

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fraser (Chairman), Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Williamson

Clerk Mr D Williams, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth and 1 member of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs, Cllr Hunt

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 12th November 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

The meeting was suspended.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None

The meeting resumed.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the locality budget had been reviewed and he is now able to make the requested payment of £500 for the purchase of the second bench for Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG).

He said that the neighbourhood plan for Eight Ash Green has been adopted, and this includes 150 houses.

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that North Essex Garden Communities has spent £6m to date, but further funding of £350,000 has not been approved by CBC and the decision to pay further funds depends on the inspector's report on the Local Plan.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that a local landowner has given the committee a sustainability vision of Great Tey over the next fifty years. This was discussed in outline and copies will be circulated to councillors and the clerk. The committee are looking at responses to the questionnaires and responses have been received following the recent Call for Sites in the parish. Cllr Hamer said that confirmation has been received from Rural Community Council of Essex of the funding request of £8,600.

7. PLANNING MATTERS.

(a) Applications received

192654 New Barn, New Barn Road – creation of a family pool adjacent to the dwelling in a redesigned garden. Garden to replace existing expansive gravelled area and involves removing a modern open sided timber building. No objections subject to neighbours' views.

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192681 Kings Arms, Broad Green – variation of 7 and 9 conditions re permitted application 182115. No objections subject to neighbours' views.

192940 Great Tey Business Centre, Brook Road – formation of office accommodation from existing workshop/store use with welfare facilities side extension for Tey Farm Systems. No objections subject to neighbours' views.

(b) Applications approved by Colchester Borough Council

192409 The Granary, Flories Road - Replacement of 3 first floor windows, 1 ground floor window and 1 set of French doors all on the North (front) aspect – approved subject to 3 conditions.

192501 1 Rectory Cottages, Brook Road – Proposed WC to first floor – approved subject to 3 conditions.

1 member of public left the meeting.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)/ of which VAT:-
101784	D Williams-clerk salary £486.33 less PAYE £97.20	£ 389.13
101785	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 97.20
101786	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd – allotments water	£ 43.35
101787	Bedot Media Group – web site hosting & domain renewal	£ 124.31 £ 20.72
101788	Round and About Great Tey – donation	£ 250.00

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 19,668.90, Business Saver Account Cr £ 22.45. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

(c) Members considered a request from the editor of Round and About Great Tey requesting an increase in the current annual donation of £750 to enable the newspaper to continue production, as annual printing costs are £1443. After discussion members agreed to increase the donation to £1,000 a year, and also suggested that the editor approaches the village jubilee fund for part funding. If the editor would wish to take advertising, the clerk said that assistance could be given in the administration of invoices for adverts.

9. HANDYMAN

The handyman’s report was received. The outstanding items are to trim and weed the play area, to clear the youth hut of the remaining graffiti, to remove the 5 wooden posts in the skate area, and to install the concrete bases for the new seats at HFRG. The hedge between HFRG and the rear gardens of Chrismund Way and Greenfield Drive is to be cut down to 4 feet high and the brambles removed by the end of January, otherwise a contractor will be instructed.

10. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

A media policy is required regarding the Facebook page. Cllr Frost suggested that he and Cllr Hamer are to be responsible for posting items on the page, and members agreed. After discussion members also agreed that the page is used for information only and any questions or comments are not responded to, and parishioners advised that they can attend the parish council meetings and ask questions and make statements there, or alternatively email the parish clerk.

The clerk was asked to circulate to members a draft media policy covering this, and once approved this can be posted on the parish council web site.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Fraser said that installation of the post and rail fencing, hedge planting, pedestrian barriers and a gate around the car park will start on 20th December, and the concrete blocs will be moved on the day before. Cllr Fraser said that he will supervise the installation. Members agreed a sale of the 22 concrete blocs to Fairking Ltd at a unit price of £70, total cost £1,540.

Cllr Hamer said that the organisers of the village football match on Boxing Day have asked that the pitch and a few yards each side are cut and the pitch marked out with white lines. Members instructed the clerk to ask the handyman to do this after the concrete blocs have been moved.

12. TREE WARDENS AND WOODLAND PROJECT

Cllr Fraser said that CBC have written asking whether the parish council wish to reactivate the tree warden scheme, and also become involved in a woodland project promoting tree planting in the parish. Members asked the clerk to advise CBC that the project is of interest, to obtain more information and to say that perhaps this can be tied into the neighbourhood plan. We may then be able to identify a tree warden. This is to be an agenda item at next month’s meeting.

13. HIGHWAYS

The clerk said that Essex County Council (ECC) Highways has repaired the potholes in Tey Road and resurfaced the part of the road worst affected.

The clerk said that ECC Highways have advised that the speed count that they have made in Chappel Road does not support the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and that the existing Vehicular Activation Sign (VAS) will have to remain.

14. VILLAGE HALL

The clerk said that our insurers have not answered properly our enquiry regarding snow clearance policy, asking if the council could purchase a grit box and shovel and install a sign. Members agreed to ask the clerk to reply advising that they have not replied fully as they mentioned the Health and Safety Executive guidelines which does not cover liability, only best practice. The parish council cannot commit to following best practice without fail all of the time. The clerk was also asked to ask the village hall manager to contact the village hall insurers and to ask the same question concerning the purchase and use of a grit box, shovel and sign.

Cllr Fraser said that the village hall manager has mentioned a leak in the flat roof. Members agreed to monitor this and to review in the spring/summer.

Cllr Hamer said that a hole has appeared in the village hall car park. Members asked the clerk to obtain a quote from the original installers of the car park once they have been identified.

15. OLD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Fraser said that an email has been received from a parishioner asking if the parish council will fund the purchase and installation of a plaque commemorating 75 years since VE Day which should cost around £250. Members said that they were sympathetic to supporting this but before agreeing, asked to be advised of the actual cost.

16. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Fraser said that the update of the plan has been started and needs to be completed. Members agreed to complete details of the plan at the next meeting, when this will be an agenda item.

17. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

The clerk advised that a quotation has been received for the work to be done to the tree at the junction of Moor Road and Chappel Road, and a second quotation is expected

18. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Hamer asked that the arrangements for the litter pick are an agenda item at the next meeting.

The clerk said that the budgets and precept will be an agenda item at the next meeting, and asked members to advise any proposed projects or costs within the next two weeks.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.18pm.