

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th January 2009, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Fairs, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice, Cllr R Traube (Chairman)

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 3 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr M Williamson

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Fairs declared an interest in item 9 as he is the owner of the land where an advertising banner is displayed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 9th December 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Borough Council are either disposing of or storing satisfactorily all recyclable items. In response to an enquiry regarding the lack of guidance to the parish regarding any cap on precept increases, he advised that the cap for the Borough Council budget was an increase of 3.5%. He was asked about the health and safety supervision at the bus station in Colchester and whether it was included in the Borough Council budget. He said that statutory requirements should be followed and if there is a complaint the Borough Council will respond. He will make enquiries and respond further. Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Credits received – EDF Energy - Wayleaves £ 50.97

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT:-
101023	Round and About Great Tey – balance of annual donation	£ 570.00	
101024	Bedot Media Group – web site hosting and domain renewal	£ 36.50	
101025	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 335.66	
101026	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£ 48.00	
101027	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – club subsidies	£ 308.00	
101028	I Dyer – handyman	£ 95.60	£ 12.47
	Youth Activity Club Account		
100004	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£ 32.00	

(c) It was agreed that a transfer be made from Business Premium Account to Community Account of £1,500, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,067.84 and Business Premium Account Cr £12,878.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) The external auditor's certificate, which was not claused, regarding the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 was shown to the meeting. This will be displayed on the parish notice board.

(e) The budget for the year to 31 March 2010 was considered, and after discussion expenditure of £21,891 and income of £21,065, including precept and grant, was agreed. A precept of £10,000 was agreed, which is an increase of 2.5% and will result in council tax of £26.18 per band D property (£25.26 last year). It was agreed that the clerk's salary and the handyman rate will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. REGISTRATION OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND WITH THE LAND REGISTRY

The clerk advised that the parish council land which is currently unregistered, can be registered with the Land Registry without using solicitors, and the cost for registering the Pump Yard land, The Great Yard and other parcels of land would be £30 for each parcel. A valuation would be required for the Old Playing Field. Cllr Fairs said that an informal valuation could be obtained. It was agreed in principle to proceed to first registration and the clerk was asked to establish ownership of parish land, and the location of the deeds and report back.

8. PLANNING MATTERS - Applications

081923 Land to the rear of Pendleton, The Street – erection of 1.5 storey dwelling with integral garage – resubmission of application 081538 – After considerable discussion it was agreed to reply as follows:- we refuse this application on the basis that it is not in keeping with the existing listed buildings that surround it. It is in a conservation area which as a parish council we wish to protect for future generations. The design of a modern building is not appropriate in any way to the existing structures.

082133 11 Lower Langley – single storey rear extension – No objections subject to neighbours' views.

9. ADVERTISING BANNERS IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Fairs said that the banner on the side of the road at the entrance to the village had been taken down, and no further concerns were raised.

10. YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

Cllr Nice said that the club wish to retain the bank account in the name of the parish council and that they will pay in £1,000. It was agreed that cheques would continue to be drawn against invoices. Cllr Nice said that Essex County Council had agreed a grant of £3,986 from the Youth Opportunity Fund, and this would be received shortly. He also said that the club was on the waiting list for an allotment since April last year.

11. VILLAGE DIRECTORY

It was agreed to make a donation of £500 to cover the cost of the Village Directory for 2009 and this amount will be included in the budget for the financial year from April 2009 to March 2010. It was not agreed to pay an additional £130 to prepare a copy for insertion on the web site until the amount of donations towards costs has been established from local businesses which Cllr Maxwell agreed to deal with, and the clerk was asked to work further with the web designer regarding a copy for the web site.

12. ALLOTMENTS

The clerk said that written confirmation from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) regarding the grant allocation was expected at the end of January, and he was asked to obtain this confirmation and in the meantime advise the fencing contractor that the council would like the work done in February. It was agreed that Cllr Coy would be asked to meet with the contractor at a site meeting and also arrange an allotment holders meeting.

13. TREES

Cllr Fairs said that he was collecting 10 free trees from CBC on 24th January and will inspect the top of the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground for the best location for these trees and arrange a work party.

14. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the cost of the annual maintenance works is £550 and that the works would be undertaken in the February half term week. The Village Hall Management Committee would be asked to cover this cost and also subsequent annual maintenance costs. Cllr Traube said that the Health and Safety Manager at CBC had responded to our enquiry and he confirms that anti vandal paint can be applied to the village hall in line with the guidance previously advised, and he recommends that prominent signage is put up. This will be done when the paint is applied by the contractor. Cllr Traube advised that a reply had been received from the fire officer regarding the muster point and he will discuss this further with the fire officer and report back.

15. LITTER PICK IN MARCH

A date of Saturday 21st March was agreed. Cllr Coy will be asked to make the arrangements with Colchester Borough Council and advertise the date in Round and About. Cllr Fairs agreed to cook the barbeque.

16. COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

It was agreed to join the association and to pay the £35 annual subscription. The clerk was asked to advise the association chairman and to alter the annual budget to include this figure.

17. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE – none

18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

- (i) A parishioner said that there was no sign outside Fitzwalter House, Moor Road and local residents are often seeing cars parked on their drives and the car occupants asking them for the location of the property. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the owners of Fitzwalter House and ask them to kindly install a double sided sign.
- (ii) A parishioner asked for the date of the annual general meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). It was agreed that the council would liaise with the VHMC and the date would be advised to all village hall users.
- (iii) A parishioner said that the BT public telephone is broken. Cllr Traube said that he would investigate this.

19. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Fairs asked if a salt bin could be provided at Moor Farm, Moor Road because of the severe road bend. The clerk was instructed to ask Essex County Council Highways.

Cllr Traube said that the bush outside 13 Lower Langley has overgrown the path from Lower Langley to the school. The clerk was instructed to ask Colchester Borough Council to attend to this as it is on their land.

Cllr Traube said that the new footpath work has now started and should be completed within one week.

Cllr Traube asked members to review any projects that they consider should be the subject of funding applications for the forthcoming financial year.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.05 pm.

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