

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fraser, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson (Chair)

Clerk Mr D Williams and Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth attended. No members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs, Cllr Frost.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 11th December 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A letter addressed to Messrs Thompson Smith and Puxon asking them to act for the parish council for the registration of the deeds of the Old Playing Field, and authorising them to deal with the clerk, was signed by Cllr Williamson and Cllr Fraser.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS – None

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that he had applied for the Locality Budget payment of £600 to assist with the purchase of two seats, noting that the parish council is seeking advice on location, cost and installation from the CBC zone manager.

He referred to the recently approved planning application for Knights Farm in the parish of Chappel and said that a group of people are seeking a judicial review against the approval.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth referred to the Local Plan and said that the inspector is corresponding with CBC. It is likely that he will re-open the enquiry into Part 1 in October, which includes the garden communities. If the garden communities do not go ahead, the village allocations for increased housing may be increased.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that the committee are coming to the end of the public engagement, and they are to meet with the Rural Community Council of Essex to obtain guidance on the way forward.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101717	D Williams-clerk salary £476.83 less PAYE £190.40	£ 286.43
101718	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 190.40

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 22,270.97, Business Saver Account Cr £22.42. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) The budget for the year to 31 March 2020 was considered. Expenditure was reviewed and a total of £19,789 was agreed. Income of £19,745 including precept and grant was agreed. Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has decided to reduce their total grant from £1,054 to £972, a reduction of £82. Last year's precept was £17,845, and it was agreed to increase this by the £82 reduction in the CBC grant and £500 for village hall maintenance costs. Thus the precept for 2019/20 was unanimously agreed at £18,427, and an increase in the Band D council tax from £47.46 to £48.79, which is an increase of 2.8%. It was agreed that the annual review of the clerk's salary be considered at the next meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications

183113 and 183114 Upp Hall Farm, Salmons Lane – proposed change of use of redundant former agricultural barns to 1 residential unit, including private amenity area – we support this application as it helps to preserve this group of historic buildings.

(b) The order for the diversion of Footpath 59 Great Tey at Salmons Farm, Salmons Lane was noted.

9. HIGHWAYS

The clerk reported that a reply is awaited from ECC Cllr Brown regarding highway defects, when we asked whether these are required as well as pothole defects requested. Members agreed to make a list of defects which can be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime the following defects were mentioned – the 30 mph sign in The Street needs correcting, the rotten signpost at the junction of Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road needs repair or replacement, and the dropped gully cover in the road on the second bend beyond Little Tey Barn and before The Rectory on Great Tey Road requires repair.

10. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Williamson said that Cllr Fairs had advised that he is arranging a site meeting with the installer to arrange for the height restrictor barrier and bollards to be moved.

Cllr Williamson said that the handyman has reported further vandalism to the wooden posts at the skate park. He had previously suggested a metal barrier to replace the posts and Cllr Fraser has also suggested a metal barrier. Members asked the clerk to send both details to ROSPA as they inspect the play equipment every year, and ask ROSPA for their advice on the legal requirements and whether either or both proposed barriers meet the height, gap and safety requirements. This will be an agenda item next month.

11. ALLOTMENTS

The clerk advised that there are two rental invoices that have still not been paid. These are being chased.

12. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Fraser said that the plan will be updated with Cllr Frost and Cllr Hunt.

13. LITTER PICK

Members agreed to hold this year’s litter pick on Saturday 9th March, meeting at the Village Hall at 9.30 am with refreshments afterwards. The clerk was asked to put an article in Round and About for both February and March, and Cllr Hamer will put a note on Facebook. He was also asked to contact CBC and arrange for the same equipment as last year to be delivered to Cllr Williamson’s property, from where the black sacks can be collected afterwards.

14. ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Cllr Fraser proposed that the parish enters the competition this year, and members agreed. The clerk agreed to circulate bullet points on which to base the entry, and asked members to amend these points as necessary. He will then prepare the entry and seek members’ agreement before submitting it.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Hunt wondered whether the parish could provide any recycling equipment, being bags, containers and sacks, for replacement as a service to parishioners who may find it difficult to travel to use the facilities at Marks Tey. Members felt that storage and administration are the main issues for consideration.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Members agreed to exclude the public from the rest of the meeting in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Sections 100 and 102, and Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, so that exempt information regarding financial matters can be decided.

17. HANDYMAN CONTRACT

Members are considering two applications for the handyman contract. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

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