

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held  
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007, at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr C Nice, Cllr R Traube (Chairman) and Cllr M Williamson  
Clerk Mr D Williams, 11 members of the public, Essex CC Cllr A Clover

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Bartleet, Colchester Borough Cllr P Chillingworth

## 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Coy declared an interest in item 11 as he is an allotment holder.

## 3. BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Cllr Williamson said that this competition was not judged by councillors, and the judges were impressed by the high standard of gardens in the village. Certificates and prizes were awarded as follows:-

First Prize for a Large Garden : Greenlands Farm, Lamberts Lane – Mrs Williams  
First Prize for a Small Garden : 9 Langleys Cottages – Mr & Mrs Challis  
Second Place : Dovedale, Moor Road – Ms Holloway  
Third Place : 4 Tambour Close – Mr & Mrs Clark  
Highly Commended : 9 Greenfield Drive – Mr & Mrs Barker  
Highly Commended : Wellmans, Lamberts Lane – Mr Hales & Ms Burton  
Highly Commended : 2 Saucelands Cottages, Coggeshall Road – Mr & Mrs Osborne

8 members of public left the meeting.

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Traube said that he has a map of the drainage system in Harold Fairs Recreation Ground if there are any future drainage problems.

Cllr Coy joined the meeting and declared the interest in item 2.

## 6. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Essex CC Cllr Clover said that the county council had contacted the police and the highways agency expressing concern with the delay in reopening the A12 after road accidents. He said that there is no update on the redevelopment of the A120 from Braintree to Marks Tey.

He then left the meeting.

## 7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following cheques were authorised for payment

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
100908	D Williams - clerk salary	£ 322.16
100909	Mr B Challis & Mrs C Challis – Best kept Small Garden First Prize	£ 20.00
100910	Mrs C Williams – Best Kept Large Garden First Prize	£ 20.00

(b) It was agreed that no transfer between bank accounts was necessary and the resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 588.76 and Business Premium Account Cr £10,172.12. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

072269 East Gores Farm, East Gores Road – change of use from redundant agricultural to storage – no objections subject to neighbours' views.

072274 East Gores Farm, East Gores Road – change of use from storage/workshop to office B1– no objections subject to neighbours' views.

Approvals

None

## 9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

The clerk reported on fund raising developments for the installation of the replacement surface for the play area. Confirmation has been received for the grant of £13,000 split as to £10,195 from Colchester Borough Council and £2,805 from Essex County Council. It was agreed that the clerk writes to both councils and thank them accordingly. Confirmation from Entrust regarding the Cory grant and the outcome of the Awards for All application are both awaited.

Cllr Maxwell suggested that consideration be given to moving the play area from the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground to the Old Playing Field (OPF). After discussion it was agreed to leave the play area at its present location

in view of the cost of the move, the fact that the parish council does not own the OPF and so the grant funding will have to be reapplied for, and the benefit of having the play area near to the school.

Cllr Traube said that a member of the recreation sub committee should inspect the play area for insurance purposes to ensure that the repairs to the play area equipment have been done, once the handyman has confirmed completion of the works. The clerk was asked to obtain this confirmation from him and advise the sub committee.

**10. ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Traube said that he had inspected the fences around the allotments, and considered that there was a good boundary at the rear of the allotments, and there was no need to repair the fence. This was agreed by all members. Cllr Maxwell said that the allotments generally were in poor shape. Cllr Traube said that holders should be advised to either work their plot or give it up, particularly as there was a waiting list for plots. Cllr Coy said that most allotment holders would pay an increased rent if water was on site. Cllr Traube said that there were two issues, firstly the condition of the allotments and the fencing, and secondly the consideration of water installation. It was agreed that a letter be sent to all holders by the clerk advising them that the parish council are reviewing the use of the allotments and the current list of tenants and whether or not they require their plots as in general the council considers that the plots are not fully utilised. The current terms for renting plots are being reviewed by the council and plot holders are to be asked whether they wish to rent a plot and if so they will be required to sign new terms and conditions. The letter will also advise plot holders that an allotment association is trying to be formed and one of the first priorities would be investigate a water supply to the plots, which the parish council supports in principle. Plot holders are also to be advised that the council is considering the possibility of halving some of the plots to reduce the large waiting list and also to assist plot holders to manage plots more effectively, and their views were requested on this.

**11. INSPECTION OF ALL TREES FOR WHICH THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE RESPONSIBLE**

It was agreed that the council instructs Brian Stacey, Countryside and Arboricultural Manager of Essex County Council, to prepare a report following his inspection of all trees for which the parish council are responsible, at a cost of up to £500, once we have received confirmation from the parish council insurers, Allianz Cornhill, to this course of action. The clerk was asked to proceed accordingly.

**12. ANNUAL ROADS AND PATHS INSPECTION WITH COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**

It was agreed that the clerk liaise with Colchester Borough Council Street Services and Essex County Council Highways Department for a suitable date for an inspection meeting, giving councillors three weeks notice. Councillors were asked to advise the clerk now of details to be placed on the agenda for the inspection.

**13. UNRULY BEHAVIOUR IN THE VILLAGE**

Cllr Coy said that residents had complained to him of unruly behaviour around the village hall and car park. The issue was discussed and it was agreed to monitor the situation. It was also agreed to order new signs for the car park stating that the car park is for the use of Village Hall users only, and no ball games and no cycling. Cllr Fairs agreed to obtain quotations and circulate them to councillors.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE**

Advice from the Neighbourhood Action Panel that the next meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The meeting was suspended

A parishioner said that there is only a six week period to appeal against any Post Office decision to close local post offices, and asked what is the parish council position here.- Cllr Traube said that the council would consider the position once we were aware of any decision.

The meeting was resumed.

**15. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr Traube said that he had inspected the bus shelter and considered that the back wall needs rubbing down and revarnishing. It was agreed that he would obtain a quotation for this and if it was below £500 then the work could be done, together with the rubbing down and revarnishing of the parish council notice board outside the shop at the same time.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....