

Clerk's Report
Monday 4th March 2024

1. Silent prayer.

2. Apologies for absence.

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 5th February 2024.

5. Open Forum.

6. Matters Arising.

- **Mandene Gardens and Dutton Gardens open spaces – report of site meeting with HDC**

13/2/24 Councillor Pett

I met with Julie Ayre at 11.00 am on 13th February 2024 at the bottom of Mandene Gardens regarding the ground there.

We identified the issues with the piece of land namely:

- The fencing that was put up, in contravention of plans, thereby shutting off that piece of land.
- The ownership of the piece of land, probably HDC that had in the past been leased to the Parish Council at a peppercorn rent.
- The footpath to “nowhere” that ends the other side of the fence in Dutton Gardens, could this not be linked in some way?
- The loss of the playing area and how something might be reinstated in this area for use by the 80 houses in Mandene & Dutton Gardens.
- The proximity of the brook and health and safety issues relating thereto.

Julie was pleased she had seen the issue, agreed that it is an area that needs resolution and promised to further research a way forward with its possible use as a Green recreational Space.

7. Churchyard management: - Councillor Bane.

8. Tree management – quotes: Quotes forwarded to councillors. - Councillor Capps.

9. RFO's Financial Statements and Budget Review – Oct 2023 to Feb 2024:

Financial Report February 2024.

Budget Review February 2024.

To note: Banking arrangements for the new RFO are still not finalised, which is affecting production of these documents.

10. Payments for Approval

To be circulated to Councillors:

Full List of Payments for March 2024

11. Internal Audit – appointment of auditor.

LGS Services is able to undertake the 2023/24 audit again.

12. Highways & Rights of Way

- **Any repairs or maintenance needed.**

- **LHI bid – Caxton Road.**

20/2/24 Councillor Catmur.

Andrew and I have just met Matt and he thinks our idea of a road narrowing on Caxton Road further from the village centre (i.e. after the current 40mph sign) makes sense. It would be on

the incoming side, to slow vehicles entering the village, (that will also slow vehicles departing). They would need to move the 40mph further down Caxton Road and may possibly add a 30mph buffer. That would help with the footpath concerns we have had expressed to us. He will draft up a proposal before our next meeting so we can check if we approve of it.

- **Caxton Road pavement** – Councillor Ginn.
- **A428 Social Value Fund:**
 - **Little Lane to Playing Field access application** – Councillors Catmur and Davis.
 - **Sportsfield car park** – Councillor Ginn.
- **Meadow Road speeding** – update Councillors Catmur and Pett.
- **Cemetery bridge retaining wall** – update.
- **Waresley Road flooding** - update.
- **Sand Road / Mill Road junction and nearby**– update.
- **A428 road for liaison Little Gransden PC – re. a weight limit:** - update.

Highways correspondence.

- **Weed Strategy – Highways, CCC.** – Full information sent to councillors - end date for survey response 15/3/24.

13. Correspondence

13.1 King Charles III portrait.

13.2 Yarn installation – at village sign.

19/2/24 Village Knitting Bee.

The Village Knitting Bee are planning two floral installations to celebrate 60 years of Britain in Bloom. We'd like the installations to decorate the two green spaces around the village signs in Little and Great and would like to install them for the week of May half term.

Is this something you could raise with each PC asap so that we know there is agreement for this to happen. We do have a Plan B but this would be our first choice of location. Many thanks

13.3 MUGA – slippery surface.

15/2/24 Gransden Foxes netball teams.

Firstly, may I thank the Parish Council for providing a replacement netball hoop/net, after our previous one was sadly vandalised. The new one is perfect.

I've now been nominated by the two teams to request that the Muga surface is cleaned please, as it has become slippery and unfortunately quite dangerous, not only for the netball team, but also for anyone else who uses the Muga.

It may be prudent to add a rubber mat to the main/top entrance to the Muga, as it gets rather muddy and is therefore contributing to the slippery surface.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. Please feel free to contact me, should you require any further information.

14. Planning Application:

- **REF. 22/00390/FUL and 22/00223/LBC (Land at Audley Barns, Great Gransden)** – update – Councillor Pett.

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 8th April 2024 which will commence at 7.30pm.

17. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting: Monday 22nd April 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