

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 14th March 2017, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley (Chairman), Cllr Fairs, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 9 members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Fairs declared a non pecuniary interest in land around the village when the Colchester Local Plan proposed development is discussed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 14th February 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(i) The largest percentage increase recorded in the recent council tax statement was that of the parish council. Answer Cllr Beesley said that this increase relates to the reduction in the grant from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and an increase of £500 in the fund for the village hall roof.

(ii) Can we publish the parish council agenda and the minutes in Round and About Great Tey (R & A) each month and publicise the agenda more Answer Cllr Beesley said that this had been considered before and we will liaise with the editor of R & A.

(iii) The minutes on the web site need to be brought up to date. Answer Cllr Beesley noted this.

The meeting continued.

4. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth referred to the public statement concerning the percentage increase in the parish council portion of the council tax and said that CBC have reduced the grant to the parish councils, and also that parish councils have fixed costs and the amount of money involved is small.

He also advised that the CBC waste collections are changing to a fortnightly collection of black sacks and there is to be a maximum of 3 bags per household. There will be no free black sacks provided in future.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Mayors walk is on 22 April and starts at Bures, finishes at Dedham and is 14 miles, and there is an Older Persons Information Fair on 24 March.

5. COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN

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. Considerable discussion followed regarding the impact of traffic both during development and afterwards, whether or not infrastructure is a requirement of a development, and the fact that no parishioner had come forward to join in the production of a neighbourhood plan.

The meeting was suspended.

(i) Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the draft Colchester Local Plan will be published in May.

(ii) A parishioner asked the parish council to work with a group to form an objection to the site acknowledging that some development is required in Great Tey in appropriate areas, and work with landowners to identify these sites.

(iii) A parishioner said that he lives opposite the proposed development of about 17 houses in Brook Road and he does not object to this.

(iv) Borough Cllr Chillingworth suggested that the parish council responds to CBC regarding the proposed 40 house development by 27 March and that this response is copied to him.

The meeting continued.

After further discussion the agreed response to CBC is:-

We support sustainable growth and have already accepted a proposed development of around 17 houses in Brook Road. However it is clear from the reaction of parishioners at well attended meetings in the village that this additional proposed development of 40 houses is too much too quickly. The traffic flows during and after the development would be detrimental to the village. We propose to identify sites agreeable to the majority of the villagers through the formation of a neighbourhood plan. All parish councillors agreed unanimously to this response.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No. Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT
101601 Leo Print – printing of flyers for open meeting re development	£ 59.71	
101602 D Williams-clerk net sal £278.11 & printing & post exps £121.74	£ 399.85	£ 13.32
101603 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	
101604 R Fairs - litter pick expenses	£ 34.35	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £12,459.62 , Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Members agreed to the appointment of Ms L Tippett as internal auditor for a further year, and noted that she had been internal auditor for a number of years.

(d) The clerk advised that estimates for the items approved in principle for the locality grant had now been received. The estimates totalled £590. It was agreed that the clerk submits these to Borough Cllr Chillingworth and that he is also asked if funding for better publicity of the agenda through R & A could be added to these estimates, noting that originally the sum of £745 was agreed in principle.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

170400 Tocia, Chappel Road - build a new garage to the rear of the house - We object to this application as it is development even further outside the village envelope than the previous approval 160597.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Fairs said that he will investigate the raised storm drain on Chappel Road and ask the clerk to report to Essex County Council (ECC) if appropriate. Cllr Frost said that the A120 consultation on the several proposed routes closes tonight. Members agreed to support Option E and the clerk was asked to send an email tonight regarding this.

9. BUS SERVICE

Cllr Williamson said that she will attend a meeting at ECC County Hall on 28 March with ECC Cllr Brown and the cabinet member regarding the Saturday bus service timetable and the bus timetable and service generally.

10. GREAT TEY WEB SITE

Cllr Beesley said that he had not yet contacted Mr D Collier and the web site manager regarding the construction of the new web site, but will do so. The clerk was asked to send minutes and other information required to him to put on the web site.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that he would check whether or not the hedge between Lower Langley and the school had been cut, and advise the clerk so that he can contact the contractor if it has not been cut.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Beesley said he had not visited The Chase with Cllr Fairs and an allotment holder to discuss the issue of access to the Old Playing Field (OPF) and the allotments, and will do so when the evenings are lighter, or at a weekend. The situation can then be monitored and further action considered if it does not improve.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that the rubbish bin top next to the telephone box on Chappel Road has been destroyed. The clerk was instructed to ask CBC to replace it.

It was noted that there are overhanging trees and bushes encroaching on to the layby on Chappel Road and the clerk was asked to contact the Parochial Church Council regarding this.

It was noted that a mattress has been left at the side of Earls Colne Road. Cllr Hunt said that he would confirm whether or not it had been moved and advise the clerk so that this can be reported to CBC if appropriate.

Cllr Hamer said that she would attend the planning guidance meeting at CBC. The clerk was asked to advise CBC and enquire whether or not meetings are held later in the evenings or at weekends.

The clerk was asked to put the report of the open meeting regarding the proposed development of 40 houses between New Barn Road and Greenfield Drive on the parish notice board and on the web site and put a note in R & A advising that this report is on the web site and the notice board.

The clerk was asked to approach the editor of R & A regarding the publishing of the agenda and minutes and whether the print deadlines can be delayed to assist with these items being published.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.00 pm.

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