

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 9th December 2008 at 7.30 pm

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th November 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Nice gave details of the anti vandal paint that was proposed for the village hall on the surrounds to the flat roof and stated that it could only be used over 8 feet off the ground. The clerk was asked obtain the views of the Health and Safety Officer at Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and also our insurers.

Cllr Traube said that the articles that were not published in Round and About in December would be published in February and Cllr Maxwell agreed to resubmit the necessary items.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that new clear rubbish sacks can be picked up from Angel Court near the Town Hall. The next 3 weeks collections would include paper and glass, with plastic next collected on 5th January.

A new Consultation to Site Developments is to be sent out.

He considered that elderly people are being marginalised by the lack of Information Technology knowledge. Could a scheme in the village help with on line grocery ordering or with emailing relatives abroad. Cllr Traube said that this is being considered with the possible internet access at the village hall for the youth activity club.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
101018	I Dyer – grasscuts 2 x OPF, 2 x HFRG	£ 151.80	£ 19.80
101019	I Dyer – handyman	£ 161.00	£ 21.00
101020	I Dyer – handyman	£ 298.06	£ 38.88
101021	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 335.66	
101022	Sibley Electrical Ltd – village hall notice board electrical work	£ 136.47	£ 20.32
Youth Activity Club Account			
100003	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 16.00	

It was agreed that covering funds be obtained from the Youth Activity Club before the above cheque is released.

(b) It was agreed that a transfer of £1,000 be made from Instant Access Account to Community Account. The clerk reported that the resultant balance of the Community Account was credit £910.63 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £14,363.94. This included the funds of £5,000 from Awards For All for the new pathway from Lower Langley to the school yet to be done. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement.

7. REGISTRATION OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND WITH THE LAND REGISTRY

Cllr Traube said that he had received a letter from a firm of local solicitors who had said that H.M. Land Registry is actively promoting a campaign to encourage parish councils to voluntarily register ownership of all their land holdings, and they detailed the benefits of registration.

The clerk confirmed that he had written to H.M. Land Registry for more details and to establish if or when registration is compulsory, together with details of the cost. It was agreed to consider this as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was also agreed to include in the 2009/10 budget the registration costs of the pump yard, and to advise the Trustees of the Village Hall of the costs for registration of The Village Hall, The Old Playing Field and The Harold Fairs Recreation Ground.

8. PLANNING MATTERS Applications

081977 Salmons Farm, Salmons Lane – change of use of existing house for Class C2 use as accommodation for six adults with learning difficulties – no objection subject to neighbours' views.

Approvals

ESS/41/08/COL Honeylands Farm, Little Tey – change of use of an industrial unit to a waste transfer station to be used for the recycling of waste arising from highways gullies, including the construction of concrete pads, sumps, ancillary equipment, office and welfare facilities – approved subject to 6 conditions.

Cllr Traube said that he had received complaints from parishioners regarding mud and frozen water on Chappel Road outside the development site at Homagen. He had spoken to the Building Inspector, Planning Department at CBC and complained to Essex County Council (ECC). ECC then arranged for the road to be cleaned up.

9. ADVERTISING BANNERS IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Fairs declared an interest as landlord of the business who has erected a banner on the fence on entering the village from A120. Cllr Williamson said that there was also an advertising board at the top of Coggeshall Road apparently on Highway land. Cllr Fairs said that he would arrange for the large banner to be removed. In view of other advertising boards in the village it was agreed that the clerk establishes from Planning Department at CBC the legality of signs off the highway but on highway land regarding size, and length of time the sign(s) have been displayed.

10. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE

Cllr Traube said that there were no developments to report. The post office will remain open indefinitely and the outreach service is in suspension.

11. GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

Cllr Nice said that a grant for £3,983 had been approved by ECC Youth Opportunity Scheme. Grassroots funding had been declined. An application to Awards For All had been returned as they wanted more information. Membership is now 21 and when it is 25 the club will open every week instead of fortnightly as at present. They had undertaken a health and safety review at the village hall and the review queried the lack of a fire drill muster point. Cllr Traube said that individual users identify a suitable muster point and the fire regulations had been approved by Essex Fire Service. The clerk was asked to establish with the Fire Service whether or not a single muster point is needed for all different user groups such as pre school, youth club and elderly peoples' bowls club.

A discussion followed regarding a broken ceiling tile. Cllr Traube asked whether there is a need for the parish council bank account for the club in view of the other bank account that the club is operating. The £1,000 grant from the Village Weekend and the grant monies of £3,983 should pass through the parish council bank account. Cllr Nice agreed to obtain clarification from the Youth Activity Club committee.

12. THE HANDYMAN

The contract was reviewed and some amendments were made. It was agreed that alternative tenders would not be sought, and the clerk was asked to send the amended contract to Mr Dyer for his agreement and completion of the contract by both parties.

13. GRASSCUTTING

The clerk advised that 4 invitations to tender had been sent out for the grass cutting contract of the Old Playing Field and the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground. 2 tenders had not been returned and having considered the 2 tenders received it was agreed to accept the tender from Mr Dyer for £66 for both cuts which was the lowest quotation. This was subject to clarification that his public liability insurance cover and employer's liability cover was acceptable. The clerk was instructed to obtain this clarification from our insurers Allianz.

14. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Traube said that a grant of £6,500 for installation of water to the allotments, the replacement of fencing, new gates and a notice board, had been obtained from CBC and ECC and the clerk was thanked for his assistance in obtaining this grant.

The quotations for water installation were considered and Cllr Fairs declared an interest as a director of Tey Farm Systems Ltd. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Tey Farm Systems Ltd for £2,718 plus VAT to include the water authority costs. This quotation was the lowest of the three quotations received.

The quotations for fencing were considered and it was agreed to accept the quotation from G & J Barron for £3,520 plus VAT. This quotation was the highest of the three quotations received, but the other 2 quotations did not include ground clearance and the contractors did not visit the site to establish costs. It was agreed not to proceed with the new gate and the notice board at present.

The clerk was asked to advise Tey Farm Systems and G & J Barron and ask them to undertake the work in early January.

Cllr Williamson and Cllr Coy agreed to investigate the costs for the water usage for the allotments so that a new plot rental can be agreed. Cllr Traube said that a review of the terms and conditions and the contract should be undertaken at the same time as the rental review.

Cllr Coy agreed to advise the clerk of the sizes of the allotment plots so that a comparison of costs can be obtained from other local councils.

15. TREES

Cllr Williamson said that a parishioner had suggested that a tree planting scheme be undertaken in Greenfield Drive and Chappel Road. Cllr Traube said that there were potential problems as approval from Highways and probably house owners was required. Cllr Maxwell said that he had discussed this proposal with some residents of Greenfield Drive and that they did not agree with these proposals. It was discussed and considered not practical. Cllr Fairs said that he had contacted CBC and expressed interest in the free trees offer and it was agreed to discuss this at the January meeting.

16. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that he had reviewed the annual maintenance requirements and he will circulate details to members. The electrician will quote separately for replacing broken lights and clean them, and this was not considered parish council expenditure.

17. LITTER PICK IN MARCH

Cllr Coy proposed that the parish council supports the annual litter pick next March and this was agreed, with a barbeque as before. Cllr Coy will make the arrangements and place an article in the next edition of Round and About Great Tey. The clerk was asked to obtain the date from CBC.

18. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Essex Association of Local Councils advising that under the Freedom of Information Act the parish council must have a publication scheme. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

From Neighbourhood Action Panel advising that the next meeting is at Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall on 14th January at 18.45pm.

From CBC asking whether the parish council require a copy of the electoral register. This was agreed.

From Colchester Association of Local Councils (CALC) replying to the parish council’s email earlier this year, and detailing the benefits of membership of CALC. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

A parishioner referred to the development at Homagen, Chappel Road and said that it appears that the house has been moved to the field at the rear of the house plot, and asked whether this was in line with the planning agreement. Cllr Traube said that this was correct and that the structure in the field was to be converted to a barn and was not for domestic habitation.

The meeting was resumed.

19. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Coy said that the balance of the annual donation to Round and About was required, and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Williamson agreed to be a new signatory on the mandate for the bank account for Round and About. Cllr Coy confirmed that this account was not in the name of the parish council.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.25 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....

