

**Clerk's Report**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**1. Silent prayer.**

**2. Election of the Chairman and signing of the Declaration of Office.**

**3. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Paul Greenland.

**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. Portrait of King Charles III.**

**6. Election of Officers.**

**Current incumbents:**

1. Vice Chairman – Councillor Pett.

2. Cemetery Manager – Councillor Day.

3. Playing Field Manager – Councillor Pett.

4. Reading Room Committee Representative – Councillor Greenland.

5. Gransden Society Representative – Councillor Capps.

6. Sportsfield Association (GSRA) Representative – Councillor Ginn.

7. Tree Warden – Councillor Capps.

8. Little Gransden Airfield Local Consultative Committee Representative and  
Gliding Club Consultative Committee Representative – Councillor Ginn.

9. Communications Officer – Councillor Day.

**7. Minutes** - To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and those of the Annual Parish Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

**8. Open Forum.**

**9. Matters Arising.**

**9.1 Mandene Gardens and Dutton Gardens open space areas – update** – Councillor Pett.

**9.2 Mandene Gardens S106 monies.**

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

**9.4 Sportsfield – mowing.**

- volunteer mowing between contracts.

- cutting by new contractor and invoicing.

**9.5 MUGA - slippery surface.**

- review of bolts.

**9.6 County Broadband order – Reading Room.**

**29/4/24 from County Broadband.**

I am writing to thank you for the pre-order you placed with County Broadband.

Unfortunately, after careful consideration, we regret to inform you that it is not going to be feasible for us to extend our network to your property in Great Gransden at this point in time.

I am sure this will be as much of a disappointment for you, as it is for us. As a growing network, the last thing we want to do is cancel orders. This decision has been based purely on commercial viability and has not been taken lightly.

Rest assured, no charges have been applied, and any Direct Debit instruction that may have been set-up in advance, along with your order, will be cancelled.

Our Customer Service team will not have any additional information or be able to answer questions relating to this decision.

Our team conducted a thorough planning exercise, drawing on our experience in connecting rural communities in East Anglia, but regrettably, given the above, we simply could not make this project work under in the current economic climate. This is not to say this situation may not change in future, but as things stand today, we are writing to confirm that it is with considerable regret we will not be able to fulfil your pre-order for service at this time. In writing, I would like to clarify the often-quoted misconception that County Broadband receives government subsidies to build our networks. While we have benefitted in a very limited capacity from Government funded vouchers (which can only be used to connect specific eligible properties), we have not received any subsidies of scale such as those enjoyed by Openreach and other operators around the country. Instead, we have had to justify the

cost of our builds against the returns achievable. So far, we have invested over £100m of private equity into our build programme. In each case, the cost of building each village network takes many years to recover. The decision not to proceed with your order has only been reached after a detailed feasibility study, which included a review of the increasing costs of capital and the rising costs of labour as well as consideration of the current and future competitive landscape and the practicalities of extending our network to your property. With these rising costs in mind, we have had to be mindful of balancing our ambition to grow our network, with the need to do so in a sustainable way.

We understand this is disappointing news, and we want to be transparent, allowing you to choose the best available broadband service for your property. The availability of other broadband services in your area can be obtained from the broadband availability checker on the Ofcom website: <https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/broadband-coverage>

Thank you once again for placing an order with County Broadband for your broadband service, which allowed us the opportunity to try to deliver service to you.

Kind regards

Customer Connections

## **10. RFO's Financial Statements and Budget Review:**

*Financial Reports April 2024.*

*Budget Review April 2024.*

## **11. Payments for Approval**

*To be circulated to Councillors:*

*Full List of Payments for May 2024*

## **12. Parish Council Insurances for 1/6/2024-31/5/25. To consider the insurance schedules, renewal premiums and sums assured:**

**Reading Room Cottage:** information provided to councillors – please refer in particular to the Schedule on pp 11-12 of the Renewals, - pdf.

## **13. AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return) 2023-24.**

### **13.1 Review of Internal Controls.**

### **13.2 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 – AGAR Section 1.**

### **13.3 Approval of the Accounting Statement 2023/24 – AGAR Section 2. – refer to Analysis of Variance.**

## **Documentation provided to Councillors for consideration of the AGAR:**

**a) Payments 2023-24.**

**b) Receipts 2023-24.**

**c) Budget Review 2023-24**

**d) Budget Review Notes 2023-24.**

**e) Bank Reconciliation.**

**f) Analysis of Variances (2022-23 to 2023-24).**

**g) Explanations of Variances relating to 'High' Reserves. – boxes refer to AGAR Section 2.**

**h) Asset List.**

**i) Supporting Statement to the Accounts 2023-24.**

**j) Blank AGAR form – showing Section 1 – page 4 and Section 2 – page 5.**

## **14. Highways & Rights of Way**

- **Any repairs or maintenance needed.**
- **LHI bid – Caxton Road** – Councillor Catmur.
- **Caxton Road pavement** – to note appreciation of the excellent volunteer work done to clear the soil and vegetation from the pavement.
- **A428 Social Value Fund:**
  - **Sportsfield car park** – Councillors Ginn & Catmur.

## **15. Correspondence**

### **15.1 Reading Room car park.**

**22/4/24 Secretary, Gransden Bowls & Croquet Club**

The Management Committee have asked me to write to the Parish Council concerning the deterioration of the driveway into the car park for the users of the recreational facilities including our Club. The holes are getting larger and more dangerous and can cause damage to users' cars and also pedestrians especially children and are

wondering if you are planning to fill these in at any time soon with the oncoming good weather approaching fast. This would avoid any accidents and also stop car owners from parking on the road for fear of damaging their vehicles.

To attract people to our Club we are having a display of classic cars by the Riley Car Club in July and obviously we wish to avoid any of their vehicles being damaged.

Hoping to hear from you shortly.

### **15.2 School Fete – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

**29/4/24 from the PTA, Chairman.**

Just wanted to let you know the school fete this year is planned for 15th June on the playing field.

Usual affair - the village marquee, a bbq, bar, kids' games, raffle, a few community groups/stalls. I hope this is all ok with the parish council! Please shout if you need to discuss.

### **15.3 Gransden Show and Car Show dates: Councillor Ginn.**

**15.4 A428 – Social Value Fund (2<sup>nd</sup> round open May - July 2024):** to note.

### **16. Planning Application:**

**16.1 REF. 24/00595/FUL Reinstatement of a timber, open fronted, storage barn. 113 Meadow Road Great Gransden Sandy SG19 3BB** (response by 14.5.2024).

**16.2 REF. 23/02198/FUL - Land West of 24 Little Gransden Lane, Great Gransden – points raised:** Councillor Ginn.

### **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 Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 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