

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm. Present: Cllr Fairs (Chair), Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Warnes, Cllr Frances, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hill, Cllr Bartleet. Clerk Adele Warnes, Cllr Sunnucks and 2 members of the public attended.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Barber. Apologies accepted and noted
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None
- 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the last parish council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman in evidence.
- 4. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES IF NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE:** It was noted that outstanding action points were included as part of the agenda items.

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS:**

- A parishioner would like their concerns noted about the removal of the green waste collection service by Colchester City Council. It is likely to lead to the dumping of green waste around the village. Would the Parish Council consider writing to CCC to express their concerns and could local farmers consider a strategy for green waste disposal.
  - How are we going to protect green spaces especially given the New Barn Road development which will result in heavy traffic during construction.
  - When considering the budget for 24/25 will the Parish council be including costs for a new post for the village sign. Current estimate is £500
  - Colchester planning have totally disregarded the neighbourhood plan and not taken into consideration any of the objections raised about the New Barn Road development. There were over 100 objections raised by parishioners but these have been totally ignored by Colchester City council.
- 5. WARD AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS (IF PRESENT):**
- Cllr Sunnucks updated on the point raised regarding the New Barn Road development and stated that there was nothing to be done except start a campaign, which he already had underway, to get CCC to adopt a more listening attitude and to soften their bureaucratic processes.
  - The decision to introduce charges for the collection of green waste is hugely unpopular (most parish councils have raised objections) but the reason for applying charges is that there is a huge funding deficit. If you do not sign up and pay for collection then alternate arrangement will need to be made such as making trips to the council dump or finding an alternate way to dispose of green waste.
  - There is a new government grant scheme for off-gas grid properties which are likely to be hit hardest by increased energy bills. The grant provides funding to improve the energy efficiency of eligible properties by installing energy efficiency measures. Households with a combined income of less than £31k per annum or who are in receipt of certain benefits are eligible to apply. Details can be found at [Energy efficiency grants · Colchester City Council](#)  
*A/P 231201 Clerk to provide information to parishioners via notice boards and website.*
  - The damaged sign on Coggeshall road has been reported.
  - Councillor Sunnucks advised that the councillors representing Wakes Colne Parish council have all resigned; currently looking at merging Wakes Colne with Chappel Parish Council. Great Tey are to be congratulated for having a well-managed and well represented parish council.

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:**

Councillors' comments have been submitted for inclusion into the neighbourhood plan which was taken to the CCC planning meeting where the New Barn Road development was discussed. Despite voicing their concerns about the changes to the planning application these were subsequently ignored by the Planning committee. The plan now needs to be updated as there is a preferred site when considering the "call to sites."

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- a) Applications received
  - 232762- Tey Brook Centre, Brook Road. Erection of 2 no employment units B2 and B8 use. No objections subject to neighbours' views.
  - 232796 – Tey Brook Farm, Brook Road, 50kw solar array. No objections subject to neighbours' views.
- b) Applications approved.
  - 231153 – Application for approval of reserved matters following outline planning permission – New Barn Road development. Approved conditional subject to 7 conditions and 1 informative.
  - 231540 – Proposed porch and single storey rear extension, 10 Greenfield Drive. Approved subject to 3 conditions.

## **8. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

- a) The list of payments and cheques to be signed for December was presented. These were approved and signed by Cllr Warnes and Frances. Total payments for approval were £761.77 comprising of clerk salary and HMRC, EALC clerk training - £204.00 and Water bill (allotments) - £37.10.
- b) The resultant balance, after all items have been paid is Community Account CR £30,921.54 and the Business Premium account balance is CR £69.66. The November statements and bank reconciliation statement were signed off by the Chair in evidence.

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- c) 2024/25 budget requirements had been submitted by councillors to be incorporated into the precept demand for submission mid-January. The clerk advised that the editor of the R&A had asked for additional support beyond February publication and it was agreed by all to release a payment of £340 to the Roundabout for March and April publications.

## 9. GARDEN WASTE STRATEGY

There was a discussion about CCC introduction of charging for disposal of green waste and all expressed their dissatisfaction. Concerns were raised about fly tipping but CCC have stated that there is no evidence of that. Cllr Frances advised that, at a recent meeting to discuss the strategy, all parish council had voiced their concerns. The response from CCC was that the books had to be balanced and budgets needed to be cut.

## 10. HFRG

It had been identified that maintenance of the boundary fencing/gate adjacent to the open field (public footpath entrance) was the responsibility of the Parish council and sections of it would need to be repaired/replaced. Cllr Fairs agreed to contact C W fencing for a quotation to replace a section of broken fencing. Cllr Warnes advised that he would also look at other fencing contractors who might provide a quotation for repair. ***A/P 231202 Cllr Fairs and Warnes to follow through to obtain quotations for the work.***

**Cllr Sunnucks and 1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.27pm**

## 11. MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR:

Nothing to report

## 12. VILLAGE HALL:

A question was asked about the refurbishment of the potable water tank and when the work was likely to take place. The clerk agreed to obtain this information. ***A/P 231203 Clerk to find out date of work.***

## 13. HIGHWAYS:

- There had been numerous complaints about the village bus running late and drivers not accepting bus passes as Great Tey not defined in the outer boundary. It was agreed that all matters relating to the village bus be referred to Cllr Barber who was already in discussions with First Bus.
- The clerk reported that a complaint had been lodged with Highways regarding the dangerous tree overgrowing onto Brook Road and the lack of response in dealing with the broken finger post at Buckleys. The response to the complaint was less than favourable and the clerk was asked to refer the matter to Cllr Barber. ***A/P 231204 Clerk to refer to Cllr Barber and to contact Nicholas Percival re site visit as the tree may be their responsibility***
- The tree surgeons had advised that the optimum time to do work on the Jubilee Oak was Jan/Feb. ECC had not yet updated the Parish council on whether they could prune the tree as they were still waiting on a response from their arboriculturist. The clerk was asked to engage with Cllr Sunnucks in January if there was still no response. ***A/P 231205 – Clerk to seek support from Cllr Sunnucks in January 24***
- All considered the request for the Parish council to pay the costs for the traffic surveys which is £237.70 per site. It was understood that 1 survey on Great Tey road was already in place and the clerk was asked to go back to Cllr Barber to confirm this. If that was the case and there was no budget available from ECC for survey, the Parish council would agree to 2 being positioned at the agreed locations. ***A/P 231206 Clerk to raise with Cllr Barber.***

**14. OLD PLAYING FIELD** – Clerk to check if she holds a key to the gate for the OPF. ***A/P 231207***

**15. ALLOTMENTS** – An inspection had been carried out and it was identified that several plots still needed to be tidied up. Furthermore, 3 allotment holders had still to pay their annual allotment rental. The clerk was tasked to contact the allotment holders one final time to remind them of their responsibilities. ***A/P 231208 Clerk to contact the allotment holders.***

## 16. INFORMATION SHARING AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Following a meeting with Mark Healy of CCC planning department, Cllr Warnes updated the parish council on the S106 reports that were received monthly. The parish council have a wish list of projects for consideration and this has been requested so that future release of S106 monies for small development can be utilized appropriately.

**Remaining members of the public left the meeting and a closed meeting took place to discuss personnel issues.**

## 17. CLOSED MEETING:

NALC had advised of a pay increase effective from April 23. All agreed that this had to be implemented. Following this and there being no further business to discuss the Parish Council meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.