

# GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 7.30pm. Present: Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Hill, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Marriott, and Clerk Adele Warnes. 5 members of the public were present. Cllr Sunnucks was also in attendance

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Frances, Warnes and Frost. Apologies accepted
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None
3. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PERSON FOR MEETING:** In the absence of Cllr Frances, Cllr Bartleet took the Chair.
4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the last parish council meeting of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman in evidence.
5. **ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES IF NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE:** None

*The meeting was suspended at 19.36pm*

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS:

- What is happening with the footpath opposite the Village Hall. Understand that £80,000 was put aside for the reinstatement of this pathway but nothing has happened. **A/P250801- Clerk to follow through with Cllr Barber.**
- Stop signs or give way signs are needed on the exit from the school car park onto Chrismund Way. There have been several near misses and it is only a matter of time before there is an accident. Comment for Parish council: The Parish council advised that this had been raised with ECC Highways who confirmed no action would be taken as there had been no reported incidents.
- Could the Parish council please update the parish residents on the works that are currently being carried out on the field to the north of the Harold Fairs recreation ground. The works look like pre planning for more houses. Comment from Parish council: We believe this to be an archaeological survey but have not received anything in confirmation of that. A request will be made for a meeting with Mersea Homes to find out more detail and next steps. **A/P250802 – Clerk to request meeting with Mersea Homes.**
- As a member of neighbourhood planning group that spent 6 years working on the local neighbourhood plan, I hope that these are not part of the previously rejected plan to develop the village. Could I please propose that an article be pulled together and circulated to the Parish via the parish magazine on these works. **A/P250803 – Clerk to arrange this following outcome of A/P 250802**
- Thank you to the Parish council for arranging the cutting back of the large hedge close to the junction at the end of the village on Chappel Road. This has improved the visibility from the junction and helped the overall safety of that junction.
- Could the Parish council please contact our local council member to chase the repairs on the potholes outside the village hall and near the old rectory. The local council member needs to put these defects forward for repair as part of the member led works programme. **A/P250804 – Clerk to follow through with Councillor Barber.**
- Could I suggest that the recent article in the R&A regarding resident views on a 20mph speed limit be put on social media and the Parish council webpage. This will allow for greater coverage.

*Meeting was resumed at 19.52pm*

7. **WARD AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS (IF PRESENT):** Update from Councillor Sunnucks

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- 20 is plenty speed initiative. There are two schools of thought regarding this. One view is that it should be “blanket” across all villages and the other that 20mph speed restrictions should be in place outside schools/critical areas etc.
- Great Tey will be consulted on the local plan once it is released and it is critical that the Parish council make sure that, if the plan goes ahead and additional houses are planned, that they have a well thought through list of what the village needs to support. Cllr Sunnucks has offered to provide guidance on this.
- Concerned that now work has been undertaken to reduce the speed limit on the A120 that ECC will assume the road is safe and will not progress with infrastructure improvements to support the potential growth of housing.
- Cllr Sunnucks has produced a 4-point plan to find money to support an infrastructure plan as it is unfair to take additional housing without that plan in place.
- CCC has now produced a set of accounts improved from last year. However, no audit report. Cllr Sunnucks happy to take the PC through these if required.
- There will be a mayoral election next spring.
- Local government reform update. Likely Colchester will not exist as a district but will merge with Braintree and Tendring.
- It was asked if the Parish could campaign to stop development. Answer: Yes – it can be stated that the parish do not want it or do not want it but there is an alternative. Need to recognise that we will have additional housing but we have got to have the infrastructure to support it. Other Parish councils are working on it now; some in collaboration with each other.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS:

- **Planning application:** Application 251536. To discharge condition 15 relating to the payment by Mersea Homes for the provision of new bus shelters at Village Hall. Clerk was asked to write to Passenger transport to find out more about this proposal. ***A/P250805 – Clerk to write to Passenger transport.***
- **Planning enforcement:** Parsonage court development. Adherence to landscaping management plan at north end of site. Conditions to maintain landscaping by the developer expire at the end of 2025. The clerk was therefore asked to find out what will happen then. ***A/P250806 – Clerk to contact developer, management company and enforcement officer to follow through.***

## 9. NEW BARN ROAD DEVELOPMENT: S106 spend and future developments need to be considered. Members determined that there should be a sub-committee to manage this and Cllr Warnes (by email), Frost, Hubbard and Bartleet agreed to form that sub-committee. Cllr Sunnucks offered to provide support on an “informal” basis.

***3 members of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm along with Cllr Sunnucks.***

## 10. CLERKS REPORT

- Register of interest forms to be updated and forwarded to monitoring officer. ***A/P250807 Clerk to organise.***
- **Handyman was seeking clarification on the removal of weeds in the walkways around the Village.** 2 options presented: Option 1: Clear overgrowth and leave flowers were identified or option 2 - clear all overgrowth in walkways. Members agreed on option 2 and the clerk was instructed to notify the handyman of this decision. ***A/P250808 – Clerk to contact handyman.***
- **Handyman had also reported the degradation of the pathways.** Clerk to take up with ECC highways who have the responsibility to maintain. ***A/P250809 – Clerk to follow through.***

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## 11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The list of payments to be authorised for July was presented. Total payments for approval as per the August agenda was £1105.20 of which £88.00 was VAT. Total comprised of: -

- Clerks' salary - £461.80
- HMRC - £115.40 (PAYE)
- JPB Grass cutting - £528.00 of which £88.00 was VAT

This gave an overall value of payments to be authorised of £1,105.20. The resultant balance, as of 12<sup>th</sup> August (date of meeting), after all items have been paid is Community account is DR -£1,098.96 and the Business Premium account balance is CR £35,172.97

The bank reconciliation statement was signed off by the Chair in evidence. A transfer of 1100.00 from the business account to the community account to facilitate payments was agreed.

RCCE membership was due at a cost of £84.00 for the year. Members all agreed that there was no benefit in renewing the membership as the services offered by the RCCE had never been needed.

## 12. HFRG:

- Members agreed that the hedging on the HFRG would need attention and the clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the cutting back of the hedging next to the footpath adjacent to the school, by the small play area and the south side of the playing field. ***A/P250810 – Clerk to obtain quotes and report back at the next meeting.***
- There were some minor issues with the new gates on the small play area. Clerk was asked to write to the contractor to get them back on site to take remedial action. ***A/P250811 – Clerk to arrange.***
- Following a report from the handyman regarding the fencing around the small area, it was agreed by all councillors to obtain quotes for replacement fencing. ***A/P250812 – Clerk to obtain quotes.***
- Cllr Hill asked for consideration to be given to the provision of a commemorative plaque for the oak tree planted on the HFRG. As members did not recall what the occasion for the planting of the tree was, the clerk was tasked to find out. It could then be discussed at the September meeting. ***A/P250813 – Clerk to follow through.***

**13. ALLOTMENTS:** All members agreed to the proposed increase of £1 per annum for the rent of the allotment plots. This would take the cost of rental per plot from £25.00 to £26.00 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October. The clerk was instructed to write to allotment holders to advise them of this. ***A/P250814 – Clerk to write to allotment holders***

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:** Consider increase in hourly rate for Village Hall Hire. This will be discussed at the September meeting and the VH accounts will be circulated to all members prior to that meeting.

***1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.30pm***

**15. PERSONNEL MATTERS – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:** NALC pay award and contractual increment for Clerk backdated to 1 April 2025.

There being no further matters the meeting concluded at 8.35pm

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.