

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th October 2006, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr W Ford, Cllr R Traube (Chairman), Cllr M Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams and 4 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr R Brewer, Cllr A Coy

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None. A flowchart was handed out to members giving guidance on the declaration of interests.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 12th September 2006 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Williamson said that the repairs to the Village Hall sign were £200 and not £150 as first estimated.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Cllr Chillingworth referred to the Neighbourhood Action Panel and encouraged parish councils to attend. There had been poor attendances to date. The next meeting is on Friday 1 December at 9.30am at Copford Primary School. Members said that one member would try to attend. He then referred to the park and ride proposal for Eight Ash Green and said that there was a highways issue. Essex County Council (Essex CC) will make a decision regarding this in March. Members expressed concern at expected congestion on A1124 because of this as the A1124 has already taken traffic off the congested A120.

6. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Mr Ray Smith, Essex CC Highways Manager advised the meeting on possible traffic calming measures. From a recent traffic survey in Brook Road he considered that the traffic flow was not high, but the average speed is higher than normally seen. Measures that could not be used included speed humps because of the possibility of increased noise, and also chicanes could not be used because there was no village lighting. Signage had already been done with the gates on entering the village. A speed camera can only be installed if the location meets accident record requirements and our village does not.

The parish can therefore consider a speed indicator device (SID), or a vehicle activated sign (VAS). The SID has to be funded by the parish and can cost between £2,500 and £3,600. Essex CC will give a grant of £1,000 but the parish has to maintain the sign. The VAS could be funded by Essex CC as they fund 4 VAS in the borough each year. There are several parishes on the waiting list and our parish may or may not be funded. The likelihood is that we would have a VAS within 3 years at the outside and possibly sooner. However a site must be located and approved. There is also a Locally Determined Projects Scheme, where the parish could apply for funding for signage, new footpaths etc.

After discussion members agreed that they would support a VAS fully funded by Essex CC Highways and the clerk was instructed to write to Essex CC Highways and advise them accordingly, and to ask them to also suggest any other measures to reduce speed.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Funds received – Colchester Borough Council – grant/precept £ 6,775.00

(b) The following payments were approved:-

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT:-
100846	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 312.83	
100847	I Dyer – handyman	£ 469.39	£ 69.90
100848	I Dyer – grasscutting OPF & HFRG	£ 235.00	£ 35.00
100849	Gt Tey Village Hall Management Committee – hall rent	£ 45.00	

(c) It was agreed that a transfer of £5,800 be made from Community Account to Business Premium Account. The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £1,005.18, and Business Premium Account Cr £18,460.76. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

F/COL/06/1648 Site rear of Kalina, Brook Road, removal of condition 3 of planning permission
C/COL/06/1141 – we agree to the request as long as this only covers the construction of a garden shed, and subject to neighbours' views.

F/COL/06/1622 East Gores Farm, East Gores Road – proposed new access driveway and landscaping – no objections

Approvals

F/COL/06/1231 3 Windmills, two storey side extension, garage with bedroom and en-suite bathroom above – approved subject to 4 conditions

C/COL/06/1141 Site rear of Kalina, Brook Road – change agricultural land to garden – approved subject to 3

conditions.

9. THE OLD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Traube said that the parish council had received a request from a resident of Brook Road for copies of correspondence regarding the old playing field under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, and that after we had received guidance from The Essex Association of Local Councils we had replied. A subsequent letter had been received today regarding the boundary fence and as members had not had the opportunity of considering it, the matter will be an agenda item in November. Cllr Traube said that he did not agree with the contents of the letter and that he had offered the resident the opportunity to write to the Parish Council Solicitors at our meeting in September.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Traube said that as there are new fire regulations an up to date risk assessment will have to be undertaken for the village hall, and he will follow this up. He has heard nothing further regarding the flooring problem from the main contractor.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK

Cllr Traube advised that the earliest date that the contractor can start is 23rd November, and by surfacing the area in 2 or 3 sections, it will take 2 or 3 weeks to complete, depending on the weather. The clerk advised that the application for £5,000 from the Lottery Fund had been delayed as an independent referee was required, and the contract had to be signed by the chairman. These issues have now been rectified. He confirmed that once the Colchester Borough Council /Essex County Council grant of £8,950 had been received, then the parish council has the funds to cover the contract plus the possible contingency plus the VAT, pending either receipt of the lottery funds or if unsuccessful, the transfer of £5,000 from the Trust Fund.

12. CORREPONENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

From Skills Kindergarten enclosing a cheque for £138.81 towards the cost of £226.31 for the replacement of the Jubilee Tree. The clerk was asked to thank them.

From the National Association of Local Councils enclosing a report on the progress of the possible restructuring of the parish council sector.

From a resident of Chappel Road drawing our attention to noise in the road in the early hours of the morning and also children riding bicycles in and out of the traffic. It was agreed that a note would be placed in Round and About Great Tey, and the clerk was asked to write and thank for drawing this to our attention.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

(a) An observation was made regarding a quad bike being driven around the old playing field. – It was agreed that a note regarding this would be placed in Round and About Great Tey.

(b) Round and About Great Tey was late in distribution this month so that a number of the events mentioned had already taken place by the time that it had been distributed. – It was agreed to forward this to the distributors.

(c) It was mentioned that many errors are in the web site for Great Tey and thus it was not good quality and not good value for the £750 that the parish has paid. - Cllr Traube said that we had advertised for experts to help us with the construction of this site, and the site is still being amended as we were aware of some errors and alterations that needed to be done and the web designer was involved with these. We also had a digital camera within the £750 cost which was available to anyone in the parish who wished to put photographs of village events on the web site. He encouraged the parishioner to send us specific details and welcomed his input.

(d) A pothole opposite Lower Langley in Chappel Road was reported. - It was agreed that the clerk would contact Essex CC Highways and ask them to repair it.

The meeting resumed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The clerk reported that he had received contact from Essex CC advising that the parish request for a bus hardstanding outside the village hall had been agreed as funding was available. The site will be surveyed and the job completed by January at the latest, and Cllr Traube asked that he be advised when the survey takes place as he wishes to attend to confirm the specific site with Essex CC.

The question of scanning Round and About Great Tey to put it on the web site each month was raised, and Cllr Fairs confirmed that he will be able to attend to this from next month.

Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.30 pm.

The parish council meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairperson.....

Date.....