

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th September 2012, at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr S Beesley, Cllr R Brewer, Cllr R Fairs (Chairman)
Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams and 11 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr N Veash.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITIONS AND BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION

The chairman congratulated all the certificate winners and said that the time spent working in their garden was appreciated by the village. Cheques were presented to the Garden winners. Certificate winners were:-

Best Kept Large Front Garden

First Prize - Buckleys Farmhouse, Buckleys Lane Second Prize - Scenterfields, Chappel Road
Third Prize - Greenlands Farm, Lamberts Lane

Best Kept Small Front Garden

First Prize - 16 Chrismund Way Second Prize - Baldwins Farm, Great Tey
Third Prize - Old School House, Moor Road
Highly Commended - 5 Chappel Road Highly Commended - Brook House Cottage, Brook House Road

Best Kept Allotment

First Prize Equal - M Hird and B Flack First Prize Equal - A Coy
Second Prize - D Frost

6 members of public left the meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 14th August 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Brewer said that he had applied to the Local Highways Panel for a grant to improve the Chappel Road /Earls Colne Road junction. Cllr Traube asked the clerk to email Highways and point out that the owner of Tocia (Homagen) had agreed to undertake the footway (pavement) repairs outside the property. This was agreed at a meeting that he had with M Dade, Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and the owner of Tocia,

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements:-

(i) The transport representative said that he considered that Colchester Borough Council (CBC) have never intended to send a representative to the Transport Bus User Groups meeting to discuss the new Colchester Bus Station. He had not yet received the minutes of the last meeting in May. He said that the public who attended last month's meeting considered that Mr H Davies from CBC was dismissive of public questions at his presentation at that meeting. The clerk was asked to write to ECC seeking a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

(ii) A parishioner said that he has contacted ECC Highways concerning the resurfacing of Moor Road, saying that potholes had not been filled and the road was very dangerous for bicycles. The clerk was asked to prepare a draft email to Highways, saying also that

the passing places on Brookhouse Road are in a poor state of repair.

(iii) A parishioner said that when ECC Highways contractors were resurfacing Brook Road, one contractor had interrupted the church service, asking that parishioners and the rector move their cars as the road was to be resurfaced. Cllr Brewer said that this was insensitive, and a report has been submitted to ECC Highways for their comments.

(iv) A parishioner said that the Youth Activity Club are to shortly receive 60 native hedgerow trees, and will try and involve the community as well as the Youth Activity Club with the planting. It was agreed that these trees can be planted at the top of Harold Fairs Recreation Ground.

The meeting resumed.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101297	I Dyer – grasscuts – 4 x OPF, 4 x HFRG	£ 316.80 £ 52.80
101298	D Williams – clerk salary £444.08 less PAYE £88.82	£ 355.26
101299	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk salary	£ 88.82
101300	Mr and Mrs A Bartleet – winner Best Kept Large Front Garden	£ 20.00
101301	G Green and Ms C Bright - – winner Best Kept Small Front Garden	£ 20.00

(b) An authority to transfer £1,300 from Business Saver Account to Community Account was completed. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,020.14, Youth Activity Club Account Cr £993.23 and Business Saver Account Cr £11,514.59. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

121148 Oakley, Broad Green – conversion and extension of existing 5 bedroom house to form 2No x 3 bedroom dwellings – no objections subject to neighbours’ views.

121455 Tey Brook Farm, Brook Road – repairs and minor alteration to the Granary - we support this application.

9. PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

The plan was reviewed and Cllr Brewer agreed to put a note in Round and About seeking volunteers for two contact vacancies for services in the plan.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Brewer said that the report had been received from M Groborz at Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). It said that there were 430 dwellings in the parish, with 900 people and a 25% response rate in returning the questionnaires. He considered that the overall majority is small as there were 8 forms which identified a need for affordable housing, and he was not sure if these people met income and savings requirements. He proposed that the survey did not demonstrate the need for affordable housing in the village. This was agreed. The clerk was asked to advise M Groborz of ECC and put a note in Round and About.

11. OLD PLAYING FIELD

An allotment plot holder has advised that the gate post of the allotment gate was rotten, and it was agreed to apply for a Community Project Grant from CBC. The previous grant application for a defibrillator has been withdrawn as one is not required. Cllr Brewer said that he will make the grant application. The clerk was asked to obtain two quotations to replace the gate post and circulate these to councillors.

12. VILLAGE HALL

The hazel trees on the border with The Old Rectory were considered and it was agreed that the clerk is instructed to ask the handyman to cut down these trees as close to the ground as possible and remove the debris. Care is required as the wall is listed, and the work is to be done at half term when the children who attend the pre-school are not at the village hall.

Cllr Williamson said that at a recent fire inspection it was reported that no fire risk assessment had been done. She has now completed this together with Mr R Dow by using guidance supplied by the Fire Service. She proposed that a £50 ex gratia payment is made to Mr Dow to show the council’s appreciation and this was agreed. The clerk was asked to write and thank Mr Dow for his assistance. The clerk was asked to send a copy of the floor plan to Mr J Springate.

Cllr Traube advised that the front door locking mechanism is faulty. This is being investigated, and it was agreed that the parish council would pay the cost of the repair or replacement. A donation from the Trustees of the Village Hall would be sought to cover a large cost. Cllr Traube will report back.

13. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that a complaint had been received concerning the height of the trees at the rear of the Chrismund Way houses that back onto the car park. He will seek an updated quotation for the reduction of the height of these trees and report to the next meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from a parishioner expressing concern at the removal of the tennis courts and asking that they are saved. The clerk was asked to reply and advise that this matter has been discussed many times at parish council meetings. The council has tried to obtain funding to cover the cost of £30,000 to reinstate the tennis courts, but this has not been found. Also there is no body of people in the parish found who could support the tennis courts. The area is now a health and safety issue, and the courts have been fenced off. The parish council are trying to obtain funding at a lower level to clear the area and restore it to the original state.

15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The clerk said that the council had been advised that a man claiming to represent ECC Highways road repair team was offering to resurface private drives with material left over from the road works. The clerk was asked to advise the Community Warden of this.

Cllr Bartleet said that the metal road signs at the bottom of New Barn Road and at the top of Coggeshall Road require painting, and the clerk was instructed to ask Highways to do this, possibly by using the Highways Rangers.

Cllr Brewer proposed that bulbs are planted in the flower bed at the front of the village hall, and this was agreed to a value of £20 which would be paid.

Cllr Brewer proposed that he arranges for a note to be put in Round and About congratulating the pre-school on their 40th Anniversary. This was agreed.

Cllr Brewer said that there had been a number of burglaries in the village, and he proposed that contacts the Neighbourhood Police Officer and that he puts a note in Round and About regarding this. This was agreed.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....