

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th January 2012, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr S Beesley (Chairman) Cllr R Brewer, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr R Traube,

Cllr N Veash (later), Cllr M Williamson

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth, and 1 member of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Fairs declared an interest in Minute 8 regarding the planning application for Warrens Farm as he is the applicant, and he will leave the meeting room whilst this application is considered.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th December 2011 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he has completed the electronic version of the Village Directory, and Cllr Beesley will put this on the Great Tey web site when the printed version has been distributed. Cllr Brewer said that he had spoken to the Colchester Community Wardens regarding the junction of Tey Road and Chappel Road, and they advised the council to arrange with Essex County Council (ECC) Highways to repaint the white line markings. He referred to the vehicles that are parked facing the traffic in Chappel Road, and it was agreed that he would put a note in Round and About asking residents to park correctly.

5. VACANCY OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Williamson proposed that Nicole Veash be co opted to fill the vacancy of parish councillor. There were no other proposals, and Cllr Veash was duly co opted and welcomed to the council.

6. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the parish grant of £2,060 had been confirmed, but that this was the last year of payment.

He also said that if there were any planning applications that the council were concerned with, then the Ward Councillor should be asked as soon as possible to call in the application for consideration by the full Planning Committee.

Cllr Traube asked if the black waste sacks will be improved this year and Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he and his opposition colleagues are urging that this is done.

Cllr Traube asked if the council tax will be increased next year to compensate for freezing the council tax for the last two years because this will cause problems for parishes. They will also lose the parish grant and parishioners will have to bear this double cost. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that it was too early to answer this as next year's budget will be considered later this year.

He said that he awaited meeting dates for the proposed meeting with ECC Cllr Brown and parish councillors concerning the highway problems around Great Tey.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

| Chq.No. | Payee | Amount (£)/ of which VAT:- |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| 101247 | Bedot Media Group – web site hosting & domain renewal | £ 39.98 |
| 101248 | D Williams – clerk salary £358.33 less PAYE | £ 286.73 |
| 101249 | HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary | £ 71.60 |
| 101250 | Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard | £ 300.00 |
| 101251 | Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental | £ 52.80 |
| 101252 | Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – user subsidies | £ 352.00 |
| | Youth Activity Club Account | |
| 100044 | Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental | £ 15.60 |

(b) A transfer from Business Saver Account to Community Account for £1,500 was agreed, and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 1,021.83, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £1,187.43 and Business Saver Account Cr £12,111.87. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The budget for the year to 31 March 2013 was considered. Colchester Borough Council (CBC) have decided to renew their grant at £2,060 but advised that this will be the last year of payment. The clerk's annual salary was discussed with reference to the present pay scales and job points. It was agreed to review the salary after these have been considered, and after guidance has been obtained from Essex Association of Local Councils. The budget can then be agreed and the precept can be set.

(d) The handyman's rate was reviewed, and it was agreed to increase his hourly rate from £9.75 to £10.00 per hour.

(e) It was agreed that as it was some years since the parish council had obtained alternative quotations for the handyman, the council would seek expressions of interest to ensure that we had best value, and a note to that

effect would be placed in Round and About. The grass cutting contract would not be tendered, as this was done two years ago.

(f) The clerk was asked to clarify the outstanding issues with the parish insurers.

(g) The clerk was asked to advise the handyman to complete the job for the replacement of the posts in the play area by the next meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Fairs would arrange for a contractor to complete the second outstanding job in the play area.

8. PLANNING MATTERS Applications

120006 Header Premises, Tey Craft Centre, Brook Road – proposed additional first floor office and elevation changes to Unit 13A (previous approval 02/0805) - No objections subject to neighbours' views but we would enquire whether the footings already installed are suitable for a two storey building.

Cllr Fairs left the room whilst the following application was considered, and Cllr Beesley took the chair.

112410 Warrens Farm, The Street – Installation of solar PV panels on the roof of an existing agricultural building – No objections subject to neighbours' views.

Cllr Fairs returned to the room and took the chair.

9. FUNDING FOR VILLAGE PROJECTS

The two projects being considered at present are the removal of the tennis courts and the redecoration and repairs to the village hall.

An application for grant funding for the removal of the tennis courts has already been made by The Trustees of the Village Hall for £10,000, and it was agreed that a further application for £5,000 should be made to BIFFA.

It was further agreed that applications for £13,582 should be made to BIFFA, and for £10,000 to Essex Environmental Trust for the redecoration and repairs to the village hall.

The clerk was asked to complete and submit the relevant application forms.

10. HIGHWAYS

It was agreed that Cllr Brewer and Cllr Traube would meet with Borough Councillor Chillingworth and Essex Cllr Brown to view and discuss the concerns regarding the roads in and around the village. The clerk was asked to make the arrangements for the meeting.

Cllr Traube said that the footpath sign on Earls Colne Road towards Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (FP14) has been knocked over and needs resiting. Also the 30mph sign in The Street opposite The Old Village Shop needs resiting.

Cllr Traube said that ECC Highways should again be asked to arrange for the repairs to the footpath outside Tocia, Chappel Road to be done, as the home owner agreed with Highways that he would do this remedial work, and it could be a trip hazard. The clerk was asked to contact ECC Highways accordingly.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that the roof had been leaking following the recent bad weather, and reminded councillors that the hall would need re roofing in the next two or three years.

Cllr Veash left the meeting at 9.40pm.

12. PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

It was agreed to publish the emergency plan on the parish web site, but not to include any personal information for those parishioners who had agreed to assist in an emergency.

13. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Letter received from a parishioner asking for a security light to be fitted to the village hall in front of the car park. It was regretted that this could not be agreed as there was no budget for this.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Transport Representative said that the public needs to be aware of any changes to the centre of Colchester as it affects the bus station, and he will monitor this.

14. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The clerk advised that there had been little response to the council's offer to parishioners seeking volunteers to hold salt bags to salt the pavements in bad weather.

The clerk advised that the web site service provider had offered to transfer the parish web site to a new system, and would join a meeting to clarify this if required. This was accepted and the clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

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

Chairperson.....

Date.....