

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm
Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hamer (Chair), Cllr Suff, Cllr Warnes.
Clerk Mr D Williams, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Cllr Chillingworth. No members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Fairs, Cllr Frances, Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr Barber.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the last remote parish council meeting of 10th August 2021 were agreed as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.

The meeting was suspended.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

No public were present, but an email was received from a parishioner who asked that his three questions were considered:-

(i). Can the Parish confirm that the overhanging hedge on the junction of Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road has been taken up with the homeowner and the hedge is to be cut back to the boundary line of the property to increase visibility from the junction? Members said that this issue has not yet been taken up with the relevant householder. Our Essex County Councillor Lewis Barber is arranging to visit the site together with officers from Essex County Council Highways Department to establish whether visibility at this junction can be improved in view of the potential increase in traffic anticipated if the development at New Barn Road proceeds. A parish councillor will attend that site meeting.

(ii). Can the Parish Council confirm the present situation with the rolling of the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground and the proposal to undertake some levelling for safety?

Members said that a test roll has been undertaken by the handyman and a quotation for the football field has been requested. The handyman has asked that we wait for the quote until the football pitch has been moved and the goal posts realigned and the football club will pay half. Now that the cricket game has taken place, we anticipate that this quotation will be forthcoming.

(iii) Could I also request for discussion if the Parish Council would be willing to have the meeting live on a zoom call to allow viewing and participation by parishioners?

Cllr Hamer asked for members' views and after discussion they voted unanimously not to ask for mask wearing or to ask for a Covid test if parishioners were to attend a parish council meeting. Members voted 3 to 2 against having the meetings broadcast live on a zoom call to allow viewing and participation by parishioners as the meeting room is well ventilated with windows and doors open, and social distancing is practised. The clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

The meeting resumed.

4. REPORT FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Cllr Chillingworth said that the Inspector has sent his report to the Local Plan Committee, it will be published and there will be the opportunity to make comments. He also said that the new planning bill will not have the radical changes first considered. Borough Cllr Chillingworth left the meeting.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hamer said that together with Cllr Fairs and Cllr Warnes they met Ms C Doyle from CBC to clarify CBC's requirements for the parish council for the Section 106 monies due if the New Barn Road development proceeds. Cllr Warnes said that the parish council will have to move quickly to put proposals to CBC with our wish list and costings otherwise the parish council will not be allocated any funds when the planning application is submitted as the Section 106 agreement is completed soon after. At present we have identified storage facilities for the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground (HFRG), and work to the village hall.

Cllr Hamer asked if we should liaise with the swimming pool group who are making a bid for funding for Section 106 monies.

Cllr Hamer referred to the Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road junction and said that the parish council should ask ECC Highways to consider realigning this junction in view of the New Barn Road proposed development, and the clerk was asked to raise this topic when a date is proposed for a site meeting.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications approved by Colchester Borough Council

211186 New Barn, New Barn Road – 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. Approved subject to 3 conditions & 1 informative.

(b) Applications refused by Colchester Borough Council

211943&4 Welmans, Lamberts Lane -Proposed single storey rear extension to existing garden room -Refused

212082 Baldwins Farm, To determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion -Refused

(c) Cllr Hamer referred to the Section 106 monies due from the proposed New Barn Road development and said that Cllr Fairs is arranging a quote for a storage container large enough for changing facilities. The village hall sub committee are arranging for costings for the village hall renovations and repair work which may include kitchen renovations for a community hub. Cllr Warnes said that Ms C Doyle at CBC said that she will seek to clarify whether funding for the ongoing maintenance of open spaces can be included in our proposals. The clerk was asked to write to the swimming pool group to say that it would be helpful for both to understand the amount of both bids and the timeframes.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Cheques for payment

Chq.No.	Payee	Amount (£)	/ of which VAT:-
101910	D Williams-clerk salary £499.83 less PAYE £99.80	£ 400.03	
101911	HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for clerk	£ 99.80	
101912	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd – allotments water	£ 40.70	
101913	I Dyer – grass cutting	£ 184.80	£ 30.80

(b) The resultant balances after all items are paid and received is Community Account Cr £ 30,212.02, Business Saver Account Cr £ 22.48. The Neighbourhood Plan allocated fund included in the Community Account is £ 6,200.00. The bank statements were signed by the chairman in evidence.

Cllr Bartleet took the chair for the next item.

(c) Members agreed that the bank mandate authorising signatories at Barclays Bank be amended. Two new signatories, Cllr Frances and Cllr Warnes are authorised to sign. Cllr Hamer and Cllr Bartleet are already authorised, so that any two of the four signatories can sign jointly. Former Cllr Williamson is removed from the bank mandate. The mandate was signed and the clerk was asked to arrange completion and forward it to Barclays Bank.

Cllr Hamer returned to the chair.

8. HAROLD FAIRS RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Frost said that he has met with Playquip to discuss the play area development, the deficiencies highlighted in the recent ROSPA report and the proposed bridge cutting work, and they have submitted a quote. HAAG has also visited and are to submit a quote, and he hopes to see another one or two companies. After all quotations have been received, then it would be appropriate to seek parishioners’ views before approving final designs. A possible open day at the village hall should be considered.

Cllr Hamer said that a perimeter fence should be included in plans.

Members discussed the hedge to the south side of HFRG which borders the rear gardens of Chrismund Way and Greenfield Drive. It was agreed to ask the handyman to cut this hedge down to 4 feet, remove the clippings, and then manage it at that height. The clerk was asked to write to him.

9. HANDYMAN – The only outstanding job is the hedge in HFRG.

10. VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed to submit an application to Essex County Council CIF Fund for funding of the plumbing and fire door works required, and the clerk was asked to submit this by the closing date of 17th September.

The sub committee members are considering costs for a community hub by way of improvements to the hall kitchen area.

The village hall manager’s probation period finishes on 6th October, and the sub committee agreed to arrange to meet her and ask her to bring a note of the village hall income to date this year compared with figures for the same period in 2020 and 2019.

11. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hamer said that concern had been expressed with the state of the tree at the junction of Moor Road and Chappel Road, as the tarmac is now close to the base of the tree which looks stressed. The clerk has advised ECC Cllr Barber asking him to arrange for ECC Highways to rectify this as a matter of urgency. Fordhams Tree Surgeons confirms that it is the tarmac near to the tree roots which is causing the problem, and they can quote for work to improve the tree once the tarmac is removed. In the meantime they can cut out dead wood at a cost of £100. This cost was agreed and their work plan agreed. A parishioner has suggested that this junction is configured in the same way as the junction at Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road, with an island in the middle of the road, and traffic going only one way either side of the island. She has also suggested a 7.5 ton vehicle restriction on Moor Road. Members agreed to put these proposals to ECC Highways and to ask them to view the junction at the same time as the site visit to Earls Colne Road/Chappel Road junction.

The clerk said that he had written again asking that the speed limit check is undertaken for Brook Road, and members agreed to the suggestion from a parishioner that the police are asked to do periodic speed checks. The clerk was asked to arrange this.

The clerk said that he had written again asking for an update on the proposed footpath from the bus stop on Chappel Road to The Street junction.

Cllr Bartleet asked if we could change the Speed Indicator Device (SID). The clerk said that new details regarding the devolution to parish councils of the SID, and the resultant cost implications, will be circulated for information.

12. ALLOTMENTS.

The clerk said that he had written to the plot holder who had removed the rabbit fencing on his plot, asking him to reinstate it.

13. EMERGENCY PLAN - The clerk said that he is updating the contact names for equipment and resources following the call for assistance published in the recent Round and About. There had only been a small response.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk was asked to write to the occupant of the house on the corner of Greenfield Drive and The Street asking them to cut back the hedge away from the footpath.

Cllr Suff said that he was arranging a parishioner’s meeting to arrange a clean up of the village. He said that he has made them aware that there is no parish council liability.

There being no further business the parish council meeting was closed at 9.47pm.

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