

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th July 2010, at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr S Brook, Cllr R Fairs (Chairman), Cllr A Maxwell,
Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 3 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Coy

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Bartleet declared an interest in minute 5 as one of the cheques is in payment of his invoice for parish paths partnership.

Cllr Fairs declared an interest in minute 7 as he is a director of the company contracted to install the water to the allotments.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 8th June 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Traube said that he had obtained a report on the crumbling of some roof tiles which said that no action is needed unless the tile is cracked and there is a water leak. He is awaiting a quote and recommendation for the possible rendering of the front wall of the hall.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that Colchester Borough Council (CBC) is re-looking at the delivery of the Courier in rural areas, and a new issue is due shortly.

He said that there is a new strategy for enforcement of planning decisions which will be robust.

The new government has abolished the Regional Plan, and so the Local Development Framework Core Strategy for new houses is to be reviewed.

Details of scams and fraudulent activity are to be circulated.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth referred to the recent contact from CBC regarding the possible withdrawal or reduction of the revenue grant, and said that this had been driven by the need to save money. A considerable discussion followed when councillors expressed their concern. Cllr Traube said that if this long standing grant was reduced or withdrawn, then some savings could be made to cover some of this, but the precept would have to be increased to cover the shortfall for essential expenditure. Colchester Association of Local Councils (CALC) are replying collectively to the consultation and the parish councils should respond to the consultation by 23rd August. A parishioner said that the public toilets were closed at Colchester Bus Station on a Saturday. Cllr Traube said that the Borough Council has a duty of care to the passengers and Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he would investigate the problem.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the pre school committee had advised him that they wish to proceed with the fencing around the village hall during the summer holiday with C & W Fencing Ltd at a quotation of £5,200 plus VAT. Of this £2,685 is available from the recently approved Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and Essex County Council (ECC) grant fund. The balance of £2,515 is available in the pre school cash reserves. Cllr Traube said that C & W have undertaken other council contracts, and he would oversee the fence installation to ensure that it complies with ECC Highways requirements. Cllr Fairs agreed to confirm the quote amount and seek a reduction in price. Cllr Traube said that he would contact CBC planning department to establish their agreement to this project and to establish that planning permission is not required. It was agreed that the estimate from C & W Fencing could be accepted for payment by the parish council once the quote amount and the planning permission situation has been clarified. A representative from the pre school committee said that their funds would be paid to the parish council when requested.

Cllr Fairs agreed to investigate the damage done to the ceiling tiles in the main hall.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/	of which VAT:-
101129	Playsafety Ltd – ROSPA report on the play area	£ 98.71	£ 14.71
101130	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£ 48.00	
101131	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – user subsidies	£ 428.00	
101132	G & J Barron – parish paths partnership	£ 53.58	£ 7.98
101133	R Browning & Son - parish paths partnership	£ 293.28	£ 43.68
101134	H J Fairs & Son - parish paths partnership	£ 403.26	£ 60.06
101135	A R Dann T/A F Percival & Sons - parish paths partnership	£ 229.83	£ 34.23
101136	J & C Rayner Farms Ltd - parish paths partnership	£ 447.68	£ 66.68
101137	C A Blackwell (Farms) Ltd - parish paths partnership	£ 109.02	£ 14.22
101138	J E & F A Bartleet - parish paths partnership	£ 191.06	£ 28.46

101139	D Williams – clerk salary	£	358.33	
101140	Campaign to Protect Rural England – annual subscription	£	29.00	
101141	Rural Community Council of Essex - annual subscription	£	55.00	
101142	Colchester Association of Local Councils - annual subscription	£	35.00	
101143	I Dyer – grasscutting, 2 x OPF, 2 x HFRG	£	155.10	£ 23.10
101144	I Dyer – handyman	£	131.75	£ 19.62
Youth Activity Club Account				
100027	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£	28.00	

(b) It was agreed that a transfer of £2,200 be made from Business Saver Account to Community Account, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,039.93, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £1,656.33, and Business Saver Account Cr £5,595.70. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Cllr Bartleet and Cllr Maxwell confirmed that they had reviewed the parish council insurance policy and cover and agreed that apart from the reference to the tree report, all items appeared to be satisfactory.

8. PLANNING MATTERS – Applications

- 100744 Broad Green Farm Cottages, Broad Green – Domestic menage and stabling, garage and store – no objections subject to neighbours’ views.
- 101346 Wish It, Broad Green – two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – no objections subject to neighbours’ views.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs referred to the proposed installation of the water supply to the allotments, and said that all is in place and they are waiting for Anglian Water, who are overdue to complete the water connection. He is pressing them to do this.

Members agreed to give a plot holder notice to quit as a request to work the plot made in March has not been complied with. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to another plot holder who is not fully working the plot asking whether they wished to retain the plot as there is a large waiting list. If they wished to retain the plot could they please fully work it.

10. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL REVENUE GRANT

Cllr Fairs said that this had been discussed at length earlier in the meeting. The chairman of CALC has written stating that a collective response to CBC regarding the consultation for the Revenue Grant will be sent when responses from various parish councils had been received. A letter was read out from West Bergholt Parish Council to CBC regarding the consultation and further letters will be forwarded to members when received. The clerk was asked to reply to the correspondence from the chairman of CALC, saying that we will respond to the consultation to CBC and send a copy to them. The clerk was asked to draft a reply to the consultation and send it to Cllr Brook with the budget, for onward transmission to members to consider at the next meeting. The consultation closes on 23rd August.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that he is yet to see the handyman regarding a quotation to fence off the tennis courts. He is also to ask the handyman to fix the bench that was previously outside the former post office to a new location outside the front of the village hall.

The ROSPA report on the play area equipment was discussed, and Cllr Fairs agreed to also see the handyman and ask him to do the repairs requested in the report. The clerk was asked to clarify with ROSPA what are the obstacles that are mentioned in the report on two items of equipment.

Cllr Fairs said that he will obtain a quotation from a tree surgeon regarding the work required on the trees near the entrance.

12. OLD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fairs read out correspondence from the parish council’s solicitor in response to our enquiry regarding the fence between the rear of some Brook Road properties and the Old Playing Field (OPF). The solicitor said that regular letters to the occupiers of the properties was sufficient to prove no legal right of way from their gardens to the OPF. He recommended a properly constructed fence and registration of the Parish Council’s title at the Land Registry.

The clerk was asked to reply, saying that the council were considering a fence and asking for the cost of registering the title at the Land Registry. Cllr Fairs agreed to obtain a quotation for the fence and this item will be considered at the next meeting.

13. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Essex Record Office, advising that they wish to return copies of the plans of the parish of Great Tey made in 1811 and would like to arrange an official handover. It was suggested that the local historian become involved, and she will ask the vicar of the parish to see if these copy records could be made available in the church to the viewing public.

From Essex Police, giving an update on the Community Speed Watch. This was handed to Cllr Maxwell.

From Essex Association of Local Councils – asking the parish to complete a broadband survey. It was agreed that the broadband delivery is below adequate. The clerk was asked to respond.

From ECC Highways advising that the Bus Pass Scheme passes from CBC to ECC responsibility next April. A poster was enclosed for the parish council notice board regarding the consultation process.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

- (i) The transport representative said that he will ask ECC what is required of parish councils regarding the consultation for the change in responsibility of the issue of bus passes.
- (ii) The transport representative showed a letter from ECC regarding the non running of a local bus service on Monday 21st June and the administrative reasons for this.
- (iii) There is dangerous fly tipping of a chair on Tey Road. The clerk was asked to contact CBC Street Services and ask them to remove it.
- (iv) If CBC have difficulties with the distribution of the Courier, could the parish distribute it when Round and About is distributed and the parish be paid for this. The clerk was asked to contact Borough Cllr Chillingworth regarding this.

The meeting resumed.

14. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Bartleet asked if the clerk could write to the Village Weekend Committee and congratulate them on arranging a successful weekend.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

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