

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr R Fairs (Chairman), Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice, and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, 6 members of the public, Colchester Borough Cllr P Chillingworth; PCSO Rayment

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Coy, Cllr Traube

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Williamson said that she had met Mrs Dyer regarding the siting of the benches on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the litter pick in the borough would be mid March. He said that objections have been made regarding the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework but these objections are not supported by the borough.

He then left the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended.

A parishioner referred to proposals for the reinstatement of the youth club and asked for the support of the parish council.

PCSO Rayment said that an application for funding could be made to Essex County Council by the prospective members. She said that there was support for a club in the village, but funding was available for clubs for ages 13-17 and it was proposed that the Great Tey club would be for ages 11-17. A questionnaire seeking parishioners' views and support will be published in Round and About. She also said that if funds are received then they would need to be passed through the accounts of the Parish Council.

A parishioner said that he was obtaining a quotation for the refurbishment of the tennis courts on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground and may present proposals to the parish council requesting support towards funding proposals to other bodies.

The meeting was resumed.

6. GREAT TEY YOUTH CLUB

After some discussion Cllr Fairs said that the council supports the proposal of the reinstatement of the youth club and agree that any funds received can be passed through the parish council bank account. One or two parish councillors will work with those preparing the proposals for the youth club.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Funds received – EDF Energy – wayleaves

£ 49.57

The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
100928	Close Invoice Finance Ltd – resurfacing of play area by Monster Play – replacement of chq 100920 destroyed	£ 33,901.78	£ 5,049.20
100929	I W Dyer – handyman	£ 198.53	£ 29.57
100930	I W Dyer – grasscuts to OPF & HFRG in Oct & Nov	£ 141.00	£ 21.00
100931	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 322.16	
100932	One Stop Designs Ltd – renewal of annual web site hosting fee replacement chq for 100926 lost & stopped by bank	£ 45.00	£ 6.70
100933	One Stop Designs Ltd – domain names for web site	£ 19.98	£ 2.98
100934	Essex County Council – cost of tree report	£ 352.50	£ 52.50
100935	Great Tey Village Hall Mgmt Comtee – part of hall insurance	£ 1,500.00	
100936	Colchester Borough Council – cost of Code of Conduct advert	£ 48.00	

The clerk reported that after the reported transactions had been made, the balance of the Community Account was credit £1,350.53 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £1,204.69. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement. It was agreed that the level of insurance cover for the village hall was satisfactory, and that cheque number 100926 could be stopped as it was lost in the post, and that cheque number 100932 could be issued as a replacement.

It was agreed to approve the appointment of Alun Williams or a panel of the Audit Commission as external auditor for 5 years commencing with 2007/08 accounts.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

- 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 – no objections subject to neighbours' views.
- 080080 Pippins, The Street –two storey extension to existing dwelling– no objections subject to neighbours' views.
- 080197 Homagen, Chappel Road – demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a new 4 bedroom house. Resubmission of 072631 – we do not object to this proposal but consider that it is a large development on a narrow plot, and our comments are subject to neighbours' views.
- 080227 12 Lower Langley – single storey front extension – no objections subject to neighbours' views.

Approvals - None

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that following our complaints to them, Monster Play have offered a reduction of £300 on the invoice for the play surface works and he proposed that this be accepted. This was agreed subject to approval from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) that the gate post is acceptable, and Monster Play paying for any ROSPA costs in connection with this approval. The post is not perpendicular and was not straightened by Monster Play before the new surface was installed. The clerk was asked to clarify this with ROSPA and then Cllr Fairs agreed to write to Monster Play after the cost of any ROSPA report was known.

Cllr Williamson said that the School Parent Teachers Association (PTA) have requested that hatching be made on the car park so that cars do not park near the play area, nor the hedge near the school. The PTA would contribute towards the cost involved. Cllr Maxwell expressed concern with the car parking and Cllr Fairs said that Cllr Traube is obtaining a quotation to extend the width of the footpath and this could be taken into account when the quotation and the actual plan of the footpath was received.

Cllr Fairs said that graffiti had appeared in the play area and it was agreed that councillors would form a working party to clear this.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Following an enquiry concerning the third party insurance cover, the village hall management committee presented their response. It was agreed that the clerk would ask the committee to obtain confirmation from their insurers that the reply was acceptable to them and then we would respond to the enquirer.

Cllr Fairs said that Cllr Traube had obtained a quotation of £725 plus VAT from Mr Hermon for the annual repairs and redecorations to the hall with one or two more works required in addition to that. This quotation was agreed.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee will be on 29th February at 7.30pm.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs said that the clerk had contacted Anglian Water making a request for a quotation for the connection of water to the allotments, and it was necessary to complete a detailed technical application form. Cllr Fairs proposed that he contact Developer Services of Anglian Water and try to meet them and agree their requirements. This was agreed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From the Editor of Round and About Great Tey advising that the Village Weekend is to be on 28th & 29th June.

From a parishioner asking whether the parish council intend to mow the grass on either side of The Great Yard footpath. It was agreed that Cllr Traube would contact him to discuss.

From Essex County Council Tree Officer stating that following the tree report completed, the trees should be inspected every two years, and that costs should be around £100 although it was difficult to estimate costs in two years time.

From Colchester Police District Commander saying that the police wish to have regular contact with the parish council and attend at least two meetings a year or have regular contact. They will be in contact with us.

From a parishioner saying that a resident of Brook Road has removed the council fence at the rear of the property and installed a gate for access onto The Old Playing Field. It was agreed that the handyman be asked to reinstate the wire fence, and that a copy of the letter sent last year to all residents be forwarded. This letter stated that there was no right of access to the Old Playing Field from the rear of the property. This letter would be sent to Cllr Fairs beforehand for approval.

From a parishioner requesting funding from the parish council of £240 for 4 members of a village band to use the village hall at a special rate until the Village Weekend. Cllr Fairs said that this request had been received too late to be an agenda item for a decision, but asked members for comments. A comparison was made with this proposed funding of £240 for a band of 4 people where there is no budget, and the council had budgeted £500 towards the village weekend which benefited the whole village. Comment was made that if assistance was given, then the parish council would set a precedent to fund other organisations within the village beyond the existing village hall subsidy of £2 per session currently given to all village hall users. This new organisation would also have the same subsidy. The parishioner at this stage withdrew the request.

From Rural Community Council of Essex inviting applications for Village of the Year. It was agreed that the parish council would complete an application and the clerk was asked to do this. It was agreed that the council would not enter the competition for Green Village of the Year.

From Essex County Council inviting parish councils to a service for Local Government at Chelmsford Cathedral.

From Essex Association of Local Councils giving details of a course entitled Roles and Responsibilities.
From a parishioner giving some ideas for the improvement of the present tennis courts on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground. Cllr Fairs said that the council would support any proposals to improve village facilities and awaits the further proposals mentioned in public questions earlier.

From Cunningham & Lindsey, loss specialists, concerning the alleged tree root claim by the insurers of 8 Farmfield Road, asking for the present position regarding the tree works. It was agreed that the clerk replies, forwarding a copy of the report for the trees in the parish for which the parish council have responsibility, stating that we have asked a tree surgeon for a quotation for the remedial works proposed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended.

A parishioner said that the road works at the railway bridge on Moor Road will be completed around February 24th. Following the installation of kerbs the road will be 14 feet wide at the bridge. Members expressed concern and the clerk was asked to write to Highways expressing concern that in view of the bends in the road they considered it dangerous that vehicles could not pass there.

A parishioner expressed concern that the contract for the payment of pensions may not be renewed with the Post Office by the Government, and in view of the correspondence that the parish council had with Mr Bernard Jenkin MP in 2006, could the parish council write again to him expressing concern. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to write.

A parishioner expressed concern with the proposal for hatching in the car park near to the school. She said that children do not understand hatching and they will run across the car park. She said that the footpath should be made wider. Cllr Fairs said that we are obtaining a quotation for that.

A parishioner asked for clarification on the council's reply to Cunningham & Lindsey. This was done.

A parishioner said that bushes on the Lower Langley grass area were overhanging the footpath. The clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to cut the bushes further up from the hedge recently cut.

The meeting was resumed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

In his absence Cllr Coy wrote, following the advice from Colchester Borough Council that the litter pick will be on 15th March, and asked that volunteers meet at the village hall at 9.30am and he will obtain the equipment. Cllr Fairs said that he will look at preparing the barbeque food. He said that the council has budgeted for £75 for food and drinks. The clerk was asked to request Cllr Coy to obtain the provisions and liaise with Cllr Fairs.

Cllr Williamson said that the best kept front garden competition would be judged in July.

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

Chairperson..... Date.....