

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014, at 7.30 pm

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

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

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Langthorne

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Fairs declared a pecuniary interest in the planning approval for Great Tey Business Centre as he is a family member.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk said that the appointment of the vice chairman had been held over from the previous meeting, when Cllr Beesley was proposed as vice chairman. This proposal was agreed by members.

Cllr Bartleet thanked Borough Cllr Chillingworth for forwarding the report from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways regarding the flooding issues discussed at the recent site meeting.

## 5. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr Fairs asked members to recommend any parishioners who would be willing to fill the two vacancies which would probably have to be filled by co-option. The parish council wait to hear from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) whether any names have been put forward for an election.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for Public Questions and Statements.

(i) A parishioner said that there is no mention of the buses serving Great Tey in the forthcoming tender round being considered by ECC.

(ii) A parishioner said that he would mention the question of the crossing at Osborne Street car park at the forthcoming bus passenger meeting.

The meeting was resumed.

## 6. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth gave an update on the recent Borough elections. The clerk asked when the grass verges will be cut. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he believed that ECC Highways were responsible and suggested that the parish council contacted ECC Cllr Brown.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

## 7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-	
101421	I Dyer – grasscutting	£ 158.40	£ 26.40
101422	I Dyer – handyman	£ 170.10	£ 28.35
101423	Mrs R Stone – notice board rental	£ 10.00	
101424	D Williams- clerk salary £453.00 less PAYE £90.60	£ 362.40	
101425	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 90.60	
101426	L Tippett – internal auditor fee	£ 170.00	
101427	Playsafety Ltd – ROSPA report on play area	£ 99.60	£ 16.60
101428	Playquip UK Ltd – play equipment funded by CBC grant	£ 480.00	£ 80.00
Youth Activity Club Account			
100071	Gt Tey Village Hall Committee – hall rental	£ 21.00	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 15,532.89, Youth Activity Club Account Cr 373.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £ 22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The clerk advised that the internal audit had been completed for the accounts for the year to 31 March 2014 and the report dated 2nd June 2014 from the internal auditor was shown, and the salient points read out. The internal auditor's report was considered by all members and it was noted that the internal auditor stated that (1) the Council has properly assessed and managed the significant risks, (2) no other areas of risk had been identified, (3) tests in areas suggested by the Practitioners Guide have been undertaken and all matters have been covered, and (4) Section 4 of the Annual Return was completed and it can be forwarded to the External Auditor. Accordingly Section 1 and Section 2 were completed by the parish council who authorised the chairman and the clerk to sign them, and the clerk was instructed to forward the Annual Return to the external auditor accordingly.

(d) The annual parish council insurance was due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The existing insurer is Allianz and their broker Aon UK Ltd quoted £948.02. We have now received an alternative quote from Zurich Insurance which is cheaper at £794, but not all the existing Aon cover is included and a revised quote would put the price much closer to Aon. Aon remind us that we have a long term agreement (LTA) which runs for 3 years from 2013 and Zurich should not quote against a LTA. Members agreed to renew with Aon and cheque 101414 was released.

e) The parish council bank mandate instructs the bank to accept any two signatures. Present authorised signatories are Cllr Bartleet and Cllr Williamson. A new mandate was completed adding Cllr Beesley to the list of authorised signatories.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

### a) Applications

144660 4 Brook Cottages, Brook Road – two storey side extension revised plans – no reply sent as decision received the same day as the planning application. The clerk was asked to write to CBC regarding this, and also enquire why the planning application 143701 was not sent to the parish council for comments.

### (b) Approvals

142507 Great Tey Business Centre, Brook Road – demolition of 4no grain silos and ancillary equipment replacing with commercial building – conditional approval

143701 Walcotts Hall, Coggeshall Road - demolition of existing single storey outbuilding, retaining undisturbed the historic garden wall forming the rear elevation. Re-building the outbuilding on the same footprint and building new link to main house – conditional approval

143711 Chequers Inn, The Street – clad external walls of existing toilet as weatherproofing – conditional Approval

### (c) Other Planning Matters

Letter received from Essex Legal Services regarding an application to add a restricted byway along Pattocks Lane footpath, asking if the parish council are aware that the route is an ancient road. The agreed reply is:-

The parish council support the landowners in objecting to the proposals to upgrade this footpath for the following reasons:-

1. We are not aware that this route is an ancient road.
2. There is no evidence of horse or vehicular use of this footpath.
3. The footpath is used for quiet enjoyment of the countryside.
4. The footpath is not wide enough or high enough for vehicular or horse access.
5. Vehicles and/or horses will cause damage to the footpath in winter making access difficult for other footpath users.

## 9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson asked that the recently received ROSPA report is discussed at the next meeting.

She said that Playquip had installed the new play equipment and a new pigeon deterrent for the new swings was discussed. This will be considered further.

Cllr Fairs said that a quotation had been received from the handyman for £225 for the labour and supply of slabs for the area from the path to the play equipment area. It was agreed that we will keep a watching brief on the area to see whether the job is required later in the year.

## 10. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Bartleet said that ECC Highways have done work at East Gores to try to alleviate the flooding problem.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

An invitation from ECC for the parish to take part in the winter salt bag scheme was declined in view of the onerous monitoring required. Cllr Bartleet said that there were sufficient stocks of salt.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk was asked to place an article in the August edition of Round and About inviting certificate holders of the garden competition and allotment competition to the September meeting, and also saying that there will be a presentation to a former employee of the village hall.

Copy correspondence provided by a parishioner regarding an application to upgrade a footpath FP126-11 (off Swanscombe Road) to a bridleway. The parish council support the landowners in objecting to the proposals to upgrade this footpath for the following reasons:-

1. There is no evidence of horse use of this footpath.
2. The footpath is used for quiet enjoyment of the countryside.
3. The footpath is not wide enough or high enough for horse access and there are steps at the Swanscombe Road exit.
4. Horses will cause damage to the footpath in winter making access difficult for other footpath users.
5. There is already a network of East Anglian Farm Rides in the area.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....