the street name yet.

12.6 The crossing point at the end of Little Lane onto West Street had been highlighted as dangerous by a young village resident. The Parish Council have previously cut back the hedges but overall responsibility lies with the property owner. The metal fencing on the boundary of the property should be moved back away from the kerb to aid visibility for pedestrians wishing to cross the road at that point. There are usually workmen on site who may be able to assist with this. Councillors noted that the road markings were faded – Cllr Wisson will report this to Ian Winfield (Local Highways Officer) and also request additional school crossing signage for the northbound side of West Street.

13. Correspondence

13.1 A letter had been received from a resident enquiring about the possibility of a skate park in the village. The issues around this are complex and have been investigated previously. The insurance and maintenance implications of this mean that at this present time funds are not available to support the installation of a skate park. However, Councillors acknowledge that there is a lack of provision for older children in the village and will endeavour to address this when the playground equipment upgrade is considered.

13.2 A village resident had raised concerns around the works being undertaken at the Sand Road site, namely around the neighbouring field where works seem to have deviated from the original plans. The concern is that the field will be considered a brown field site and that it will not be returned to a green field once the development is complete, potentially meaning that further development could be granted. Cllr West told Councillors that he had received confirmation from planning enforcement officer Alison Twyford that the site must be returned to its previous state. The Parish council will continue to monitor this and the safety concerns around the Sand Road/East Street junction – holding the developer accountable at every stage.

13.3 A case of box blight had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council affecting the box bush at the Garden of Remembrance. Cllr Gorton had visited the site and confirmed that action was required. Cllr Gorton has asked the caretaker of the Garden of Remembrance to remove the infected plants. It was suggested that *Lonicera nitida* (Baggerson's Gold) would be a good replacement as it is hardy and not susceptible to disease. This was unanimously agreed. The health of the bush would continue to be monitored – with the aim to totally replace all bushes in the future.

13.4 Correspondence had been received around the Elm Trees in Church Street. All of these trees are known to be suffering with Dutch elm disease and are not in good health. The Parish Council have done regular pollarding to help maintain them however, due to the health of the trees this may not be viable for very much longer. There is some confusion over whether or not the trees can be replanted and if it is the responsibility of highways or the Parish Council to do so. The residents of the Old Vicarage have instructed an arboricultural consultant to inspect the trees and provide a report which they will share with the Parish Council. The results of this survey, alongside the findings of a second report commissioned by the Parish Council will help finalise a decision.

13.5 Councillors noted the proposed TTRO – Closure of Meadow Road (B1046 15th – 16th Dec)

14. Planning

PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/01400/HHFU

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory

2 Whittets Close Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AL

Parish Councillors noted that the proposed works would not change the existing dimensions of the property and were fair improvements to the building.

Councillors unanimously agreed to recommend *approval* on the grounds that the works were both necessary and sensible.

2. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 20/01835/FLC

Felling licence consultation

Land Between Park Ridley And Eltisley Road Great Gransden

Parish Councillors noted that the proposed tree works would not be visible from the road and were on private land. Given the location, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that there was no further comment to make.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7:30pm

This meeting closed at 9:03pm