

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th December 2007, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice,
Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, 3 members of the public, Colchester Borough Cllr P Chillingworth; PC Barlow

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended.

(a) A parishioner asked if the parish council had asked Essex County Council (ECC) Highways to relocate the variable speed sign because cars have slowed down by the time that they have reached the sign as it is in the middle of the village. – Answered by the police officer who said that the police undertake speed checks. Cllr Traube said that ECC Highways had recommended the location. We will write to Highways to ask if they have conducted a follow up survey to establish whether the speed sign has slowed traffic, and the clerk was asked to write to them.

(b) A parishioner referred to the pathway from The Street to Garden Fields and said that the barrier at The Street end requires the padlock to be replaced. Answered by Cllr Traube who said that we will arrange for the replacement padlock and the clerk was instructed to ask the handyman to do this.

(c) A parishioner reported an isolated case of vandalism from schoolchildren in The Street and said that youngsters were riding quad bikes on the pavement in the summer. Answered by Cllr Traube who said that this had been dealt with.

(d) A parishioner said that the school bus appears to be running late, and will the parish council obtain dates and times and write to ECC. Answered by Cllr Traube who said that parents if appropriate can complain to the school. The parish council cannot really be involved as no parent has complained to the council.
The meeting was resumed.

3. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube welcomed PC Barlow to the meeting. He said that she had been invited to attend in view of the comments made at the previous parish council meeting regarding disturbances around the village hall in the evenings and weekends. He said that he was disappointed that there were not more members of the public at the meeting. PC Barlow asked for details of incidents so that the police can increase their patrols in the village, and she also encouraged members of the public to attend Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings when they can meet the police. Cllr Traube said that the parish council will advertise the next NAP meeting in Great Tey in February, and if members of the public cannot attend then they can write or email questions that they would like resolving to the clerk who can forward them on. Cllr Coy asked whether the council should consider encouraging the starting up of a youth club. Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the County Youth Service could help. PC Barlow and 1 member of public left the meeting.

Cllr Fairs said that the signs for the village hall car park have been ordered and he will arrange for them to be put up when received. Cllr Traube proposed that the clerk writes to the chairman of the village hall management committee and point out that the committee should have two meetings each year. This was agreed. Cllr Traube proposed that the clerk also writes to the chairman and suggests that he writes to a hall user who had written to the doctors' practice regarding patients clashing with them and remind them that it is a multi purpose hall and any complaints should be addressed to him and not to the doctors' practice. This was agreed.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 13th November 2007 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Traube said that he met with ECC Highways on the annual roads and paths inspection and pointed out several deficiencies. Highways said that they would undertake the larger jobs and do the smaller ones subject to budgetary constraints when they can.

6. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Borough Council is to make funding available for projects, such as the possibility of moving the variable speed sign to the entrance to the village in Brook Road and provide a second speed sign at the other entrance to the village on Chappel Road. Cllr Traube asked members to consider projects and this would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Borough Cllr Chillingworth confirmed that the Town and Parish Clerks funding would continue next year.
He then left the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-		
100917	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation re churchyard maintenance	£	300.00	
100918	D Williams - clerk salary	£	322.16	
100919	Lubbock Fine – external auditor's fee	£	334.88	£ 49.88
100920	Close Invoice Finance Ltd – payment of invoice submitted by Monster Play Systems for new play surface at HFRG	£	35,076.78	£ 5,224.20
100921	I Dyer – handyman	£	267.67	£ 39.86
100922	I Dyer – handyman	£	97.66	£ 14.54

(b) The clerk advised that upon payment of these cheques including the cheque number 100920 for the play surface which is held until we receive the funds from Cory £10,000, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) £10,195 and ECC £2,805 and the works are signed off as approved by Cllr Fairs, then a transfer is required from Instant Access Saver Account to Current Account for £13,800. Then once the funds are in and cheque 100920 paid, the balances will be current account £1,137.29 and Premium account £2,090.52. We can then claim a VAT refund of £5,300 plus, and the Parish Paths Partnership funds from ECC of £1,800 plus. This was agreed by all members who also agreed to delay requesting the Trustees of the Village Hall for funds until the parish council budget for 2008/09 is reviewed at the next meeting. The clerk reported that Awards For All had refused our application for £5,000 towards the play area because it was outside their criteria as the amount of the contract was too large.

(c) The clerk showed the members the report from the external auditor regarding the annual accounts for the year to 31st March 2007 which was satisfactory and said that there were no matters giving cause for concern. The closure of the audit will be advertised.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Approvals

- 072383 15 Christmund Way – two storey rear extension – approved subject to 3 conditions
072658 4 Buxton Cottages, Coggeshall Road – single storey rear conservatory extension – approved subject to 1 condition.

Withdrawn

- 072631 Homagen, Chappel Road – demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a new 4 bedroom house – application withdrawn.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that the installation of the new wet pour safety surface to the play area had been completed by Monster Play Systems (Monster). The surface feels very spongy in places. Cllr Traube said that he inspected the site when the sub base was dug out and it was done in accordance with the plans. He said that the gate post on the Lower Langley side had not been straightened and the main spring on the gate on the field side is broken. Cllr Fairs said that some of the rotten support posts on some play equipment had been replaced, but he was concerned that the sub contractors used school facilities and no safety fencing was erected. He will seek explanations, clarification and possibly financial recompense for the school from Monster to enable him to confirm completion of the installation so that the cheque can be issued to them.

10. THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Cllr Traube said that members had been circulated with details prior to the meeting, and if they have specific comments they should be sent to the clerk by 4th January.

11. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From the Head Teacher of the Primary School apologising that the new entrance had originally been installed by the contractors on parish council land, but that it had now been rectified. The clerk was asked to reply and confirm that the parish council are now satisfied with the work.

From ECC sending details of the Community Initiatives Fund with grants available for community projects. Cllr Traube said that future projects would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

From CBC asking if the parish council require a copy of the full Electoral Register. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to write for a copy.

From Essex Association of Local Councils sending details of a course entitled 'Planning for the Future of your Village' covering parish plans and village design statements. After discussion it was agreed that this course was not relevant at present.

12. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Coy said that there would not be an edition of Round and About in January in view of the short time available for printing. He asked if the remainder of the budgeted funds for Round and About could be drawn in January and the clerk was asked to provide him with details of payments to date.

Cllr Coy said that some of the allotments are not worked fully and we need to review the rules at this time of year. Cllrs Williamson, Maxwell and Coy agreed to review the rules and present proposals at the next meeting. They also agreed to review the allotments to decide which plots are not being used fully and the clerk was asked to send them a plan of the allotments. It was agreed that the parish council should request a quotation from Anglian Water to install a water supply to the allotments and the clerk was asked to write to Anglian Water Developer Services.

Cllr Coy said that it would be helpful to be advised by CBC of the spring litter pick date so that it can be advertised in Round and About and the clerk was asked to write to Street Services.
Cllr Traube asked whether the parish council should seek a quotation for maintenance work for the village hall to be undertaken in February half term. It was agreed that he would meet Mr Hermon and arrange for a quotation.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

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