

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12th January 2016, at 7.30 pm

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

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 3 members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Barron

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 8th December 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Cllr Fairs referred to the invoice previously submitted by Mr Lissimore for electrical works to the village hall. He said that he had spoken with Mr Lissimore who has advised that he will submit a replacement invoice with a reduction of £300 on the previous invoice, and members agreed to this. The clerk was asked to contact him and obtain the replacement invoice.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The meeting was suspended for Public Questions and Statements.

(i). A parishioner asked if a reply had been received from Essex County Council (ECC) regarding the questions asked concerning the proposed alterations to the bus service. He said that he will contact Mencap and advise them of the situation as they may also wish to write to ECC.

Cllr Beesley said that a reply had not yet been received from ECC.

(ii). A parishioner said that the voluntary Local Responders who attend medical emergencies with defibrillators donated 2,000 hours to the communities last year in covering 6 local parishes. They are asking each parish council in those 6 parishes to donate £100 each year to fund equipment such as batteries, pads, and volunteers' jackets.

Cllr Williamson proposed that the parish council agrees to a donation of £100.

(iii) He then said that the British Heart Foundation has given a grant for two defibrillators and boxes and asked if the parish council would agree to the siting of one defibrillator on the wall of the village hall near the front door. It will require an electrical supply and he will do some local training once it is in place.

The meeting was resumed.

5. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Fairs proposed that the council agrees to this request and that the clerk asks our insurers for a quotation to add the replacement for a locked metal box and defibrillator to the council insurance policy. All members agreed to this. Cllr Fairs said that he would arrange for the installation of the electrical supply to the defibrillator as a donation. He was thanked for this.

6. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Borough Council had a locality budget of £400 available for the parish, and asked for proposals by the end of February. He said he could provide support from the Borough Council for the forthcoming parish litter pick if necessary. He said that the planning application for the expansion of Tollgate is being reconsidered in February.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT:-
101523	BeDot MediaGroup – web site hosting & domain renewal	£ 71.98	£ 12.00
101524	Great Tey Village Hall Committee – hall rental	£ 57.00	
101525	D Williams-clerk salary £458.33 less PAYE £91.60	£ 366.73	
101526	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 91.60	
101527	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard cuts	£ 750.00	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £20,863.81, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The budget for the year to 31 March 2017 was considered. Expenditure was reviewed and a total of £15,849 was agreed. The clerk's salary was increased by 1% to £ 5,555 as 1% is the anticipated national agreement. The clerk is to advise members when the national rate is announced later in the year. The handyman's rate was increased by 25p per hour to £ 11 per hour. Income of £17,959 including precept and grant was agreed. Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has decided to reduce their total grant from £1,363 to £1,251, a reduction of £ 112. Last year's precept was £15,756, and it was agreed to increase this by the £112 reduction in the CBC grant and £500 for village hall maintenance costs. Thus the precept for 2016/7 was unanimously agreed at £16,368, and an increase in the Band D council tax from £42.50 to £44.39, which is an increase of 4.45%.

(d)The clerk advised that the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows smaller authorities with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 to be exempt from external audit. These authorities will now be subject to requirements set out in the Transparency Code where specific information needs to be published on a website. The Government believes that publication of the items set out in the code will provide the electorate with a clear picture of Parish Council activities. We should publish on our web site:- all items of expenditure above £100, end of year accounts, annual governance statement, internal audit report, a list of councillor or member responsibilities, the details of public land and building assets, minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings. We should also publish information regarding the location of each councillor's Register of Interests. If the annual turnover is more than £25,000 in an accounting year, then an external auditor is appointed by a new body called Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited. Members agreed to these new arrangements and the clerk was asked to put these in place. A grant may be available to fund costs associated with these arrangements and the clerk was asked to seek funding for a scanner/printer.

(e) Members considered projects for the locality grant of £400 and agreed to seek funding for a new picnic bench for Harold Fairs Recreation Ground costing £412. The clerk was asked to confirm this with Borough Cllr Chillingworth.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

152690 Kings Arms Broad Green -lawful development certificate for the existing use of rooms within the public house used on a bed and breakfast basis including three rooms to the first floor and one within the outbuilding - The parish council has no local knowledge regarding the use of this property.

152876 Woozle's Wood, Moor Road -application for prior notification of a proposed wooden cabin - We are not aware of any shed having been on this site in recent years, but if the Borough Council are minded to approve then we ask that the building is sited further away from the road so to be not visible from the public highway.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Beesley said that parishioners' views regarding the future use of the tennis court area was sought in December's edition of Round and About. One response has been received, suggesting a cycle track and a basketball hoop. Similiar equipment is at Fordham and Aldham respectively and the clerk was asked to contact those parish councils to obtain the costs of installation so that this can be considered further.

Cllr Fairs said that he would meet with the handyman to discuss his quotation to repair the bridge and timber walkway.

A quotation for materials and labour to replace 6 posts to the play area fence, concreted in at a cost per post of £21 plus VAT from the handyman is accepted, and the clerk was asked to confirm this.

A quotation for materials and labour to replace 13 posts at the top of the hill at the skating area, concreted in at a total cost of £165 plus VAT from the handyman is accepted, and the clerk was asked to confirm this.

Cllr Beesley said that a quotation from the handyman to coppice to ground level the trees and hedging at the rear of the properties which borders with the recreation ground, from the entrance to the recreation ground to Farmfield Road, has been received. Members agreed that the clerk is to write to the handyman and advise that we wish to coppice the trees and hedging so that it regrows and can then be maintained at around 6 feet in the future. We are minded to instruct him before doing so we require a copy of his public liability insurance schedule to update our records.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs said that he would look at the overhanging trees affecting the plots on the right side and he will seek a quotation to cut back if necessary.

11. LITTER PICK

Members agreed to hold the annual parish litter pick on Saturday 12th March and the clerk was asked to advise the Community Wardens and ask for the usual support. The clerk was also asked to place an article in Round and About for February advising the date and asking parishioners to meet at the village hall at 9.30am where they will be provided with the necessary equipment. A barbeque will be provided for the pickers afterwards.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

An invitation to attend and join the A120 Community Forum. on 12th February. Cllr Fairs said that he will attend, and proposed that the parish council joins the Forum. All members agreed and the clerk was asked to confirm.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.20 pm.

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