

**Clerk's Report**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**NB: information in purple added since this report sent to councillors on 1/8/23**

**1. Silent prayer.**

**2. Apologies for absence.**

Councillors Catmur and Pett, and the Clerk, Sharon Brown.

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

(a) Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda:

(b) Councillors to declare any other interest in any items on the agenda.

**4. Minutes - To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.**

**5. Open Forum**

**6. Planning Applications: *NDP monitoring form to be completed for each planning application.***

**1. REF: 23/00491/FUL - 20 Little Gransden Lane Great Gransden Sandy, erection of detached dwelling utilising and existing vehicular access.**

**2. REF. 23/01381/S73 - Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 18/01916/HHFUL, 23 Meadow Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3BD.**

**3. General planning enquiries to the Parish Council. (Councillor Ginn)**

**7. Crown & Cushion**

- **ACV – decision by HDC (Councillor Ginn)**

**8. Playing Field.**

**8.1 MUGA maintenance**

18/7/23 - Notes from resident since annual MUGA maintenance:

.....” the work performed by ETC has not improved the situation. The school-end goal in particular is simply unacceptable and the reading room goal is a little worse than it was. Some other places are a little better. This leaves a slightly complicated situation but I’m sure it can be resolved with some careful thought and a positive attitude from all parties.

Looking closely at the fence panels that were identified on my map as requiring attention, there is clear evidence that the guys did tighten them up – there is some circular scuffing of the paint. ....

I believe that they did this to the best of their current knowledge and ability but using non-specialist tools (hence the scuffing of paint around most of the bolts in question).

From my earlier work I found an inconsistency of approach between ETC and the on-line Zaun design notes. Just how tight do the bolts need to be to ensure the panels are isolated from the posts? I agree that any loose bolts clearly need to be tightened but bolts that are already tight may cause even more distortion and rattling contact if further tightened.

Hopefully any design and procedural improvements that Zaun have introduced (thicker EPDM, precise torques and detailed procedure for tightening sequences to avoid distortion) will bring the GG Muga goals in line with the quoted 65 dB levels that are currently not being met. I actually measure about 85 to 90 dB on the dB-C scale at 1 meter with a calibrated device. This is the expected level without EPDM.

26/7/23 - Notes from resident since annual MUGA maintenance:

I would be happy to participate in discussions with ETC and Zaun if considered helpful. In my opinion the ideal way forward would be for Rory at ETC and an engineer from Zaun to visit the site but if that is impractical please be aware that I have a calibrated sound level meter, reasonable quality sound recorder and some audio analysis software which may help to illustrate the problem in files that could be sent by email.

### 8.3 Public relations – update.

Any further action?

### 9. Sportsfield.

- **Hedge cutting.**

28/7/23 – from GRSA chairman:

Thanks for your email. The GSRA is responsible for the hedge arrangements.

@Jon may I leave you to pick up the thread.

- From Jon, GRSA.

As far as the GSRA are concerned, we don't have a hedge cutting schedule.

We decided last year, that we did need to get the hedges "sorted out" and engaged with Tony Barnett (07973 977120), who seemed to do a "good job" in general.

He suggested that we should look at attending to the hedgerow every couple of years.

We will discuss your request Diane at our next GSRA meeting.

- **Pavillion – update** (Councillor Ginn).

### 10. Hedge cutting and trees managed by GGPC.

- **Programming hedge and tree management** – implement review?

### 11. Defibrillator – checks.

- **Approve responsibility for checks. Clerk? / other?**
- **Approve timing of checks and reporting to the Clerk and Council.**

### 12. Reading Room - Building Project (Councillor Davis)

### 13. Green Space Land North East of Mandene Gardens. S106 Agreement under planning application 17/01375/OUT, ('Dutton Gardens open space') – (Councillors Ginn). – Update?

#### Extract from the S106 for 17/01375/OUT Agreement Schedule pp20-21.

2.6. At the expiration of the Maintenance Period the Owner shall offer to transfer the Green Space Land in the first instance to the Parish Council for adoption together with all rights and easements necessary for the maintenance and public use thereof and shall without delay use all reasonable endeavours to effect such transfer PROVIDED THAT if the Parish Council is unable to accept a transfer then the Owner shall submit a proposal to the Head of Development for approval detailing how a Trust/Management Company shall be set up to ensure the future maintenance of the Green Space Land

2.7. Not later than the date of the transfer of the Green Space Land to the Parish Council the Owner shall pay to the District Council for transfer to the Parish Council { where relevant) the Green Space Land Maintenance Contribution (or relevant part thereof) to cover the future costs of maintaining the Green Space Land

Plan for reference:



**14. Green bin charge. See excel attachment to email with Agenda and Minutes (some printed copies will be available at the meeting).**

**15. RFO's Financial Statements:**

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

*Financial Report July 2023*

*Budget Review July 2023*

**16. Payments for Approval**

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for August 2023*

**17. Bank signatories.**

- **To approve new signatory/ies**
- **To approve change of bank mandate to any two signatories, out of those mandated, for any cheque transactions.**
- Councillor Davis has been agreed to be a third bank signatory and has been approved by five councillors by email.
- Councillor Day has offered to be a fourth signatory if approved by Council.
- Note from the Clerk: It would have been ideal to get the process completed before the next (August) meeting, but the bank requires the Minuted approval sent to them (see info online [link >>>>](#)). Thus, all payments will effectively be paid late (in August).

**18. County Broadband connection to Reading Room –**

- Information in emails below to be noted.
- **Approval required** from Councillors to go forward with internet connection, but presumably not the phone service.

**Email No.1: 4/7/2023 from County Broadband**

Thank you for contacting us.

Please be advised that as this is a village hall account I can confirm this is a free service and it will always be a free of charge service, the speeds will maintain the same.

In regards to a free phone service, I will raise this to the Relevant Department to ask the question and I will be back in contact with you shortly.

Should you require any assistance in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards Paige Customer Care Assistant  
[service@countybroadband.co.uk](mailto:service@countybroadband.co.uk)

### Email No.2: 4/7/2023 from County Broadband

Thank you for contacting us.

I can confirm that the broadband service is free of charge but the phone service is chargeable.

If you are in need of any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact us on 01376 562 002, we will be happy to help. Kind regards Jack Customer Care Agent

[service@countybroadband.co.uk](mailto:service@countybroadband.co.uk)

### 3/7/23 BT Update

#### Some important news about your service. - H594921985020230726130010

We want to let you know that you've been paying the standard price since your most recent deal with us ended.

Current out of contract price

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|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Fibre 2 including Call Plan</b> | <b>£44.36</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|

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## Your options

**You can keep your package as it is.** You simply carry on paying the standard price and continue getting the same service.

**You can move to a new package.** Maybe something similar to what you're on now or pick something a little bigger with our upgrade options.

**You can look elsewhere.** Because your contract has ended, we won't charge you to cancel or switch to another provider. But we'd hate to say goodbye.

## Our new deal for you

Based on your current Broadband package - Fibre 2 & Pay As You Go

**£34.99** / month<sup>†</sup> for 24 months

Stay Fast Guarantee



Unlimited usage - endless monthly data, so you can stream, browse and download as much as you like



Want to change your minutes? You can personalise your call plan with our flexible options

### 19. Highways.

- **Any repairs or maintenance needed**
- **Community Gritting Scheme applications for Winter 2023 – 2024**  
These are our bins:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@52.1866649,-0.1439587,15z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!6m1!1s14YIUfLCf1SQZ1bxSyF4Wzxyup8STYtG3?entry=tту>

**16/8/23 Highways, CCC.**

**This is a request for winter volunteers for this winter season 2021-2022.**

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the volunteers that took part in our Community Gritting Scheme last winter.

For those hearing about the Community Gritting Scheme for the first time, this is a scheme where Local volunteers can help to keep their community moving in freezing weather. Under this scheme, the parish or town council decides on specific routes in their area which are important to the local community and agrees them with the county council.

**If you are a parish or town council looking to join the scheme, please send your completed form by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.**

I will need a form for each of your volunteers, including those who have volunteered before. The form is required annually ensure our health and safety standards are being met.

**See below for a link to the Community Gritting registration form:**

[http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community\\_gritting\\_registration\\_form](http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community_gritting_registration_form)

## **20. Correspondence.**

### **20.1 Noticeboards repair.**

GGPC has received a suggestion of repair to the two noticeboards outside the Reading Room.

- Should these be repaired?
- Should quotes be obtained?

### **20.2 Upcoming closures of Waresley and Gransden Woods, and Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserves**

Waresley and Gransden Woods will be closed during the week commencing 21st August for tree felling and extraction. This will be for approx. 6-8 weeks, (depending on the weather). The car park and Brownes' Piece will remain open.

Once the work in Waresley and Gransden is complete, Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve will then be closed for same works but probably 4-6 weeks. This closure covers the whole site.

We would really appreciate your help in making sure local people are aware of the closures and that they stay out of the woods for safety reasons.

Here is some information from last year which is still relevant:

[Closure of Waresley and Gransden Woods | Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants \(wildlifebcn.org\)](#)

[Why are woodland closures needed? | Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants \(wildlifebcn.org\)](#)

I will do some Facebook updates and where possible mention it in parish newsletters.

Rebecca Neal Communities & Education Officer

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire

### **20.3 Water pollution under Mandeian Bridge.**

29/7/23 – Councillor Day

..... “issue of water pollution under Mandeian Bridge ....?”

(This is the bridge at the bottom of Mill Road over the brook, and it appears that sewage has been leaking into the watercourse. This has twice been reported to the water authority, and twice been reported as not an issue – .... way of escalating this.)”

### **20.4 Gigaclear works – concerns.**

1/8/23 – from a resident:

I wonder if the Parish Council were consulted over the present works to install fibre optic cables in the village. Having already experienced the disruption caused by County Broadband earlier in the year my neighbours and I are surprised that another company, Gigaclear, have been allowed to install a duplicate system. In any case the remedial work being carried out by Gigaclear's contractors, Bethmar, after digging the trenches, is sub-standard leaving the roads and footpaths in poor condition. Also are the PC

aware that Bethmar are using many of the small green spaces in the village to store their materials causing damage to the grass (see attached photos).

Perhaps the above could be mentioned at the next Council meeting on the 7th August.

#### Caxton Road - footpath



2/8/23 to resident from Jonathan Djanogly

Further to my recent email, I have now received a reply from Connecting Cambridgeshire, regarding the second installation of fibre cable in Great Gransden.

Connecting Cambridgeshire have provided me with the following information;

*The 'second installation' you mention, that is being delivered by Gigaclear, is a commercial rollout - therefore it is not being funded as part of the government's broadband programme.*

*The government's Project Gigabit rollout contract has been awarded to CityFibre for Cambridgeshire, and they are not planning on building in this postcode due to the presence of existing commercial coverage.*

*In Cambridgeshire, we are aiming to exceed the target of 85% gigabit capable broadband and fully support the roll-out of better connectivity, recognising that access to healthcare, education and jobs has become increasingly reliant on digital connectivity.*

*Gigabit capable broadband is being delivered by a number of commercial suppliers all across the region, along with the Project Gigabit rollout for the harder to reach areas - which will lead to greater choice for residents and businesses. The current cost of living crisis means that it is even more important that residents have a choice of affordable connectivity. Having a choice of suppliers will mean more flexibility and affordability of broadband packages.*

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely  
Jonathan Djanogly

**21. HR Committee Update** – (see separate Clerk's Report for this agenda item).

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

**22. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 which will commence at 7.30pm.

End of Report