

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th January 2017, at 7.30 pm

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

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 2 members of the public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Bartleet

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th December 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Cllr Fairs joined the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(i). Since the parish council sent correspondence regarding concerns about Colchester Bus Station we have seen an improvement in the service and the Health and Safety issues have improved. The bus company has taken note of our concerns, although a recent bus driver was not sure of the route. I have never seen the same bus driver twice. The service was 20 minutes late this morning. I am still concerned that the Saturday mid day service is not being reinstated.

(ii). The Colne Engaine bus service has been improved but Essex County Council (ECC) will not give an explanation why our bad service was allowed.

The meeting continued.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the launch of the public consultation regarding the proposed routes for the A120 is on 17th January, and a presentation on 7th February is at Marks Tey Village Hall.

ECC Councillor Ann Brown joined the meeting.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth was asked by a parishioner if Colchester Borough Council (CBC) is taking into account the probable disruption to the Osborne Street bus station when the area is redeveloped. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he would look into this.

He was then advised of problems with travelling by bus to Colchester General Hospital when the County Hospital closes.

6. DISCUSSION WITH ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A parishioner asked ECC Cllr Brown how could the public support the Saturday bus service when the mid day journey has been withdrawn, meaning that there is a 7 hour difference between the service into and out of Colchester. We are waiting for a review of the Saturday service which undoubtedly will not support the service.

A further long discussion followed concerning the inconveniences of the bus timetable.

ECC Cllr Brown said that she would follow up the non receipt of the minutes of the Transport Representative meeting on 31st October.

She also responded to a question concerning the Dart service operating in the Braintree District by saying that the parish could apply for the service being close to the Braintree District.

ECC Cllr Brown responded to the advice of problems with travelling by bus to Colchester General Hospital when the County Hospital closes by saying that she will ask the ECC portfolio holder for health for the arrangements to rectify this problem.

She also said that she would ask the ECC Bus Commissioner for the present situation regarding the review of the Great Tey service and the review of the Saturday service.

A further long discussion followed regarding the repair of potholes and the poor resurfacing of the Great Tey Road.

ECC Cllr Brown was advised of the poor quality of the replaced signposts and the spelling mistakes, and she asked for photographs so that she could follow this up.

She was also advised that the parish council had reported to ECC Highways that the cobbles across the road at Tey Brook had become dislodged and were considered dangerous, but they had not been repaired. She said that she would look into this.

ECC Cllr Brown, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 2 members of the public left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT
101593	Great Tey Village Hall Committee	£ 57.00	
101594	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard grass cuts	£ 375.00	
101595	D Williams-clerk salary £462.91 less PAYE £184.80	£ 278.11	
101596	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 22,669.05, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Members agreed to apply to Borough Cllr Chillingworth for a Locality Budget for a contribution towards the following costs which are planned:- 1.Refurbishment of the village hall notice board £345, 2. Non maintenance picnic benches for Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) £1,600 approx., 3.Replacement tree guard for the Jubilee Oak at the junction of Moor Road and Chappel Road £400 approx.

(d) The budget for the year to 31 March 2018 was considered. Expenditure was reviewed and a total of £15,698 was agreed. The clerk's salary was increased by 1% to £ 5,610 per annum 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 £ 11.25p per hour. Income of £18,745 including precept and grant was agreed. Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has decided to reduce their total grant from £1,251 to £1,123, a reduction of £ 128. Last year's precept was £16,368, and it was agreed to increase this, taking into account £128 reduction in the CBC grant, £500 for village hall maintenance costs and £250 for community projects. The precept for 2017/8 was unanimously agreed at £17,276, which is an increase in the Band D council tax from £42.50 to £46.12, an increase of 3.9%.

8. COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Fairs declared a non pecuniary interest in this item as a family member of the owner of the land involved, but he will not financially benefit at any stage. He said that he will remain in the meeting.

Members considered the application for a change in the Preferred Option Local Plan of a proposed development of up to 40 houses between Greenfield Drive and New Barn Road, plus 1 ha of open space. The next meeting is awaited to see the community's response.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson said that the play area refurbishment works will start soon. Members agreed to replace the scramble net with stainless steel. Cllr Williamson said that this item was duplicated in the Playquip quotation for the refurbishment works, and so the overall cost is reduced from £8,777 to £7,789.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Beesley and Cllr Fairs agreed to jointly visit The Chase with an allotment holder to discuss the issue of access to the Old Playing Field (OPF) and the allotments. The situation can then be monitored and further action considered if it does not improve.

11. LITTER PICK

The clerk was instructed to ask CBC for the date that has been arranged for the Borough and advise members accordingly so that arrangements can be made for the parish.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From ECC giving details of the launch of the A120/A12 consultation. Cllr Fairs will advise whether or not he can attend. He said that he has signed up for receipt of future information.

From ECC Highways regarding the closure of Chappel Road for 2 days on the weekend of 21st and 22nd January.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Beesley said that he would reply to Mr D Collier regarding his proposed construction of a new parish council web site asking for contact with the web site manager. He will also write to the web site manager asking him to help with the setting up of a Wordpress web site without having access to the present web site.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.42 pm.

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