

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8th January 2008, at 7.30pm

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 and 1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Borough Cllr Chillingworth

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th December 2007 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following funds were reported as received

Colchester Borough Council – grant for play area	£10,195
Essex County Council – grant for play area	£ 2,805
Cory – grant for play area	£10,000

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
100923	Gt Tey Village Hall Mgmt Comtee – hall hire	£ 48.00
100924	Gt Tey Village Hall Mgmt Comtee – hall users subsidies	£ 304.00
100925	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 322.16
100926	One Stop Designs Ltd – renewal of annual web site hosting fee	£ 45.00 £ 6.70
100927	Round and About Great Tey – balance of annual donation	£ 460.00

(c) It was agreed that a transfer of £1,000 be made from Instant Access Account to Community Account, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £958.13 and Instant Access Account Cr £1,149.29. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) The Annual Budget and Precept was reviewed. It was agreed to budget for a donation to this year's village weekend of £500, budget for an increase the clerk's salary to a new figure of £4,028 pa., and increase the hourly rate for the handyman to £9. The budgets for 2008/09 were agreed and these show expenditure of £16,090 and income of £14,036. The precept for 2008/09 was agreed at £9,758, an increase of 3.9% and in line with inflation. This necessitates Council Tax of £25.26 per year for a band D property, an increase of 45 pence per year. The Colchester Borough Council annual grant received with the precept will remain the same at £4,090.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Approvals

- 072721 2 Saucelands, Coggeshall Road – two storey rear and single storey side extension – approved subject to 3 conditions
- CC/COL/153/07 Great Tey C of E Primary School, Chrismund Way – retention of one relocatable classroom until 31.10.12 without compliance to condition 1 (time limit)

Withdrawn

- F/COL/06/1662 Marshalls Farm, Chappel Road – erection of single storey dwelling to replace residential twin unit caravan – application withdrawn

7. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs reported that the installation of the wet pour surface had been completed and there were some issues that needed acknowledgement from Monster Play Systems ((Monster) before the invoice was settled in full. These issues included the non use of Herris fencing, the incorrect use of the school facilities by workmen, the required repair of gate posts and some damage to the car park surface. The spongy surface to the play area is covered by Monster's guarantee. He proposed that he write to Monster and advise them that we will retain £1,000 plus VAT from the contract price pending them correcting the outstanding issues and deducting the cost of the non use of the Herris fencing. We would then reissue a cheque to Monster for £33,901.78. This was agreed. The previous cheque number 920 for £35,076.78 to Monster was destroyed and this will increase the bank balances quoted earlier. Following complaints from the public, it was agreed that the clerk again asks the handyman to cut the hedge from the school to Lower Langley as soon as possible.

8. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that he will arrange to meet Mr L Hermon to obtain a quotation for the annual maintenance of the village hall.

Cllr Coy suggested that hirers of the village hall are given contact numbers in an emergency for heating problems, and it was agreed that this will be presented to the Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting by the parish council representatives.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Williamson said that alterations were required to the rent and rules for letting the allotments, but that they should be delayed until the quotation for the installation of water to the allotments had been received. This was agreed and will be a future agenda item.

The clerk was instructed to contact Anglian Water Development Services again and ask them where the water connection will be and we will arrange for a quotation to install water to the allotments from that point.

The clerk reported that one vacant allotment had been offered to a parishioner who had not replied. He was asked to write and advise that if we have no reply in 14 days we will withdraw the offer and offer the plot to the next person on the waiting list.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended.

A parishioner asked if the parish council can say when the best kept front garden competition will be held this year. It was agreed that the parish council will announce the month when the competition will be held.

The meeting was resumed.

The member of public left the meeting.

10. FUTURE PROJECTS

Cllr Traube said that the parish council has been advised by Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council that funding schemes were again being available this year, and that we should consider what schemes should be supported. Cllr Traube suggested a scheme to widen the footpath from Lower Langley to the school. It was agreed that he arrange a quotation.

Cllr Maxwell suggested the repair of the fence that between Lower Langley and the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground, but after discussion it was agreed not to proceed with this.

Cllr Traube referred to a request from a parishioner and suggested the illumination of the village hall notice board. It was agreed that he arrange for a quotation.

Cllr Coy suggested the installation of a bottle bank, but after discussion which included the probable surrounding mess and noise it was agreed not to proceed with this.

Cllr Coy suggested the installation of water to the allotments together with fencing around the allotments. It was agreed that the clerk obtain a quotation for the installation of water to a point, and Cllr Fairs will obtain a quotation for the installation of water from that point to the allotments. Cllr Coy will obtain a quote for rabbit fencing around the allotments.

Cllr Maxwell suggested the refurbishment of the tennis court. It was agreed to explore further and Cllr Coy will establish whether any refurbishment costs have been calculated.

11. WEB SITE

The clerk advised that he had been able to access the web site to update some areas, and that he should be able to maintain the site overall in future. This was accepted.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Essex County Council enclosing the tree report the council had requested. It was agreed that we reply and ask how frequently we monitor the trees, and ask for an indication of the cost of monitoring. It was also agreed that the report is sent to Mr R. Fordham and ask for a quotation for the remedial works required.

From Allianz Cornhill asking for a copy of the tree report. It was agreed that the report is forwarded to Allianz Cornhill advising them that we are seeking a quotation from a tree surgeon.

From a parishioner asking whether the possibility of a heart defibrillator, which was previously discussed, is to proceed. It was agreed to reply that this would not proceed. He also asked whether the village hall notice board could be illuminated, and it was agreed that a quotation would be obtained. He also asked whether the footpath between the estate and The Street could be cleared and the overhanging trees cut back. It was agreed that the clerk would ask the property owner to arrange for the trees to be cut back and then ask the handyman to clear the footpath.

From Colchester Borough Council Park & Recreation Officer saying that the conifer trees near the electricity sub station in Greenfield Drive are tall but not dangerous. He does not propose any action and the trees will be monitored as part of the routine programme of tree inspections.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Traube said that the three trees opposite Fairview and High Trees in The Street are overhanging the road, and it was agreed that the clerk asks Highways to arrange for the pruning of the trees.

Cllr Traube said that he attended a Code of Conduct meeting held by Colchester Borough Council Monitoring Officer. He said that the issue of a declaration of interests should be noted by all councillors, and that if an issue arises regarding a family connection they should declare the connection. Also the dealing of complaints is devolved to local level.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.15 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....