

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fairs (Chairman), Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer, Cllr Suff, Cllr Williamson
Clerk Mr D Williams, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth and 6 members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS REGARDING THESE ITEMS

Cllr Hamer said that she is to receive a cheque from the parish council for partial reimbursement of the Zoom subscription for this meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last remote parish council meeting of 10th November 2020 were agreed as a true record, and signed remotely by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND SUMMARIES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

The clerk advised that no reply had yet been received from the doctors' surgery regarding the closure of the surgery in the village hall. He said that he had written again.

Cllr Williamson said that she will advise details of the bridges on the Essex Way footpath that are in need of repair when she is able to walk the footpath.

The meeting was suspended.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

(i). When my neighbours built an extension they discussed with me how the plans would affect me, amendments were made and the planning proposal was agreed. CBC started talking about developing the proposed New Barn Road site in 2016, and now it looks a done deal. The village envelope seems to be extended and no one has informed me of the proposal. In February the parish council advised of a plan, and this is a poor level of engagement from the parish council. It is not clear to me where we are with the New Barn Road development.

(ii). I wish to develop the issue regarding the quick development of the Brook Road site and how the village envelope was extended so quickly.

Response - Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Local Plan is a statutory plan and has to be done every 5 years. CBC asks landowners if they have sites. These are then assessed and draft proposals of sites are put forward. They will not be within village envelopes. These sites are then shown on a draft plan and an officer attends a meeting at the village hall. Comments are requested at a public consultation. The final plan then goes to the inspector. Part One of the plan looks at housing numbers and garden communities. It was decided that West Tey was unsound. Then Part Two of the plan is considered, which is development. The inspector will look at the public comments. Once the plan is adopted and all sites allocated then the developer submits plans.

(iii). We heard of development in January or February 2017, and I have had no formal notification.

Response – Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that you have not received a response personally but by public consultation.

(iv). The Brook Road consultation was lost in the West Tey consultation. At this consultation the officer was dismissive to any objections to the Brook Road consultation in a private conversation.

Response - Cllr Williamson said that she escorted the officer to her car after the meeting and apologised for the public approach.

(v). As the public questions come on the agenda before the neighbourhood plan what opportunity do we have to respond to comments made at the meeting about the neighbourhood plan?

Response – Cllr Fairs said that there are 3 members of the parish council on the neighbourhood plan committee, and any questions should be directed to that committee who then update the parish council.

(vi). You ask for questions in advance but when I ask that they are put on the agenda as an agenda item you refuse, why is that.

Response – Cllr Fairs said that we ask for questions in advance if possible so that if detailed information is requested it can be provided if possible. We do not have to debate every question.

(vii). What involvement did the parish council have with the funding agreed in the Section 106 agreement made for the Brook Road development?

Response – Cllr Fairs and the clerk said that the Section 106 agreement was made by CBC and the developers in February 2020. CBC asked the parish council for a 'wish list' in May 2020 and the timescale given for a response was short so that there was no time to consult the public. This was also done at a time when there were no parish council meetings due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The meeting resumed.

5. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said there was not much to report in view of the Covid 19 lockdown
Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that the consultation distributed to the parish has now closed, and figures have been circulated regarding responses. There are a lot of comments which are being reviewed.

The committee have received an approach regarding a pocket of land behind the Brook Road development to see if this can be added to the neighbourhood plan.

Cllr Hamer said that Groundworks have again refused an extension to the funding, and the unused grant has to be repaid. The clerk suggested that the reapplication of funding should be in stages with advice from the consultant.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications withdrawn

201661 Land at Brook Road – Application to vary conditions 9 and 21 (surface water drainage) following grant of planning # permission 192249.

(b) Cllr Fairs referred to the development at Brook Road and said that a parishioner has pointed out that there are additional access points through the hedge which were not in the original application. The clerk was asked to write to CBC Planning Department to ask why these have been added without approval.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Cheques for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	/ of which VAT:-
101849	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	£ 94.26	
101850	D Williams-clerk salary £499.83 less PAYE £99.80	£ 400.03	
101851	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 99.80	
101852	M Hamer – partial reimbursement of Zoom meeting sub	£ 13.50	
101853	PKF Littlejohn LLP – external auditor's fee	£ 240.00	£ 40.00

(b) Bank statements show Current Account Cr 32,865.49 , Business Premium Account Cr 22.48. These were seen and confirmed on the screen by the chairman.

(c) Members confirmed agreement to the application for a Locality Grant of £500 to fund refurbishment of fencing at the play area and the allotments together with £300 to fund the placing of a plaque on the water pump in The Street. There is no estimate for this yet.

(d) Cllr Fairs proposed that the council asks parishioners for suggestions for funding small projects if there are Locality Grants in the future. The clerk was asked to circulate draft wording for this.

9. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Frost asked if there was a start date for the play area fencing job. The clerk advised that the job had only recently been ordered.

Cllr Suff suggested that parishioners are asked if they wish to sponsor a bench in future which would reduce the cost to the parish council.

Cllr Hamer referred to the proposal received from a parishioner asking if the Recreation Ground can be rolled and levelled. Cllr Fairs said that it would be expensive and Cllr Bartleet said that it was not a great time to roll it. He did not see any trip hazards and it does not need reseeding. He said that a flat roll would do some good. Members agreed that the clerk asks the handyman for his views, an idea of costs and advice when to do the work.

Cllr Fairs said that there is no progress with the suggestion that white lines are painted on the car park. Cllr Williamson wondered whether planning permission is required for speed bumps, and Cllr Bartleet said that it is not required if it is on private land.

10. HANDYMAN REPORT

The clerk said that the handyman has installed the benches on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground. The play area fence posts and the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground drain are outstanding jobs.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Williamson said that she recently attended the Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting together with Cllr Hamer. She reported that a new treasurer is in place and that the hire charges are being kept at the same level. The Covid 19 grant of £10,000 has helped the annual accounts for the Committee to break even. The flat roof has not leaked recently and it is under review. It was reported that a roof tile on the gable end of the side entrance is missing, and the clerk was asked to contact the roofing contractors to replace this.

12. HIGHWAYS

Members were advised of an email from ECC Highways regarding the request for a speed limit of 30 mph for Lamberts Lane advising that the traffic survey required cannot be arranged at present as there is no funding. Cllr Fairs asked the clerk to seek clarification on the A12 closures which have changed since the last advice.

Cllr Suff said that Brook Road was not closed even though ECC Highways have approval to do so.

The clerk said that no reply had yet been received from the CBC warden regarding the request to site a tyre in front of the tree at the junction of Chappel Road and Moor Road.

13. OLD PLAYING FIELD

The clerk advised that the items have been removed from the Old Playing Field (OPF), and an email has been sent asking that the van be removed from the entrance to the OPF, and the gate closed and locked.

14. ALLOTMENTS

The handyman has submitted a quotation to install 10 new fence posts, leaving in the existing posts. Cllr Suff said that he would obtain a second quotation. The clerk advised that annual rental invoices have been dispatched, and two plots have been given up which will be filled by parishioners on the waiting list.

15. TREE AT THE JUNCTION OF CHAPPEL ROAD AND MOOR ROAD

Cllr Fairs said that a quotation has been received from Richard Fordham who has inspected the tree and considers that the tree requires a height reduction of 25% and the lower branches previously recommended in the 2019 tree survey do not need removing. He has quoted £250 cost price and members agreed subject to a method statement as it is in the middle of the road, and a copy of the public liability insurance.

16. DEFIBRILLATOR SERVICING

Cllr Fairs said that Mr Russell Cottis will not be able to service the defibrillators in future as he is moving from the village. Cllr Frost said that he will clarify what is required with Mr Cottis and look at the insurance issue.

17. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that she and Cllr Williamson will meet when they can to update the 2013 plan.

18. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

An email received from a parishioner asking that the footpath from the bus stop to the junction of Brook Road and The Street be improved as it cannot be used with a pushchair, and to walk in the road is dangerous. Members agreed to ask ECC Highways to attend a site meeting to discuss extending the footpath to the BT junction box and to advise the parishioner of this.

18. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Bartleet said that there is a broken footbridge on Footpath 11 from Earls Colne Road to Brookhouse Road, and the clerk was asked to advise ECC Highways.

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

Chairman..... Date.....