

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Fairs (Chairman), Cllr Veash (late), Cllr Williamson

Clerk Mr D Williams, and 3 members of public attended.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

## 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he had continued difficulty in getting the village hall front door lock repaired, and he will try local engineers. He said that he will put an article in Round and About regarding the policing matters raised at the last meeting, and he noted that a reply had been received from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways regarding the email sent concerning the parish council's withdrawal from the salt bag scheme, and was disappointed that it was not very detailed.

Cllr Beesley said that he had put up the Neighbourhood Watch signs at the entrances to the village on Brook Road and Chappel Road.

Cllr Fairs said that he will contact the owner of Tey House regarding the problem of the Pump House wall.

## 5. VACANCY OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Fair said that the advertisement for a parish councillor asked for nominations by 17<sup>th</sup> January, and if none were received by that date, then the parish council can co-opt a new councillor. He asked members to consider candidates for co-option, and the clerk was asked to put an article in Round and About if appropriate.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i). On behalf of the transport representative, Cllr Brewer summarised difficulties with the management of Colchester transport and the problems associated with the new Colchester bus station. The transport representative supported this statement of the difficulties. Cllr Brewer said that he would write to Borough Cllr Chillingworth to seek answers to the issues raised.

(ii) A parishioner said that she wished to complain at the poor state of the roads in the village which were only resurfaced last summer. Salmons Lane is still flooded at the Round House after many weeks. Cllr Brewer said that flooding down Chappel Road is also a problem and he would draft an email to ECC Cllr Brown covering these points.

(iii) A parishioner asked if a councillor was responsible for liaison with Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Fairs said that he would take over this responsibility until the annual meeting in May when all councillors' responsibilities are revised.

The meeting was resumed.

Cllr Veash joined the meeting.

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No. Payee VAT:-	Amount (£) / of which
101318 D Williams – clerk salary £444.08 less PAYE £88.82	£ 355.26
101319 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 88.82
101320 Bedot Media Group – web site domain renewal	£ 47.98 £ 8.00
101321 Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – user group subsidies	£ 372.00
101322 Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 57.00
Youth Activity Club Account	
100055 Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 34.00

(b) An authority to transfer £1,000 from Business Saving Account to Community Account was completed. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 1,047.00, Youth Activity Club Account Cr 857.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £ 15,018.12. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The budget for the year to 31 March 2014 was considered. Expenditure was reviewed and a total of £29,018 was agreed, and this included village hall refurbishment costs of £12,800. Income of £24,931 was agreed and this included donations of £8,500 from the Trustees of the Village Hall and the Village Hall Management Committee. Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has decided to reduce their grant from £2,060 to £500. They will also pay a Locality Budget grant of £ 1,180 to compensate for the reduction in the tax base. This Locality Budget grant is expected to reduce the precept, but members said that the net result was to reduce the CBC grants by £ 380. Last year's precept was £13,559, and it was agreed to increase this by the £380 reduction in the CBC grant and a £500 provision for future village hall maintenance included in expenditure. Thus the precept for 2013/4 was agreed at £14,439, and an increase in the Band D council tax from £35.64 to £39.84. The clerk was asked to draft an article for approval for Round and About.

(d) The clerk said that there are now two authorised signatories for the parish council bank account. It was agreed that the six present councillors should all be authorised signatories with any two to sign, and the clerk was asked to bring the relevant documentation to the next meeting.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Approvals**

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 – approved subject to 2 conditions.

## **8. VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Fairs said that the parish council had been unable to obtain grant funding for the village hall refurbishments. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with the refurbishments which were considered as essential. Two quotations have been received, and it was agreed to accept the lower quotation of £ 12,800. It will be funded by donations from donations of £7,500 from the Trustees of the Village Hall and £1,000 from the Village Hall Management Committee, and the balance from Parish Council reserves. The job is to be done in August when the pre school is on holiday and Cllr Fairs has agreed to project manage the refurbishments.

Cllr Fairs referred to the work to the hedge on the border between the Village Hall and The Old Rectory and it was agreed to cut the hedge to ground level.

## **9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND**

The clerk was asked to write to the owner of 7 Chrismund Way asking for the overhanging bushes to be cut back as they are restricting the pavement to the car park.

Cllr Brewer agreed to inspect the hedge from Lower Langley to the school to establish whether or not it requires cutting.

The clerk was asked to put an article in Round and About regarding dog fouling, and Cllr Brewer said that he will advise the Community Warden of this problem.

## **10. EMERGENCY PLAN**

Cllr Brewer said that he will amend the emergency plan to incorporate the contact points at CBC mentioned in their recent Emergency Response Assistance document and he will circulate the updated plan.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr Brewer said that a litter pick date needs to be arranged and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March was agreed. The clerk was requested to ask the Community Wardens to provide their support and equipment, and also to confirm that the date is suitable for them, and then an article can be put in Round and About.

The clerk advised that there were outstanding allotment rentals which were due last October, and he was requested to write again. He was also asked to put an article in Round and About advertising the vacant allotment plot.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.58 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....