

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 9th October 2012, at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr S Beesley (Chairman), Cllr R Brewer, Cllr N Veash (later),
Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth and 1 member of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr R Fairs

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th September 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he had spoken to the Community Warden expressing concern regarding the increased number of burglaries in the parish. The Warden said that he would contact the Neighbourhood Police Officer and arrange for increased visits to the parish.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Colchester Borough Cllr Chillingworth said he was aware that the parish council had received a letter from Colchester Borough Council (CBC) advising of the reduction in the Revenue Grant to £500. Cllr Brewer said that this is a burden on parish residents and he asked what reductions are being made to services to Colchester Borough residents. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that there was no increase in the council tax for the residents of Colchester Borough.

He said that the portfolio holder for Highways at Essex County Council (ECC) has set out the details for the Local Highways Panels. CBC has issued guidance on responsible dog ownership and the Community Warden is the contact at CBC. Cllr Traube said that the services provided by CBC did not help our parish.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he is awaiting an application from the parish council regarding the locality budget for a Community Grant. Cllr Brewer said that quotations were expected shortly and then the application would be forwarded.

The transport representative said that he has received the minutes of the Bus Users Meeting in May which do not cover all the items that were discussed. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he would write to the CBC portfolio holder and ask that CBC attend the next meeting in October.

Cllr Brewer said that the content of the First Site Gallery is poor.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i). A parishioner said that the pavement outside Tocia, Chappel Road is in a rough condition. Cllr Traube said that the parish council has written to ECC Highways regarding this.

The meeting resumed.

The member of public left the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following credit has been received.

Colchester Borough Council – second half of precept and grant	£ 7,809.50
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(b) The following cheques were approved for payment:-

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101302	R Dow – ex gratia payment for Hall fire risk assessment	£ 50.00
101303	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard grass cuts	£ 600.00
101304	D Williams – clerk salary £444.08 less PAYE £88.82	£ 355.26
101305	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 88.82
101306	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 57.00
101307	Mrs C Bright – Best Kept Small Front Garden – replacement of 101301	£ 20.00
101308	B Brewer – bulbs for rose garden at village hall	£ 20.00

Youth Activity Club Account

100052	Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rental	£ 34.00
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(c) An authority to transfer £6,600 from Community Account to Business Saver Account was completed. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,078.56, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £959.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £18,116.23. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(d) The clerk presented the audit report from the external auditors for the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 which had been signed with no comment. Members thanked the clerk for his work in obtaining this clean audit.

Cllr Veash joined the meeting.

(e) Members discussed the letter from CBC advising that the revenue grant was to be reduced from £2,060 to £500 in the next financial year. The clerk was asked to reply to CBC saying that the parish council is disappointed with the decision to reduce the grant, pointing out that of the parish council's total annual costs of £16,600, nearly £10,000 is establishment obligations which cannot be reduced. The council will seek to make savings where possible which will reduce services to parishioners but inevitably an increase in the parish precept will be required. The parish council considers that rural parishioners have been unfairly targeted here, noting that Colchester Borough residents do not have the same financial burdens.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Approval

121455 Tey Brook Farm, Brook Road – repairs and minor alteration to the Granary – approved subject to 5 conditions.

8. OLD PLAYING FIELD

The clerk said that one quotation for the replacement of the gate post for the allotment gate has been received, the other quotation is awaited. This is to be the subject of an application for a Community Project Grant from CBC. It was agreed to include the revarnishing of the bus shelter in the Grant application and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman for a quotation to rub down and revarnish the bus shelter and then submit this together with the allotment gate quotation to Borough Cllr Chillingworth.

9. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that he is seeking to have repaired the faulty front door locking mechanism.

10. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Beesley said that a quotation of £500 had been received to reduce the height of the trees at the rear of the Christmund Way houses that back onto the car park, to a manageable height. It was agreed to accept this quotation subject to the manageable height being a reduction to a height of 6 feet. The clerk was asked to confirm this with the contractor.

Cllr Traube said that the bench in front of the fireman's pole on the south side of the children's play area appears rotten. It was agreed that the clerk requests a quotation for repair from the handyman.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

From ECC Highways advising that Highways Rangers are available for minor highways jobs. It was agreed to instruct the clerk to ask them to reset or repair the Moor Road signpost, to reset the Lamberts Lane signpost and to remove the vegetation from around it, to clear the vegetation from the railway bridge on Moor Road, and to clean and remove the vegetation around the village gateway signs. The clerk was asked to diarise quarterly for a review of possible work for the Highway Rangers.

From ECC Highways Commissioning regarding the salt bag scheme stating that ECC is unable to cover the volunteers under their insurance as they are not issuing the guidance and instructions directly. The clerk was instructed to write to our insurers accordingly, enclosing details of the guidance from ECC together with the parish council's advice to volunteers including the disclaimer. The clerk was also instructed to write to Colchester Association of Local Councils for their views.

12. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Brewer said that he did not agree with the views of the Editor of Round and About regarding the road repairs and parish councillors agreed to put a note in Round and About regarding this.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.28 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....