

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fraser (Chairman), Cllr Fairs, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth, Essex Police PC Harkness, Mr D Rose and
13 members of the public attended.

1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The chairman said that the public questions and statements item is the only time to take questions and statements. This is not a public discussion meeting. The questions and statements will be taken without comment or answer from the parish council, and then when the meeting is resumed the responses will be given without any further comment or response from the public. We have been flexible in the past but to conduct the meeting properly this is what should happen.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Cllr Bartleet declared an interest in the planning application in minute 11 for Abrahams Farm as he is the applicant. He will remain in the meeting but will take no part in the discussion or vote on the matter. Cllr Fairs declared an interest in minute 12 for the invoice for Tey Farm Systems Ltd as he is a director but he will not vote on the matter.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 9th July 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

6. REPORT FROM THE TRAVELLER RURAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

PC Harkness referred to the recent unauthorised occupation of the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) and said that the original authority issued by Essex Police on 14 July was not enforceable as the landowner had not made a formal request for the travellers to leave. No statements or evidence regarding the unauthorised occupation had been received by the police although social media was communicating. A further authority was issued by Essex Police and the travellers left the field on 18 July. He said that preventative measures should be considered for the future.

The meeting was suspended.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

(i). A parishioner said that he had complained about the noise made during the unauthorised occupation.

PC Harkness said that it was not a police matter but CBC environmental health department.

(ii). A parishioner said that he was disappointed that the correct procedure was not followed and that a delay occurred in the departure of the travellers.

PC Harkness referred to his earlier statement concerning the lack of the formal request on 14 July.

Cllr Fairs said that the Trustees of the Village Hall who are the landowners, worked closely with Essex Police and all involved responded quickly with a good outcome, and those who gave their time must be thanked.

(iii) A parishioner said that he could not report a nuisance of motor bikes on the field by calling 101 as he could not get through after 50 minutes, and we should learn from this and include in an emergency plan for the future.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the government are concerned with this issue and are reviewing the laws regarding unauthorised access by travellers.

PC Harkness said that hare coursing and deer coursing with the use of vehicles is also a problem, and if discovered the public should only obtain vehicle details if safe to do so, and take no further action.

PC Harkness left the meeting.

(iv) A parishioner asked if we know who owns the land opposite the village hall as he considers it vulnerable to unauthorised access, and if so, can the parish council liaise with the owners.

Cllr Fairs said that the parish council will contact the agents who manage the land.

(v) A parishioner asked who will pay for the clear up of the field.

Cllr Fairs said that we may not get an invoice from CBC who cleared the field quickly. The damage to the barrier has been repaired by the installers free of charge, and the parish council has purchased new padlocks and also purchased concrete blocks.

(vi) A parishioner said that the grass at HFRG is very long.

Cllr Fairs said that we will probably have to employ a contractor.

(vii) A parishioner referred to the planning application for 4 Rectory Cottages and said that you are to look at our revised plans and have objected twice to our previous plans, we would like to know what you object to, as the latest plans are very different, do you support any planning applications.

Cllr Fairs said that all parish councillors receive electronic copies of all plans in planning applications which are then discussed at the meeting and decided upon, We note what you say.

(viii) A parishioner said that the exit from the school into Christmund Way should have 'give way' road markings or a white line across the road as drivers are not stopping as they exit the school and it is considered dangerous.

(ix) A parishioner said that the school head teacher has written to parents asking them to take care.

Cllr Fraser said that we will contact ECC Highways.

(x) A parishioner said that the attended freighter did not go inside the car park at the recent visit, resulting in concerns for safety of the public, and also rubbish left on the road.

Cllr Fraser said that the gates to HFRG were unlocked in readiness for the attended freighter's visit and the driver chose not to go into the car park. He said that we would advise CBC.

(xi) A parishioner said that there is a village cricket match on Sunday 8th September, so will the grass at HFRG be cut by then?
Cllr Fraser said that the grass would be cut by then.

(xii) A parishioner said that he was surprised that we have got to the situation where we are discussing development of land north of Brookhouse Road and East of New Barn Road. There has been a large number of objections.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that every authority draws up a Local Plan which includes a call for sites from potential developers. There are consultations from the public and then the inspector considers the local plan. There is no harm in talking to agents. The other developer has had a public meeting and we should have that for a second developer.

Cllr Fairs said that the village has to develop to be a sustainable community. If we do not create a neighbourhood plan and engage with potential developers, then development that we do not want will happen anyway.

Mr D Rose of ADP Ltd acting for Mersea Homes Ltd introduced himself and said that he would respond to any questions. He said that Mersea Homes are not in a rush to develop the site. They are aware that Great Tey is preparing a neighbourhood plan and want to work with the village.

(xiii) A parishioner said that the concrete blocks are sited on timber, is this for a short period?

Cllr Fairs said that the blocks are to be moved and then will not be sited on timber.

The meeting resumed.

Mr D Rose and 6 members of the public left the meeting,

7. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fairs said that he would obtain advice from PC Harkness regarding measures to prevent any further unauthorised occupation of the recreation ground and would report back. He said that he would arrange with Livertons to cut the recreation ground grass as it was now very long, and he asked the clerk to liaise with Mr Dyer so that the concrete blocks can be arranged in order that he can obtain access with his mower.

All parish councillors thanked Cllr Fairs for his involvement during the unauthorised occupation of HFRG, and also thanked Cllr Hamer for her communication to the parishioners during this time.

Cllr Williamson said that Playquip plan to undertake the repairs to the play equipment at the end of August.

8. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the parish council's request for a locality budget allocation will be considered next month. He said that the Local Plan was now out for consultation. He also said that Colchester Borough Council supported funding for schools, and is to ask the government to work more on global warming policy.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

9. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Cllr Hamer said that the parish council only reach a minority of parishioners at present with the existing communication channels. To put content on the existing Great Tey Facebook page requires approval by a moderator, and she said that she believes that the parish council should have a Facebook page. Cllr Fairs said that he would approach a third party to consider operating a Facebook page on our behalf.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that a member of the committee would like to attend any meeting with the agent for the proposed development of Land North of Brookhouse Road and East of New Barn Road.

11. PLANNING MATTERS.

(a) Applications

190461 4 Rectory Cottages, Brook Road – Amended plans or revised information – after discussion the agreed response is - no objections subject to neighbours' views.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

192063 Abrahams Farm, Flories Road – diversion of overhead electricity lines – no objections.

(b) Advice of Planning Applications Approved by Colchester Borough Council

182903 Marshalls Farm, Chappel Road – variations to application 122076 & approval to matters reserved & increase size of corner pillar kitchen – approved subject to 2 conditions which includes removal of the existing caravan and outbuilding and hardstanding and connection to services with the site made good, all within 3 months of the first occupation of the dwelling.

(c) Land North of Brookhouse Road and East of Newbarn Road – members agreed to a request from the agents acting to meet and discuss plans for development, and suggested that they attend the next parish council meeting.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	/ of which VAT:-
101758	Tey Farms Systems Ltd – offloading concrete blocks&cost HFRG locks	£ 398.47	£ 66.41
101759	Poundfield Products Ltd – costly of 22 concrete blocks & haulage	£3,276.00	£546.00
101760	D Williams-clerk salary £486.33 less PAYE	£ 389.13	
101761	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 97.20	
101762	Colchester Borough Council – fee for uncontested parish election	£ 62.41	
101763	I Dyer – handyman April – July	£ 518.15	£ 86.35
101764	I Dyer – grasscutting HFRG & OPF June – July	£ 343.20	£ 57.20

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 18,752.51, Business Saver Account Cr £22.44. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

13. HANDYMAN

The handyman's report was received, and the clerk was asked to advise him regarding the arrangements for an external contractor to cut HFRG grass as it was now very long, and also to ask the handyman to strim the play area now.

14. HIGHWAYS

Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr Brown had responded to our request to update the Vehicle Activated Sign in The Street by advising motorists of the speed, suggesting that updated figures of speeding motorists are obtained from Community Speedwatch, and that advice is then sought from the Liaison Officer. The clerk was asked to proceed with this. Cllr Hunt said that he would obtain the Speedwatch figures.

Members discussed the request from the member of public for ‘give way’ or white lines across the road junction leading from the school into Chrismund Way, and supported a request to the Local Highways Panel. The clerk was asked to obtain a letter of support from the school headmistress beforehand.

15. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Williamson said that a fire door is to be repaired or replaced, and this should be at the Trustees’ expense.

16. OLD PLAYING FIELD

The clerk reported that the deeds of the Old Playing Field have now been registered.

He said that an adjacent landowner has asked that the legal costs of the boundary agreement previously referred to, are shared between him and the parish council. The costs are expected to be approximately £200 to £300. Cllr Bartleet proposed that these costs are shared and all members agreed.

17. ALLOTMENTS

Members agreed to the draft circular email to allotment holders to ask them if they would like to form an association to control and run the allotments and issues, and to meet with parish council representatives from time to time.

18. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Fraser said that the update of the plan with Cllr Frost and Cllr Hunt is to be done. There is now a template recently sent by CBC for guidance. The plan should also now include an action plan regarding any unauthorised occupation of parish council or Trustees land.

19. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Email received from a parishioner querying the siting of the two new benches in HFRG. Members considered that following feedback from a number of parishioners, this was considered the most suitable location.

The clerk reminded members of the request to add items of local interest to the Local List. The details will be recirculated, and this will be an agenda item next month.

20. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Fraser said that Great Tey reached 4th position in the Essex Village of the Year Competition, and the parish council received a certificate and a cheque for £100 from Rural Community Council of Essex. He thanked all involved for their time.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.00 pm.

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