

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Frances (later), Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer (chair), Cllr Suff, Cllr Warnes.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr Barber, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth and 2 members of the public attended.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs. In his absence Cllr Hamer was chair for the meeting.

2.DECLARATION OF INTERESTS REGARDING THESE ITEMS – None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last remote parish council meeting of 8th June 2021 were agreed as a true record, and will be signed by the chair of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

Cllr Warnes asked for an update on the blockages on public footpath 16. The clerk said that ECC Cllr Barber will report on that.

5. CO OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE VACANCY

Cllr Hamer said that no application had been received by Colchester Borough Council following the advertising of the vacancy. The parish council had received two applications following their local advertising. Members considered these, and said that both candidates would be welcome. After discussion Mr Tim Frances received 3 votes and Mrs Carol Hill received two votes. Cllr Frances was duly elected and took his place at the remote table.

The meeting was suspended.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS - None

The meeting resumed.

6. REPORT FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

ECC Cllr Barber said that he was dealing with a number of highways issues, and reported on them:-

Speed Indicator Signs – He is awaiting further information from officers about the policy detail, such as cost, for the above. The policy change will allow Parish Councils to purchase and own their own indicator signs, which can also collect data and be moved around. He is prepared to financially assist Parishes who do wish to purchase such equipment through the locality budget. It may be prudent to consider what sites where you want to have such signs along and he can then request the sites be approved in principle. This does not commit parish councils but the sites would be approved ready for if you did purchase equipment.

Chappel Road - You will have received the response from officers on the footpath extension along Chappel Road. He supports this project and will help to secure funding on this. Cllr Suff said that the present footpath cannot be used by a disabled walker.

Brook Road – He has received a query whether he would support measures to address road safety measures down this road. If you wish he will pursue this and see if we can do a speed survey. Cllr Hamer said that the Brook Road speed is getting worse and ECC Cllr Barber will arrange a speed survey site.

Footpath 16 blockages - Highways initial assessment is that due to what they say is low usage this will be done but is not a priority. They have recommended he discuss with the parish council and PROW Enforcement Officer about how we can tackle this and he will follow this up.

A12 Widening Consultation - The consultation has been launched for the proposed A12 widening. The portal can be found here and there is an in person exhibition at Marks Tey Village Hall on Friday 23rd July. There are various webinars and virtual sessions too: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a12chelmsford-to-a120-widening-consultation-june21/>

Rural Bus Service - ECC has launched a new 'bus back better' strategy. Any feedback on the bus service will assist with tackling pricing, timetabling and reliability issues with rural bus services.

Broadband - The Gigabit Broadband Voucher is about to be launched in Essex to help those properties that are least likely to be included in commercial rollouts. Groups of properties can claim up to £1,500 per household and £3,500 per business.

7. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that there is no news from the Inspector regarding the Local Plan. Wakes Colne shop and post office is on the market. He has met Environment Agency staff to seek their advice on providing movable flood barriers to protect the shop in time of future flooding. Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that the committee met last week and were joined by the planning consultant. They are working on the advice he has given. The funding request has been agreed by Groundworks and the funds should be with us. Funding has also been agreed for design codes to ensure that new developments should be sympathetic to existing buildings.

9. PLANNING MATTERS - (a) Applications received

211584 - Salmons Farm, Salmons Lane, Coggeshall - Two storey side extension and rear oak framed glazed conservatory–No objections subject to neighbours' views.

211186 - New Barn, New Barn Road -listed building: repairs to window sills & frames; replace existing double glazing units in front & rear large windows & master bedroom; replace existing metal doors to master bedroom, kitchen & lounge with sliding timber doors-No objections subject to neighbours' views.

(b) Applications approved by Colchester Borough Council

211326 - 6 Langleys Cottages, Chappel Road - single storey rear and two storey side extension –approved subject to 4 conditions.

210415& -Cuckoos Farm, East Gores Road, Coggeshall - removal of existing oil tank, oil boiler and flue and then to install a pair of Air-Source-Heat-Exchangers for the purpose of domestic heating and hot water – approved subject to 3 conditions.

(c) The clerk confirmed that he had replied to CBC who had asked for likely projects that could be funded by S 106 monies for a possible New Barn Road development. They were advised that our proposed projects for S 106 expenditure would include:- Storage facilities and a community hub on the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground and refurbishment of Great Tey Village Hall, and at this stage we cannot give any indication of costs. The clerk reminded members that a rough indication of costs was requested. Members considered this and the clerk was instructed to ask the Rural Community Council of Essex if they are aware of any councils who have proceeded with storage facilities and a community hub. The clerk was also instructed to ask the football and cricket representatives if they need storage facilities.

(d) A report has been received from the planning enforcement officer at CBC regarding Tocia, Chappel Road following their investigation regarding permitted development rights and the occupancy of the barn. The report concludes that permitted development rights have only been removed for part of the property, and that the barn is occupied as ancillary to the main house using the main house for access. The clerk was instructed to ask CBC if the work refused in application 210380 had commenced when the enforcement officer visited the site.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS (a) Cheques for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	/ of which VAT:-
101897	Colchester Association of Local Councils – subscription	£ 35.00	
101898	D Williams-clerk salary £499.83 less PAYE £99.80	£ 400.03	
101899	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 99.80	
101900	M Hamer – partial reimbursement of Zoom meeting sub	£ 13.50	
101901	Rural Community Council of Essex – subscription	£ 72.60	£ 12.10
101902	Great & Little Tey PCC – donation for churchyard grasscuts	£ 900.00	
101903	I Dyer – grasscuts	£ 237.60	£ 39.60
101904	I Dyer – handyman	£ 232.64	£ 38.77

(b) Bank statements show Current Account Cr 26,174.28, Business Premium Account Cr 22.48. These statements were seen and confirmed on the screen by all parish councillors.

11. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Frost said that it was agreed at the last meeting that Clls Fairs, Frost and Suff each contact a specialist company and obtain three quotes after advising them of our broad requirements, obtain their proposals to remedy the deficiencies highlighted in the recent ROSPA report and obtain their views on the proposed bridge cutting work, and then put the proposals to the parish. He said that he is following Wicksteed but has not made any progress yet. Cllr Fairs he understands is following Playquip but is not aware of progress. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting to have an update for these three quotations. The clerk advised that following correspondence from the football representatives and the cricket match representatives, it has been agreed that the football pitch will be moved south towards the houses and the goal posts realigned.

12. HANDYMAN

Members discussed the test roll done on part of Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG) and the clerk was asked to obtain a quotation by the next meeting from the handyman to roll the football pitch.

Cllr Suff said that cuttings from the south hedge were still in the car park. Cllr Frost said that he would arrange for photographs and then if necessary the clerk should write to the handyman and ask for this to be cleared.

13. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Warnes said that with Cllr Hamer they met with the village hall manager to discuss the risk assessments for legionella, fire health and safety, asbestos and covid. She has prepared action plans and quotations are awaited for the work required to remedy the deficiencies. Cllr Hamer said that she has asked the village hall manager to keep a note of the additional time involved so that she can be recompensed. Cllr Hamer said that the question of an overall rental increase for hall usage should be left with the village hall manager who is to discuss an increase in rent to cover set up and pack away times.

14. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hamer said that the proposed footpath from the bus stop to the junction of Chappel Road and The Street is to be put to the Local Highways Panel for design, and funding will have to be agreed.

Cllr Bartleet confirmed that the parish has a sufficient stock of salt, and so members agreed not to join the ECC Highways salt bag scheme again this year.

Cllr Hamer said that the Speedwatch group are considering an additional site on Brook Road, and members agreed to accept ECC Cllr Barber's offer to arrange a speed check with ECC Highways as the first step to control the speed of vehicles there. The clerk was asked to reply to emails from Speedwatch and from a resident of Parsonage Court regarding speeding vehicles.

15. OLD PLAYING FIELD

Members were advised that the VE Commemorative Tree is diseased and agreed that it will be felled in the Autumn. Guildhall Services are kindly donating a specimen oak tree to replace it. The clerk was asked to put an article in Round And About advising parishioners of this.

16. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Warnes said that following complaints from other plot holders, he inspected the plots and noted that one plot has removed part of the exterior fence and rabbit proofing. The clerk was instructed to write to the plot holder and ask him to reinstate the fence and rabbit proofing. Cllr Warnes will visit again to reinspect the gate.

17. EMERGENCY PLAN

Members discussed the contents of the plan and updated where necessary. The clerk said that he would update the contact names for equipment and resources.

18. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Colchester Borough Council have written to offer free trees to parishioners at the end of the year. There is a list of trees, and the clerk was asked to put an article in Round and About advising parishioners and asking for contact if they would like further details.

Strutt & Parker, the agents for the Diocesan land fronting Chappel Road, have responded to our request for them to clear the debris from the ditch clearance in 2019 on the footpath from the bus stop to the junction with The Street. They enclose a photograph from 2009 which shows that the footpath was in a similar situation then, and so they did not cause any blockage of part of the footpath. Members reluctantly agreed.

Age Concern have written seeking a further donation. Members declined as they wished to use limited funds to help as many deserving causes as possible, and we had made a donation to them last year.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members agreed that the licence agreed with the owner of Tey House to have access to the Village Pump to weed it can be cancelled as Cllr Suff has agreed to do this and he has retained the spare key. The clerk was asked to confirm this with the owner of Tey House.

20. DATE AND TIME AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Members agreed that the next meeting on 10th August at 7.30pm would be a face to face meeting at the village hall unless Government restrictions are changed.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 10.07pm.

Chair..... Date.....