

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th October 2016, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Barron, Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley (Chairman), Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 4 members of the public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th September 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – The clerk read out the agreed parish council response submitted to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) regarding the Local Plan for West Tey. The response was :- Great Tey Parish Council accepts that additional housing is required in the area but it should be controlled in a number of locations and not just in one area in West Tey where road, rail and health infrastructure are already at capacity. Great Tey is one of several villages in the area that would lose its identity if West Tey Garden Community proceeds. This proposed development will affect many people in the area for many years firstly with the construction and then with the increased traffic on the local village roads which cannot support this. We therefore support the report commissioned by Colchester Borough Council which stated that without further major improvements to the A120 and the A12 incorporating a by pass of Marks Tey, only 500 to 900 new dwellings could be built within the existing highway infrastructure. This would not be sufficient to establish a garden community. We note that the existing hospital at Colchester is at capacity being under special measures and could not support West Tey requirements.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(i).Has any response has been received from Essex County Council (ECC) regarding the poor bus service.

Cllr Beesley said that they have acknowledged some problems and have sub contracted some services.

(ii) Why was Heddingham Buses was given the bus contract. There has been another example of a poor bus service.

Cllr Beesley said that we cannot say why they were given the contract.

(iii) Who will liaise with the bus company regarding the temporary closure of Chappel Road.

Cllr Beesley said that we would expect ECC Highways to advise the bus company.

(iv) Buses do not stop at the designated bus stop but they stop in the bus layby and presume that if no one walks through the buses they can depart. Buses do not wait at Great Tey until the allotted time of departure if they arrive early. The bus company should pay taxi fares for all buses that do not turn up.

(v) Has the parish council had the meeting discussed at the previous meeting regarding allotment access.

Cllr Hunt said that the meeting had not yet taken place, but hoped to have it before the next meeting.

The meeting continued.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the locality budget of £6,000 to be distributed by three Borough Ward Councillors is to be distributed at a pro rata per head, which means that £530 is available for Great Tey, and the parish has until the end of January to submit proposals. They would consider a major project which would then reduce payments elsewhere.

He said that he attended a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner, where the emphasis is on anti social behaviour and domestic violence. The number of special constables is to be doubled.

He said that further training is to be made available if required regarding parish councillors' declaration of interests.

He said that CBC had a low response to the survey asking if the parishes would welcome the introduction of wheelie bins to replace black sacks for the collection of household waste. Members considered that wheelie bins would not be welcomed.

A parishioner asked him if CBC is actively looking for a new bus station site, as with the increase in houses being built the bus station at Osborne Street is not fit for purpose. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he would ask ECC Cllr Anne Brown.

6.FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT
101574	D Williams-clerk salary £462.91 less PAYE £184.80	£ 278.11	
101575	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	
101576	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard cuts	£ 375.00	
101577	Great Tey Village Hall Committee – hall hire	£ 57.00	
101578	PKF Littlejohn LLP – external auditor fee	£ 120.00	£ 20.00

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £26,500.76, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The clerk presented the external auditor's report for the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016. This said that the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern.

7. PLANNING

161578 Tey Brook Farm, Brook Road - retrospective application for a glamping site. After discussion the agreed comments were:- We have no objection to this application for a glamping site subject to neighbours' views.

8. BUS SERVICE

Cllr Hamer and Cllr Williamson said that they would attend the Transport Representatives Meeting at the end of October, and the following questions were agreed to be submitted to ECC beforehand to be answered at the meeting:-

1. Why was Heddingham Buses given the bus contract as Great Tey has seen a number of instances of poor service as already advised to Essex County Council
2. Will Essex County Council liaise with the bus company regarding the temporary closure of the Chappel to Great Tey Road from 24 October onwards
3. Why do buses not stop at the designated bus stop in Colchester as they stop in the bus layby and presume that if no one walks through the buses (which is dangerous), they can depart.
4. Why do buses not wait at Great Tey until the allotted time of departure if they arrive early.
5. Why do bus drivers seem to need training regarding the route around Great Tey, as this has been noted by a number of drivers and passengers.
6. Why is the refund policy not clear for buses that do not turn up. We were eventually advised that the bus company will compensate taxi fares for the first and last buses. That affects all services as there is one service out and one service in for Great Tey.
7. When will Great Tey learn the results of the review into our Saturday bus service which at present has a seven hour gap between the outgoing bus to Colchester and the return. We need the reintroduction of the lunchtime return service.
8. Are Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council actively looking for a new and larger bus station as Colchester is expanding fast and more buses are needed.

The clerk said that ECC, in their response to the parish council's complaint of poor bus service, asked for details of other bus service problems. He suggested that an article is placed in Round and About asking parishioners to advise the parish council of the date, timings and details of problems, and members agreed to this.

9. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hunt said that a drain had sunk on Great Tey Road on the bend before The Old Vicarage. Cllr Beesley said that he would look at it and log the problem with ECC Highways if necessary.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Beesley referred to the suggestion from a parishioner that a larger noticeboard is erected at the front of the village hall to accommodate another set of parish council agendas and minutes. Cllr Hunt said that he had not been able to obtain a quotation for a new notice board, and after discussion it was agreed that the existing notice board would be refurbished and made good, with a new back board, and oiled and varnished. The clerk was asked to obtain a quotation and advise the village hall manager.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson referred to the agreement to proceed with the restructure and replacement of the play area and the accepted quotation for £7,789 plus VAT from Playquip. The amount of the quotation was in fact £ 8,777 plus VAT. Members agreed to this revised amount. An email has been received from a parishioner who works for a local play equipment installer offering services. The clerk was asked to reply, thanking for the contact, advising that an alternative quote has already been accepted and advising that we will bear in mind for future works.

Members referred to the recent installation of the bridge in the play area and expressed concern with the fixings used for securing the handrail which have split the wood. They considered that this was a hazard and that a 5% retention should be held back until this has been corrected, with a further cheque written if necessary.

The handyman is to be asked again to provide copies of his employers liability and public liability insurance in line with the handyman contract, and this should be provided annually.

Members have been advised that a car washing business is being conducted on the Recreation Ground car park, and the clerk was asked to write to the person involved asking them not to do this on the Trustees' property.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Beesley referred to the question of access to the allotments through the Old Playing Field (OPF) gate being difficult on occasions. He said that he had looked at the gate from time to time since the last meeting and there was a general blockage of the entrance to the OPF. There is no lock on the gate so a combination lock and chain was not purchased.

Cllr Hunt said that he would visit The Chase with an allotment holder to discuss the issue of access to the OPF. The situation can then be monitored and further action considered if it does not improve.

Cllr Hunt said that the trees on the right side of the allotments have not yet been cut back.

13. GREAT TEY SWIMMING POOL

Cllr Beesley said that a letter had been received from the Swimming Pool Committee together with a copy of an application by the committee for funding to ECC. Members said that they were supportive of this initiative but the parish council is restricted by law to donations to third parties. The Great Tey Village Hall Trust was mentioned and it was explained that this fund was bequeathed specifically for village hall land and assets, but the constitution could be explored. Members agreed to share funding sources and Cllr Hamer agreed to be a link between the committee and the parish council. A more detailed business plan is awaited detailing expenditure to identify areas where the parish council may be able to assist.

14. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From A 120 forum advising details of the next meeting. It was agreed to ask Cllr Fairs if he wished to attend.
From ECC Highways advising details of the temporary closure of the road to Chappel later this month.
From Marks Tey Parish Council enclosing a copy of their response to CBC regarding the Local Plan consultation concerning the proposed development at West Tey. It was noted that our parish council had tried to contact Marks Tey Parish Council whilst the consultation was being undertaken to discuss responses before they were submitted.

15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Hamer declared an interest as a neighbour in the following matter. She said that she had been advised that the building works are proceeding at Marshalls Farm, Chappel Road as outlined in planning application 122076 dated 21 November 2012. After discussion it was agreed that it appears that the development was started within three years of the planning approval.

The clerk said that he had been in contact last month with a parishioner who has offered to transfer the information on the parish council web site to Wordpress. It was important to do this as the parish council are now required to report more information on the web site under new transparency rules and that cannot easily be done with the existing web site. Cllr Beesley said that he would liaise with the parishioner to control this.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.15pm.

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