

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th September 2016, at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley (Chairman), Cllr Fairs, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson.

Clerk Mr D Williams and 21 members of the public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Barron

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3.BEST KEPT FRONT GARDENS AND BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS COMPETITIONS

The chairman congratulated all the certificate winners and said that the time spent working in their garden was appreciated by the village. Cheques were presented to the Garden winners. Certificate winners were:-

Best Kept Large Front Garden

First Prize - Gulls Farm, Buckleys Lane

Second Prize - Greenlands Farm, Lamberts Lane

Third Prize - Braziers, Dowsland Green

Best Kept Small Front Garden

First Prize - 2 Brook House Cottages, Brook House Road

Second Prize - Tey House, The Street

Third Prize - The White House, Brook Road

Highly Commended - 1 Tambour Close

Highly Commended – Purbeck, Chappel Road

Highly Commended - 16 Christmund Way

Best Kept Allotment

First Prize - Plot 7b, M Hird and B Flack

Second Prize - Plot 10a, A Watson

Third Prize - Plot 10b, D Ellis

Highly Commended – Plot 6, A Coy

Highly Commended – Plot 2a, D Frost

The clerk was asked to put these results in Round and About Great Tey. 7 members of public left the meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 9th August 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

6.FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
101567	I Dyer – grasscutting HFRG and OPF	£ 79.20	£ 13.20
101568	I Dyer – grasscutting HFRG and OPF	£ 79.20	£ 13.20
101569	D Williams-clerk salary £462.91 less PAYE £184.80	£ 278.11	
101570	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	
101571	P Jellard – Prize,Best Kept Large Front Garden Competition	£ 20.00	
101572	A Parry-Jones – Prize,Best Kept Large Front Garden Competition	£ 20.00	
101573	I Dyer – replacement play area bridge and play area posts	£1,048.80	£ 174.80

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received except cheque 101573 is Community Account Cr £19,634.97, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

7. PLANNING

162295 Hazelmere, Chappel Road - erection of a single storey rear extension - No objections subject to neighbours' views.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Beesley said that correspondence had been received from a parishioner asking if the parish council are satisfied with the response from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways stating that no work is scheduled to repair Brook Road and Great Tey Road, despite ECC Highways acknowledging that the resurfacing last done to Brook Road failed within six months. Members agreed to ask the clerk to write again to ECC Cllr Brown asking her to assist. The parishioner said that he would travel to see ECC Highways at Chelmsford with ECC Cllr Brown if required. He was thanked for offering to do this.

Cllr Hamer thanked the clerk for obtaining the replacement of the two finger posts at the junction of Moor Road and Chappel Road, and also at the junction of New Barn Road and Earls Colne Road. The clerk said that the latter post had a spelling mistake on it, and he would arrange for this to be corrected in situ and not removed from site.

9. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Beesley said that correspondence had been received from a parishioner suggesting that a larger noticeboard is erected at the village hall to accommodate another set of parish council agendas and minutes This would ensure the largest possible readership of agendas and minutes. He suggested that the Trustees of the Village Hall should cover the cost. Members agreed to consider this under the Borough Councillor's request for proposals for the locality budget. In the meantime Cllr Hunt and the parishioner are obtaining quotations and this can be considered again.

10. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson referred to the ROSPA report and the possible restructure and replacement of the play area. One quotation has been received for £7,789 plus VAT from Playquip, and she has approached a further two providers but no quotations have been received. Pro-scape of Bury st Edmunds were contacted on 25 July, sending them details, and asking for a visit. They were chased on 15th August, we received an acknowledgment, but nothing else. Wicksteed were contacted, they did a site visit on 29 July took notes and photos, promised a quote, chased on 15 August, but no quote. This demonstrates that we have attempted to obtain alternative quotes and consider that we have good value. Members agreed to proceed with the quotation from Playquip, and Cllr Williamson said that she would confirm this to Playquip and ask for the timescale and payment terms. Members agreed to consider the amount of the grant to seek from the Trustees of Great Tey Village Hall to assist with this cost.

Members discussed several outstanding jobs for the handyman and agreed:-

1. Bridge and posts. The fixings used for securing the timber work to the deck need to be countersunk as they protrude above the walkway. The fixings used for holding the vertical timbers to the structure have been cut off and there are some nasty burs which could cut legs, hands, feet etc. The fixings used for securing the handrail need to be countersunk so that they are not a hazard. We ask whether there should be additional support steelwork beneath the deck as there is a considerable amount of flex on the timbers. Cllr Fairs said that he would meet the handyman on site regarding this, and the invoice can be paid once these snagging issues have been resolved.
2. The repair of the restraining wire on the fence and to remove the chain link fence at Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) has been outstanding for some time and is now urgent, and the handyman is asked that this is completed by the end of October at the very latest. At the same time the brambles and weeds that are now growing there should also be removed, and confirmation is requested that this can be done.
3. The job of oiling the swings in the play area and to install polythene pipes on the swing chains is not now necessary as the swings are to be replaced in the refurbishment of the play area which is to proceed.
4. The bird excrement has been cleaned off the wet pour area and the result is very good. There is no need now to reinstate the bird deterrent on the existing play equipment as that will be included in the replacement equipment.
5. The bus shelter requires two coats of wood preservative and should be done before the wet weather returns.
6. The remaining jobs of the bench for HFRG and the allotment trees to be done when time permits.
7. The overhanging trees on Brook Road from the bus shelter to the junction with The Street are to be cut back by the landowners, and the handyman is to be asked to cut back the vegetation that is restricting the footpath there.
8. Some residents have asked if the HFRG could be cut more regularly as the long grass is being rolled over in places rather than being cut, and where cuttings are on the field they are plentiful and restricting residents playing football etc and we ask that more regular cuts are done.

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

11. OLD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fairs said that he has looked at the picnic table placed in Old Playing Field (OPF), and it is in reasonable condition.

The clerk brought the deeds of the OPF to the meeting to try to establish the boundary, and this will be considered at a later meeting.

Cllr Fairs said that he has investigated the history of the land ownership of the OPF which was gifted to the parish, and also the history of the allotments which was gifted to the parish council.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Beesley said that some allotment holders have raised the question of access to the allotments through the OPF gate being difficult on occasions. The question of a combination lock being put on to the gate to the OPF was discussed, and he said that he would look at the gate from time to time, and if locked will purchase a combination lock and chain. 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.

Members agreed that the vacant plot 1B can be rented to a parishioner so that manure can be stored there for use by other plot holders.

13. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Essex County Council advising that there are no funds available to cover the cost of the reintroduction of the Saturday mid day bus service. Essex County Cllr Brown has written on behalf of the parish and been advised that this may be reconsidered after a bus consultation.

From Hedingham Buses advising that they do not have a policy for refund of taxi fares for non running buses unless it is either the first or last bus of the day. Essex County Council has been advised of this and a response is awaited.

From Essex County Council advising of a Bus Transport Representative Meeting in Colchester on 31 October. Members agreed that the parish should be represented and Cllr Williamson and Cllr Hamer agreed to attend.

Questions to ask before this meeting will be considered at the next parish council meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

A letter from the organisers seeking funding for the swimming pool in Great Tey is to be considered at the next meeting.

Three original documents from the deeds to the OPF and allotments regarding Hunt, Lay and Fairs were handed to Cllr Fairs who is investigating the history of the land ownership.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(i) A parishioner said that the HFRG grass cut needs to be done more regularly as the grass is too long and not always cut, and where it is, the cuttings are too much to enable football and other games to be played properly.

Cllr Fairs said that we will monitor the grass cutting programme and have it done more regularly.

(ii) A parishioner said that the bus shelter needs varnishing.

Cllr Beesley said that this is in hand.

(iii) A parishioner asked if there had been a response to the parish council’s complaint to the bus company that some buses did not turn up recently.

The clerk said that a poor response had been received, and we have asked ECC to become involved.

(iv) A parishioner said that the parish council through the councillor responsible for transport, should become more involved with the bus service, including the loss of the Saturday mid day service, as otherwise if it is unreliable, less parishioners will use the bus service, and it will be reduced or lost.

(v) A parishioner said that it is important that as many people as possible respond to the CBC Local Plan regarding the proposed West Tey development.

(vi) A parishioner said that more housing is required in the area but it needs to be spread around not in a garden community where the present infrastructure cannot support it.

(vii) A parishioner said that there is no guarantee that there will be affordable housing in West Tey.

(viii) A parishioner said that a report commissioned by CBC stated that it is understood that without major highway infrastructure including the three lane widening of the A12 and the dualling of the A120 from Braintree to A12 incorporating a potential by pass of Marks Tey only 500 to 900 new dwellings could be built within the existing highway infrastructure and some localised junction upgrades. This would not be sufficient to establish a garden community.

The meeting continued.

15. COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN

Members discussed the issues raised by parishioners in the public questions and statements item earlier, and said that the report commissioned by CBC and mentioned in statement (viii) should be used as a basis for the parish council’s response to the West Tey proposed development. In addition reference to the parish’s loss of identity; new housing should be controlled in a number of areas and not in just one area in West Tey; road, rail and health infrastructure are already at capacity; and the fact that the development will affect people in the area for many years, firstly with the construction and then with the local roads which cannot support the increased traffic.

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

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