

## **Clerk's Report**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**2. Apologies** To receive apologies for absence

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Minutes.** To approve the minutes from the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**5. Open Forum**

**6. Matters Arising**

1. Neighbourhood Plan – update from Cllr King

2. Future Funding for Playground Area – update from Cllr Davis

3. Mandene Gardens Play Area - to consider the information received in response to the proposal for the new play area:

I have been in contact with [Redacted], Implementation Manager who is managing this development. He said the play area will be reinstated once the properties are completed, which will be shortly. The area will be left level (following existing contours) and grass seeded, a financial contribution has/will be provided to HDC for the provision of new equipment.

4. Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – update from Cllr Capps

5. Tyres along Sand Road - update

*Previously circulated to Councillors:*

*Report compiled by the clerk*

6. Commerical use of the Muga – to further consider the use of the site

*Previously circulated to Councillors:*

*Report compiled by the clerk*

**7. Recruitment of Replacement Clerk**

To further discuss recruitment of a replacement Clerk from April 2022

**8. Clerk's Financial Statement** For March 2022 and Budget Review.

*To be circulated to councillors  
prior to the meeting:*

*Financial Report March 2022  
Budget Review March 2022*

**9. Cheques/Payments for Approval**

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for April 2022*

**10. Review of Charges** Cemetery charges, contribution towards churchyard maintenance, 'Roundabout' costs, review of clerk's core hours. (See Appendix 1 for charges as at 2021).

**11. Review of Risk Management Policy, asset check and risk assessments.**

Previously circulated to Councillors: *Risk Management Policy*

*Asset List 2022*

*Risk Assessments      General (Playground, bins etc)*

*Lights*

*Seats*

*MUGA*

**12. Review of Internal Control and Appointment of Internal Auditor.**

Previously Circulated to Councillors:      *Review of Internal Control Document*

In previous years, the internal auditor has been LGS Services.

**13. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – Section 1**

Statements 1-9 on section 1 (page 4) of the AGAR to be read out and agreed.

**14. Reading Room Cottage Fencing and Reading Room Garden Costs.**

3 quotes requested for the fencing; details of gardening costs from the Reading Room committee

*Previously circulated to Councillors:*

*Report compiled by the clerk*

**15. Adoption of Code of Conduct.**

*Previously circulated to Councillors:*

*HDC's Model Code of Conduct*

**16. Highways.** To report on the meeting with Highways Officer and any repairs or maintenance.

**17. Correspondence**

**17.1 Crown and Cushion Public House.** Correspondence from a number of residents as listed:

1. 'Although I no longer live in Great Gransden - I've moved to Cambourne to ensure facilities if I need to stop driving - I currently return regularly to organisations and events. Once a fairly regular user of the pub, both lunch time and evenings - especially with the Revellers, I believe it is one of the most important of the very limited village facilities. I trust you will work to retain its AVC status. Thank you.'

2. 'I write to request that you actively renew the Crown and Cushion Public House as an Asset of Community Value. It is (or should be) an essential part of the village's infrastructure and one which plays an important role in fostering community spirit - it must not be lost.'

3. 'I am writing to express my growing concern over the closure of the Crown and Cushion pub and to lend my weight to the renewal of the pub's status as an asset of community value.'

Since we moved to Great Gransden 9 years ago the pub has been the centre of the village community. We have met countless friends through the social aspect of the pub, and have attended music events, social events, quizzes, meetings, sporting events, weddings, funerals, and much more at the pub.

We, and many villagers, are lost without it. And it is of utmost importance that the Parish Council renews the ACV status of the pub without hesitation, so that we can continue to lobby for its reopening.'

4. 'I am writing with regards to the ongoing closure of the Crown and Cushion pub in Great Gransden, which is an Asset of Community Value. In the past it has been a valuable hub for the community, providing a place for meetings, club and charity events and musical concerts and remains a key facet of our community. Given businesses are now open following government advice, I am unsure as to why this business remains closed, especially given the enormous support for its reopening in the village. This is a concern given its ACV status. I am aware of a support group meeting next week to discuss how to get this moving forward and wanted to add my support to this here.'

5. 'I am sure you will agree that 'the village pub', is a unique feature of rural England and is a model that is not duplicated anywhere in the world. Sadly, as you'll be aware, over the last 10 years many thousands of pubs have closed, for one reason or another and are likely, to never reopen. With this in mind, we should leave no stone unturned, in trying to ensure that the Crown and Cushion does not join this long list of public house casualties. A public house provides many things for the local community. A much needed social point, community venue, charity venue, focal point for villagers to get to know each other, lifeline for some people, facility that attracts new residents to the village and a beacon to keep house prices firm. The current landlord(s), who took over the pub in 2018, started reasonably well, but sadly have no experience of running a pub and whilst the pandemic obviously created pub significant business difficulties, they appear to have no appetite to reopen. Furthermore, their main agenda, would appear to ensure that the Crown and Cushion becomes their new residential home. It appears that the landlord(s) does not understand a number of issues.

1. They would appear to have changed the 'use' of the pub, without permission.
2. They seem unaware and uninterested in the emotional reaction the village has had, in losing one of its most important facilities.
3. They have moved into the village from outside and therefore don't seem to recognise, or care as much as they should, about retaining the pub.
4. They have acquired a business, not a residential home.

Therefore, should they be encouraged to sell at some point, which I sincerely hope they will, then it is a business they are selling, not a residential property. Whilst I recognise, that Great Gransden Parish Council are restricted from what they can do, I am sure that you are totally committed to keeping the Crown and Cushion open. I hope, therefore, that you will be able to apply some pressure on the

landlord(s), in respect of Point '1' and '2', in particular and any other areas that might, ultimately encourage the pub to be rightly returned as a facility and hub to the village.'

6. 'We are writing to the Gransden Parish Council to place on record our concern regarding the closure of our village pub, the Crown and Cushion. We have lived in Great Gransden for 31 years during which time the pub has always been the centre of our community.

The C&C is very much an "Asset of Community Value" but like all assets it needs to be worked and cared for to get the best out of it. We feel that this has not been the case with the C&C, whilst other similar village pubs changed the way they operated, offering take away options and beer in cartons during 'lock down' the Crown stayed shut. When lock down ended and other local landlords started to offer food and drink in their gardens the Crown stayed shut. It is very clear that the current owners have no intention of reopening the pub.

I know from my friendship with the previous owners that with a little effort and some hard work the C & C is capable of producing a reasonable profit for its owners. The Little Gransden pub makes an interesting comparison with the C&C in what to do and what not to do in running a village pub to everyone's advantage.

If the pub doors stay closed it is obviously not going to pay its way. The current owners have made no attempt at any time during their short ownership to reach out to the village and make a success of OUR pub.'

7. 'I am writing to request that the Parish Council renews the Crown and Cushion as an Asset of Community Value.'

17.2 Mill Weir. To consider whether there should be a closed season following an enquiry about use of the pond all year round.

Advice received from the village Water Bailiff:

'closed season doesn't apply for still waters such as Mill where. Its applies for running waters....rivers and fen drains. Some lakes have an inlet and outlet to rivers, this brings them under the closed season which is 15th March to 16th June. All that being said, I will be keeping an eye out for signs if spawning as its better that the fish are left to breed in peace.'

### 17.3. Wildlife Ponds – funding

Ponds are a cherished part of the parish landscape; familiar historic features found at the heart of most village centres and in the wider countryside. Sadly, due to changes in land use and agricultural practices, the UK has lost around 50% of ponds in the 20th Century. Those remaining are often threatened by pollution. This means the many species of plant and animal that rely on them are also under threat.

Excitingly, funding is now available in certain parts of Cambridgeshire for the restoration and creation of clean water wildlife ponds capable of supporting great crested newts. The funding is part of Natural England's District Level Licencing scheme (DLL), a new strategy for compensating the loss of newt habitats, which seeks to provide new ponds and bigger, better, more joined-up habitat for this orange-bellied amphibian at a landscape scale.

In Cambridgeshire there is a high demand for such wildlife ponds through the DLL scheme. Most of the 150 or so pond projects we have delivered to date have been fully funded under the scheme. You can view some of these projects at: [www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds](http://www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds).

We are seeking local farmers, smallholders, large rural garden owners, land-based businesses and parish-owned land to create and restore more such ponds. If you have a location in mind in your parish, please email [ponds@fwageast.org.uk](mailto:ponds@fwageast.org.uk) to receive further information or arrange an informal chat. Let's do something brilliant for wildlife!

#### 17.4. Obstruction on Dick and Dolls Lane.

From Little Gransden Parish Clerk:

'I wonder whether you could kindly mention this at your next PC meeting - Little Gransden PC will not meet until mid-May.

It was drawn to my attention that a tree has half fallen across Dick & Doll's Lane - walkers can pass under it, but it is presenting an obstruction to horse riders. The location is approximately 50 m north from the junction with Bridleway No 7 Little Gransden, on the west side of Dick and Doll's Lane. I am not sure who is the landowner/manager of the land, but it would be good if the obstruction could be cleared in the near future as riders will be hoping to use the PRow's now that they are drying and the weather is improving.'

#### 17.5. Citizens Advice Rural Cambs – donation request.

*Previously circulated to Councillors: Full letter*

### **18. Planning**

#### **18.1. Hayfield Homes Development, Sand Road, Great Gransden.**

##### Light Pollution

##### *Correspondence from HDC:*

'Unfortunately, with regards to planning enforcement there is very little I can do in the way of enforcement for this case. The development has been granted permission from the LPA to site the lights as per the plan and the off-site works have also been approved for the additional lights. So, I do not have any breaches in planning control for the lights themselves and I am unable to review the permissions given.

I am still looking into the shades that were part of the permitted drawings for the lights on the development and need to chase up their installation.

I have copied in development management inbox my response so they can answer your other queries re the local policies and review of permissions.'

##### Refusal of Application 21/01521/S73 (Variation of conditions C20)

##### *Correspondence from HDC:*

'After my discussion in forum, I have been informed that a further application will be submitted by the developer that addresses the reasons for refusal. This will be submitted by the end of the week. Once this has been submitted, I will need to look at it and discuss with planning enforcement forum again to see if we wait for determination again or proceed with any action.

I appreciate that this is dragging on, but we must seek a formal opinion from highways in order to proceed, so it is my anticipation that we will likely await determination of the new application IF it addresses the reasons for refusal of the last application, but this is a matter to be discussed with senior leadership.'

- 18.2. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 22/00386/LBC  
Installation of a wood burning stove and stainless steel liner in the existing fireplace  
and chimney flue  
1 Mill Road Great Gransden**
- 18.3. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – TREE APPLIC REF. 22/00048/TREE  
Yew - Reduce crown by approx 1.8m and remove broken branches to allow for  
better growth  
4 Baldwins Manor Great Gransden**
- 18.4. PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 22/00390/FUL  
Conversion and refurbishment of former agricultural buildings to provide four  
dwellings to include associated development  
Barns East Street Great Gransden**

**19. HR Committee Update**

*Confidential - This item will be closed to the public*

## Great Gransden Cemetery Fees

### 1. Exclusive Right of Burial for 99 years

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| a. Purchase of one grave space for exclusive right of burial<br>in an earthen grave size 2.750 (9'0") x 1.400 (4'6")                           | £70.00 |
| b. Purchase of one grave space for exclusive right of burial<br><b>cremated remains</b> in a earthen grave<br>size 2.750 (9'0") x 1.400 (4'6") | £70.00 |
| c. in an earthen grave size 610 (2'0") x 610 (2'0")  | £30.00 |

### 2. Interment

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| a. of the body of a still born child or a child whose age at<br>death did not exceed one month | £25.00 |
| b. of the body of a person more than one month old   | £42.00 |
| c. of cremated remains   | £33.00 |

### 3. Monuments and Monumental Inscriptions

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| a. Headstone not exceeding 1.100 (3'6") height or a tablet<br>not exceeding 760 (2'6") square | £42.00 |
| b. Tablet in the area for cremated remains not exceeding<br>610 (2'0") square                 | £27.00 |
| c. An additional inscription  | £21.00 |

All the above charges are to be increased by 100% (i.e. doubled) for persons who resided outside the Parish of Great Gransden at the time of their death.

All graves carry exclusive rights which may be purchased in advance.

99 years after the interment, ownership reverts to the Parish Council.

In this cemetery there are no double burials (one on top of an earlier burial).

### 4. Search Fees

Fee for searching registers and taking extracts:	minimum charge £15
plus £15.00 per hour of clerk's time engaged over 1 hour	

Cemetery fees were last increased in 2016 and prior to that 2013

### **Other Charges**

#### **Contribution to 'Roundabout' costs = £130.00**

*This was increased to £140 in 2021. Previously, this was increased in 2020 to £130 and in 2016 from £100 to £125. In 2013 it was increased from £50 to £100 and for 4 years prior to this had remained at £50.*

**Churchyard Maintenance Payments** - Presently £1,600 for the old churchyard and £130 for the old chapel graveyard.

*Churchyard – The payment has remained the same since 2019. There was an increase in 2019 from £1,500 to £1,600. Prior to this, there was an increase made in 2016 from £1,400 to £1,500 and before that in 2013 from £1,300 to £1,400.*

*Old Chapel Graveyard – The payment has remained the same since 2019. There was an increase from £120 to £130 in 2019. Prior to this, there was an increase made in 2016 from £110 to £120 with the previous increase being in 2013 from £100 to £110.*

#### **Pay for Gardeners**

Maintenance for the Garden of Remembrance is carried out by Mr & Mrs McIntosh at £15 per hour. (A grant left to the PC covers this cost )

Grass cutting is carried out by The Mower Shed on a fixed rate basis - £120 per cut for the cemetery. A cost for the 2022 season has been requested.