

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8th August 2017, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Beesley, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson (Chairman), Clerk Mr D Williams and Colchester Borough Cllr Chillingworth. No members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th July 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that the officer appointed by Colchester Borough Council to assist Great Tey with the preparation of the plan is Sean Tofts. She said that the drop ins that were arranged helped parishioners to make comments on the draft Local Plan. Parishioners have been invited to send comments regarding the West Tey Garden Village to CAUSE. Cllr Hamer said that the questionnaire to parishioners is being prepared, and a drop in at the village hall is recommended before the questionnaire is circulated. The request to Rural Community Council of Essex for detailed information on the preparation of plans has been submitted, and members confirmed that reimbursement of the fee of £50 will be made.

5. COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN

Considerable discussion followed regarding the parish council's comments that are to be lodged regarding the Colchester Borough Council Draft Local Plan. The following responses were agreed and the clerk was asked to submit them :-

(i). Brook Road Development – 10 dwellings - Support

We support the proposed development subject to:- we wish to see this development have consideration to investigate traffic calming measures, for example priority traffic flow (as in Chappel); ensure that there is a continuous footpath/footway on the west side of Brook Road; a mix of housing to include low cost and "affordable" housing; and suitable access with off road parking, so that there is no additional parking on the east side of Brook Road. This is subject to our ongoing involvement. We would like to see a development of no more than the 17 houses on this site that were mentioned in the Preferred Options plan.

(ii). Land off Greenfield Drive – 30 dwellings - Support

We agree in principle with development in Great Tey, to promote a younger population. We have not yet established whether the proposed site is in the best interests of the current residents of Great Tey. This view reflects the strength of opinion expressed by those who attended at a number of open meetings in the village. We are concerned about the impact of increased traffic on the existing estate, particularly along The Street, which is in a conservation area. We are in the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with parishioners and local landowners, with the purpose of identifying locations for new developments to reflect the need for sustainable growth in the village.

(iii). West Tey Garden Community - Object

Great Tey Parish Council accepts that additional housing is required in the area but it should be controlled in a number of locations and not just in one area in West Tey where road, rail and health infrastructure are already at capacity. We draw your attention to the National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 112 and question whether the most appropriate land has been chosen for this development. Great Tey is one of several villages in the area that would lose its identity if West Tey Garden Community proceeds. This proposed development will affect many people in the area for many years firstly with the construction and then with the increased traffic on the local village roads which cannot support this. We are not aware of any planned national funding for A120 improvements and we therefore support the report commissioned by Colchester Borough Council which stated that without further major improvements to the A120 and the A12 incorporating a by-pass of Marks Tey, only 500 to 900 new dwellings could be built within the existing highway infrastructure. This would not be sufficient to establish a garden community. The existing hospital at Colchester and local doctors' practices are at capacity and could not support West Tey requirements.

6. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that Tollgate Retail Village has received planning approval. He therefore wondered whether the Local Plan will be reviewed.

He said that local parishes are seeking speed limits to the road from A120 to Mount Bures which passes through Great Tey, and a meeting was held last week. In particular Wakes Colne have problems with Station Road and are seeking installation of a footpath. Cllr Hunt attended and he will report further.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he is Deputy Mayor of Colchester this year, and will be Mayor next year when it is the centenary anniversary of the end of World War One.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

7. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hunt reported that he attended the meeting of representatives of local parish councils which was arranged with the intention of obtaining a combined approach to ECC Highways regarding the improvements required to the Road from A120 to Mount Bures which passes through Great Tey. He said that each parish gave their concerns, and Great Tey's concern was that of speeding through the village, as the village Speedwatch group recorded 82 motorists were caught speeding in July. He said that the information from the parishes is being collated and a presentation will then be made to the ECC portfolio holder for Highways.

8.FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were approved for payment:-

Chq.No. Payee	Amount (£)	/ of which VAT:-
101629 D Williams-clerk salary £467.50 less PAYE £186.80	£ 280.70	
101630 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 186.80	
101631 J Lucock – allotment gate padlock	£ 18.94	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £19,445.39 , Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

9. GREAT TEY WEB SITE

The clerk advised that Mr Collier has made good progress with a new web site based on the Wordpress system. He has suggested some alterations which were agreed.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Williamson said that the village hall roof is in need of repair or complete replacement. Quotations are being obtained and will be considered by the Trustees of Great Tey Village Hall, who are the owners of the hall.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson referred to the agreement at the last meeting to a quotation for £2,995 plus VAT from C & W Fencing to install an overhead height restrictor to prevent possible unauthorised access and parking on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) and car park. A quotation for bollards on the side of the height restrictor for £545 plus VAT, also from C & W Fencing was agreed so the total cost is £3,540 plus VAT, which is to be found from Parish Council reserves.

In response to the Parish Council’s request, Borough Cllr Chillingworth has said that a payment from the Locality Budget to cover the cost of the bollards seems acceptable, and he will commence the arrangements.

Cllr Williamson said that the handyman had reported that the hedge behind the houses in Greenfield Drive and Chrismund Way is mainly weeds and grass, and suggests that a strip that is weed killed between the hedge and the fence would control the problem, with the hedge maintained at about 1200mm high. Members agreed and asked the clerk to confirm.

12. OLD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Hunt said that the boundary fence at the rear of the Brook Road properties needs clearing of ivy, and members agreed to ask the handyman to attend to this. Cllr Hunt also asked whether it is time to cut the long grass around the beacon without compromising the wild flowers. Members agreed to ask the handyman this question, and the clerk was asked to attend to these two items.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Hunt said that he has looked at the unused allotment plots and the majority are all worked or part worked. The clerk was asked to write to one plot holder regarding usage.

Cllr Hunt said that the gate post has dropped and requires reinforcing, and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to attend to this.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk reported a telephone call received from a parishioner concerning a fence erected by a neighbour. The parishioner considered that it restricted sight lines onto the road and had contacted Essex County Council (ECC) Highways, but they had declined to view the site as they did not consider it an urgent matter. He asked that the parish council also requests ECC Highways to view the site. Members considered that as he had already contacted ECC Highways himself they considered that this was the best way forward as it appears to be a private matter between the landowners.

Cllr Bartleet proposed that the advertisement sign at the children’s playground at the Village Hall car park is removed and members agreed. The clerk was asked to arrange this.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.