

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th March 2007, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr R Brewer (Chairman), Cllr A Coy, Cllr W Ford, Cllr R Traube and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams. No members of public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Fairs, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th February 2007 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he had placed an article regarding traffic calming measures in Round and About Great Tey. He also said that he visited the school together with Cllr Williamson and Traube to respond to the letters sent to the parish council from the pupils regarding the low level of the bus service.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Funds received – Essex CC grant for HFRG car park	£ 2,778.00
- Essex CC parish paths partnership	£ 1,308.60

(b) The following payments were approved:-

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/	of which VAT:-
100864	Great Tey Village Hall – insurance contribution	£ 1,400.00	
100865	D Williams – clerk sal £312.83 & postage & printing exp £55.51	£ 368.34	
100866	EALC – purchase of publications	£ 12.48	
100867	I Dyer – handyman	£ 196.23	£ 29.23

(c) It was agreed that a transfer of £2,100 be made from Community Account to Business Premium Account. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,052.19 and Business Premium Account Cr £7,003.58. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) The clerk reported that the Audit Commission had written to advise that Lubbock Fine be appointed as auditor for the financial year 2006/07. Members confirmed that they were in agreement with this proposal.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Approvals

F/COL/06/1648 Site rear of Kalina, Brook Road – proposed storage building (Variation of Condition 3 of Planning Permission C/COL/06/1141 – approved subject to 5 conditions.

7. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the contractor undertaking the annual maintenance and decoration to the Village Hall has said that the bus shelter does not need any maintenance at present, and this will be reviewed again in six months time.

8. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

(a) Cllr Williamson referred to the school's proposal to create a pedestrian entrance and a walkway which was discussed at the previous meeting. She said that the school was reconsidering this proposal and will re approach the parish council in the future.

(b) The clerk reported that two quotations had been received for the provision of an all weather surface to the play area to replace the bark. The third quotation that had been promised had not been received. Members agreed that the existing bark surface was almost unusable at present. The clerk was requested to respond to the two quotes and ask the companies concerned to estimate the average life of the proposed surfacing presuming that it would be used by a pool of 100 children per week. The companies are also to be asked for the annual maintenance cost of the wear and tear. The clerk was also requested to obtain a third quotation and to write to Cory to establish whether they would be interested in funding part of the proposed resurfacing in view of their previous financial involvement. Colchester Borough Council are to shortly advise parish councils whether or not funding for projects such as these will be available in the new financial year.

(c) Cllr Traube said that the handyman has reported flooding near the tennis courts. Cllr Traube considered that this was due to blocked drains. It was agreed that this needed quotations and assessments. The clerk was requested to ask Cllr Fairs to arrange for two contractors to quote, and to establish from Mr P Fairs whether there are any plans for the drainage.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Brewer said that he had placed an article in Round and About Great Tey following the agenda item discussed at last month's meeting. There had been no response and it was agreed therefore that no action be taken.

10. WEB SITE

Cllr Brewer said that the site should be brought up to date and handed over to the parish council at the earliest opportunity. The clerk is making arrangements with Mr Appleton to do so.

11. FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The notice for the forthcoming parish elections will be published on 27th March. Details of the limitations on the publicity and information that the parish council can issue from the notice of the election until polling day were advised to members. It was agreed that the clerk places a notice in Round and About advising parishioners who wish to stand for election as a parish councillor to contact the clerk.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Essex County Council Road Passenger Transport Strategy in response to our enquiry concerning the minimum service levels of the bus service, noting that assistance could be sought to improve access to essential services in the future.

From the Village Hall Management Committee confirming that the parish council may use the village hall and car park on 24th March for the litter pick and barbeque.

From the Village Hall Management Committee advising of an increase in hire charges for the rent of the hall to the parish council for meetings. This was agreed.

From Essex Playing Fields Association seeking renewal of the annual subscription of £25. The clerk was asked to write and seek their comments to the non response of three emails to them seeking assistance with the proposed resurfacing of the play area, and refer the reply to the council.

From a parishioner making observations regarding Round and About, the notice board and the web site, suggesting that Round and About is used for items such as road closures as parishioners from the outskirts of the parish would have to make a special journey to look at the notice board. Other suggestions are made. Also a request is made for a replacement footbridge over a stream on the footpath that begins on the Essex Way opposite East Gores Road. The clerk was asked to thank the parishioner for the comments, mentioning that the road closure notification was received late, and to report the request for a footbridge to Essex County Council Parish Paths Partnership Scheme.

From the preschool asking to use the Old Playing Field for a picnic on 13th May. This was agreed.

From Allianz Cornhill referring to the subsidence claim by a third party for damage at a property in Farmfield Road, and asking for the parish council's policy on tree maintenance. Members agreed to respond by saying that the council rely on the handyman's periodic inspection, the council respond to householders' contacts, and the council review and contact householders regarding boundary hedge and trees. Some householders asked the council to take no action. Half of the playing field backs onto agricultural land.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Traube referred to the subsidence claim by a third party for damage at a property in Farmfield Road. Together with the clerk he met with the loss adjusters acting for the council's insurers. The loss adjuster recommended that the hedge and trees in the corner of the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground near Farmfield Road should be removed and trimmed, together with the removal of an ash tree and the trimming of a willow tree, and that the advice of a tree surgeon be taken regarding the remainder of the hedge. It was agreed that the clerk writes to the council's insurers Allianz Cornhill advising them that we are to appoint a tree surgeon to undertake the works recommended by the loss adjuster. Upon receipt of their reply the clerk was asked to contact Mr R. Fordham and ask him to liaise with Cllr Traube regarding the works to be done.

Cllr Traube said that children kicking a football around the village hall had caused problems for a neighbour. This was noted. He also said that there was no confirmation that the 88b bus service will be retained. Cllr Traube said that the Essex Passenger Transport Strategy were to discuss how the train service can be improved in October. More details were required regarding this.

Cllr Williamson reported potholes in Coggeshall Road, and Cllr Bartleet reported potholes in Brook House Road. The clerk was asked to report these to Highways.

The clerk said that no response had been received from Essex County Council to our enquiry concerning the bus hard standing, and it was agreed that he would write again.

Cllr Brewer said that Cllr Ford would not be standing for re election at the forthcoming parish council election as he is moving from the village. Cllr Brewer thanked Cllr Ford for his support during his time as councillor, and this was confirmed by all members.

Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 10th April 2007 at 7.30 pm.

The parish council meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....