

Clerk's Report

Monday 9th January 2023

2. Apologies To receive apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Minutes To approve the minutes from the meetings held on 5th December 2022.

5. Open Forum

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Neighbourhood Development Plan – update

Outcome of Plan consideration at HDC Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) 4/1/2023.

6.2 Dog Poo Bins – update (Councillor Pett)

15/12/2022

Dear Cllr West,

Apologies for the delay in rectifying this, I will as a matter of urgency meet with my Team Leaders to see what we can get sorted.

Many Thanks

David Rook

Street Cleansing Manager

Huntingdonshire District Council

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

Sent: 14 December 2022 17:47

To: Parish Clerk <gransdenpc@hotmail.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Customer Services - Contact Us Form - CVBTBTSV

Dear David

Will member of the team pleased contact Councillor Pett.

Regards

Richard

.....
On 14 Dec 2022, at 17:41, Parish Clerk <gransdenpc@hotmail.co.uk> wrote:

Hi David

Great Gransden still has not had a resolution to this request for an extra litter bin due to the increase in housing in the village. (see emails below) Please advise.

Kind regards

Andrew Pett, Vice Chairman, Great Gransden Parish Council

6.3 Memorial Bench update – update (Councillor Pett)

7. Playground Maintenance and Development – update

1. Maintenance (Councillor Davis)

On 20 Dec 2022, at 14:53, Nick Ginn GGPC <nickginn.ggpc@gmail.com> wrote:

They [Fenland Leisure Products] have confirmed they will start Thursday 5th January and weather permitting the work will take place Thurs/Fri/Mon/Tues possibly Wednesday.

I am meeting them in the car park @9am Thursday 5th January so if Mike/Cathy/Andrew are available also to discuss where they can put their kit (including a portalo) that would be appreciated.
In order to minimise any potential damage to the grass everything will be done by hand - no vehicles will be used to go from the car park to each piece of equipment.
They will fence off the swings and climbing frame during the works.
I think that's everything, but happy to talk to them more if needed!

2. Maintenance Contract - with ECT (Councillor Pett)
Due for renewal in January.

3. Development (Councillor Davis) updated quote, placement of order for equipment and works and acknowledgement from Wickstead. Date for Playground Information - Village Open Session.

4. Public relations

16/12/2022

Dear Melissa

I did not realise your email was copied into Nick as the local district councillor so pleased Nick is willing to meet You and Your husband to discuss the MUGA with you.

No one wants the noise from the MUGA or the behaviour of the persons using the MUGA to upset the local residents enjoyment of their property and garden.

I believe Myself and the parish council have acted in good faith seeking to provide play equipment to unable children to enjoy the outdoors and be active.

I do hope by the spring and summer working together the problems of the past will be mitigated.

Regards

Richard

.....

On 15 Dec 2022, at 10:19, Nick Ginn GGPC <nickginn.ggpc@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms Hacking,

While your email was directed to Richard I do feel compelled to respond.

I cannot agree with so many of the points in your email as so many are inaccurate, irrelevant, not representative of the facts and even potentially bordering on libellous.

They do nothing to support your case and actually could be seen to undermine it.

I am not going to respond to each point individually here but always happy to meet and discuss 1:1 (or 1:2 if your husband would like to be included).

To get to the matter in hand, while there is a preference it is wrong to state that a final decision has been made regarding placement of the new under 6 play facility and the Parish Council are carrying out further research to determine any legal obligations we need to adhere to. This as well as community feedback will be considered before a final decision is made on placement and your feedback will be taken into account.

I have given you my personal phone number below and I'm always happy to discuss so please feel free to call if needed.

Br Nick Ginn

Chair, Great Gransden Parish Council

Tel 01767 677780

cc: GGPC clerk, Vice Chair.

.....

Wed, Dec 14, 2022

Dear Richard

My husband and I were very sorry to hear about your accident and we hope you are on the mend.

We did attend the Parish Council meeting last Monday evening. We left with the sad feeling that the community of Great Gransden is being polarised against each other. On the one hand, there were a few residents in attendance who we had not seen before, with one speaking of the need for the play area for children to enjoy with their parents and grandparents.

This was contrasted with the regular attendees - a group of residents of homes surrounding the playing area - who, by asking to also be considered in the play area and MUGA development decisions have been made out to be child unfriendly (untrue) on previous occasions. Residents have told me they have been called 'child haters' by PC members and I was repeatedly asked whether I have children as a direct response to my very polite inquiry as to the proposed new play unit right next to our fence. At least two residents of different properties were questioned by members of the PC as to why they bought property in this area.

More could be said about these comments but they do show the PC's unwillingness to want to work together with the residents and understand our concerns and the nuance and reality of a small playground in the middle of residential homes. These responses also result in feelings of exclusion and a polarisation between residents of the broader community. They create sides and pit one side against the other. The children loving residents and PC versus the residents who love children too but also have real concerns about the additional noise which may even affect the value of their homes. Ignoring or dismissing the residents' concerns instead of consulting or working with us to find sustainable solutions for all involved does not create a happy village and I feel uncomfortable engaging with council members who are dismissive and ungracious to those who politely ask questions and raise genuine concerns.

Since we still have not had a consultation with the PC, the Council cannot know what our thoughts are in relation to the playing field and its proposed development.

I would, therefore, like to state in this letter that my husband and I support:

1. the maintenance of the existing units in the play area
2. making the play area more inclusive to children with disabilities.

We think it is wonderful that a child from the school raised concern about a lack of accessibility for children with disabilities in the play area and that the PC has taken this seriously. We do understand that it is a difficult balance between supporting the freedom and enjoyment of children in a residential area and addressing the concerns of affected residents. We find it unfortunate that the PC can't find a respectful way to also lean into and entertain the inevitable different opinions of residents who do live next to the play area and will be affected by additional noise with a view of working together for the good of all members of this community.

We have made repeated requests for meaningful consultation over the last three months at the beginning of the PC meetings, and other residents bordering the field have spoken and written letters as well. We have been assured in the last few meetings that there will be a consultation or 'information evening' but we have received no invitation to have our concerns heard. In particular, we and other residents have requested a consultation that is solely between the PC and the neighbours most affected by the additional noise of the proposed new developments. Instead, important decisions relating to the play area have now been made between meetings and in front of us while we, in attendance, aren't allowed to comment. This makes us think that any consultation/information evening will simply be a public information session aimed at telling us and other members of the public about the decisions the Council has already made - decisions that will seriously affect us - without having listened to our concerns.

For instance, in last month's meeting, we asked the PC whether the new play area for two to six year olds was going to be installed. We were told no decisions have been made, but in last Monday's meeting it was clear that this was going ahead. This is a decision that has therefore been made without any consultation with the residents affected, even though we were promised a consultation.

With the installation of a new play area likely going ahead, our main concern is the proximity of the newly proposed play unit to our home. While we would really want an opportunity to be listened to and included in this decision making process that will affect us, in Monday's meeting the PCs discussed two areas where the unit could be positioned. While the position of the one area would be far less noisy for ourselves, the PC's favoured the location right next to our fence. While explaining the preference for this position, no acknowledgement was made of our concerns regarding having the play area so close to our fence. Instead, the Councillors noted the inconveniences of having a freshly painted unit moved if the play equipment were to be moved to the other spot. With us - the residents who would be most affected - in attendance, we certainly felt invisible and irrelevant.

The reason why we are concerned about the positioning of the unit here is because, unlike the houses on the other side of the playing field which are situated at the far end of their gardens bordering the playing field, our house is very close to our fence and the play area. Our downstairs living room windows and upstairs windows of two rooms are very close to the proposed position of the new equipment and we already have noise from the existing play areas coming through. Additional noise so close to our living room window will certainly be heard very loudly. The Fields in Trust Guidance advises that play area zones for Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) should be at least 20 meters from the boundary (fence) of properties and in the case of Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs), a space of 30 meters should be provided. The favoured area would be 3 to 4 meters away from our fence, only 11 meters away

from our actual house and near an area of the house with large windows. As it is, the two existing slides both fall very short of the minimum 20 meters guidelines and one of the slides is in a position where it is possible for children to overlook our garden, contrary to the Fields in Trust Guidelines.

We can only hope that the Council would be gracious enough to reconsider the location of the play unit and move it to the second proposed location which less directly borders our house. We believe that moving the unit to the second proposed area and keeping this very small spot next to our fence and home free from future play areas would make a big difference to our lives as residents in this village (we could even help repaint the train, if it helped). We believe that this could be a positive way through that is considerate of children and their families, as well as of residents.

A last point to mention is that when we bought our home, we did not anticipate there would be further development of the playing field. We know other residents near the playing field feel the same. We wonder if the PC is planning to continue to develop the play area and would be grateful for some certainty on this. Great Gransden has grown and expanded well beyond the original small centre of the village and yet this small play area is being packed with all the play units for the entire village. If the PC is intending to continue to develop play areas for children, we would like to ask the Council to consider developing other areas in the village.

As the closest neighbours of the school we were happy when the Head Teacher emphasised her wish to work together for the good of all (the school *and* their neighbours) and to maintain good relations with us - a desire with which we agree wholeheartedly. Working together is so much better and creates warm feelings among individuals and communities. We would be so glad to see this modelled in relation to the PC and the play area sub-committee. Since decisions get made between meetings, we are worried that the decision in relation to the position of the new play area will be made privately before the next PC meeting and so we hope that our thoughts in this letter could be considered in the interim.

Kind Regards

Melissa Hacking

.....

31st Dec 2022

Dear Parish Councillors,

You will recall that our meeting on the 7th September with a selection of residents, PC members and District Councillor resulted in agreed actions for the Parish and District Councils published in the November roundabout:

In particular, please could you update us on the two more urgent items as follows:

Item 2. "The PC would review the maintenance arrangements to make sure that these were aligned with minimising any potential excess noise through an unaddressed need for routine maintenance". As you have heard from the survey, nearly all the neighbouring residents find this particular noise to be unacceptable. Please could you update us on progress?

Item 3. "The PC would contact the contractors to see if any further noise reducing measures such as goal nets and low noise back boards for the basketball nets". Please could you update us on progress over the four months since our meeting?

Hoping that you have been able to progress these two items.

Yours sincerely
Will and Sue Bentall
31st Dec 2022

.....

3/1/2022

Thank you for sending this [excerpt of MUGA Maintenance Agreement] through. It is much appreciated. My question on maintenance was related to a point raised by one of the councillors, who mentioned that there was a maintenance schedule in place for the equipment on the playing field. I asked because at least one of the panels of fencing on the MUGA is excessively loud. I was hoping that this was going to be fixed or addressed under the maintenance schedule and was hoping to get an idea of when.

Cheers, Lee.

8. Reading Room Cottage Water Supply – update (Councillor Pett)

Project Name: 18 Fox Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, United Kingdom, SG19 3AA

Application Reference: NWC-0156610

We're pleased to let you know that your Digital survey and cost information is ready for you to review. You can find these as attachments to this email and they are also saved in InFlow.

Your next tasks are to make payment for your water connection, lay your external pipework ready to meet our water main and book in your external pipework check. We've included specific instructions on how to do this within your **Digital survey** and **How to lay your pipework guide**.

The above documentation is rather long, therefore, please see forwarded email, subject: Your Anglian Water connection: 18 Fox Street, Great Gransden, Sandy - Revised Digital survey and Cost information)

9. Reading Room - Building Project (Councillor Davis)

(Email with proposed plan details previously forwarded).

10. RFO's Financial Statements:

To be circulated to councillors prior to the meeting:

Financial Report December 2022

Budget Review December 2022

11. Payments for Approval

To be circulated to Councillors:

Full List of Payments for January 2023

12. Complaints Procedure – development - (Nick)

Draft document to be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

13. Highways.

- Any repairs or maintenance needed.
Muddy grass patch by school (Councillor Ginn).
- Great Gransden 20MPH Zone - Formal Consultation – update – (Cllr Catmur)
9/12/2022
The formal consultation has now been completed and we (CCC) have submitted the Detailed Design drawings for costing.
I hope to be able to update you in the New Year with a proposed date for works to begin.
In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Yours sincerely,
Daniel Nye
Interim Project Engineer,
Highway Projects Team
Project Delivery, CCC.

14. Correspondence.

1. Gransden Muddy Fun Run on 29th January

Please can I request permission to use the village field for the Gransden Muddy Fun Run on 29th January (as well as the carpark at the sports field).

As you know this is the biggest annual fundraiser for the school.

Arrangements will be similar to previous years. Every effort will be made to limit any disruption beforehand and on the morning of the event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

Nic

2. Litter picking

Emails from Des Merrill and Glyn Williams.

15. Planning:

a) APPLICATION REF. 22/02382/FUL, Construction of 2no. 2 bedroom maisonettes. Land At 16 Sand Road, Great Gransden, Sandy, SG19 3AQ. [link](#).

Also see forwarded email from concerned member of the public.

b) APPLICATION REF. 22/02531/HHFUL, Erection of single storey side extension 17 Middle Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, SG19 3AD. [link](#).

16. Council Meeting Dates for 2023

Confirmation of **Tuesday 2nd May**

(All other dates as agreed at December Meeting).

January 9th, (as 2nd is a Bank Holiday)

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 2nd ?????

5th (as 1st & 8th are both Bank Holidays, due to Coronation)

(Council may consider a Tuesday or some other night in those first two weeks of May?)

June 5th

July 3rd

August 7th

September 4th

October 2nd

November 6th

December 4th.

17. HR Committee Update

- Actions taken since last meeting.
- Items to take forward?

Confidential - This item will be closed to the public

18. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th February 2022

End of Report