

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12th July 2016, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Barron, Cllr Beesley (Chairman), Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson.

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 5 members of the public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fairs, Cllr Hamer

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 14th June 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(i).A parishioner said that he waited for a bus for 25 minutes in Osborne Street Colchester and it did not arrive so he hired a taxi at a cost of £14. He telephoned the bus company who advised that the bus did run. The following week it arrived 25 minutes late. The driver did not know the route and he had to be directed by the parishioner who had to stand by the driver contrary to health and safety issues. The driver required training and asked for his support..

(ii) A parishioner said that he had waited for a bus for 15 minutes in Colchester and said that vulnerable elderly customers have been stranded in Colchester and have had to pay taxi fares of £14. He asked what is the policy for the refund of bus fares.

Members asked the clerk to report this to Essex County Council, establish the policy and procedure for refunds, and put the results in Round and About.

(iii) A parishioner said that he was disappointed with the Colchester Borough allocation of Preferred Sites for Great Tey in the Local Plan. There is potential to sort out traffic speeding problems, create a conservation or dog exercise area, and improve access and use of the Old Playing Field, and he suggested a site meeting with the Parish Council.

(iv) A parishioner said that the Parish Council need to look at the Local Plan of Preferred Sites and asked if the Parish Council would support the idea of joining other parish councils to have a larger voice in responding to the Borough Council, and Marks Tey, Feering, Kelvedon and Copford were mentioned. There is a need to insist that the infrastructure is in place before houses are built.

(v) A parishioner asked if the Parish Council has considered the ACOM various options plans for West Tey. There is no consideration for transport.

(vi) A parishioner said that with the new development at Tollgate the bus service at Osborne Street Colchester cannot operate properly and the bus station should be moved.

The meeting was resumed.

3 members of the public left the meeting.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth joined the meeting.

5.PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Williamson referred to the recently published Local Plan Preferred Options. She said that she would like to see more development in Great Tey. The 17 houses proposed in Brook Road are not enough. The village is mature, and both the pre school and the primary school struggle with numbers of pupils. Small village schools are under threat, and more development might improve the bus service and help the pub. The shop has been gone for some years. Great Tey needs more houses, especially affordable housing and smaller size houses. She asked that this is an agenda item for next month.

Cllr Beesley suggested that councillors arrange an informal meeting in the week commencing 25th July to discuss the Great Tey and West Tey proposals prior to the next parish council meeting. Members agreed and the clerk was asked to place an article in Round and About advising parishioners that these proposals will be discussed at the next meeting. He was asked to submit a draft of the article to members for approval beforehand.

6. REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the consultation period for the Local Plan has been extended to 16th September. Great Tey is regarded as a sustainable village in view of the development proposed. A discussion followed regarding the proposed West Tey development and the transport and the infrastructure that is required. Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

7.FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were approved for payment:-

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
101558	I Dyer – grasscutting OPF and HFRG	£ 184.80	£ 30.80
101559	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard grass cuts	£ 750.00	
101560	D Williams-clerk salary £462.91 less PAYE £184.80	£ 278.11	
101561	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	
101562	Great Tey Village Hall Committee – hall hire	£ 57.00	
101563	Rural Community Council of Essex – subscription	£ 66.00	£ 11.00

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £20,779.18, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

8.VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Beesley said that the village hall manager had advised that she has obtained a second piano free of charge for the hall and she will place an article in Round and About asking if anyone knows who donated the original piano so that it could be returned if required.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson referred to the ROSPA report and the possible restructure and replacement of the play area. One quotation has been received for this, and Cllr Beesley said that in view of the amount a further two quotations should be obtained, and this matter will be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr Williamson said that an item of play equipment had recently been vandalised and broken beyond repair. The quotation from the handyman for £100 to repair the bench recovered from the tennis court area, and relocate to where the picnic bench was situated on the concrete pads was accepted. The clerk was asked to establish when this job can be completed.

The handyman has noted that the repair to the boards of the arched bridge in the play area is not proceeding and suggests that the parish council takes advice. Cllr Williamson said that this item was not regarded as high risk on the ROSPA report, and members agreed to leave this for the overall restructure and replacement of the play equipment.

It was agreed to proceed with the quotation from the handyman for £790 plus VAT to repair the bridge in the play area which was accepted at the May meeting and then cancelled at the June meeting. This is because the handyman had already purchased materials for the job. The clerk was asked to remind the handyman that the job should be completed within 4 weeks of the second instruction.

In view of the number of jobs recently requested, the clerk was asked to send a summary to the handyman of the jobs and the due dates for completion, and send a copy to members.

10. OLD PLAYING FIELD

The locked access to the Old Playing Field was discussed and it was agreed to have three more keys cut for use by parish councillors when required. The clerk was asked to arrange this.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Williamson said that the allotment paths needed to be cut when she visited the allotments 3 weeks ago. The clerk was asked to obtain an update on this and the plot usage, and if required ask the handyman to cut the paths.

12. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The clerk said that the Planning Inspectorate had written to the Parish Council advising that the objection to the upgrading of Footpath 11 Chappel to a bridleway cannot be taken into account as it referred to the destruction of the habitat of wildlife, flora and fauna, and asking if the objection is to be changed. After discussion members agreed to add an objection to the width of the proposed bridleway which is to be 8.5 metres in part and there is no historical evidence to support that. The Planning Inspectorate is to be asked also to confirm that there are no possible cost implications in continuing with this now altered objection.

Cllr Beesley said that the village hall manager has kindly offered a contact who would transfer the information on the parish council web site to Wordpress. Members agreed that the site is 10 years old and looks dated, and agreed. Cllr Beesley said that he would liaise with the contact to control this.

The village hall manager has confirmed that the web site www.greatteyvillagehall.co.uk has been updated, and has asked that links are completed between this site and the parish council site. Members agreed and Cllr Beesley said that he would arrange that.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.36 pm.

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