

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th October 2009, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs (Chairman), Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson.

Clerk Mr D Williams, Essex CC Cllr A Brown, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 4 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr S Brook, Cllr A Maxwell

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 8th September 2009 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that a new Act meant that every council has to have a mayor or strong leader for 4 years, which may not fall in line with council elections. This will affect parish councils and will start in May 2011. Details of the consultation with parish councils will be forwarded. He said that a Waste and Recycling Consultation and questionnaire will also be sent.

6. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Essex CC Cllr A Brown said that the Essex County Council Portfolio Holder for Transport had approached the Government Minister who advised that there are no funds for the development of the A120 for the next few years. Cllr Fairs said that considerable congestion is caused by the traffic lights at Marks Tey. He said that some agricultural vehicles are too wide to travel on the A120 at Bradwell because of the new traffic bollards. She asked for details to be sent so that these points could be taken up with the Transport Portfolio Holder. Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Funds received

Colchester Borough Council – precept and grant, 2nd half £ 7,120.00

(b) The following cheques for payment were authorised:-

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
101083	Audit Commission – audit fee for March 2009 audit	£ 327.75	£ 42.75
101084	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 350.00	
101085	Sibley Electrical Ltd – village hall sensor light	£ 74.12	£ 9.67
101086	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 48.00	
101087	I Dyer – grasscutting, 4 @ HFRG and 3 @OPF	£ 278.30	£ 36.30
101088	I Dyer – handyman	£ 360.10	£ 46.97
101089	Mrs P Hirst – parish council notice board rental	£ 16.67	
	Youth Activity Club Account		
100018	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 28.00	

(c) It was agreed that a transfer of £5,200 be made from Community Account to Business Premium Account, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,080.36, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £1,908.83, and Business Premium Account Cr £10,293.19. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) Cllr Fairs referred to the new bank mandate that had been submitted to Barclays Bank, and said that Barclays had asked for identification details of the chairman. It would be easier if the mandate was completed again with signatories that are already known to them, and so he proposed that Cllr Traube is chairman for this item. Cllr Williamson seconded this and all agreed. Cllr Traube duly took the chair and it was agreed that a new mandate be completed, with any two signatories authorised to sign cheques and payments, the signatories being Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Traube and Cllr Williamson. The necessary mandate forms were duly completed. Cllr Fairs then returned to chair the remainder of the meeting.

8. PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD AND ROYAL MAIL LETTERBOX OUTSIDE THE POST OFFICE

Cllr Traube said that Royal Mail had contacted the parish council regarding the sub postmaster's request to move the Royal Mail box. He said that he had discussed this with the sub postmaster, and it was agreed that the clerk replies to Royal Mail saying that we understand that the sub postmaster is in discussions with them. The post box will move near to the Village Hall if and when the Post Office closes and the village has an outreach service. Cllr Fairs said that the sub postmaster has asked that the parish council notice board be moved from the front of the Post Office as it is to be redecorated. This has been done, and the clerk was asked to enquire whether the village hall notice board could be used on a temporary basis until the parish council notice board was in the new location. The owners of The Bell House, The Street have kindly agreed that the notice board could be affixed to

their property that fronts The Chase. Planning Department at Colchester Borough Council has advised that advertising consent and listed planning permission are required. The clerk was asked to investigate the cost of this and proceed. Cllr Coy agreed to put a note in Round and About regarding this.

9. PLANNING MATTERS - Applications

091162 25 Chrismund Way – proposed first floor side extension for extended bedroom and ensuite – no objection subject to neighbours' views, and neighbours in Chappel Road should be consulted.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs said that he had met with Anglian Water and had agreed a route to bring the water supply from Brook Road to the allotments. The cost is £589.95 including VAT of £76.95 which is included in his original estimate. He is awaiting agreement from the landowner and will then proceed. A part invoice may be submitted at that stage.

Cllr Coy said that plot 8a was not being worked, and the clerk was asked to write to the plot holder asking that the plot be worked within one month or returned to the parish council for reallocation. Cllr Coy said that a working party will tidy up the allotments in January.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Fairs said that he had received information concerning a solar energy project for the village hall, and it was agreed that he seeks further details regarding this project for further consideration.

12. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Site Allocations and Development Policies Submission Documents were considered. After discussion it was agreed to object to Policy SA H2 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation where it included the Vernons Road Chappel site for 3 pitches in view of the objections raised on the planning application in July which was subsequently refused. The clerk was asked to reply accordingly, and also acknowledge that the Great Tey village envelope has not changed.

13. THE PLAY AREA

Cllr Williamson said that she attended a play area seminar which gave details on funding for developing play areas for children aged 8 to 13. However there is not enough time to prepare an application as a village consultation is required. It was agreed that this project could be considered with funding from other sources, and Cllr Williamson agreed to obtain more information and quotations for the next meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Colchester Borough Council giving details of the Town and Parishes Grant Scheme linked with the Essex County Council CIF scheme. Cllr Traube said that the parish council should consider whether to apply for funding for the fencing around the village hall required for the pre school. It was agreed that he, together with Cllr Fairs, would obtain quotations regarding this from the pre school committee, and that this would be an agenda item for the November meeting, when this project and the play equipment for the 8 to 13 year old children can be considered for a funding application.

From Essex Association of Local Councils giving details of a Roles and Responsibilities Course. The clerk was instructed to ask Cllr Brook if he would like to attend, the parish council would pay the fee of £34.

From Allianz Cornhill confirming that the parish council insurance policy can be amended to provide a tree report every five years as recommended in the last tree report. Cllr Fairs said that the tree surgery work required has been carried out.

From Year 6 at The Primary School asking for permission to use the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground on 5th November for a sponsored run/walk. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to reply and confirm.

The clerk reported that a number of emails had been received asking for the Parish Council's response to the reported dismissal of a member of staff at the Primary School following press and television articles. The replies stated that this was not parish council business as the school is a Local Education Authority School, with the Authority being Essex County Council.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i) A parishioner asked if the parish council would consider a grant towards the First Aid Course being arranged for parishioners. Cllr Traube said that the council see the course as an individual requirement not a parish requirement. The council have already supported the First Responders with £500 to purchase equipment and he proposed that the council decline. This was agreed. Cllr Fairs said that the hall hire would be entitled to the parish council subsidy and the clerk was asked to confirm this with the hall treasurer. The parish council budget is already overspent and the council is not in a position to support.

(ii) A parishioner asked if the parish council would like to enter a team of 4 people for a new carpet bowls league which is to run on Friday fortnights. The clerk was instructed to ask councillors and advise the organiser accordingly.

(iii) A parishioner said that he had problems with the telephone and broadband service, and it was suggested that he complain to the industry regulator, OFCOM.

(iv) A parishioner said that Essex County Council cannot confirm whether or not a bus service will operate on a future strike day, although it operated a service on the last strike day.
The meeting resumed

15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Williamson said that she had been asked by a parishioner who could use the Old Playing Field. She advised that it was open to all. Cllr Coy agreed to put a note in Round and About mentioning this, and also saying that if vehicular access is required, a request will be considered by the Parish Council who hold keys to the playing field. Cllr Coy asked for details of parish council funding for the present financial year for Round and About. The clerk was asked to forward details to him.

Cllr Coy asked if the council wished to take up an offer of free trees from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) if the scheme is to be repeated this year. The clerk was instructed to ask CBC if the scheme is to be repeated this year and it was agreed that if so this should be an agenda item for November.

Cllr Coy asked that next year's litter pick be an agenda item in November.

Cllr Traube asked for the reply to the council's enquiry to Essex Highways regarding the ditch that has been filled in at one of the cottages almost opposite the Barn Brasserie and now used as a parking area. The clerk advised that the Land Registry details are being checked by Essex Highways.

Cllr Traube said that the waste bin in the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground outside the school is not fixed, and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to attend to this.

Cllr Fairs expressed concern at the delays in the repairs to the play area equipment highlighted in the ROSPA and Allianz reports, particularly repairs to two pieces of equipment, and it was agreed that an alternative contractor be used for these two jobs, and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to quote for the remainder and give a timescale for completion of the repairs.

Cllr Traube said that he was disappointed that vandals had smashed a slab on the new path from Lower Langley to the school and had gouged out tarmac which could not be repaired.

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

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