

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12th August 2008 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams and 8 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr C Nice

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Fairs declared a personal interest in the planning application for Walcotts Cottages. He will remain at the meeting but will take no part in the discussions on this application.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 8th July 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES -None

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following cheque was authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101002	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 335.66

(a) It was agreed that no transfer needs to be made from Instant Access Account to Community Account. The clerk reported that the balance of the Community Account was credit £737.41 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £6,267.85. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement.

(b) The clerk reported that a cheque book and a paying book had been received from Barclays Bank for the new Youth Activity Account and it was agreed that these would be held by the clerk.

(c) The clerk advised that Allianz Insurance had quoted the sum of £257.67 for insurance of the new play area surface for accidental damage and damage by vandalism. They confirmed that the engineering policy could not be combined with the main insurance policy with them. It was therefore agreed to accept this quotation and the clerk was instructed to complete the arrangements. It was agreed that the equipment need not be insured in view of its age.

(d) A letter from the Audit Commission was presented in which they requested the Annual Return relating to the accounts to 31 March 2008 within 10 days and they advised that they would charge a £20 fee if they had to communicate with us again regarding this. The clerk was asked to respond, giving the date when the internal auditor agreed to return the accounts, and asking them not to charge any additional fees as the previous auditors had not insisted that the timings of submission of accounts was adhered to.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

- 081285 Gulls Farm, Buckleys Lane – retrospective listed building application for alterations to exterior of building - No comments regarding the listed building application but subject to neighbours' views regarding the alterations to the building.
- 081314 Marshalls Cottage, Chappel Road – proposed vehicular access and infill of existing access to front of boundary wall/fence - No objections subject to neighbours' views.
- 081388 Walcotts Cottages, Coggeshall Road – demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of two storey detached dwelling including provision of new vehicle access and parking (Resubmission of 80442) - No objections subject to neighbours' views.
- 081413 Great Tey Stores, The Street – change of use of part of ground floor of premises from retail to residential. (Resubmission of 080744) - No planning objection, but the parish council and parishioners are concerned that this valuable village facility has closed. A special village meeting has been arranged in September to discuss the issues and to determine whether or not a shop in the village is required.
- 081119 The Barn Brasserie, The Barn, Brook Road – guest accommodation and managers flat for the Barn Brasserie - No objections in principle subject to neighbours' views, but we would ask the Borough Council to consider the impact on traffic and the encroachment of buildings on the open countryside.
- 081252 Wishit, Broad Green – erection of a conservatory - No objections subject to neighbours' views.
- Licence Warrens Farm, Brook Road – variation to an existing goods vehicle operating centre for 7 vehicles and 0 trailers – Cllr Fairs declared a personal interest and did not comment - No objections subject to neighbours' views. It is noted that this response was made after the closing date for responses.

Approvals

- 081156 Braziers, Dowsland Green, Coggeshall – change of use of existing agricultural land to paddock and erection of stables, tack room and open barn – approved subject to 11 conditions.
- 081189 11 Lower Langley – single storey extension to rear – approved subject to 3 conditions.

081218 Hightrees, The Street – provision of new family room in existing garage to reduce double garage to single. Addition of side door to garage and erection of rear conservatory – approved subject to 4 conditions.

8. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE AND SHOP

Cllr Traube said that the issues regarding the shop closure would be discussed at the special meeting on 9th September at 8pm. Cllrs Williamson and Bartleet agreed to obtain details of the community shop scheme and possible sources of funding. The meeting would be advertised in Round and About, on the web site and on the notice board

Cllr Traube said that he had received confirmation from Post Office Ltd that the post office in the village will close on 1st October. He spoke to a representative from Post Office Ltd who said that they are considering whether or not a relocation of premises was appropriate, or an outreach service, or a complete closure. The likelihood is an outreach service and the use of the doctor's surgery in the village hall was discussed. Cllr Traube said that the local newspaper had contacted him regarding this and they were advised that the likely outcome was an outreach service. The clerk was asked to reply to the formal letter from Post Office Ltd and note the details regarding an alternative service and ask that this be put in place by 2nd October to ensure continuity.

Cllr Traube said that Royal Mail had written to him advising that the mail box has to be re sited away from the village post office. It was agreed that the new location should be outside the village hall in Greenfield Drive, and the clerk was asked to reply asking for a meeting to discuss the specific location, and also to ask Royal Mail for a full size free standing mail box as the post office is closing and there is now no facility to post parcels. The clerk was also asked to write to Lord Hanningfield, Leader of Essex County Council and advise him of the position regarding the closure of the village post office.

9. GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

The meeting was suspended

A parishioner advised that the Youth Activity Club opens on 12th September. No funding has yet been obtained and they have little funds at present. The Essex Boys Club license for police checks for volunteers cost them £80. The meeting continued.

It was agreed that the sum of £164.21 can be paid for the Club's insurance policy until 31 March 2009 with Norwich Union for contents, employers liability, public liability and personal accident and the parish council will be invoiced direct.

10. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

The clerk reported that 5 parishioners had kindly volunteered to take part in this scheme, and as the scheme required 6 plus a co ordinator, it was agreed that another article seeking volunteers would be placed in Round and About.

Correspondence from Essex County Council Highways Department was presented advising that the Vehicle Activated Sign appeared to be set correctly and that the speed surveys would be undertaken at the original site and near the sign later this year. The clerk was instructed to ask Highways to check that the sign was working correctly.

11. PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

It was agreed that as the post office is to close on 1st October, then the notice board should be relocated to a new site at the top of The Chase and Cllr Williamson agreed to investigate this.

It was also agreed to relocate the bench outside the post office to a new site outside the Village Hall, and Cllr Traube agreed to liaise with the handyman regarding the precise location.

12. VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed to write to the treasurer Mr J Springate and to express the council's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Traube said that he was disappointed that he had to arrange for the preparation of quotations for the works to the allotments at a late stage so that the application for grant funding could be submitted on time. He asked that members follow through issues that they had agreed to deal with.

A request for a shed on plot 7B was agreed.

Advice had been received that some plots are not being worked and it was agreed that Cllr Coy be asked to review the use of all the plots and that he provide a report and recommendations for the next meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

-From Awards for All confirming that a grant of £5,000 had been agreed towards the cost of a new pathway from Lower Langley to the school. Cllr Traube said that he was obtaining two further quotations for the works, but had provisionally spoken to Colne Contracts who confirmed that they could undertake the job before the winter.

-From Colchester Borough Homes who asked to attend a parish council meeting to give details of their initiatives for the community such as the co operative purchase of oil. It was agreed to invite them to the October meeting.

-From the loss specialists acting for our insurers in the claim against the parish council for alleged damage to a property by tree roots, confirming that the claim has been settled.

-From Essex County Council giving details of the Tree Initiative – it was agreed to publicise this in Round and About. Cllr Fairs agreed to contact the Essex County Council tree specialist to understand what native trees are recommended for the area.

-From a parishioner expressing concern at the cancellation of the 7.50am bus service on route 70 which was given without notice, asking the parish council for support in retaining this service. Cllr Traube said that this situation had been investigated with Essex County Council and as this is a commercial route and not a contracted route, and as the service is not strongly supported, there is little that can be done to prevent this service from being withdrawn.

The meeting was suspended.

The transport representative supported this view, and discussed the matter with the parishioner who wrote the letter.

The meeting continued.

Cllr Traube said that Essex County Council met the statutory rural requirement of 2 journeys into and 2 journeys out of Colchester with the service number 83. For services outside that, including the service number 70, Essex County Council has no jurisdiction. It can only be saved if service no 70 became a contract bus or the parish council supported it with funds. Cllr Traube said that the transport representative would write an article for inclusion in Round and About Great Tey with his support.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

A parishioner expressed concern with the state of the footpath to the right of the houses in Lower Langley which appear to have been affected by tree roots. The clerk was asked to write to Colchester Borough Council to see if it is their liability and Cllr Maxwell agreed to investigate the ownership of the trees which appear to have affected the footpath.

A parishioner asked whether the parish council would be prepared to part fund with Chappel Parish Council the balance of the cost of a defibrillator which will be used by a new service involving local members of the public suitably trained who will react to ambulance calls for emergency medical assistance. The proposed cost to Great Tey Parish Council is £175 and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The meeting was resumed.

15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllrs Traube and Fairs agreed to visit the occupier of Nuts End in The Chase following a request that a hedge on the boundary with the Old Playing Field needs cutting back.

Cllr Williamson said that the judging of the Best Kept Front Garden Competition had been completed and it was agreed that a first prize of £20 would be given to both the best large garden and best small garden. She will give details to the clerk who was asked to prepare certificates and invite all certificate winners to the October meeting when they can be presented.

Cllr Traube said that he had received a complaint regarding the length of the grass at Harold Fairs Recreation Ground and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to cut it as soon as possible. The number of cuts of the Old Playing Field and the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground should be established when the contract is next reviewed. It was also noted that the Great Yard had not yet been tidied up and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman for a completion date regarding this.

Cllr Traube said that some tiles need replacing on the youth hut at the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to attend to this.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.35 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....

