

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12th November 2013, at 7.30 pm

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

Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr Chillingworth and 1 member 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 8th October 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk was asked to write to the advertiser regarding the advertising sign in Chappel Road and ask that it is removed as it contradicts Colchester Borough Council fly posting guidelines.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements

(i).A parishioner asked if any response had been received from the local parish councils that had been invited to join in a meeting to counter any forthcoming bus service cuts. He was advised that one favourable response had been received to date.

(ii) A parishioner said that nothing had been done regarding the crossing for public access to Colchester Bus Station from the car park. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he would follow this up.

(iii)A parishioner asked why had the new village hall manager not met parishioners at a village hall management meeting. Cllr Langthorne said that it is not feasible to arrange a village hall management committee meeting before 21st January but he is to meet village hall user groups individually.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that caddies for food waste will be delivered shortly. The report for the Borough boundary review will be available next year and will be effective in 2016. It will mean a realignment of Borough wards, with parish councils unaffected directly.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth advised that the Borough Customer Services Department in Angel Court is closing and moving to the library where it will reopen in December and cash payments will not be accepted. A full discussion followed and concern was expressed regarding the non acceptance of cash. The clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive at Colchester Borough Council (CBC) asking what alternative arrangements are to be made for cash only customers. A draft letter is to be circulated to councillors for approval before it is sent.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that street lights are to be switched off in Colchester from midnight until 5am, saving £132,000 pa.

He was advised that our parish does not have a Neighbourhood Plan, and was asked if it causes our parish a problem. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that as there are no building plots or an area available for development, then CBC has procedures in place to protect parishes.

He was advised that the development at Chrysmond Croft had started, and so the S106 monies are now due.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the CBC planning department would be aware of that.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101380	Anglian Water – water for allotments	£ 3.24
101381	D Williams- clerk salary £448.50 less PAYE £89.60	£ 358.90
101382	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 89.60
101383	J Bridges – village hall blinds	£ 125.00
Youth Activity Club Account		
100064	Gt Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 34.00

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 13,379.15, Youth Activity Club Account Cr 568.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £ 22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Approvals

131762 3 Buxton Cottages, Salmons Corner - Removal of conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension and conservatory – approved subject to 4 conditions and 1 informative.

131790 Wishit, Broad Green – proposed swimming pool hall – approved subject to 4 conditions and 1 informative.

8.VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Fairs said that the refurbishments have been completed and concern was expressed that some damage to the decoration has already been seen. Cllr Langthorne said that some locks in the hall may need to be changed if keys cannot be found.

Cllr Langthorne said that Mr Olav Bradstock has been appointed as village hall manager to run the hall and bookings, and he will meet him every two weeks. He is to meet user groups to discuss their requirements. There will be a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee on 21st January.

The clerk advised that the Rural Community Council of Essex has responded to the parish council’s request for advice regarding the legal position of the management committee and the responsibility for running the hall. They have asked for copies of the trust deeds and the clerk was asked to send them and also send email copies to trustees for their information.

Members referred to the recent professional valuation and instructed the clerk to ask the valuer for the basis of his valuation. It was agreed to recommend to the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust that they increase the insurance cover for the hall insurance to the level recommended by the professional valuer, and also seek alternative insurance quotations for the hall buildings and contents etc.

The tree in the children’s area near the village hall car park was discussed. This has been damaged by the recent storm and the clerk was instructed to ask Mr Fordham to inspect it and report whether or not emergency work is required, and his quotation is to be referred to members.

Cllr Fairs said that he would meet the handyman on site to discuss the tidying up and finish off the work to the area on the boundary between the hall and the Old Rectory.

9.HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Beesley said that he would source the materials on the web sites regarding the repairs to equipment in the play area of the manufacturers.

Members discussed the emergency action that was required regarding tree damage during the recent heavy storm and thanked the volunteers who were involved. The clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to tidy the areas involved.

Cllr Williamson said that the school were formulating their plans for refurbishing the youth shelter.

10.ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fairs said that the allotment gate post had not been replaced, and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to attend to this within one month, and also to repair the broken allotment fence caused by the fallen tree, which has since been removed. Allotment holders have written and advised that work needs to be done to clear out ditches which overflow in winter and flood some plots. Also trees are overhanging some plots and need cutting back. After discussion the clerk was asked to reply advising that the council sympathise but there are no monies available for this work and suggest that allotment plot holders form an allotment association. This association could then present proposals for works and how they could be funded, perhaps by fund raising or volunteer works.

11. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Brewer said that he understood from Essex County Councillor (ECC) Anne Brown that the road surface at Brook Road and Chappel Road will be repaired. He also said that ECC Highways advise that the signpost at the junction of Moor Road and Chappel Road will be removed for repair in time. The parish council have advised them that it should be removed as soon as possible. ECC Highways also advise that they consider that the Ford crossing at Tey Brook is not a problem.

Cllr Brewer said that the council’s request for the junction to be redesigned at Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road has been agreed in part by agreeing to the installation of a footpath in 2014/15, but not that the grass centre is removed. The main problem is that the hedge should be cut. Cllr Fairs said that he would arrange for that to be done at the end of February.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk was asked to confirm with the handyman that he will clear ice and snow from the village hall entrances when necessary.

Cllr Bartleet said that the weeds on the railway bridge on Moor Road needed attention. Cllr Brewer said that he would mention this to the Community rangers when they next visit the village.

The clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to complete the outstanding job of the repair to the Pump House Wall within one month.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.10 pm.

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