# **GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7 pm

Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr C Nice, Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth (later) and 11 members of public attended.

# 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - 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  $12^{\text{th}}$  August 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Williamson said that she had approached the owners of The Bell House who were not averse to the parish council notice board being moved to the wall of their garage at the top of The Chase. The clerk was asked to write to the owners and request their formal agreement, proposing an annual rental of £10, and once agreement has been received, then advise Cllr Traube who will liaise with them and the handyman regarding the precise location. Cllr Fairs said that he had not been successful in contacting the tree officer at Colchester Borough Council to learn of the native trees of the area and will continue his efforts. He said that he would also try to contact the tree officer at Essex County Council.

Cllr Traube said that he had viewed the damaged path at the rear of some Lower Langley properties. The damage appears to have been caused by the roots of some fir trees in the garden of one of the properties. We await a site visit by Colchester Borough Council who has been contacted.

Cllr Coy entered the meeting.

Cllr Traube said that he had spoken to the handyman regarding the grass cuts at Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) and also the cutting of the bush on the pathway in HFRG near Lower Langley.

Cllr Traube said that they had visited a resident whose garden adjoined the Old Playing Field as she had complained that the hedge was overhanging her garden, and he had asked the handyman to cut it back. Cllr Traube referred to the withdrawal of the 7.50am service of the number 70 bus route and said that the parish council would send all written comments received from parishioners to Essex County Council (ECC) and ask for the service to be reinstated. The letter will also state that the parish council is very disappointed that the service has been withdrawn with little or no notice with passengers waiting for the service, being unaware that it had already been withdrawn. ECC would also be asked on what basis were the figures used for the review of this service.

# 5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Funds Received:-			
Awards For All – funds for footpath from Lower Langley to school		£ 5,000.00	
(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment			
Chq.No. Payee An		Amount $(\pounds)$ of which VAT:-	
101003	Ivan Dyer – handyman	£ 154.22	£ 22.97
101004	Ivan Dyer – handyman	£ 324.96	£ 48.40
101005	Ivan Dyer – grasscuts – 1 x HFRG, 2x OPF	£ 103.40	£ 15.40
101006	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 335.66	
101007	Allianz Insurance – play surface insurance to 31.3.08	£ 186.98	
101008	L Tippett – internal auditor	£ 165.00	
101000	Nominiah Union incurrence to 21.2.08 for Vouth Activity Cl	wh C 164 21	

101009 Norwich Union – insurance to 31.3.08 for Youth Activity Club £ 164.21

(c)It was agreed that a transfer of £3,500 be made from Community Account to Instant Access Account. The clerk reported that the resultant balance of the Community Account was credit £802.98 and the balance of the Instant Access Account was £10,792.88. The bank statements were signed by the chairman as evidence of agreement. (d) The clerk advised that the internal audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 had been completed and that the internal auditor had completed the Annual Return on Section 4. The internal auditor's report dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 was read out and a copy given to the chairman. It was agreed that Section 1 of the Annual Return could be completed and dated for the same day that Section 2 and the accounts were accepted by the council, that is 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The Annual Return and papers will now be forwarded to the external auditor.

# 6. PLANNING MATTERS

#### Applications

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 – no objections subject to neighbours' views.

- 081527 Homagen, Chappel Road relocation of existing timber framed bungalow and conversion into barn We object to this application as it is outside the village envelope where it would need to be erected. The building is too similiar to a residential home in appearance and the original application where the building presently sits was for demolition as part of the planning application. Neighbours' views should definately be taken into account.
- 081538 Land to the Rear of Pendleton, The Street erection of 1.5 Storey dwelling with integral garage No comment regarding this application but neighbours' views should definitely be taken into account.
- 081413 Great Tey Stores, The Street change of use of part of ground floor of premises from retail to residential Further comments sent The parish council was sorry the shop had to close but understand that it was under- utilised, which rendered it not viable as a business, and possibly the only way for such a facility to operate would be to be staffed by volunteers. The purpose of the meeting in September is to decide whether a shop, whether full or part time, and possibly a non profit making community shop, is needed.
- 081622 4 Rectory Cottages, Brook Road two storey and single storey rear extension to provide new dining room and additional bedroom, internal alterations to first floor and provision of new window openings to side elevation to bedroom 2 and demolition of existing outbuilding No objections subject to neighbours' views.
  - Approvals None

# 7. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he is to meet some Great Tey parishioners to support a petition to First Bus for the reinstatement of the 7.50am service on the number 70 bus. He said that he had written in support of the new Coggeshall Radio station. He gave details of the Rural Stress Helpline and details will be placed in Round and About.

#### 8. GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB

Cllr Nice said that the club opens on Friday for the first meeting. The committee are waiting for details of the amount of funding from the Village Weekend. They are applying for further funding to two sources. There is a fund raising event of a Race Night on 11<sup>th</sup> October and he will put details in Round and About. The committee consider that they require more storage for equipment.

The meeting was suspended.

A parishioner said that he was concerned with noise and disturbance that may occur with children going to and from the Youth Activity Club which will affect residents living near the village hall. There was considerable discussion between residents that followed concerning this.

The meeting was resumed.

Cllr Traube said that it is the responsibility of the individuals and the parents regarding their behaviour outside the village hall. The parish council have involved the police regarding disturbances and graffiti

The meeting was suspended at 8pm to enable a special open meeting regarding the village shop to take place. The meeting was resumed at 9pm.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 3 members of the public left the meeting.

#### 8. THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE AND SHOP

Cllr Traube said that as there were no volunteers to form a committee and proceed with a community shop at the special open meeting when 47 villagers attended, then the parish council will record this as the views of the village as there was a good mix of villagers.

#### **10. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME**

The clerk reported that 8 parishioners had kindly volunteered to take part in this scheme. It was proposed that Cllr Maxwell be the co ordinator for this scheme, and with his agreement the details can be passed to him by the clerk so that he can contact the police and arrange the training.

#### **11. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Traube said that the funding for the first year of operation was covered. It was agreed that the parish council consider putting in £500 when the budget for next year is considered in January. The clerk was asked to respond to the request for funding accordingly.

#### 12. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Nice said that the youth activity club committee consider that they require more storage space. Cllr Traube suggested that the committee work with the Village Hall Management Committee VHMC) and that they ask for a meeting with all the hall user groups to manage the storage space more effectively. Cllr Traube referred to the damaged window hinges and suggested that the VHMC arrange for their repair. Cllr Traube said that he would chase up for the estimate for the light for the hall notice board.

# **13. ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Coy said that he had reviewed the usage of the allotment plots as requested. He said that plot 8a had not been fully worked and recommended that the plot holder is given two months notice to fully work the plot, failing which the plot will be returned to the council so that it can be reallocated. This was agreed. He said that plot 1 is also not worked adequately and as notice had been given to the plot holder in May asking for it to be fully worked, it was agreed that the council write and ask for the plot to be vacated in the next month so that it can be reallocated. Cllr Coy said that plot 9 is also under utilised and it was further agreed that the clerk writes and requests that the plot be worked within the next two months or returned to the council, or alternatively give the plot holder the opportunity of splitting the plot into two if he wishes.

The clerk was asked to collect the plot rentals for the next twelve months at the existing level of 50p per plot.

#### 14 COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Traube referred to the request from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) that the parish council reviews the village site allocations plan, and proposed that no changes are made to the village envelope. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to advise CBC accordingly.

#### 15. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Carolina F.M. Radio asking for a letter of support for a Community Radio Licence. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to write accordingly.

From Essex County Council sending details of the Community Money Market Place on 2 October at Chelmsford. Cllr Traube asked for further details.

From Cunningham Lindsey, Loss Specialists, confirming that a settlement has been made by our insurers regarding the claim for tree root damage by a property in Farmfield Road.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended

1. A parishioner said that there is an unsightly advertising notice as the village is approached from the A120. Answer - It is a matter for the landowner. If you wish you can write to the planning department at Colchester Borough Council and ask if there is a planning agreement. Cllr Fairs said that he would speak to the landowner. 2. A parishioner said that the weeds around the village hall are unsightly now that they have been sprayed.- It was agreed that the clerk asks the handyman to pull and clear the weeds around the village hall.

3.A parishioner said that grass is growing in the pavement of Greenfield Drive. – It was agreed that the clerk asks Street Services to attend to this.

The meeting was resumed.

#### **16. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr Traube said that the council will have to consider including in next year's budget an amount for the tending of the rose beds outside the village hall, and also for pulling out the weeds around the hall.

Cllr Coy proposed that the council review all parish council contracts. Cllr Traube said that this should be an agenda item at next month's meeting.

Cllr Coy said that Round and About wished to draw £130 next month and asked for details of payments to date. Cllr Traube said that the handyman is to be asked to relocate the bench outside the post office to a new site outside the village hall, when he is asked to relocate the parish council notice board, and he will meet with the handyman regarding the precise location.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

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