

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th April 2010, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy (late), Cllr R Fairs (Chairman), Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 2 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Brook

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Fairs declared an interest in minute 7 as he is a director of the company contracted to install the water to the allotments.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.** - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 9th March 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk referred to correspondence received from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Planning Department which advised that the living accommodation at Collops Barn was being built in accordance with the planning approval as the accommodation was attached to the stables on one side.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Courier is still not being distributed properly in the Borough although some copies have been delivered to the Post Office. He said that the results of the Waste Management Survey referred to at the previous meeting are now being published. He reminded parishioners that they can apply for a postal vote for the forthcoming general election. He said that potholes in the roads are being patched temporarily until proper patching can be done.

He then left the meeting.

Cllr Coy joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Funds received

Allotment rentals	£	3.00
Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee re maintenance	£	625.00
Essex County Council re parish paths partnership scheme grant	£	1,524.80
H M Revenue & Customs re VAT refund	£	1,553.98

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq.No. Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-		
101111 Essex Association of Local Councils – annual subscription	£	235.98	
101112 D Williams – clerk salary	£	358.33	
101113 R Stone – notice board rent	£	10.00	
101114 Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£	48.00	
101115 I Dyer – handyman	£	194.46	£ 28.96
Youth Activity Club Account			
100024 Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£	28.00	

(c) Following payment of the notice board rental Cllr Coy agreed to put a note in Round and About advising parishioners that the new location of the notice board is at the top of The Chase by the church entrance.

(d) It was agreed that a transfer of £2,600 be made from Community Account to Business Saver Account, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,053.36, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £1,740.33, and Business Saver Account Cr £5,795.01. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(e) The clerk advised that his salary had been incorrectly recorded in the minute 6(c) of January 2010 following the agreed increase. The correct figure is £4,300 with effect from 1 April 2010 and not £4,128 recorded, and this was agreed.

7. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs referred to the proposed installation of the water supply to the allotments, and said that if the water pipe passed under parishioners' gardens, then the cost of easements could be £500 for each party involved, which may result in a cost to the parish council of £2,000 or more. He said that it was not practical to put the water supply down The Chase, and also it would be too costly. After discussion it was agreed that the water supply would pass across the neighbouring land of H J Fairs & Son who do not require an easement. The supply may temporarily be by an overland industrial pipe until it can be put underground. Cllr Fairs was asked to proceed as quickly as possible.

8. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Williamson said that she attended the recent Village Hall Management Committee annual meeting, and amongst other matters it was mentioned that until recently the gardens at the front of the village hall had not been maintained regularly. Cllr Traube suggested that perhaps the Youth Activity Club might wish to be involved, and the clerk was asked to write to the club accordingly.

9. PLAY AREA QUESTIONNAIRE

Cllr Williamson said that 400 questionnaires had been distributed in the village regarding equipment for the play area, and only 18 replies were received, which meant that the results were hardly viable. Cllr Traube said that this would not support any possible grant funding for new equipment. Cllr Fairs said that the parish council will have to make a decision regarding the tennis courts which he considered were in need of repair and not usable by the public. It was agreed that he would inspect the site and either fence off the tennis courts or ask the handyman to do this. He will report back.

10. GREAT TEY POST OFFICE

Cllr Traube said that he had been in contact with and had met with several organisations regarding the closure of the Post Office and the opening of the Post Office outreach service in the village hall. He confirmed that a full size post box will be sited at the front of the village hall where the litter bin is sited at present. Royal Mail will resite the litter bin close by. BT are to install the computer cable for the post office, and an electrical survey will be undertaken on 30 April. The earliest date that the outreach service can start is Friday 20 May, and Cllr Coy agreed to put an update in Round and About Great Tey.

11. ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

It was agreed to hold the meeting on 11th May at 7pm before the parish council meeting. An update on the post office service is to be included.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Cllr Fairs said that he had not been able to make contact with the owner of Nuts End, The Chase regarding the fence with the Old Playing Field where it appears that the new fence posts are on the Playing Field side of the existing boundary which is marked by concrete posts. He had called several times and left messages on her answer phone. The clerk has written and asked her to correct this, and a reply has been received, which was read out. The fence posts have now been removed, and the clerk was asked to reply to the owner and thank her for removing the posts.

Conditions of hire of the village hall have been forwarded by the treasurer of the village hall management committee. These were noted.

A public consultation document from ECC regarding the amalgamation of two schools in Braintree was noted.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i)The transport representative said that he is to attend a meeting with Essex County Council (ECC) regarding bus passes as they are to be issued by ECC instead of CBC.

(ii)What is happening regarding the integrity of the rear boundaries of the Brook Road properties that adjoin the Old Playing Field?

The meeting resumed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Coy referred to the fence of the rear boundaries of the Brook Road properties with the Old Playing Field, and said that 3 wires had been cut. After some discussion it was agreed that the clerk writes to our solicitors, forwarding copies of the letters that the parish council had written to the occupiers of the Brook Road properties concerned, asking them if this preserves our boundary with no right of way onto the Old Playing Field. We are also to seek advice regarding a possible agreement for them to have a gate onto the Old Playing Field which does not give a right of way, and make a charge for this agreement.

Cllr Williamson asked whether the parish council would wish to run the Best Kept Front Garden and Best Allotment Garden competitions again this year. These were agreed.

Cllr Traube said that he will ask Mr Hermon to varnish the parish council notice board which was included in the village hall maintenance works.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....