

## **Clerk's Report**

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

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

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Minutes.** To approve the minutes from the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### **5. Open Forum**

### **6. Matters Arising**

#### 1. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Just to state that the HDC Consultation period ends on October 7<sup>th</sup> .

#### 2. Multi-Use Games Area – update from Councillors

Meeting Wednesday 7th September in the Reading Rooms at 18.30 hrs

The residents explained they had done a leaflet drop of a questionnaire and collated the results.

Many of the complaints relate to not being consulted despite HDC going through the statutory planning consultation process and GGPC hosting a number of local events for residents throughout the design stages.

After much discussion covering a number of topics and the residents presenting a number of solutions (CCTV, moving the MUGA, locking it, named warden etc) it was reluctantly accepted there are practical limits on the Parish Council's obligations.

It was agreed that:

1. There has been a reduction in out of hours use and it is important that education (Roundabout, inspections etc) is continued next March.
2. The PC would review the maintenance arrangements to make sure these were aligned with minimising any potential excess noise through an unaddressed need for routine maintenance
3. The PC would contact the contractors to see if any further noise reducing measures could be considered, such as goal nets and low noise back boards for the basketball nets.
4. The PC would resume local education activities in March and be responsive to any reports of out of hours use.
5. Richard West would speak to HDC (specifically Melanie Draper) to seek their advice as it was HDC that approved the design of the MUGA considering any environmental concerns relating to neighbouring residents.

**From:** "Richard West (Cllr)" <Richard.West@huntingdonshiredc.org.uk>

**Date:** 19 September 2022 at 18:12:54 BST

**Subject:** MUGA

I have been in discussion with officers at Huntingdonshire District Council.

The decision taken at the development management committee with condition is in line with national policy which all determinations are made by the local planning authority

Huntingdonshire District Council.

Therefore cannot find grounds for judicial appeal to change the decision made by majority of elected councillors / members on officers advice.

The parish council have responsibility to ensure all reasonable measures are taken to put the condition in place once the local planning authority Huntingdonshire District Council add conditions to a determination of approval the applicant this case the parish council have the task to carry out the condition.

What is reasonable measures ?

One: to ensure signs are in place to inform the general public of the opening times for the equipment.

Two: Noise reduction to ensure equipment is maintained by maintenance agreement

Three: To use available means to inform residents of the conditions of use of the MUGA

Four: To contact new developments to inform parents of the conditions of MUGA use.

It maybe many users are new to the village am willing to deliver leaflet to Dutton Fields.

Residents experiencing noise and consider to be unsocial this is police responsibility and should be reported to 101 at the same time at round table meeting can raise with the police and crime commissioner for action this will require reports to the police at time of incidents to build case for police action.

I have written down the comments made to me in a concise way.

Kind Regards

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 10:53 AM

A resident wrote:

Richard, many thanks for the update. I have to say I am somewhat dismayed at the DC response given the many anomalies the residents feel have occurred in this process. Both the DC and the PC have remained silent in the fundamental issue that procedural impropriety has led to objections being ignored. Among other things. Further, both the DC and the PC had an obligation to the residents as part of the consultation process to ensure that they were aware that the application was going forward against the advice of Environmental health. Without informing the residents of such a key safeguard being removed I cannot see how both the DC and PC can honestly say that the residents were properly consulted. It is clear that the PC have failed to meet the condition attached and no amount of education has ever stopped street littering, theft, or any anti social behaviour and nor will it stop people using the Muga outside of allowed hours. That's just common sense.

A judicial review can be brought in this case under grounds of procedural impropriety-also referred to as a breach of natural justice, which in my mind at least is what has occurred here and continues to. That is the law. The DC and the PC are naturally defensive of their positions. Given this, is there no independent review process within the DC landscape to opine on what should be done rather than asking those who are already involved?

The obligation for the PC to have a suitable maintenance contract is welcomed. At our meeting they also agreed to alter and improve the materials used to reduce the excessive and unnecessary noise that the Muga creates when used in a certain manner. I think it is only reasonable that they commit to those changes also.

Regards

**From:** Nick Ginn (Cllr)  
**Date:** 21 September 2022 at 11:40 BST  
**Subject:** MUGA □

As your email is addressed directly to Richard and therefore HDC I will not comment, but I do need to make a slight correction/clarification on your final point:

My recollection is that at our meeting on the 7th September, I, representing the PC, agreed to review (not alter) certain aspects of the MUGA such as the basketball net backboards and 'goal' areas with a view to considering implementing improvements in regard to any noise generated by these aspects. It is not possible to commit to altering without first reviewing the possibilities and implications. This is on the agenda for our October meeting as is a review of the current maintenance contract to determine if it is suitable or not.

### 3. Dog Poo Bins, costings

On the HDC website it stated that there was no provision for emptying dog poo bins but where new developments had taken place there might be supplies of new bins. The clerk sent an email to HDC on 16<sup>th</sup> September requesting a new bin(s) near to Dutton Gardens. The following reply was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Dear Clerk,

Thank you for your email. I confirm that this has today been passed onto our Operations Department for their attention. You should receive a response by 02/10/2022  
In the future if you would like to contact the Department regarding this matter, please email them directly at  
[\[mailto:CRM\\_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk%20%20CRM\\_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk\]](mailto:CRM_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk%20%20CRM_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### 4. ACV on Crown & Cushion

In response to question from a member of the public at September's meeting:  
The clerk wrote to HDC on 12<sup>th</sup> September, Richard West wrote on the same day and as yet no reply has been received.

### 5. GGPC website

Chairman asked for this to be on agenda following last meeting's discussion.

## **7. Playground Maintenance and Development**

Councillor Davis will update the meeting verbally on maintenance.  
Date: Sun, 11 Sep 2022, 11.14

(Clerk's reply)

Thank you for your letter, the contents of which I have noted and will circulate to Councillors for discussion under Correspondence on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.

At the moment the only plans that have been formulated and approved for the playing field are maintenance issues. Any "expansion" plans are not on the agenda at the moment due to a lack of funding but if or when such plans are possible there will be consultations with all interested parties within the Parish.

Kind regards

Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2022, 16.19

Dear Sir/Madam

We refer to possible plans to further develop the children's playing area in Great Gransden.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to express our view and concern regarding further development of the children's playing area in Great Gransden. In particular, we have become aware that there may be new plans to develop a play area for babies immediately on the other side of the fence of the residential property being 6 Little Lane. While we understand that there is a need for a playing area for children in the area, we are of the view that to try and fit more play areas into an already small and crowded space will create an even greater noise impact for residents around the playing field.

While we did appreciate there would be some noise from the children's playing area when we moved to the area, we:

1. Did not anticipate further development of the already small (and crowded) play area;
2. Did not anticipate that the children's play area would be expanded to also include a play area specifically for babies. A play area for babies that is planned to be immediately behind the fence of a residential property will introduce further loud noise (particularly the screaming and crying of babies).

We would be very grateful if the Council would review their decision to introduce a babies play area immediately behind the fence of this residential property.

It would also be good to understand if the Council intends to follow any consultation process regarding this new development, including inviting members of the community affected by the proposed development (such as neighbours bordering the playing field) to raise any views, suggestions, comments or concerns they might have around the proposal, prior to implementing the development. We would appreciate it if such a consultation process would be followed and if the Council does not intend to do so, we would be grateful for their reasons.

We would be very grateful if you would include this in your 'notes' for the record of the next Great Gransden Parish Council meeting, which we understand is on the 5th September.

Thank you and kind regards

## **8. Reading Room Cottage Water Supply**

Dear Sir or Madam

As you are aware, the Management Committee has been paying the water bill for the cottage as well as the Reading Room because it is a single supply. When the new caretaker was appointed, the Parish Council and management trustees agreed that this should be sorted out, so that the new tenant caretaker pays her own water bills. It has taken some time to ascertain what is needed but the link below makes it clearer.

As the process is for the owner or landlord to apply for a new connection to their property, it would appear to be for the Parish Council to undertake this process rather than the management committee. I would be grateful if the Parish Council could undertake this process and keep the trustees informed of progress.

Yours sincerely

Chair, Reading Room Management Committee

## **9. Clerk's Financial Statement For September 2022 and Budget Review.**

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

*Financial Report September 2022  
Budget Review September 2022*

## **10. Cheques/Payments for Approval**

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for October 2022*

## **11. Highways.**

- Any repairs or maintenance needed.
- Caxton Road

Reply from Clerk to email received below:

Thank you for your letter.

I will put this on the agenda under Highways at the next meeting of the Parish Council on October 3rd.

I will ask if we can use the flashing sign to good effect in this area. Sadly Speedwatch has had to disband due to the lack of volunteers.

The widening of the footpath is beyond the finances of the Parish Council and we have tried in the past to lower the speed limit on this road, alas with no success.

I am sure the Council will be sympathetic as knowledge of this problem is well documented.

Kind regards  
Acting Clerk

**From:** A resident

**Sent:** 16 September 2022 8:15 AM

**Subject:** Re: Caxton Road

Since my last email my daughter has started to school and my son has been born and started nursery. We are again having the daily reminder of how dangerous the road from Winchfield to the nursery is.

My wife is now walking with a buggy and a 4 year on a single file footpath with people coming back from nursery with one of the parties having to go in to the road to cross.

It is extremely dangerous as passing vehicle speeds are completely uncontrolled and the majority of cars travelling between 40 and 60Mph.

In any other Village, Town or City a road leading to a school the road would have a 20Mph speed limit. Due to the road being long and straight with good visibility it and difficulty to police it really needs some level of chicane/speed bumps. There will be an accident at some point.

Thanks

- Footpaths
- Transport Strategies Huntingdonshire & Fenland

The consultation outlined below went live on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September due to the Queen's funeral. The end date remains unchanged.

**From:** Transport Plan

**Sent:** 06 September 2022 13:49

**To:** Transport Plan <[Transport.Plan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Transport.Plan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** CCC Transport Strategies - update

Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you to all who responded to the stakeholder engagement survey for our three transport strategies back in Spring 2022. We compiled and reviewed your comments and made amendments to the draft strategies where appropriate. Please find attached a summary report of the responses received as part of the engagement exercise.

The county council will be going out to public consultation on the transport strategies for Fenland and Huntingdonshire along with Cambridgeshire's Active travel strategy, which will begin Monday 12 September and run for eight weeks until Monday 7 November.

The consultation survey and draft strategies will be available on the ConsultCambs website <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/> from Monday 12 September. The draft strategies, the survey and the opportunity to speak to staff from the transport planning team will be available at the following events:

- Ramsey Market: Saturday 1 October, from 10am until 1pm
- Tesco superstore Huntingdon: Saturday 1 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- St Neots Market: Thursday 6 October, from 10am until 1pm
- Waitrose St Ives: Thursday 6 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- March Market: Wednesday 12 October, from 9am until midday
- Tesco superstore Chatteris: Wednesday 12 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- Whittlesey Market: Friday 14 October, from 9am until midday
- Wisbech Market: Friday 14 October, from 12.30pm until 3pm
- Grafton Centre, Cambridge: Wednesday 19 October, from 10am until 3pm
- Ely Market: Thursday 27 October, from 10am until 3pm

There will also be information located in libraries across the county, so residents who are unable to access the internet or cannot attend an event can view hard copies of the draft strategies and complete the survey.

If you have any questions regarding the strategies or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be in touch again when the consultation is live next week.

Kind Regards,

**Transport Strategy Team**

Place and Sustainability Directorate  
Cambridgeshire County Council

## **12. Correspondence.**

### 1. Memorial Bench

Date: Wed, 7 Sep 2022, 17:30

Hi Andrew,

That's fantastic news! Thank you very much. Sorry for the confusion - I was meaning the section where the newer graves are next to the Dole field.

Katie Parker

Date: Tue, 6 Sep 2022, 09:33

Good morning Kate

At the Parish Council meeting last night there was general approval for your bench but clarification was sought on whether you meant the Churchyard which is a closed graveyard operated by the PCC or the cemetery which is owned by the Parish Council? Please advise and we can take this further.

Kind regards  
Temporary Parish Clerk

## 2. St Neots Museum Funding request

Date: Thu, 8 Sep 2022, 13:23

Dear Parish Clerk,

I would like to introduce myself as the Chairman of the Trustees of St Neots Museum and with the Curator of the Museum we are the link between the Museum and the local Parish Councils. We are currently reviewing our finances and are contacting all the Parish Councils in our catchment area to see if they are able to help St Neots Museum both financially and to continue being a valued supporter of the Museums activities.

The Museum has established itself as an important part of St. Neots and the surrounding villages and the range of activities, workshops and exhibitions provided by the Museum continues to expand with visitor numbers increasing to over 12,000 visitors in a year. Please access the museum link for full details: <https://www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk/>. The Museum also collects and catalogues images, artefacts and information from all the local parishes and is then able to then provide any content that is has to local residents.

Apart from the museum itself we also offer a wide range of services for local people for which we may make a subsidised charge to help towards the running of the museum. Additionally, we are looking to host a unique opening of the museum with a guided tour, inviting all our local Parish Councillors to attend, and to highlight what is involved in running your local Museum. I am attaching, for your information, a copy of our latest leaflet which has details of some of our services.

For some years the museum has been supported by donations from many of the local Parish Councils in our catchment area, map attached, and we have been very grateful for this financial support. The contributions received from our local Parish Councils coupled with the grant that we receive from St Neots Town Council has enabled us to offer free entrance all year round to the museum to everyone who lives in our catchment area.

We do hope that you will consider supporting the Museum by donating to the museum charity on an annual basis, either continuing the commitment your parish has made previously or as a newly contributing parish. All donations help towards the upkeep of the museum (As a guide the average donation received from a Parish this year was £150.00). We really appreciate the support and encouragement we receive from the residents of the surrounding villages and Parishes, and this funding helps us to continue our work.

If you are not able to make any contribution to support the museum then we may regretfully have to review our current policy of providing free entrance to residents from your Parish as we

aim to sustain our policy of providing free entry to the Museums supporters balanced against ensuring the Museum remains financially sustainable in the future. For visitors who do not live in one of our local contributing parishes the museum currently charges £5 per adult, £4 for seniors and students and £2 for a child.

We do look forward to extending free entry and a warm welcome to visitors from your Parish in the forthcoming year and will continue to keep you informed of upcoming events. If you would prefer these and other communication to be sent by post, please let me know.

If you prefer to donate by BACS, the Museum sort code is 60-18-23 and the account number is 18764452, otherwise cheques should be made out to St. Neots Museum.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Ibbett, Chairman of Trustees  
Liz Davies, Museum Curator

### 3. Mill Weir enquiry

Date: Sat, 3 Sep 2022, 17.35

Good evening,

I'm new to great Gransden and I've stumbled upon the little lake on Caxton road, after going to have a little look I've seen a lot of Algae, unkept tree's and many more things.

Being a fisherman myself I know exactly what it would take to bring this to life, I'm willing to put forward some ideas!

Look forward to hearing back!

(Clerk replied asking for more information/ideas but as yet no reply)

### 4. Warm Spaces Activity

**Warm Spaces activity - what do you have planned?**

Dear Chair and Clerk,

My colleagues and I have spoken to a number of you over recent times about concerns we all have regarding the impact of energy prices, and inflation more generally on our residents. As ever we continue to be humbled and inspired by the creativity, passion and talent of our community, and their ability to understand and respond to local needs. An ability that we saw throughout Covid and beyond.

Our response to this latest challenge is therefore proposed to follow the pattern of our Community work over recent years, and to build on the strong partnership across the public, private and community sector to create a strong programme of Community activities and opportunities over the coming winter, which seek to provide opportunities for people to gather in a warm and welcoming environment, and access support, but without stigma, and in a way which enables all residents to benefit from the incredibly strong community network that exists in the area.



We see this as a three step process:

1. Identify the indoor community spaces and events already available to residents, and promote these to residents. These should be free (or very low cost) to attend.
2. Where possible support the development of other indoor community events, to meet unmet needs and broaden our coverage, united by enjoyable and fulfilling activities.
3. Ensure appropriate support, and advice is available for residents who need it, to help try and address the underlying challenges that may exist for people.

In doing this, we would ask you initially to complete the attached [form \(please click here\)](#). We will begin promoting events that are already taking place immediately.

The responses from the form will be consolidated, and we will come back to some of you individually, but also propose the possibility of some workshops to work up new proposals – making use of some limited financial support that we have. You may already be having conversations with colleagues on some of these opportunities to develop new provision which should continue as you planned:

- CCG Physical Activity Project - Anna Bradley-Dorman, and Hannah Postlethwaite
- Community Jobs Clubs – Claudia Deeth
- The Shared Prosperity Fund and employment support – early conversations with Oliver Morley

We do not see the promotion and development of our warm spaces as a separate area of work, rather consolidating events and activities that are already in existence or being planned.

We are also already working to ensure that those in the community spaces are able to help those who need it, and are developing materials, and training activities to enable you to support those who are supporting our residents, so at the very least they are able to pass people on to others who can help.

The colder weather will be upon us very soon so please can you complete this form **by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at the latest** to let us know about any existing or potential Warm Spaces.

With best wishes,

Oliver Morley  
**Corporate Director (People)**  
Huntingdonshire District Council,

## 5. Waresley Woods Closure

Email received 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022. (For information)

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Sept 2022

Over the next five years, the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants will be undertaking significant work in Waresley & Gransden Woods which will necessitate restricted access on the nature reserve (maybe for weeks or months at a time) to avoid the risk of trees falling on people, and collisions with machinery. This work is for a combination of accessibility, habitat improvement and health and safety reasons. Dramatic changes to the look and feel of the woodland may appear destructive initially, but we want to reassure visitors that we take the role of custodians of ancient woods very seriously, and that this work has been planned by our experienced staff in partnership with the Forestry Commission and Natural England. It is vital to enable future access, and to maintain and improve this important site. The effects of climate change are having marked impacts on woodlands across the country: significantly wetter autumns and winters coupled with much drier springs and summers. Ash dieback too is changing the look and profile of many woods – the removal of diseased trees is unavoidable.

The work falls into four main areas:

Ash removal: A strip running along the south side of the stream has a high proportion of ash trees, these are being affected by ash dieback much more quickly than expected. The path along the river is heavily used, and to make it safe many of the dying trees need to be removed. Some areas will be allowed to naturally regenerate and some will be replanted with trees appropriate to the wood, such as oak, maple and hornbeam.

Re-profiling the main ride: This work has already started and the aim is to enable better drainage so that the path will stay more vegetated and be less muddy. The section of the main ride which is currently closed may remain so for a further six months, at which point another section will be restored. The prolonged closure is to allow the vegetation to fully recover and be more resistant to trampling.

Widening the rides: Coppicing will be used to open up the main ride (and another one which leads from this one), making it much wider than before. This will create greater structural diversity in the wood - areas where there is vegetation at different heights and density - to benefit a range of wildlife.

Canopy thinning: A diverse woodland has a balance of different aged trees; in some areas the wood is a plantation and the trees are all similar ages. Some of these areas will be thinned to allow younger trees to grow, helping to create greater structural diversity.

#### Reducing impact

- Where safe, some ash will be left, in case there is a chance of resistance to ash dieback
- Low ground pressure machinery and brash mats will be used to minimise ground compaction
- Routes will seek to minimise impacts to woodland soils and plants, avoiding the richest and most sensitive areas of ground flora and historic features
- Vehicle access during wet conditions will be minimised to prevent rutting
- There will be a machinery exclusion zone around the badger sett
- Felling and coppicing will not occur during the main breeding bird season (April to July)

The work will depend on the weather and so cannot yet be given set dates: please keep up with the access situation on our website, and follow signage on site. We thank you for respecting closure signs, as heavy machinery will be used in places.

[www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates)

### **13. Planning.**

**PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 22/01994/HHFUL  
Erection of cartlodge/store to rear of dwelling 36 - 38 Church Street Great Gransden**

### **14. HR Committee Update**

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

End of Report