

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey

On Tuesday 13th December 2005, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr R Bartleet (Chairman), Cllr A Coy, Cllr R Fairs, Cllr W Ford, Cllr R Traube, Cllr M Williamson.

Clerk: Mr D Williams, 3 members of public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr R Brewer, Borough Cllr P Chillingworth

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 8th November 2005 were agreed as a true record. It was proposed that they be signed by the chairman and they were duly signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Traube said that he was revising the draft response to Essex County Council concerning the possible withdrawal of the bus service and will return it to the clerk for dispatch.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was resolved that the following payments be made:-

Chq. No.	Payee	Amount (£)	of which VAT:-
100781	I W Dyer – supply and spread bark for play area	£ 937.65	£ 139.65
100782	D Williams – clerk salary	£ 303.75	
100783	R Brewer - course travelling expenses	£ 16.40	
100784	I W Dyer – handyman works for May & June	£ 265.55	£ 39.55
100785	I W Dyer – handyman works July, August & September	£ 331.35	£ 49.35
100786	I W Dyer – grasscutting – old playfield & recreation gnd	£ 211.50	£ 31.50
100787	R Traube – extra keys cut for village hall	£ 30.59	

The clerk was instructed to ask Mr Dyer to submit future invoices on a quarterly basis and to submit invoices one week before a meeting was due so that they could be placed on the agenda.

The clerk mentioned that the budget would be an agenda item next month and asked for expenditure proposals within the next two weeks so that the proposed budget could be circulated one week before the next meeting.

Cllr Traube asked that a provision of £250 be included for bus shelter maintenance, and a figure of £1,000 for village hall maintenance. Cllr Coy asked that the donation to Round and About Great Tey be increased from £200 to £250.

It was agreed that transfers of £1,500 and £1,000 be made from Business Premium Account to Community Account. The resultant balances after payment of cheques approved is £1,378.80 on Community Account, and £11,952.16 on Business Premium Account.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

F/COL/05/1781 4 Farmfield Road – single storey rear extension – no objections subject to neighbours' views

F/COL/05/1237 Old Warrens, The Street – erection of 3no. houses and garages – no objections subject to neighbours' views

F/COL/05/1970 Whytegates, East Gores Road – single storey rear extension and window replacement – no objection subject to neighbours' views

Approvals

F/COL/05/1559 Tey Brook Craft Centre, Tey Brook Farm – variation of condition 04 of planning permission COL/1797/88 to allow B1 use (Business) – granted subject to 9 conditions

F/COL/05/1237 Old Warrens, The Street – erection of 3no houses and garages – granted subject to 18 conditions

C/COL/05/1706 East Gores Farm, East Gores Road – change of use of shed from agricultural to workshop / storage – granted subject to 8 conditions.

7. VILLAGE HALL ALTERATIONS

Cllr Traube reported that the builders are working on the snagging list and they have been asked to complete it by the end of the year. The car parking work has been started but there is no completion date yet. Safety kerbing is to be installed. The chairman thanked Cllr Traube for his work in managing the project and on behalf of the trustees of the village hall he presented him with a painting of the village hall by a local artist.

8. VILLAGE HALL INCREASE IN HIRE CHARGES AND PURCHASE OF TABLES COSTING £750.

The village hall management committee has increased the hire charges and the revised rate is now £45 per quarter. This new tariff was agreed and the clerk was instructed to accept and to sign and return the terms and conditions of hire. The management committee has asked for assistance with the purchase of ten small folding tables and a transportation trolley at a cost of £750 plus VAT. This was agreed and the figure will be taken into account when

the budget is considered at the next meeting, to decide whether or not this is funded from reserves. The clerk is to obtain a specification of the furniture and pass to Cllr Coy who will obtain a comparative costing.

9. VILLAGE HALL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR LEGIONELLA IN THE WATER SYSTEM

The village hall management committee had been approached by an engineer suggesting that a risk assessment for legionella in the water system was required. Advice was sought from Colchester Borough Council who advised that the village hall should be assessed for any potential risk, and then prepare a course of action to control the risks. The Rural Community Council of Essex advises that most village hall premises are considered low risk and the management committee can do a risk assessment themselves. They also forwarded a paper concerning risk assessments and health and safety legislation and it was agreed that several risk assessments should be considered. The clerk will obtain more information, a note will be placed in Round and About seeking a volunteer who could help with risk assessments, and this will be an agenda item next month.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR A LITTER PICK IN MARCH

Cllr Coy agreed to organise the litter pick due next March, and a note will be placed in Round and About in January. He proposed that a social activity and refreshments at the Village Hall be included and this was agreed. The clerk will seek the actual date in January from Colchester Borough Council Street Services.

11. JUBILEE TREE AND RAILINGS AT THE JUNCTION OF COGGESHALL ROAD AND THE STREET

The railings have been recovered and can be reused, and the plaque has also been recovered but is not reusable. A letter has been received from Skills Kindergarten offering to replace the tree with a new sapling. They have also offered to maintain the grassed area at the junction around the tree, and ask that a small plaque be placed to acknowledge their input into the community. An offer of funding has also been received from Great Tey Jubilee Fund. It was agreed that as the Jubilee Fund could use their funds for the next village weekend, then the kind offer from Skills Kindergarten be accepted, subject to the parish council being able to agree that the size of their plaque is not larger than the original plaque which will be replaced, and also agreeing the wording of the plaque with them. The clerk was instructed to write to them, and if they agree, then Cllr Williamson will liaise with them.

12. WEB SITE REPORT

The clerk confirmed that the application for funding of £750 for the construction of a parish council web site had been agreed, and he was instructed to accept the funding, and to arrange a meeting with the two volunteers and the sub committee at Cllr Fairs' office.

13. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Letter received advising of a meeting to discuss their future of the Colchester Association of Local Councils on 23 January. It was agreed that the parish council would send a representative and this would be determined at the next meeting, when it would be an agenda item.

Letter received from Colchester Borough Council asking if the parish council require a copy of the electoral role. It was agreed that the clerk would write for a copy.

Letter received from Colchester Borough Council enclosing details of the recent annual meeting for Emergency Planning Officers and also a specimen Parish Emergency Plan to assist us in bringing our plan up to date. It was agreed that this would be passed to Cllr Brewer.

Letter received from the treasurer of Great and Little Tey Parochial Church Council, referring to the Parish Council's request that the grass cut at the churchyard be collected after the first cut, and advising that this would cost £150 plus VAT. They cannot fund this, and ask whether the parish council could increase their donation by this amount. It was agreed that this would be considered with the budget proposals at the next meeting, and the clerk was instructed to advise the treasurer accordingly.

Letter received from Mr R Browning referring to the volume of traffic on the A120 and the difficulty in leaving or entering the road to Great Tey, adding that resurfacing work will not improve the situation. He asks that the Parish Council consider this, and to request the Highways Agency to give this urgent attention. It was agreed that the clerk write to the Highways Agency referring to previous correspondence and asking them to advise their present policy regarding the junction and their proposals to ease the problem. The clerk is also to advise Mr Browning of our action.

Letter received from Mr J Barnard referring to the Parish Council's decision to decline an offer of funding from Essex County Council for community transport following the neighbourhood outreach scheme's advice that they did not require funding. He pointed out that the doctors' twice weekly surgery visits had been cancelled for 8 out of 9 dates in December, and he suggested that a community transport scheme could be used to enable parishioners to travel to the doctors' surgery in Earls Colne rather than rely on friends, neighbours or the outreach service. Cllr Traube said that as the existing bus service is under review the priority was to keep that service running rather than start a new service, and therefore the outreach scheme was the only service that could be considered for the community transport funding. Cllr Traube then referred to the reduction in the doctors' attendance at the Great Tey surgery in December, and said that he had been assured by the practice that they wished to remain when he was in contact with them during the village hall refurbishments. He considered that a shortage of doctors was the reason for the recent reduction in the number of surgeries. The clerk was instructed to write to the doctors' practice referring to the letter from the parishioner and advise them that there are no plans for a community bus

service with Essex County Council. Also in noting the comments made by the parishioner we seek their assurance that the surgery will return to the regular twice weekly attendances by doctors. The clerk is to advise Mr Barnard of our action.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was suspended for public questions and statements.

It is impossible to travel to Earls Colne by bus without going in and out of Colchester.

The meeting resumed.

14. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Coy said that two parishioners had asked him whether the building work at Smythers Farm, Earls Colne Road was in line with the current planning permission of September 2004, and it was agreed that the clerk ask the Planning Department at Colchester Borough Council to inspect the works.

Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 10th January 2006 at 7.30 pm.

The parish council meeting was closed at 9.40 pm, after which Cllr Coy kindly offered refreshments.

Chairperson.....

Date.....