

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8th April 2008, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice, Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, 56 members of the public, Colchester Borough Cllr P Chillingworth.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Fairs

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

Cllr Traube invited the owners of the shop to answer any questions from the public following their announcement that the shop will cease trading on 26th April. Their replies are noted. Questions and statements were:-

- (a) What will happen to the Post Office (PO). The owners said - the premises are for sale, we do not know if any new purchaser will continue the PO, there are two POs at Wakes Colne and Marks Tey. Cllr Traube said that the village should consider where the PO could be resited in the village.
- (b) Does the village want a shop, is there support for a community shop as villagers will have to run it and use it.
- (c) Does Post Office Ltd have a responsibility to maintain a PO in Great Tey. The owners said - no.
- (d) Can the PO be separated from the shop. The owners said no as there are no separate toilets serving the shop and the electric system using the shop is intertwined with the domestic part of the premises.
- (e) How do we fund a community shop? The meeting was asked how many of the public would support the shop with time and effort, and at a show of hands 22 people present confirmed that they would.
- (f) Have we explored the possibility of the Co-op taking over the shop. The owners said that the shop had been on the market since November.
- (g) Goods can be bought elsewhere at a cheaper price than the village shop.
- (h) A village survey could be organised to establish whether or not a community shop is required.
- (i) Where would the community shop be sited?
- (j) Is there a likelihood of siting the PO at Tey Brook. The owners said no and no other location has been considered.
- (k) Can the PO be sited away from the shop? The owners said yes.
- (l) Villagers should consider whether their property value will be affected by the withdrawal of the shop from the village.
- (m) Newspaper deliveries from the Marks Tey newsagent are being arranged, but it is difficult to make arrangements for those villagers who at present collect papers from the village shop.
- (n) Cllr Traube referred to a parishioner's letter which said that arrangements are being discussed with the Marks Tey butcher for meat to be ordered by telephone and delivered weekly or monthly to the village (depending on orders) when it can then be collected. It was agreed that a note regarding this will be placed in Round and About.
- (o) What progress has been made regarding refurbishment of the tennis courts. Cllr Traube said that a survey was conducted in the village of 144 households. The majority said that it should be refurbished, but not for tennis only, preferring it to be for multi sports use. 82 households said that they would use a multi sports facility. There was a mixed response from Chrismund Way residents. Cllr Traube said that the way forward would be:- 1. do nothing, 2.refurbish at a cost of £25,000. 3. completely refurbish at a cost of £80,000 or 4. re site elsewhere in the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) at a cost in excess of £100,000.
- (p) A number of residents of Chrismund Way will wish to see the facility sited away from the rear of their houses.
- (q) No one asks the children of the village what they want,
- (r) A young parishioner said that there are not enough nets to play tennis. Basketball would be played if there were nets.
- (s) Why is the youth shelter not lit at night?
- (t) The youth shelter was not lit deliberately as it was considered that this would encourage antisocial and criminal behaviour. The seating in HFRG was provided and subsequently smashed. The move of the refurbished tennis court to the far side of the HFRG would cost nearer £200,000 because of drainage issues, and there would be problems with access to the other side of the field in wet weather.
- (u) Cllr Traube said that the key to the usage of the refurbished tennis court is that it is used responsibly. If you buy a property backing onto the tennis court and play area you are aware of the issues involved. It appears that the facility is not to be moved because of the cost.
- (v) The parish council will have to consider the residents near this facility if it is refurbished. My property backs onto the HFRG and I would not have bought it if it was a multisports court. I knew it was a tennis court. Cllr Traube asked the meeting which option mentioned in item (o) was preferred. The response was that it depends on grants available, and Cllr Traube said that assuming that it is a facility that villagers want, the parish council will look at the grant position.
- (w) Is there an update on the possibility of putting on water onto the allotments? Cllr Traube said that Cllr Fairs is investigating the cost with Anglian Water. Once this has been clarified then the parish council will consider further the division of the plots and restructuring the rules. The formation of an allotment association is also being considered.

The meeting was resumed.

3. THE VILLAGE SHOP

Cllr Traube said that following the comments from the public, the parish council would consider the results of the forthcoming village survey to establish whether a community shop is required; consider an alternative site for the PO; and seek details from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) of grant support available for a community shop. This was agreed.

53 members of public left the meeting, and 3 members of public remained.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last two parish council meetings of 11th March 2008 and 18th March 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk was asked to confirm the details of the hatching to the HFRG car park with the contractor asking him to liaise with Cllr Traube.

6. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the timing of the arrangements for the town and parish clerks grant scheme had been altered this year and recommended that the parish council confirms the arrangements with Colchester Borough Council. He also advised of the dates of the attended freighter scheme at HFRG car park, from 9.45am until 10.45am on 26th April, 28th June, and 16th August. A note of the last two dates will be placed in Round And About.

He then left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The clerk reported that the following funds had been received.

H M Revenue & Customs – VAT refund	£ 5,846.35
Essex County Council – Parish Paths Partnership refund	£ 1,011.60
Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – donation towards cost of annual village hall maintenance costs	£ 1,000.00

The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
100941	A Coy – expenses for litter pick barbeque	£ 72.10	£ 1.81
100942	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 335.66	
100943	Post Office Stores – 3 years' rental for notice board	£ 30.00	
100944	Gt Tey Vill Hall Mgmt Comtee – hall rent	£ 48.00	
100945	EALC – annual subscription	£ 203.57	
100946	Close Invoice Finance Ltd –balance of play area installation By Monster Play Systems	£ 1,175.00	£ 175.00

It was agreed that a transfer of £5,500 be made from Community Account to Instant Access Account. The clerk reported that after these transactions had been made, the balance of the Community Account was credit £1,029.66 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £5,515.19. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

- 080551 2 Brook House Cottages, Brookhouse Road -extension and alterations to form granny annexe – We approve this application subject to neighbours' views. Care should be taken that all building materials used blend with the existing cottages.
- 080590 Tey Brook Farm, Brook Road – rebuilding of cart lodge destroyed by fire January 2007 – we approve this application.
- 080652 8 Garden Fields – single storey side extension – we approve this application subject to neighbours' views.
- 080625 2 Rectory Cottages, Brook Road – removal of section of internal partition to divisional wall between kitchen and dining room on ground floor level – no objections.

Approvals

- 080065 Marshalls Cottage, Chappel Road – demolition of single storey wc/lobby and erection of single storey and two storey side extensions and relocation of oil tank – approved subject to 2 conditions.
- 080197 Homagen, Chappel Road – demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a new 4 bedroom house. Resubmission of 072631 – approved subject to 10 conditions
- 080227 12 Lower Langley – single storey front extension – approved subject to 3 conditions.

9. GREAT TEY YOUTH CLUB

Cllr Nice said that the application for funding for the youth club had been submitted and the result of the application will be known in October. An open meeting is to be arranged to establish interest in joining the club, and also to seek volunteers to assist with running the club. Cllr Nice said that the club would require a separate bank account in the name of the parish council through which funding would be received. The club is also considering where equipment could be stored and wish to apply for half an allotment. He said that the club asks

the parish council to assist with the funding for public liability insurance of £500, together with the cost of approximately £600 for obtaining satisfactory police references on proposed volunteers who are to help to run the club, until the funding application is approved, if it is.

Cllr Traube asked whether the youth club would be able to operate without receiving the funding for equipment, and Cllr Nice advised that some equipment could be bought at minimal cost on a temporary basis.

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council would support the cost of the public liability insurance of £500 by paying the premium pending receipt of the funding, and the cost of the police references, which could be reduced by cutting back on the initial number of references, could be funded by fund raising by the youth club.

10. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Traube referred to the installation of the safety surface on the play area and the outstanding issue of the leaning gate post. He said that Monster Play Systems (Monster) had offered to correct the post and withdraw their offer of a refund of £300. He proposed that this offer is accepted, and this was agreed. Cllr Fairs would be asked to meet with Monster and agree how that work is to be done, and afterwards he would be asked to sign off the works for ROSPA to agree that the corrected post and the surface around it would pass the annual safety assessment; and that the installation would still be covered by Monster's guarantee. The cheque for £1,175 covering the balance of monies owed under this contract, was therefore signed and not paid to Monster until the assurances had been received.

11. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

Cllr Traube referred to a letter received from the Police District Commander in Colchester offering the parish the opportunity to join the community speedwatch scheme. It was agreed that we wish to support, and the clerk was asked to reply to the police and ask how many volunteers are involved. A note is to be placed in Round and About asking for parishioners to volunteer to be involved in this scheme.

12. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the boiler for the village hall needs replacing. He suggested that the quotations are referred to the Trustees of the Village Hall for consideration, and the clerk was asked to investigate the position regarding grants to cover part of the cost.

13. TREES

The clerk advised that an estimate for £600 from Richard Fordham to cover the cost of the essential works outlined in the tree report undertaken by Essex County Council had been received. This was agreed.

14. HIGHWAY RANGERS

Cllr Traube referred to the recent letter received from Essex County Council offering to undertake small Highway and other jobs by Highway Rangers. This was welcomed and it was agreed that the clerk ask that graffiti be removed from the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground. Cllr Traube said that he would meet with Highways Department to walk around the parish with them if they wished to do so.

15. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From a parishioner advising that he considers that a parishioner has built a fence along the boundary with the Old Playing Field, which appears to be on parish council land. Cllr Bartleet agreed to investigate and report back.

From Colchester Borough Council advising that the parish council can only make representations against applications for heavy goods vehicle operators' licenses if they are owners or operators of affected land in the vicinity of an operating centre. This was noted.

From Colchester Borough Council regarding Village Design Statements (VDS) and Parish Plans (PP). This was considered and it was agreed that the parish council did not wish to proceed with a VDS or PP.

16. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Coy advised that allotment plots one and seven are not being used. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the two plot holders and advise them that the parish council (PC) has a waiting list, and if the plot is not worked fully in the next two months, then the PC reserves the right to take back allotments and reallocate.

It was noted that the culvert under Salmons Lane between East Gores Farm and Cuckoos Farm is blocked, and the clerk was asked to advise Highways of this, asking them to arrange for clearance of the culvert.

It was noted that ten vehicles are parked at Brook House, Brook House Road, and the clerk was asked to clarify with Colchester Planning Department whether this was within the current planning agreement.

The clerk suggested that some extra keys for the notice board are cut and given to regular users of the notice board so that they can post up their notices after the closure of the shop.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.45 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....