

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr S Brook, Cllr R Fairs (Chairman), Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr M Williamson.  
Clerk Mr D Williams, Essex County Council Cllr A Brown, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth  
and 1 member of public attended.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk advised that letters had not yet been sent to Brook Road residents concerning the new fence to the Old Playing Field (OPF), and that they would be sent shortly. Cllr Fairs said that he will meet with the owner of Nuts End to discuss her request that bushes and trees be cut back from the fence between her property and OPF.

## 5. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Fairs said that as Cllr Coy had not attended a meeting for the last six months then he automatically ceases to be a councillor in line with the regulations. Cllr Coy was thanked for his contribution to the parish council. Colchester Borough Council have advised that as elections are due in May, then the parish council can co-opt a replacement without the need for an election now. Mr Stephen Beesley was nominated by Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Williamson, and co-opted unanimously as a parish councillor. He took his seat and was welcomed by all.

## 6. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Planning Department will charge for pre application advice in future. He asked the parish council to consider by the next meeting whether there were any projects in the parish that would benefit from S106 income which is derived from any future planning approvals in the ward that would have as a condition of approval a requirement to pay funds towards a local project under a Section 106 agreement. The projects would need to be associated with recreation, playing fields, open areas etc. It was agreed to look at replacing the play area equipment and Cllr Fairs agreed to approach Playdale and Wickstead for quotations.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

## 7. REPORT FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Essex CC Cllr Brown said that Essex County Council (ECC) is filling empty salt bins, and she asked to be advised of any empty bins in the parish so that this could be arranged. She understands that the refilling of salt bins is in addition to the request for one tonne of salt. Cllr Fairs asked for clarification whether or not the parish council has authority to grit pavements and if so is this by a dispensation from ECC. He said that the guidance from ECC on the web site was not clear on this issue and referred to conflicting guidance received from Essex Association of Local Councils. It was agreed that details regarding these issues will be sent to her for action.

Essex CC Cllr Brown said that the question regarding the responsibility for issuing bus tokens being returned to the Borough has not yet been clarified.

## 8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The following funds have been received - Allotment rentals £ 75.00

b) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101174	BeDot Media Group – web site hosting	£ 39.98
101175	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 358.33
101176	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 48.00
101177	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – user subsidies	£ 334.00
101178	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation re churchyard	£ 300.00
101179	I Dyer – handyman	£ 77.33 £ 11.52
Youth Activity Club Account		
100032	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 14.00

(c) It was agreed to transfer the sum of £1,000 from Business Saver Account to Community Account. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 906.99, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £1,516.33, and Business Saver Account Cr £6,807.18. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) The budget for the year to 31 March 2012 was considered. CBC have decided to reduce their grant from £4,090 to £2,060. After discussion the budget was agreed showing expenditure of £16,049 and income of £15,520, including precept and grant. A precept of £12,530 was agreed, which is an increase of £2,030 reflecting the reduction in the CBC grant of the same amount. It will result in council tax of £32.78 per band D property (£27.47 last year), being an increase of £0.10p per week. The clerk was asked to place an article in Round and About covering this.

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

(e) The clerk’s annual salary was reviewed. It was agreed that no increase be awarded this year in view of budget constraints and the figure remains at £4,300 pa.

(f)The handyman’s rate was reviewed, and it was agreed that no increase be awarded this year in view of budget constraints and the figure remains at £9.75 per hour. The clerk then returned to the meeting.

(g) The treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee has advised that hall rates are being increased and asked whether the subsidy to parish users of the village hall will be increased. After consideration it was agreed to keep the subsidy at £2 in view of the reduction in the CBC grant.

**9. PLANNING MATTERS**

Cllr Fairs said that there were no applications or approvals. Correspondence received regarding recent applications at East Gores Farm was read out and discussed and the clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

**10. OLD PLAYING FIELD** – No management matters

**11. VILLAGE HALL** – No management matters

**12. ALLOTMENTS** – No management matters

**13. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr Fairs said that he had obtained a quotation of £200 plus VAT for the tree works on the side and top of the hedge by the path to Lower Langley from an agricultural contractor. It was agreed to accept this quotation, and that the works are completed on a frosty weekend to prevent damage to the grass, and a working party will be arranged to clear up the clippings.

**14. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Maxwell said that he was updating the volunteers list and details of training are awaited from Essex Police.

**15. EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Cllr Fairs said that the Emergency Plan had been circulated to councillors. It was agreed that either Cllr Bartleet or Cllr Fairs would attend the next Borough Emergency Planning Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The Emergency Plan can then be updated.

**16. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE** - None

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

None

The meeting resumed.

**17. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION** - None

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.28 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....