

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 14th October 2008 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice, Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth, Mr B Udale Colchester Borough Homes,
and 13 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITIONS

Cllr Williamson said that this competition was not judged by councillors, and the judges were impressed by the high standard of gardens in the village. There were two competitions this year for large and small front gardens. Certificates and prizes were awarded as follows:-

Large Gardens

First Prize : Bucklers Farm, Buckleys Lane – Mr & Mrs Bartleet
Second Place : Gulls Farm, Buckleys Lane – Mr & Mrs Jellard
Third Place : Wellmans, Lamberts Lane - Mr A Hales & Ms J Burton
Highly Commended : Orchard House, Lamberts Lane – Mrs Tippett

Small Gardens

First Prize : 4 Tambour Close – Mr & Mrs Clark
Second Place : Dovedale, Moor Road – Ms Holloway
Third Place : Pendleton, The Street – Mr & Mrs Cooney
Highly Commended : A group of houses on Moor Road consisting of:-
Honington – Mr & Mrs Bland; Etheledene – Mr & Mrs Painter, Dovedale – Ms Holloway;
Philken – Ms Smith; and Chrysmund Croft – Mrs Eady & Mr Eady

Specially Commended : Setters, 1 The Street – Mr Watson & Ms Anderson :

11 members of public left the meeting.

4. COLCHESTER BOROUGH HOMES PRESENTATION

Mr Udale was invited to make a presentation to the council of the services that Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) offers to both council tenants and all householders. He advised that there were 17 council owned properties in Great Tey. He was unable to advise how many of those properties had been upgraded recently, or whether any problems with the properties had been advised to CBH by tenants, and he will investigate and report to the council later. Cllr Traube asked CBH to consider helping the over 70 age group with guidance regarding the government support available for this age group.

Mr Udale also advised that preferential rates for all householders had been negotiated with electricity and gas providers and also with bulk oil purchases, and details are to be posted on the parish notice board.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 9th September 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Traube said that a quotation for £180 to £200 had been received from Sibley Electrical Ltd for the cost of lighting up the village hall notice board. It was agreed to accept this quotation and Cllr Traube will arrange for the work to be done.

7. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he had contacted First Bus regarding the withdrawal of the 7.50am bus service on the number 70 route, and they advised that they would not reconsider the decision to withdraw the service. He had also contacted Essex County Council (ECC) but no decision had yet been advised. Cllr Traube said that ECC have advised the parish council that they cannot assist as they could not increase the number of available bus seats for students.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101010	Round and About Great Tey – donation	£ 130.00
101011	I Dyer – grasscuts 4 @ HFRG and 4 @ OPF	£ 310.20 £ 46.20
101012	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 335.66
101013	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 48.00
101014	Mr & Mrs A Bartleet – best kept large front garden first prize	£ 20.00
101015	Mr & Mrs B Clark – best kept small front garden first prize	£ 20.00

(b) It was agreed that a transfer of £1,000 be made from Instant Access Account to Community Account. The clerk reported that the resultant balance of the Community Account was credit £939.12 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £8,812.39. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

- 081696 Cherry Garden, Colne Road – Proposed garden store and car shelter – no objections subject to neighbours' views.
- ESS/41/08/COL Honeylands Farm, Little Tey – change of use of an industrial unit to a waste transfer station to be used for the recycling of waste arising from highways gullies, including the construction of concrete pads, sumps, ancillary equipment, office and welfare facilities – we object to this application as the maximum number of lorry movements per day is 40 and that the A120 is already overloaded with traffic and the facility is accessed via a dangerous junction.

Approvals

- 081119 The Barn Brasserie, The Barn, Brook Road – guest accommodation and managers flat for the Barn Brasserie – approved subject to 10 conditions
- 081252 Wish It, Broad Green – erection of a conservatory – approved subject to 1 condition
- 081314 Marshalls Cottage, Chapel Road – proposed vehicular access and infill of existing access to front of boundary wall/fence – approved subject to 6 conditions
- 081388 Walcotts Cottages, Coggeshall Road – demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of two storey detached dwelling including provision of new vehicle access and parking (resubmission of 080442) – approved subject to 19 conditions
- 081413 Great Tey Stores, The Street – change of use of part of ground floor of premises from retail to residential (resubmission of 080744) – approved subject to 2 conditions

Refusals

- 081509 Salmons Farm, Salmons Lane, Coggeshall – application for lawful development certificate with regards to use of a residential dwelling as a small residential home for not more than six adults with a learning disability

Withdrawn

- 081538 Land to the Rear of Pendleton, The Street – erection of 1.5 Storey dwelling with integral garage

10. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE

Cllr Traube advised that it is anticipated that the post office will remain open until the beginning of next year. He is waiting to hear from Post Office Ltd whether or not they have identified an individual who will run the outreach service.

The move of the post box to the corner of Greenfield Drive and Chappel Road is on hold until the closure date of the existing post office is known.

11. GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

Cllr Nice said that the youth activity club (YAC) has met every fortnight since 12 September with 14 children attending. The children would like to meet every week, but the organisers wish to have fortnightly meetings for the present. There will be a grand opening on 24th October including archery by Essex Boys Club. Cllr Traube asked for more detail regarding this, particularly details of insurance cover, health and safety arrangements, and protection of hall property and buildings, as this appears to contravene the hire agreement.

Cllr Nice said that a donation of £1,000 will be made to YAC by the Village Weekend Committee, and a further £230 net was raised at a recent Race Night.

Cllr Nice said that he had met with the Village Hall Management Committee chairman, and it appears that there is very little new storage space available for the YAC. Cllr Traube said that there should be evidence of longer term usage by the YAC before there is any consideration of alterations to storage.

Cllr Nice referred to a recent invoice of £32 for the hall rental and said that the YAC were not using the bank account opened in the parish council's name but using a previously opened Youth Club account. Cllr Traube said that the bank account opened in the name of the parish council should be used to receive funds raised and proposed that the £164.21 paid by the parish council for the YAC insurance be regarded as a donation and not a loan to the YAC. This was agreed. He also proposed that the remainder of the £500 pledged for insurance is not now available to YAC, and they should be advised accordingly. This was also agreed. Cllr Nice agreed to write to the YAC committee and obtain clarification of the points raised in this minute and send a copy to the chairman and clerk. Cllr Traube said that he attended the Community Money Marketplace and obtained some detail of fund raising sources which may be helpful to the YAC, together with details of the tree planting scheme.

12. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had resigned. He proposed that the council accept the resignation with regret and ask the clerk to write and thank him for all his hard work. This was agreed. It was agreed that a note be placed in Round and About Great Tey asking for a volunteer to come forward to chair the VHMC. Cllr Traube said that there was a broken tile in the ceiling of the main hall, and it was agreed that this should be discussed with the hall user believed responsible.

13. PARISH COUNCIL CONTRACTS

Cllr Traube said that it was some years since the parish council contracts had been reviewed, and that it was necessary to do so as there was a duty to ensure that the council had best value. Accordingly it was agreed that:-

- (a)Insurance – the clerk was asked to obtain an alternative quotation before the renewal was due in May and report back then.
- (b)Internal audit – the clerk was asked to establish the comparable costs from parish councils of a similar size and report back.
- (c)Handyman – the clerk was asked to circulate the job description to members so that it can be reviewed and updated and then reissued.
- (d)Grasscutting – the clerk was asked to send out four requests for tenders.

14. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Colchester Borough Council Planning Department advising that the application number 081527 for Homagen will be considered by the planning committee on 16 October and that the planning officer’s recommendation is approve conditional.

From Mr & Mrs Pearson sending a copy of a letter to Colchester Borough Council Planning Department regarding the planning application for land to the rear of Pendleton, The Street.

From Mr G Argyle regarding the parish council’s advice that the sum of £500 will be considered towards the purchase of a defibrillator when the budgets are prepared in January, and also forwarding a message from the organiser of the defibrillator project stating that the first year’s funding has not been met. Cllr Traube said that the presenter of the project at the September meeting said that the first year had been funded, and this was agreed by all members. Consequently the clerk was asked to reply to Mr Argyle stating that the parish council had not changed the decision which had been made at the meeting following the presentation.

From Colchester Borough Council inviting a representative to an emergency planning evening. It was agreed that the parish council would not attend.

From Essex County Council Highways Department (ECC Highways) advising of a Community Initiatives Fund for Highways expenditure and inviting applications by 31 October. This was considered and it was agreed that there were no issues, but members were asked to send details to the clerk as soon as possible if necessary.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

A parishioner said that he will shortly attend a bus representatives’ meeting and will mention the process regarding the withdrawal of the 7.50 service on the number 70 route and ask if the process can be improved in the future.

The meeting was resumed.

15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The clerk mentioned that damage had been reported to a 30mph repeater sign, and it was agreed that he would write to ECC Highways and ask them to move it away from the existing location which is only 9 inches from a house driveway entrance.

Cllr Traube said that there had been further anti social behaviour of youths climbing onto the roof of the village hall. He asked parish councillors to be vigilant and report any incidents to the police. It was agreed that the use of anti vandal paint be investigated.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....

