

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

**1. Silent prayer.**

**2. Apologies for absence:**

**Cllr Catmur, Cllr Bane, Cllr Day and Cllr Davis**

**3. Resignation of Councillor West as District Councillor for Great Paxton Ward.**

**4. 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.

**5. Minutes -** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**6. Open Forum.**

**7. Matters Arising.**

**7.1 Mandene Gardens and Dutton Gardens open spaces – update -** Councillor Pett

**7.2 Tree management – Tree Works planning applications update -** Councillor Capps.

**8. Churchyard management - mowing -** Councillor Bane and Councillor Capps. Email with quote for April to end 2024 forwarded to councillors.

**9. Sportsfield – mowing:** Ref. – emails sent to councillors. **See quote.**

**10. MUGA**

**a) slippery surface**

20/3/24 ETC Sports

The cleaning element should be efficient enough for a MUGA used (I presume) a little rather than say in a school environment or a club premises which may get more usage?

The slipperiness could be as little as incorrect / worn footwear or play in damp conditions. Generally, the improvement comes from recolouring where you can opt for a higher grade of paint which boosts slip resistance through added material during the spraying service. A standard acrylic paint will get you +60 SR and a polyurethane acrylic will get you + 75SR which is to netball England standard.

Regarding the boot brushes, yes these can be effective but it's hard to police people doing this...you can get the brushes installed approx. £650 - £850 + VAT per scraper (depending on the scraper itself) but obviously that's quite a lot of outlay when you may not have the return! You would be financially better off servicing the court twice a year knowing you were getting something for your money then possible non-use of the scrapers!

20/3/24 Cllr Pett

"the slipperiness could be as little as incorrect/worn footwear or play in damp conditions". I think we could bring forward the cleaning to early Spring instead of June but my inclination is to just inform the netball club that ours is not a competition court and that care might be needed in wintry conditions when practising?

**b) review of bolts.**

**12/3/24 Councillor Bane**



....” the tightening of the mesh retaining nuts.

Whilst doing this we discovered what we believe is the root cause of the main noise issue. On the back of the goal at the school end there is a retaining bolt and rubber pads missing from the join that is obscured by the basket ball net mounting. I have attached a photo that I took from above. You can clearly see the missing fixings and also note that there are no tooling marks on or scuffs on the paint that one would expect if a nut were tightened against it. This plus the fact that the location of the missing bolt is in an inaccessible place leads me to believe that this was an error in installation and the bolt was never there from the outset.

I would suggest that we contact the firm who installed it with this new information and ask them to rectify it, giving us a permanent solution. Currently we have padded it out with rubber which has fixed it, but these will work loose and we will be in the same situation, which whilst workable is far from ideal.

### 11. RFO’s Financial Statements and Budget Review:

*Financial Reports Oct 2023 to March 2024.*

*Budget Review March 2024.*

### 12. Payments for Approval

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for April 2024*

### 13. Poor’s Land correspondent.

### 14. Highways & Rights of Way

- Any repairs or maintenance needed.
- LHI bid – Caxton Road.

20/2/24 Councillor Catmur.

Highways “has proposed a narrowing where the crossing to the nursey is (with no central island / pedestrian refuge).

He says that this might not affect speeds as people enter the village (i.e. that people will speed up again)

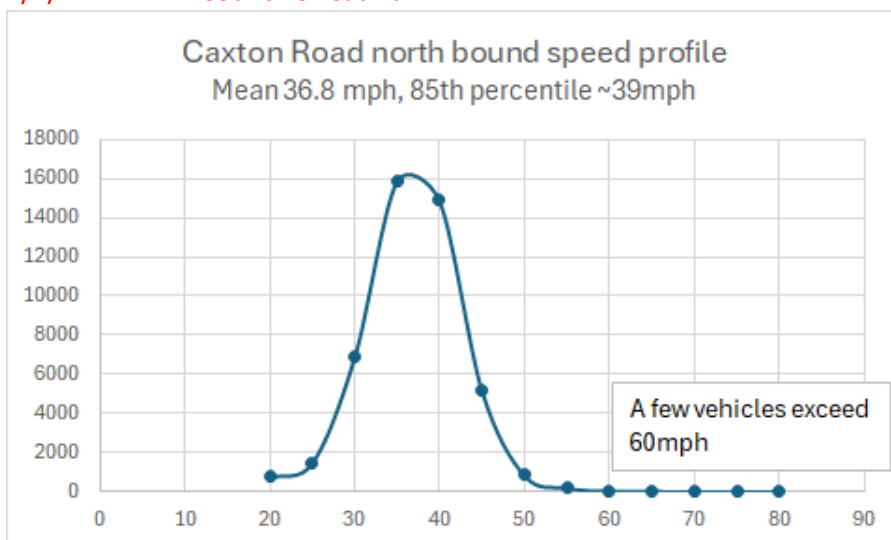
The cost is higher than their website suggests for such a narrowing - £40k and if we are to have a good chance of getting this we would need to increase our contribution to £8k (20%).

A speed buffer zone has not been costed. Neither has a second pinch-point between Audeley Close and Winchfield (which he now says 'may be possible')”

28/3/24 Cllr Catmur

The proposal has been circulated to members. It is for a narrowing outside the nursery with no additional speed reductions. As the bid is submitted with our contribution set there is little we can do, unless we wish to withdraw the bid. The costs are higher than the CCC Highways website suggested, which may lower our chance of success. I propose that we go ahead and see if we are successful. If we are not then we can look at another bid in the future.

4/4/24 Councillor Catmur



A graph of the data collected on CAXTON Road near the nursery footpath crossing, sample size 46,128 vehicles, using the MVAS in 'no display mode' and removing vehicles entering the industrial site (they tend to be less than 20mph)

In the standard definition used (mean speed and 85th percentile) the data shows the road does not have a speeding problem.

That said we need to see what can be done with the few >60mph vehicles (0.2% of all vehicles) - the road narrowing at the nursery would help.

- **Caxton Road pavement**

28/3/24 Cllr Catmur

The work ..... done shows that the footpath can be widened to a better width, it now needs a team of volunteers to do it, as I doubt CCC footpaths will do it. We need someone to lead in recruiting volunteers and then supplying them with yellow jackets (litter picker ones?) and maybe cones while they work. .... likes the idea of a PC-run database of village volunteers (Cambourne has one), but I think that might have GDPR implications.

28/3/24 from a resident.

.... Since then, an additional short stretch of path has been cleared by two other people, who told me that a number of passers-by had stopped to thank them for the work being undertaken. ...

I would like the Parish Council to consider delegating a member as a Gransden Volunteer Coordinator, who would then maintain a list of active volunteers (perhaps re-recruited or confirmed annually) and who could inform volunteers when communal tasks had been identified and agreed. Hopefully this would reduce the effort and costs involved in simple maintenance tasks in public areas (paths, playing fields, Reading Room etc.) and would remove the necessity to recruit a new team for each task. It would also give potential volunteers a point-of-contact to advertise their willingness to get involved.

Cambourne appear to run such a scheme ([Volunteering - Cambourne Parish Council](#)) which is administered by their Community Development Officer, so perhaps their advice on the benefits and implementation could be sought. Would you or one of the other Parish Councillors mention this at your 8th April meeting?

At the current rate the Caxton Road path clearance will not be completed this year, unless a concerted effort (or contractors) can be arranged by the Parish Council.

- **A428 Social Value Fund:**

- **Little Lane to Playing Field access** – re. site meeting with possible contractor.

- **Sportsfield car park** – Councillor Ginn.

- **Waresley Road flooding** - update.

## 15. Correspondence

### 15.1 Bowls Club sign – request to include croquet on the sign.

### 15.2 Reasonable bus service for Great Gransden – Cllr Rowbotham.

### 15.3 Cambridgeshire Constabulary - Huntingdonshire Community Meetings 2024 dates.

Meetings are quarterly, online from 7pm-8pm. They allow members of the public to virtually meet their neighbourhood officers and hear about recent activity. Attendees will also get the opportunity to raise any concerns they have and help shape future priorities.

Dates for the forthcoming community engagement meetings: **5 March / 11 June / 10 September/ 3 December.**

If you would like to attend, please visit the neighbourhood page and click the link on the date. You will be sent to Event Brite to register for free and will be sent a meeting link - <https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/Huntingdonshire/>

On the neighbourhood page you will also see a survey which can be filled out by those unable to attend the meeting so all views can be take into account.

The priorities raised at the last meeting were around weapons and drug crime, parking and speeding.

Please share the meetings/survey with your residents.

## 16. Planning Application:

- **REF. 24/00350/HHFUL Single storey rear extension, raised patio and sun tunnels, 20 Mill Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3AG** – response by 9/4/24.

**17. 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.*

**18. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 which will commence at 7.30pm.

**19. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 which will commence at 7.30pm. To include the election of officers / review of policies, risk assessments, fees & charges.

*\*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

**NB.** All notes in red have been added since the formal publication of the Agenda.