

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

At the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8th November 2016, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Barron, Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Beesley (Chairman), 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 Fairs

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th October 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that there is a new monitoring tool on the Essex County Council (ECC) web site to report Highway defects. He also said that the Borough Council Local Plan Committee has met. Over 2,000 comments have been received, with many criticising the proposals for West Tey.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that there is a meeting for the proposed garden community and a meeting for the A120 route and he recommended that the parish council attends both meetings.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. BUS SERVICE

Cllr Williamson said that she attended the recent Transport Representatives meeting with Cllr Hamer. ECC were in attendance, but Hedingham Buses did not attend. In response to the questions the following answers were received from ECC Area Review Manager:-

- 1.Why was Hedingham Buses given the bus contract as Great Tey has seen some instances of poor service as already advised to Essex CC. Answer – there was an open tender, and Hedingham have sub contracted some services.
- 2.Will Essex County Council liaise with the bus company regarding the temporary closure of the Chappel to Great Tey Road from 24 October onwards. Answer – the operator was informed but there is no mechanism for putting notices up . This is a county wide problem, especially when road closures are advertised and then the work does not proceed.
3. Why do buses not stop at the designated bus stop in Colchester as they stop in the bus layby and presume that if no one walks through the buses (which is dangerous), they can depart. Answer – this was acknowledged as dangerous and is to be improved.
- 4.Why do buses not wait at Great Tey until the allotted time of departure if they arrive early. Answer – this should be reported to the operator. The clerk is asked to do this.
- 5.Why do bus drivers seem to need training regarding the route around Great Tey, as this has been noted by a number of drivers and passengers. Answer – this has been noted.
- 6.Why is the refund policy not clear for buses that do not turn up. We were eventually advised that the bus company will compensate taxi fares for the first and last buses. That affects all services as there is one service out and one service in for Great Tey. Answer – there is no legal obligation to refund passengers.
- 7.When will Great Tey learn the results of the review into our Saturday bus service which at present has a seven hour gap between the outgoing bus to Colchester and the return. We need the reintroduction of the lunchtime return service. Answer this will be considered later in the year, but if the cost is more than £5 per passenger, it is not possible to make a case for it.
- 8.Are Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council actively looking for a new and larger bus station as Colchester is expanding fast and more buses are needed. Answer – No.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

- (i). The bus service has deteriorated in recent months.
- (ii) Why did Hedingham Buses not attend the Transport Representatives meeting.
- (iii)ECC Cllr Anne Brown should be asked to attend a parish council meeting with the ECC bus representative to detail what is being done to improve the bus service otherwise the service will be lost because of a loss of footfall. Hedingham Buses are destroying our bus service.

Cllr Beesley asked the clerk to send the questions and answers to ECC Cllr Anne Brown and ask her to look into the issues, advise her that the bus service will be destroyed if no action is taken, and ask her if she could attend the next meeting.

(iv) I live in a linked property with no side access in Chrismund Way and oil companies will no longer deliver oil by accessing the back of my property through the garage. I therefore ask for access at the side of my property from Harold Fairs Recreation Ground car park through a discreet gate for these deliveries twice a year. I may also extend my property and again will require side access for building work. It would be necessary for a concrete post to be moved sideways which denotes the boundary and I would pay for that work.

After a general discussion members agreed in principal, and Cllr Barron said that she would draw up an appropriate licence and look at the possible licence fee involved. The clerk was asked to send this proposed licence to the parishioner together with a photograph of the site and confirm the arrangements so that he can arrange for a quotation to do the job.

3 members of the public left the meeting.

The meeting continued.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT
101579	I Dyer – grasscuts HFRG and OPF	£ 79.20	£ 13.20
101580	Great Tey Golden Jubilee Fund – forward grant rec'd for Sports	£ 100.00	
101581	D Williams-clerk salary £462.91 less PAYE £184.80	£ 278.11	
101582	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 184.80	
101583	David Edwards – fee for village directory	£ 200.00	
101584	Round and About Great Tey – donation	£ 750.00	
101585	Anglian Water – water for allotments	£ 50.78	

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £24,957.87, Business Saver Account Cr £22.38. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

8. PLANNING

Cllr Barron declared an interest in the planning application 162500 and did not speak or vote on the item.

162500 Betts Farm, Moor Road - prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed building – No objections

162612 The White House, Brook Road – removal of front conifer hedge – We support this application.

(b) Advice of Planning Applications Approved by Colchester Borough Council

162295 Hazelmere, Chappel Road – erection of single storey rear extension, approved subject to 3 conditions and 1 informative

(c) Advice of Planning Applications Refused by Colchester Borough Council

162500 Betts Farm, Moor Road - prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed building

9. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Beesley said that a quotation for £ 345 to refurbish and make good the existing notice board at the front of the village hall had been received. This was agreed, with the aluminium cover being the same colour as the wood within the cost quoted. The Trustees of the Village Hall will be asked to cover this cost.

10. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson said that the play area refurbishment works will start on 6 December. Members will consider the amount of grant that will be requested from the Trustees of the Village Hall towards this cost of £8,777 plus VAT.

Members referred to the recent installation of the bridge in the play area and expressed concern with the fixings used for securing the handrail which have split the wood. They considered that this was a hazard and asked that this is corrected within two weeks.

The handyman is to be asked to complete the removal of the chain link fencing and reinstate the straining wire denoting the boundary apart from the area near Farmfield, and then to remove the rubbish.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Hunt said that he would visit The Chase with an allotment holder to discuss the issue of access to the OPF. The situation can then be monitored and further action considered if it does not improve.

12. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From A 120 forum advising details of the next meeting. It was agreed to ask Cllr Fairs if he wished to attend.

From Colchester Borough Council inviting parish councillors to attend a workshop at Marks Tey to consider the proposals for West Tey Garden Community and to provide views. After discussion Cllr Beesley and Cllr Hunt said that they would attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.44 pm.

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