

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th February 2015, at 7.30 pm

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

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 6 members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th January 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The meeting was suspended for Public Questions and Statements.

(i). A local landowner gave a presentation regarding a site that he had put forward for consideration to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) following their call for sites in preparation for a new Local Plan. He said that there was a potential for 30 mixed housing units.

(ii). A parishioner asked for the parish council's view on the development at West Tey which has been put forward following the CBC call for sites. – Councillors said that this would be discussed under item 7.

(iii). A parishioner suggested that some benches should be provided in the village to give people the opportunity to rest as they walk around the village. - Cllr Beesley said that this could be considered should there be a funding opportunity.

(iv). A parishioner asked if a cage could be provided for the new World War One Commemoration Tree recently planted on the Old Playing Field. The cage would have a plaque and there will be a commemoration service on 15th March. – It was agreed to ask the handyman for a quote and then seek funding from the Jubilee Fund. The clerk was asked to deal with this.

The meeting was resumed.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that waste recycling is low in Colchester and CBC is considering action to improve this. He asked whether wheelie bins would be welcomed in the village, whether fortnightly collections of black sack waste would be welcomed, and also whether CBC should charge for the collection of green waste. He was advised that the answer to all these proposals was in the negative.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Beesley said that Essex County Council (ECC) Councillor Anne Brown has been in contact with ECC Highways at our request, concerning the lack of road repairs in the parish. She has forwarded ECC Highways response which does not reply to all the issues. A parishioner has kindly offered to prepare a report with photographs regarding the outstanding issues. Councillors have thanked him and asked for this report so that a response can be sent to ECC Highways through ECC Cllr Brown.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

The clerk advised that the Issues and Options Consultation regarding the proposed Colchester Borough Local Plan called for comments from the parish council. Members discussed this and agreed to respond:- We object to options 2a and 2b developing the west of Colchester in view of the impact on the rural area for traffic and amenities such as roads, public transport, schools, health services and emergency services, together with the inevitable development creep into the villages. We are conscious that there is a modest need for lower cost/smaller houses in the village and as such would consider reviewing the village envelope to accommodate this.

8. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Beesley said that no candidates had yet come forward and the vacancy remains unfilled. In view of the forthcoming elections in May it was agreed to put a note in Round and About asking parishioners to consider putting themselves forward for election.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101469	Anglian Water – allotments water	£ 28.73
101470	D Williams- clerk salary £453.00 + £21.62 arrears - PAYE	£ 379.82
101471	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 94.80
	Youth Activity Club Account	
100079	Gt Tey Village Hall Committee – hall rental	£ 42.00

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 16,204.79, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £ 58.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £ 22.38. The clerk was asked to advise the Youth Activity Club of the balance and that only one further hall rental can be paid from the account unless further funds are paid into the account.

The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Cllr Beesley said that a request had been received for a contribution towards the printing cost of £400 to produce an updated Village Directory. After discussion members agreed that as the budget had been set for the next financial year, and any increase in expenditure would have to be funded by an increase in the precept, then the parish council were unable to assist. Consideration would be given to a donation in next year's budget, and it was suggested that a written application is made in November.

(d) The clerk said that a further reply had been received from CBC regarding the request for funding for the site clearance of the tennis court project. The issues raised were discussed and a response was agreed.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Beesley thanked Cllr Fairs and Cllr Williamson for conducting the interviews for the new village hall manager, who has now been appointed. This was agreed by all councillors.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson said that the hedge to the left of the car park entrance requires cutting back at the base and the area needs tidying up. The clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to deal with this.

In response to a request, Cllr Bartleet said that he would arrange for the cutting back of the side of the hedge from the school to Lower Langley.

12. THE CHEQUERS INN

Cllr Hamer gave details of the registration of village assets and asked whether this was appropriate for The Chequers Inn. Cllr Bartleet asked whether this would assist The Chequers or cause a problem. Cllr Beesley said that more information is required, and the clerk was also instructed to ask the views of The Rural Community Council of Essex. This matter will be an agenda item for next month's meeting.

13. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Advice received from Essex County Council of the Launch of the Getting Around in Essex consultation regarding the bus strategy. This runs until 31st March.

14. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

It was noted that the newspaper delivery service in the village has increased its delivery costs.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.03 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....