

GREAT TEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 14th May at 7.00pm. Present: Cllr Fairs (Chair), Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Warnes, Cllr Frances, Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Hill, and Clerk Adele Warnes. Cllr Sunnucks and 6 members of the public attended.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR PERSON:** The clerk explained that it was normal for the Chair of the Parish council to host the meeting unless there were any objections. None objected and Cllr Fairs took the chair.
- 2. PRESENTATION OF NSIP STATUTORY CONSULTATION BY CCC.** James Ryan NSIP portfolio officer for CCC explained his role and gave an overview of the pylon scheme. He advised that he would be responsible for writing the council's response. As part of that response, he was reaching out to Parish councils to encourage them to object to the scheme in principle and as tabled. Following on from this a parishioner was invited to read a prepared statement on the impact of the scheme and how it significantly affects the south of the parish of Great Tey. There then followed a discussion about the scheme, how the consultation was insulting to parishioners, that National Grid has no concern for the emotional impact on those affected and that "mock ups" of the proposed scheme were wholly inaccurate. The Parish council gave a view that the scheme would affect everyone in Great Tey and that they would respond to the consultation with their objections. Cllr Sunnucks advised that all should work together to oppose National Grid and that a good approach would be to list down each pylon and state the impact and harm that is being done to the surrounding area and village.
- 3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE PARISH:** Cllr Barber not in attendance. Apologies received.
- 4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COLCHESTER CITY COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE PARISH:** Cllr Sunnucks explained that he was also a resident of Great Tey and had been since 1992. He was also the owner of the Kings Arms pub which is also in the village. He is finance spokesperson for the local authority and believes that he can make a difference in supporting CCC with their finances which are not healthy. He has a view of the impact on the pylon scheme and will use his role as councillor for CCC to voice his objections. More recently he has also taken over as Chair of Wakes Colne Parish council. Cllr Fairs thanked Cllr Sunnucks for his valued contribution to the parishioners of Great Tey and his ongoing support. Cllr Sunnucks concluded by saying that the ECC councillors – Cllr Lewis Barber, has given 12 months' notice to leave his role to focus more on his home life. He is acknowledged as being an enthusiastic and energetic councillor who will leave a big void when he leaves in March 2025.
- 5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL:** First, on behalf of Great Tey Parish council, Cllr Fairs paid his respects to a neighbour and very cherished councillor – Mary Williamson who sadly passed away on 14th November 2023. Mary was a great contributor to Great Tey and is sadly missed. 2023 also saw the retirement of David Williams who had served the Parish council in his role as Parish clerk for over 20 years. All agreed it was the end of an era – David was a formidable and efficient clerk who kept the Parish council on the straight and narrow. In terms of achievements in 23/24, Cllr Fairs gave an overview of all the council

GREAT TEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

had achieved. He also outlined the plans for 24/25 which would see focus given to the call to sites, pylon consultation, Great Tey parish council website and more emphasis on maintaining and enhancing the village green spaces. There had been a decision to raise the parish precept by 5% which represents an increase of £2.27 on council tax. He advised that the budget was ambitious for 24/25 and it is likely that there would be overspend on the precept meaning that the Parish council would need to dig into their reserves.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:** This had been covered under item 2 of the agenda with a further opportunity to raise matters at the ordinary parish council meeting to be held after the annual parish council meeting.
7. **CHAIRMAN CLOSING COMMENTS:** Cllr Fairs thanked all for coming along to the annual parish meeting and for their contribution to the discussions on the pylon consultation. He also thanked James Ryan and Andrew Coy for their excellent presentations. There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.53pm