

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm.
Present: Cllr Warnes, Cllr Frances, Cllr Hill, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Bartleet and Clerk Adele Warnes. Cllr William Sunnucks and Cllr Lewis Barber attended on behalf of Ward and County. 1 member of the public and an observer also attended.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Fairs. Apologies accepted. In the absence of Cllr Fairs, the Vice Chairman Cllr Frances was elected to conduct the meeting.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None
3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the last parish council meeting of Tuesday 10th December 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:**
240202– Hooping Plate outside Cob Cottage. Ongoing. The clerk is waiting for quotes to be returned.
240408 – UKPN request for lease agreement. Ongoing
240308 – Community Policing scheme. The clerk has written to the community police officer asking for an update.
241204 – Proposed migration to GOV.UK email addresses. Bedot Media confirms that they can co-ordinate migration at a cost of £49.99 per annum. The motion to move to GOV.UK was proposed and seconded with all voting in favour of progressing. The clerk was instructed to progress.

The meeting was suspended at 7.40pm

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS:**

- A parishioner reported that they had looked at the plan associated with the green area on the New Barn Road Development and whilst it documented how it should be maintained, it did not state who would maintain it. Cllr Warnes advised that £10k had been set aside within the S106 monies for this and it would be maintained by Colchester City Council.
- It was noted that 2 dog waste bins were proposed for this space but only 1 shown on the plan.
- Access to the Harold Fairs Recreation Ground from the development. Plan indicates 2 but only 1 is shown.
- Nice to see bat boxes were being installed.
- Also, low level lighting in situ.

The meeting was resumed at 7.42pm

6. **WARD AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS (IF PRESENT):**

Report from Councillor William Sunnucks

- Very busy with CCC currently. A motion had been passed by the ECC for reform and devolution. This could see Colchester City council merging with Tendring and Braintree. Whilst this was a major distraction the plan is to manage transition closely with a period of overlap so that there is no disconnect in the continuity of services provided.
- Charter Hall had been booked for 17 Feb for a meeting with the local planning committee and to look at housing allocations. This would likely mean more allocation of housing to Great Tey and whilst it can be argued that the Neighbourhood plan should be respected, it is a possibility that it may be overruled. It is important that parishes adopt a holistic approach and work together to push for the infrastructure changes needed to support the proposed allocations.
- Chappel village hall management committee have had resounding success in “lettings” of their village hall and were happy to have a discussion with GT VHMC if required.
- Cllr Warnes said that he understood that the SLAA (strategic land available assessment) would be available on the CCC website by Christmas Eve, but this had not happened. Cllr Sunnucks said he would investigate it and forward a copy, if available, to councillors.

Report from Councillor Lewis Barber:

- Gave an overview of the implications of the proposed local government reform. A detailed application would be submitted to the government by March 25 and, if/when approved Cllr Barber would arrange meetings with parishes to advise further. However, it was not anticipated that there would be a significant impact on parish councils.

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

- Footpath number 16 – No budget to progress until now. Would be subject to a legal charge.
- A/P240901 – Traffic calming measures exit of HFRG car park. Unfortunately, at the current time there was insufficient evidence of incidents to justify this.
- A/P240911. Reinstatement of footpath on Brook/Chappel Road. Will be put forward in the next round of the priority scheme for March.
- A/P240912. Hedge junction of Chappel Road. ECC highways to review and feedback with the possibility of enforcement if found to be encroaching on the public highway. Cllr Barber suggested that a “friendly” letter to the homeowner sent from the Parish council may prove beneficial. The Parish council agreed to this.

A/P250101 Clerk to compile a letter for approval by councillors.

7. PLANNING MATTERS: None

- 8. FINANCIAL MATTERS:** Total payments for approval = £780.40, of which £24.37 is VAT. This is comprised of: -
- The clerk’s salary - £577.20 of which £115.60 is HMRC.
 - HMRC - £115.60 (PAYE)
 - Bedot Media Group - £146.20 of which £24.37 is VAT.
 - Village Hall Hire quarterly rental - £57.00.

The resultant balance, after all payments are made is the Community account -£774.75 and business account £38,518.75. Approval was given to transfer £800 from the business account to the community to facilitate the payments being made from the community account.

- Setting of Parish Precept and budget considerations 25/26. Several options for a % increase to the precept were presented by the RFO. After much discussion councillors determined that either a 2% or 5% increase above that requested in 24/25 would be appropriate. A vote was taken with 3 voting in favour of a 2% increase and 3 voting in favour of a 5% increase. The Chair had the casting vote and voted for a 5% increase. The clerk was duly instructed to submit the precept requirement of £21,811.65 for 25/26 financial year. ***A/P250102 Clerk to submit precept request.***
- CCLA and Blackrock investments: The revised mandate forms were now ready for submission and would allow for online access to the quarterly statements. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold a Trustees meeting at the end of the February Parish council meeting and the clerk was instructed to add this to the agenda.

9. NEW BARN ROAD DEVELOPMENT. A productive meeting had taken place with Mersea Homes prior to Christmas and concerns raised by councillors had been acted upon promptly. It was important to keep the dialogue going as the development progresses.

10. HFRG.

- Agricultural removal of hedging to the south side of recreation ground. A/P240802 refers. Ongoing
- Consideration of maintenance contract for play equipment. A/P241003 refers. Ongoing

11. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE ISSUES: No update had been received from the maintenance contractor on the outstanding issues. It was agreed that a face-to-face meeting should be set up to discuss the ongoing maintenance contract and plans for 25/26.

- Repairs to Village Sign – All in favour of proceeding with the quotation received for a repair to the signpost at a cost of £320.00 plus VAT. Clerk to notify Bakers of Danbury and arrange for the work to be scheduled. ***A/P250103***

12. ALLOTMENTS: Still to obtain dates from the allotment sub committee to host a meeting with allotment holders on forming an allotment association. A/P241203 ongoing. The clerk reported that a parishioner had expressed interest in taking over the vacant allotment and this was now proceeding.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- Detailed budget discussions to be included on Feb agenda. All to review the information sent out by the clerk in readiness for the next meeting.

14. PERSONNEL MATTER – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: None

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 8.35pm

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th February at 19.30pm in the Village Hall.