

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th March 2008, at 7.40pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice
Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, 6 members of the public, Colchester Borough Cllr P Chillingworth.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Fairs declared a personal interest in a planning application for Walcotts Cottages, Coggeshall Road if that application was to be discussed. Cllr Traube said that the application had been received too late for it to be an agenda item, and so an extra meeting would be called to discuss this application.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

The owners of the village shop said that the shop is to cease trading and close next month as it is not earning any money. The post office will remain open but they could give 3 months notice to close the post office at any time. A parishioner asked him if the newspapers could be taken over separately, and the owner said that any arrangements would have to be made with the wholesaler.

Cllr Traube invited the owners of the shop to the next parish council meeting when the closure of the shop will be an agenda item and they would be invited to answer any questions from the public.

The meeting was resumed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 12th February 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Fairs said that he had not yet arranged for the graffiti removal at the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground.

Cllr Traube said that he had met with the owner of the property adjoining The Great Yard and it has been agreed that the parish council will arrange for the cutting of the grass on either side of the footpath for two or three times a year, and he will cut it at other times. The clerk was requested to ask Mr Dyer to cut if necessary when he cuts the bank opposite the shop.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that Langham village set up a community shop in a portacabin 3 years ago, and that the Rural Community Council for Essex can give guidance regarding a community shop. He said that white bags are to be issued for all recyclable items. Colchester can make available Olympic training camps for 16 sports. He then left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
100937	R Appleton – web site amendments	£ 10.00
100938	D Williams - clerk salary £322.16 and postages, stationery and printing for year of £80.16	£ 402.32
100939	J & C Rayner Farms Ltd - parish paths partnership	£ 393.39 £ 58.59
100940	L Hermon – village hall maintenance works	£ 1,213.78 £ 180.78

It was agreed that a transfer of £1,200 be made from Instant Access Account to Community Account. The clerk reported that after these transactions had been made, the balance of the Community Account was credit £ 531.04 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £ 11.31. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement. The clerk said that the refund of VAT and the refund of the parish paths partnership payments from Essex County Council were awaited. Cllr Traube said that he had asked for a donation from the Village Hall Management Fund towards the cost of the village hall maintenance works.

7. PLANNING MATTERS Applications

080197 Homagen, Chappel Road – amendment to proposal for demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a new 4 bedroom house. Resubmission of 072631 - no objection subject to neighbours' views.

Approvals

080080 Pippins, The Street – two storey extension to existing dwelling – approved subject to 4 conditions.

8. GREAT TEY YOUTH CLUB

Cllr Nice said that he and Cllr Coy had agreed to meet with the organisers of the proposed youth club and discuss how the parish council can support them with their aim of reinstating the youth club. Cllr Coy said that it appears that capital costs are covered by sponsorship.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that the parish council has withheld £1,000 from the invoice submitted by Monster Play for the new safety surface on the play area pending agreement on our outstanding complaints, the main one being the leaning gate post. ROSPA have confirmed that the post should be corrected. It was agreed that he would ask Monster to correct the gate post within 14 days and we would then settle the balance less the agreed reduction of £300, or that the parish council would arrange for the works to be done, and then we would deduct the cost of that from the above amount outstanding.

Cllr Traube said that a quotation had been received for £5,493 plus VAT to extend and widen the pathway from Lower Langley to the school to a width of 1.2 metres for 76 metres with kerbing. It was agreed that subject to this quotation being competitive, that it be accepted once finance was arranged, and that an application for a grant from Awards For All be made for £5,000, and that the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust be asked to fund the balance of £493. The clerk was asked to complete the application form to Awards For All, and Cllr Fairs agreed to obtain two further quotations for the work.

Cllr Traube said that he had met with the School Parent Teachers Association (PTA) following their receipt of a quotation for £405 to provide hatching on the car park of one metre wide at the rear, and two metres wide on the school side. The PTA will fund £100, the school will fund £200 and the parish council are requested to fund £105. This was agreed. The funds from the school and the PTA will be paid to the parish council and Cllr Traube will obtain full details so that the clerk can confirm the order.

Cllr Traube referred to the possibility of an all weather surface in place of the existing tennis courts and said that one quotation for a complete refurbishment would not get support for funding. A quotation for reduced works for basketball, five a side football and tennis is awaited, but evidence is required that this is needed in the village. Cllr Maxwell considered that the tennis courts are in the wrong place, and Cllr Coy said that support from the village residents was required, and he will arrange for an article to be placed in Round and About Great Tey.

10. VILLAGE HALL

The clerk read out a letter from the insurers of the village hall sent to the parish council by the management committee regarding insurance cover for hirers of the hall, which said that any hirer for a commercial activity requires their own public liability insurance as they are not covered by the village hall's policy. Cllr Traube said that we should thank the management committee for clarifying this, and ask them to ensure that the conditions covered in the letter are clarified in the hiring agreement, and that the letter is available for viewing by any future hirer. This was agreed.

Cllr Coy suggested that a cigarette stubs container is required in at least one external area of the hall, and it was agreed that the clerk advises the management committee of this suggestion.

Cllr Williamson said that she attended the Annual General Meeting of the management committee, and advised that they are considering the installation of thermostat valves on radiators and they await the quotation for a light for the notice board.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs said that there had been no development on the application for the installation of water to the allotments. Cllr Coy said that the fences to the allotments are acceptable. He said that no proposals for the amendment to the rules for plot holders will be considered until a decision is made on the provision of water. He asked whether the best kept allotment will be judged in July, and this was agreed. Cllr Maxwell said that he could arrange for a cup to be awarded.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Colchester Association of Local Councils sending the agenda for the next meeting on 17th March.

From Colchester Borough Council sending details of Village Design Statements and Parish Plans.

From the handyman advising that the fence between the Old Playing Field and the rear of the Brook Road properties needs replacing as the wires have a large number of joins. It was agreed that the handyman is asked to replace this wire and that the clerk sends a letter to all residents of Brook Road whose properties are separated from the Old Playing Field by this fence. The letter is to advise them that we are placing the wire and advise them that the parish council would consider in special circumstances a request for access to the rear of their properties from the Old Playing Field for specific works. The letter regarding no right of access is to be sent to a new resident of Brook Road.

From Cunningham and Lindsey loss specialists regarding the claim for alleged tree root damage claim to a Farmfield Road property, following their receipt of the report for trees for which the parish council have responsibility. They state that the report relates to the general health of trees, and they ask that the parish council deal with the particular trees near this property. It was agreed that the tree surgeon is asked to include these trees in the schedule of works for which he is to submit a quotation.

From Allianz Cornhill, insurers to the parish council, stating that trees must be inspected annually. This was agreed and will be diarised.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended.

A parishioner said that bus passes now start after 9.30am but some services from the village start before 9.30am. He has checked with the bus companies and is awaiting a letter confirming that bus passes can be used for all our bus services.

A parishioner asked the parish council to continue to press for a roundabout on the junction from Great Tey to the A120. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Highways Agency saying that there was great concern in the village and the surrounding area regarding the access onto the A120 from Great Tey and ask whether there are any plans to alleviate this in the short term. A copy is to be sent to Bernard Jenkin MP for his information and support. The meeting was resumed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Traube said that the requested sign to the school at Greenfield Drive will have to be funded by the school. He said that he had again requested a meeting with the engineer involved concerning the unsatisfactory installation of the bus hard standing outside the village hall.

Cllr Traube referred to the reply from Essex County Council Highways regarding the location of the Vehicle Activated Sign. They stated that the present location was the only one available, and that they will arrange for up to date speed data in the new financial year and will advise us of the outcome.

Cllr Coy confirmed that the litter pick will take place on Saturday 15th March, and pickers were requested to meet at the village hall at 9.30am, with a barbeque arranged at the end of the pick.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.20 pm.

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