

**Clerk's Report**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**1. Silent prayer.**

**2. Apologies for absence.**  
**Councillor Capps.**

**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 held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**5. Open Forum.**

**6. Matters Arising.**

**6.1 Tree Management:** new quotes have been requested for the end of February, so as to be presented by Councillor Capps.

**7. Crown & Cushion - ACV – update:** Councillor Ginn.

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

*To postpone to February meeting.*

*Financial Report December 2023*

*Budget Review December 2023*

**9. Payments for Approval**

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for January 2024*

**10. BT contract:** The contract for the Reading Room has ended. A new contract would be for 24 months, with the monthly cost going down from £44.36 to £40.99.

Other points: a) the PC is already paying for a phone number / line; b) the PC is on a residential not business account. The PC can keep the residential account so long as it's referenced to a named person.

Re. the phone line: under new contracts this is itemised though comes within the £40.99. The phone line cost can change in the future. For pay-as-you-go = £3/mth + cost of calls or unlimited minutes £11/mth, - Barneys could chose and then reimburse the PC. If Barneys does not take up the PC phone line this could be removed from the PC account altogether.

**11. Highways & Rights of Way**

- **Any repairs or maintenance needed.**

**Highways Correspondence.**

- **Disability space on Caxton Road.**

11/12/23 copy of a letter from a resident to CCC Highways in response to the consultation on Caxton Road. Having received your letter outlining the application of a disability space in the lay-by on Caxton Road I wanted to pass on my thoughts as one of the 5 resident households who use the lay-by.

Firstly I do support the production of a disability space as I realise that two of the five resident households may need/or have a use of a disability space as does my parents who also have a blue badge. But I need to outline my reservations in this matter. As the 5 resident households we all have a garage and a car park space around the back of our houses, access is provided by entering Winchfield a road adjacent to Caxton Road. However, the car park itself is a challenge in itself due to, if all residents park in the car park, there is little to no space to manoeuvre adequately, so we seem to take it in turns, some parking out the back in the car park and others park in the front in the lay-by. The lay-by is only ever used by the 5 resident households.

The lay-by only has access for 4 vehicles, if a disability space is placed here then there will be a further lack of spaces for the rest of the 5 resident households. As it is a main road we cannot park anywhere down Caxton Road due to industrial estate access, access to work hour traffic, tractors, buses and more. Also we get complaints often from Winchfield residents for parking anywhere on Winchfield as this impedes on their access

as well.

Where the proposed space will be is at the Winchfield end of the lay-by, but with only the capacity for 4 spaces this will hamper the use for all other residents. Also along the lay-by is a hedge, we don't want this gone, but this gives decreased access to one side of a disabled person's vehicle on whichever way the car is facing.

I would think that a solution to this would be to use your disability budget to cut into the large unused and unutilised grass space in front of the proposed area for the disabled space this would provide the vehicle with clear easy access on both sides of the vehicle, plus there is already a footpath in place next to the grass verge so also providing further reason why some of the grass area could be utilised by taking up 1/2 to 1 metre into the grassed area.

This would then mean as well that all other residents will not be impacted with little to no other parking on Caxton Road or in the surrounding area.

It may also be beneficial to not only mark out the bay but also all bays in the lay-by so that each vehicle/resident knows where their vehicle should be placed.

I reiterate that although this is public access at no time in the 13 almost 14 years of living in our house and being a resident of the 5 houses in question has the lay-by ever been used by anyone other than the residents of the 5 properties in question.

I look forward to hearing from you and hearing your thoughts on this matter.

- **Drainage on Sand Road/Mill Road junction.**

11/12/23 from a resident

I am a resident of Great Gransden. I am writing to make you aware of communications I have had with Cambridgeshire highways since purchasing our house in October 22. We reported a fault with the storm drains, whereby they were overflowing and not clearing in late 2022. In the summer they were cleared of debris and it was found that the pipes connecting some of the storm drains on the junction between Sand Road, Mill Road and Church Street were cracked and faulty thereby stopping them draining away. I have been in contact with Cambridgeshire highways regarding the fixing of this fault and the response is that it is on the list to be investigated in the financial year 24/25.

We are a little at a loss as to how we can influence the undertaking of these works in a more timely manner. The local highway officer dealing with our request suggested we might contact yourselves. We own a very old building and have had to undertake building works to reduce damp, with our foundations being so close to overflowing drainage and pipes holding and leaking water almost directly next to our property (less than 1 metre) we have concerns that the problem on the road is not helping our situation and has been noted by our surveyor. Not only this morning the standing water was frozen and it was incredibly dangerous on the junction with sheet ice making it treacherous for children walking to school and cars veering around on the road, an accident waiting to happen.

I hope you will be able to help and try to make the fixing of the drainage a higher priority and to help us to continue to get updates on the progress of scheduling these works. Below is a picture of the two adjacent drains outside our property. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance or provide any extra information.

- **Meadow Road speeding.** Email circulated to councillors.

- **Suggestions for A428 legacy fund.**

24/12/23 from a resident.

I don't know whether the following might fall in the category of under £15,000 or over £15,000 ...

- resurfacing the car park at the Sports Field (on Caxton Road)

- resurfacing the car park behind the Reading Room?

- improve access to the Playing Field from Little Lane (ie. install a ramp for wheelchair and pushchair access, constructed along the edge of Little Lane, not at right angles to Little Lane).

- **Local Transport and Connectivity Plan approved.** (Circ). To note.

- **Highways and Streetlighting Contracts - Stakeholder surveys.**

14/12/23 Rob Powell Performance and Assurance Manager Highways Contracts and Commissioning

As part of our regular reviews of our contract performance I would like to ask for your input as a valuable stakeholder in the services delivered for Cambridgeshire County Council.

I am currently seeking feedback on our Highway Services contract delivered by Milestone under the “Cambridgeshire Highways” name, and on our Street Lighting PFI, delivered by Balfour Beatty Living Places. These two contracts represent a great deal of the visible investment made by Highways and Transportation in our highway network, and as such it is important to understand the perception of these services. There are two separate surveys for the suppliers linked below, and could I please ask that your responses reflect your views on the specific services delivered by the suppliers in question.

## 12. Correspondence

### **Pizza van parking – 400 degrees.**

31/12/23 Sam

I'd like the councils permission to park at the Reading Rooms, either just inside the gate or further down in the car park on a Wednesday evening to serve pizza.

As an alternative I could park on the road as there aren't any restrictions in Huntingdonshire but I think it would be nicer to be off the road but still at the heart of the village. Many thanks

## 13.Planning Consultation.

**Review of the Huntingdonshire Local List.** (Circ). Response by 21/1/24.

## 14. Planning Applications:

### **14.1 22/00390/FUL & 22/00223/LBC - Barns, East Street, Great Gransden.**

18/12/23 Kirsty McMahon On behalf of Jennifer Wallis

I refer to the above applications. I have recently been allocated the applications to deal with as part of the backlog team and have been familiarising myself with the files.

I note the Parish Councils comments dated 05.04.22 which were as follows:

Parish Councillors unanimously resolved to recommend approval to this application on the grounds

- (1) That it is a planning gain in the small settlement of Great Gransden on a brownfield site and
- (2) It is bringing a heritage building back into use.

The Conservation Officer has provided extensive comments on the applications and I have attached a copy of the most recent of these for your attention. As you can see the comments conclude that overall the level of information describing the proposed alterations to the buildings and the potential impact on the heritage assets (particularly the adjoining Listed Buildings of the terrace and former Public House) remains incomplete and insufficient for a full assessment of the impact of the proposals. Accordingly it is considered that the proposals fail to demonstrate that the development would preserve the character and appearance of the Great Gransden Conservation Area and the setting/significance of the aforementioned listed buildings. As such, the proposed development is considered to be contrary to Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Policy LP34 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036, and the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) and will therefore be recommended for refusal on this basis.

As this recommendation would be contrary to the Parish Councils comments the applications will need to be determined by the Development Management Committee in line with the Councils delegation agreement. I would therefore be grateful if you would consider the recent comments of the Conservation Officer and advise whether you wish to maintain your support for the proposals or whether you are happy for the applications to be refused under delegated powers as outlined above.

### **14.2 23/02127/LBC – 1 Fox Street, RETROSPECTIVE Renovation of 4 windows on the South elevation and 1 on the north elevation.**

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

*Confidential - In line with the legislation below\*, this item will be closed to the public.*

## 16. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 which will commence at 7.30pm.

*\*Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*

*(2) A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the*

*proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.'*

End of Report