

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th February 2009, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr R Traube (Chairman), Cllr M Williamson.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 6 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr C Nice.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th January 2009 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Cllr Traube said that he had a further discussion with the fire officer regarding the muster point for the village hall, and was advised that either a central muster point or individual muster points for the various users are both acceptable. He suggested that Cllr Williamson raises this matter at the annual general meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee on 6th March and see what the users prefer.

Cllr Traube said that the new footpath from Lower Langley to the school entrance has been completed satisfactorily with no adverse feedback.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth referred to a question raised by a parishioner at a previous meeting regarding Colchester bus station safety and said that the Borough Council had followed the Health and Safety Executive's recommendations during the refurbishment of the bus station. He suggested that any further issues were taken up direct with the Borough Council department involved and details were given. He advised that the Borough Council have withdrawn their half of the funding for the Colne Valley Countryside Project, and suggested that the parish council may wish to write to the Borough Council expressing concern. He confirmed that the dispensary was being retained at the Earls Colne Doctors' surgery.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Credits received – Youth Activity Club Account

From Youth Club Account	£ 1,000.00
From Essex County Council YOF fund	£ 3,983.00

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/	of which VAT:-
101024	R Appleton – web site hosting (altered from Bedot Media)	£ 36.50	
101029	Colne Contracts – new footpath	£ 6,316.95	£ 823.95
101030	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 335.66	
101031	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – part hall insurance	£ 1,565.00	
101032	I Dyer – handyman	£ 55.35	£ 7.22
	Youth Activity Club Account		
100005	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£ 32.00	

The clerk left the meeting and the room whilst the following items were discussed.

(c) The clerk's annual salary was reviewed. He had offered to take no increase in salary this year. It was agreed that an increase of £172 pa to a new figure of £4,200 be paid with effect from 1st April 2009. The handyman's rate was reviewed, and it was agreed that an increase of 50p per hour to a new figure of £9.50 per hour be paid.

(d) The clerk had advised that since he took up the position in 2003 he had used his own computer. However it was now inoperable and needed to be replaced. The council agreed to purchase a new computer at a cost of £457.93 plus VAT of £69.69 and agreed to reimburse him accordingly.

Chq 101033 payee D Williams for £526.62 was authorised.

(e) The budget for the year to 31 March 2010 reviewed at the last meeting was reconsidered in view of additional expenditure, and after discussion expenditure of £21,906 and income of £21,215, including precept and grant, was agreed. A revised precept of £10,150 was agreed, which is an increase of 4% and will result in council tax of £26.58 per band D property (£25.26 last year).

(f) It was agreed that a transfer be made from Business Premium Account to Community Account of £8,700, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £968.26 and Business Premium Account Cr £4,186.70. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

7. REGISTRATION OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND WITH THE LAND REGISTRY

The clerk advised that correspondence from Thompson, Smith & Puxon, Solicitors, in 2000 indicated that they were holding various deeds relating to parish council land. The clerk was asked to write to them and establish what deeds they hold, and also to ask them for their costs firstly to release the deeds to us, and secondly to undertake the first registration of the various parcels of land.

8. PLANNING MATTERS - Approvals

081502 Bell House, The Street – removal of existing staircase and replace with new, safer staircase.
Creation of first floor bathroom – approved subject to 5 conditions

Refusals

081923 Land to the Rear of Pendleton, The Street – erection of 1.5 storey dwelling with integral garage
(resubmission of application 081538) - refused

081977 Salmons Farm, Salmons Lane – change of use of existing house for class C2 use as
accommodation for six adults with learning difficulties – refused

Other Matters

Cllr Traube said that parishioners had expressed their concerns to him regarding the alterations to the barn at Homagen, Chappel Road, to which the parish council had originally objected. The clerk had therefore been asked to write to the Borough Council Planning Office, and the Enforcement Officer had responded, saying that she will investigate.

9. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

Cllr Traube referred to the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations, and to the refusals to include some sites in the parish in the sites allocated. It was agreed that the clerk is instructed to respond to the Borough Council saying that the parish council is pleased to see no expansion to the village envelope.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Traube said that the parish council has now received written confirmation of the funding of £6,500 from Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council for the installation of water to the allotments and the replacement of the fencing, and the contractors have been advised in writing. Cllr Coy will be asked to arrange site meetings with both contractors as soon as possible so that the jobs can be completed in the next month. Cllr Williamson said that she had obtained details of allotment rentals charged locally and she will circulate these. Cllr Coy will be asked to investigate allotment rentals and make proposals at the next meeting.

11. YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

Cllr Traube said that the grant funds had been received from Essex County Council and the parish council awaits the submission of invoices for payments.

12. DROP IN CENTRE

Cllr Traube said that the drop in centre was being held on the second Thursday of each month from 2pm until 4pm in the village hall. It is an excellent community project and he thanked the organiser Norma Tregoning. A member of the public had written to the council suggesting that the council funds the hire of the village hall, and Cllr Traube asked members whether they wished to consider this, noting that the project was aiming to be self funding. A discussion followed and all members agreed that this was a good project for the village and should be encouraged. It was agreed that Cllr Traube discusses the matter with Norma Tregoning, and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

13. LITTER PICK IN MARCH

Cllr Traube said that the date been revised to Saturday 14th March. Cllr Coy will be asked to make the arrangements for equipment etc with Colchester Borough Council, advertise in Round and About, supply the food and drink etc and to ask Cllr Fairs for the barbeque. Cllr Traube agreed to cook the food.

14. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the annual maintenance will start next Monday and he will liaise with the contractor. The contractor will paint on the anti vandal paint and also install the relevant signs. The total cost of the maintenance works will be £550 plus VAT and the Village Hall Management Committee have agreed to fund this. He asked Cllr Williamson to raise the question of the funding of the annual maintenance at the annual general meeting of the Management Committee and ask that the Management Committee fund this maintenance each year. A maximum figure of £1,000 can be agreed if the Committee so wish.

15. NEW PROJECTS

Cllr Traube had asked members to consider any projects that could be taken further for possible applications for funding.

Cllr Williamson said that she had received enquiries for the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

Cllr Traube said that the Great Yard needs a makeover as the path is subsiding and cracked, and the railings needs to be plasticised. The council would need to establish the ownership of the strip of land either side of the path.

Cllr Traube said that the council could consider new play equipment, and Cllr Williamson said that she would ask the school for their views.

Cllr Traube said that increased storage space in the Village Hall may be needed in the future.

The clerk was asked to put an article in Round and About seeking the view of parishioners regarding new projects.

16. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From The Forestry Commission enclosing details of a tree plan which affects our parish or an adjacent parish. Cllr Bartleet agreed to look at the details.

From Mr I Dyer regarding the role of the handyman, which was read out. He was thanked and the clerk was asked to reply.

From Essex County Council seeking comments on the draft Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy for Schools and Colleges. It was agreed that the Transport Representative would liaise with the Chairman and reply.

From The Rural Community Council of Essex, inviting applications for the Calor Essex Village of the Year. It was agreed that the parish would enter, and the clerk was asked to complete the entry documents. The competition application for Best Kept Churchyard is to be forwarded to the Parochial Church Council.

From Essex County Council enclosing the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Public Consultation.

From the Fire Safety Officer forwarding details of a small place assembly, a fire risk assessment template and a fire log template. The clerk was asked to send these to Cllr Nice and Cllr Williamson.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i)The bridge over the stream on the last bend before the railway on the Aldham to Marks Tey road is being altered and the road may be closed shortly. Cllr Traube asked the clerk to contact the local parish clerks to see if any works have been notified before contacting Essex County Council.

(ii)Who has responsibility for potholes. Cllr Traube said that the parish council advises Essex County Council Highways who tend to fill major potholes but resurfacing is not done. The recent bad weather has caused a lot of problems and he asked if there were any specific issues. None were raised.

(iii)I am a member of outreach group who prepares the village directory and I own a small business but I do not speak for outreach. We recently approached all existing entries in the 2007 directory to see if they wanted to be in the 2009 directory, and confirmed to them that there would be no charge. Now the council are approaching some businesses asking for a donation towards costs. I believe that donations should have been requested at the same time as businesses were approached for directory entry. I do not disagree with donations but consider that all profit making businesses should be approached that are in the directory. Cllr Traube said that as a parish council we have to look at ways of getting further income.

(iv)The outreach group is grateful to the parish council for the £500 donation. We have given some thought to advertising and will consider it more in 2011 when the directory is next reviewed. The next edition will have at least 4 pages of paid advertising which should pay for the directory and the outreach group should not require any donation from the parish council. Cllr Traube agreed with that statement.

(v)The directory is being prepared at a small cost and I do not consider that we should seek donations. It should be removed from the parish council web site at present as only a small part of the directory is on it. Cllr Traube said that the parish council aims to put all of the directory on the web site.

Cllr Maxwell said that he had been asked to seek donations from businesses in the directory and that he would like guidance from the parish council as he had a variety of responses to his requests for donations. Cllr Williamson said that the parish council does not have editorial input. Cllr Traube said that in that case he proposes that the parish council gives the donation of £500 for the directory and does nothing else and does not seek any donations for printing. If the outreach group wants the parish council to place the directory on the parish council web site then the information in the correct format should be provided. Any donations received to date should be passed onto the outreach group. This was agreed.

(vi) What is happening with the tree planting. Cllr Traube said that Cllr Fairs had collected the trees from Colchester Borough Council and he will arrange a working party to plant them.

The meeting resumed

17. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Williamson said that she will attend the annual general meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee on 6th March.

The clerk referred to the parish council entry in the forthcoming Village Directory and in view of the bi annual election of a chairman in May it was agreed to ask the outreach group if the final publication and printing of the directory could be delayed until after the May meeting.

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

Chairperson.....

Date.....