

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th December 2012, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Fairs (Chairman), Cllr Traube, Cllr Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth, PC Underwood and 5 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Veash

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th November 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he had updated the Emergency Plan and this has been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Brewer said that together with Cllr Bartleet and Cllr Williamson he had met the tree contractor at Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) and agreed that the height of the trees from the entrance to the side of the car park be reduced to between 9 and 11 feet, and that this work will be done before the end of the year.

Cllr Brewer said that Colchester Borough Council (CBC) now have a stock of replacement green waste bags.

Cllr Traube said that he is seeking a repair of the lock to the village hall door by trying to have a part specially made.

Cllr Fairs said that he has received a copy of the tree survey and has identified 6 ash trees on HFRG. He will seek the views of the tree contractor to see whether there are any signs of ash dieback disease.

5. REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICER ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE VILLAGE.

PC Underwood said that he understood one of the issues in the parish was that of parking. He said that it is now the responsibility of CBC. Parking is not permitted within 10 metres of a road junction. Members agreed that an article would be published in Round and About advising parishioners of this.

PC Underwood said that another issue was recent burglaries and said that there had been 3 burglaries in Great Tey this year which are being investigated. He asked whether the parish wanted the Police to consider reinstating the Mobile Police Van, either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. He would support this if it was to be used. Members agreed that an article would be published in Round and About advising parishioners of this and seeking their views.

PC Underwood said that he was working with the parishioners who were starting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and said that the Police expect parish councils to have a councillor responsible for working with Neighbourhood Watch in promoting crime prevention.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i). A parishioner asked if the Police could attend the drop in centre every month, and details were given to him.

(ii). A parishioner said that she has seen a suspicious person around the village. She was advised to report this immediately to the Police.

The meeting resumed.

PC Underwood was thanked for his attendance and he left the meeting.

6. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Fairs read out an email received which suggested that the speed activated sign is moved south towards the entrance to the village from the A120. This was discussed and the clerk was asked to write to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways requesting that this is done, and also that the sign flashes up the speed of the approaching vehicles. He was also asked to request a similar sign entering the village from the direction of Chappel. The clerk was asked to reply to the email advising of the action taken.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

It was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch posters can be put up at each end of the village. The clerk was asked to put an entry in the village web site regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

8. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth said that he welcomed the commencement of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the parish.

He said that parking fees in Colchester have been frozen for one year. He also said that the Locality Budget application is being processed.

The transport representative advised CBC Cllr Chillingworth of issues relating to the new bus station in Colchester. Cllr Traube said that there were several deficiencies and CBC Cllr Chillingworth said that he would pass on these comments and recommend a bus users meeting in the New Year.

CBC Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101314	D Williams – clerk salary £444.08 less PAYE £88.82	£ 355.26
101315	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 88.82
101316	I Dyer – grasscutting	£ 237.60 £ 39.60
101317	Round & About Gt Tey – donation	£ 730.00
Youth Activity Club Account		
100054	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 34.00

(b) An authority to transfer £1,500 from Community Account to Business Saver Account was completed. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 968.06, Youth Activity Club Account Cr 891.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £ 16,016.23. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Cllr Bartleet suggested that the majority of the balance of the Business Saver Account is transferred to the Community Account to prevent the cost of posting transfer requests which is the same as the bank interest received. The clerk was asked to establish whether or not there was any penalty in doing this, and then report back.

(d) The clerk said that the budget and the parish precept for 2013-2014 would be on the agenda for next month, and draft figures would be circulated to councillors before the meeting.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

122031 Great Tey Primary School - Continued use of classbase for a temporary period until 31.8.2018 without compliance with condition 1 re

time limit attached to CC/COL/153/07 – We support this application.

122037 3 Teyfield Cottages, Flories Road - Application for Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey rear addition and additional

space within kitchen area – We have no knowledge.

122076 Marshalls Farm, Chappel Road - Erection of single storey dwelling to replace mobile home – We object to this application which is for a new

building on a greenfield site outside the village envelope.

Other Planning Matters

An email from the owner of Pendleton, The Street regarding the parish council's comments to the recent planning application was read out, and the reply was agreed.

11. WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

The handyman has confirmed that he will salt the village hall car park entrance and the front entrance to the village hall during snowy and icy weather, together with the Great Yard footpath.

Cllr Brewer said that he will draft a reply to Essex County Council regarding the parish's withdrawal from the winter salt bag scheme because of the onerous insurance and monitoring requirements, and this will be circulated to councillors for approval. The clerk was asked to advise the handyman that there are no further salting of pavements in the village, and Cllr Fairs said that he will telephone the main volunteer involved in the spreading of salt and advise her that the scheme is on hold.

12. VILLAGE HALL

The clerk reported that BIFFA had declined the request for funding for the refurbishment of the village hall. After discussion it was agreed that councillors would like to consider proceeding with the refurbishment, and funding it through a mixture of :- (i) any existing surplus funds, (ii) including an amount in next year's budget, (iii) a contribution from Village Hall Management Committee, (iv) funds from the Trustees of the Village Hall. The clerk was asked to include these suggestions in draft figures to be presented before the next meeting, and look at the guidance from the VAT authorities regarding this.

13. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

The clerk reported that the funding request to BIFFA for the removal of the tennis court and the refurbishment of the area required letters of support from groups in Great Tey. The Youth Activity Club had said that rather than remove the tennis court they wanted to see it reinstated. Cllr Traube said that this matter had been previously explored and it had been established that there was no real support in the village, and in addition the funding of between £30,000 and £100,000 could not be obtained. The clerk was asked to approach two further groups.

14. GREAT TEY PUMP WALL

Cllr Traube had reported that the wall between the pump and the adjacent property appears to have been damaged by a tree from the adjacent garden, and a letter had been written to the householder asking for work to be carried out to the tree to prevent further damage. The clerk said that a telephone response has been received, and the householder is taking advice and will return to us. Cllr Fairs said that he would speak with the householder to establish the present position.

15. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Brewer said that he will evaluate the Emergency Response Assistance document recently received from CBC and he will report back at the next meeting.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

From CBC advising that the Trees for Years Initiative offering residents free trees will be available on Saturday 2nd February. A poster will be put up regarding this.

From a resident in Brook Road regarding flooding to his property following the resurfacing of the road. He has already advised Highways of this, and the clerk was asked to write to Highways supporting his request for remedial work.

17. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Councillors referred to the recent work done to the trees on the village hall boundary with The Old Rectory, and instructed the clerk to ask the handyman to cut and grind the tree stumps to ground level.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.57 pm.

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