

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 10th December 7.30pm.
Present: Cllr Warnes, Cllr Frances, Cllr Hill, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hubbard, and Clerk Adele Warnes. 2 members of the public attended.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Barber. Cllr Sunnucks, Cllr Fairs, Cllr Bartleet. 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 8th October 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. The plate has not been located. The clerk reported that Cllr Bartleet had followed through with the contractor who could not locate the plate but would be happy to make another one. However, the Parish council voted in favour of sourcing elsewhere given that the action had been outstanding for some time.
240408 – UKPN request for lease agreement. A letter of authority was signed allowing an energy adviser appointed by the Parish council to discuss the lease agreement with UKPN on their behalf.
241001. Oak tree Coggeshall Road. Report has been received from contractor. The contractor advised that no work was required at this stage but should be reviewed in the Spring. All present agreed that this was a suitable outcome at this time.

The meeting was suspended at 7.36pm

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS:**
 - Why was the tree on Coggeshall considered for pruning as it does not need it? The Parish council responded that there had been an observation that the lower limbs may, at some time in the future, impede the visibility of traffic using the road. However, this was not currently the case – action point 241001 refers.
 - Is anything being done about the green triangles and grass banks in the Village which are being eroded by the site traffic accessing the New Barn Road development?
 - Has there been an update on the request for a warning sign to traffic on the exit from the car park from the school?
 - Have the street names for the New Barn Road development been confirmed? It was advised that the development would have two names – Stonefield Drive and Starflower Lane. Named after the last crop grown on the field (borage aka starflower) and the name of the field as derived from historical maps.
 - Any update on the removal of the hedging on the south side of the HFRG?
 - What is happening about the reinstatement of the footpath opposite the Village Hall?
 - Is there still an intention to tidy up the fencing between the HFRG and the footpath?
 - A community policing scheme was discussed at a previous meeting. Is this still going ahead?
 - Are the Parish council aware of any funding initiatives for the Village Hall?
 - A section 50 street works notice has been issued for a road closure for The Street which will see it closed from the 3rd March to the 11th April. This has been found on one. Network. Are the Parish council aware?

The meeting was resumed at 7.45pm

6. **WARD AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS (IF PRESENT):** Cllr Sunnucks was not able to attend the meeting but had sent the following update which the Clerk read on his behalf –
“The main news to report is that local plan is likely to require us to find more housing sites despite our recent neighbourhood plan. Maybe 50 or so in Great Tey and more seriously several thousand in Marks Tey which will affect Great Tey badly because of congestion on the A120. We will hear in the new Year – no details yet. I have promoted a motion, which has now been approved by the full council, indicating that Colchester cannot accept the government’s increased housing numbers without the supporting infrastructure. Improvements are needed to the A12 and A120 and the full link road to the garden community as well as new hospital beds and GP’s. Happy to provide more detail if needed”
7. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** All approved – No further update
8. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

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- **Applications submitted.** 242446 – Replacement windows, Windells Barn, Earls Colne Road. Resubmission of 240581 (minor amendments). All agreed that the position of the Parish council had not changed in that they fully support the application. The clerk was duly advised to notify the Planning office of this decision.
- **Application decided.**
 - 232892 – conversion and extension of existing curtilage listed outbuilding. Abrahams Farm, Flories Road, CO6 1AU. Approved conditional. Subject to 10 conditions and 1 informative.
 - 232891 – conversion and extension of existing curtilage listed outbuilding. Abrahams Farm, Flories Road, CO6 1AU. Approved conditional. Subject to 5 conditions and 1 informative.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS: Total payments for approval = £1,734.37 of which £146.80 is VAT. This comprised of

- Clerks' salary - £601.52 which includes a NALC pay rise backdated to 1st April 24.
- HMRC - £150.40 (PAYE)
- Wave Water (allotments) - £101.65
- JPB Landscapes – Grass cutting OPF and HFRG - £264.00 of which £44.00 is VAT
- HAGS replacement swing seat – £109.21 of which £18.20 is VAT
- Guildhall Services – Maintenance contractor - £507.60 of which £84.60 is VAT

The resultant balance, after all payments are made is Community account -£1,629.35 and business account £40,353.75. Approval was given to transfer funds from the business account to the community to facilitate the payments being made from the community account.

- A request for a donation had been made by the R&A editor. Without a donation it would not be possible to produce/print the Feb and March editions. A vote was taken and a majority agreed to donate £200.00. It was also agreed to discuss ongoing donations when setting the budget for 25/26 financial year.

10. NEW BARN ROAD DEVELOPMENT. Cllr Warnes had noted a potential issue with drainage when walking on New Barn Road. He noted that there was a soak away into the ditch but this had not been dug and was full of debris which needed clearing. In addition, there was no ditch on the corner of New Barn Road so water would discharge directly onto the road causing deterioration of the road surface. Cllr Hill also advised that there had been flooding of neighbouring gardens following recent heavy downfall. Whilst this had not been formally raised with the Parish council, it had been subject to residents' comments on social media. Following this the Parish council instructed the Clerk to write to the developers to request a site meeting to discuss and, if no response, then to raise with the enforcement officer CCC planning. ***A/P 241201 – Clerk to write to Mersea Homes to request a site visit.***

11. HFRG.

- Agricultural removal of hedging to south side of recreation ground. A/P240802 refers. No update given.
- Consideration for maintenance contract for play equipment. A/P241003 refers. Cllr Frost that he had identified 3 possible firms to quote for the contract but had not approached. He was asked to follow through and obtain quotations.
- Grass cutting contract for 25/26. JPB Landscapes had submitted a price covering a 1 year and 3-year period. All agreed to the contract being renewed on a 1-year basis for 25/26 and the clerk was instructed to notify JPB Landscapes of the renewal. ***A/P 241202 refers.***

12. VILLAGE HALL: The VHMC had now all resigned and there had been no interest shown in filling the vacancies. Therefore, the Village Hall trustees would now assume responsibility for the Village Hall. Alec Brooks had kindly agreed to remain as maintenance adviser. The Parish council agreed that, post the Xmas period, they would readvertise the roles via social media to see if there was any interest. The trustees reported that it was possible that the VH would make a small profit at the end of December 24 and the manager was more optimistic for next year especially as new deals had been agreed with the utility companies and possible increased revenues due to the expansion of the playgroup. Cllr Frances advised that there would be a working group set up in the New Year to look at the refurbishment of the Village Hall to include discussions on whether the stage area would remain.

13. MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR: Some of the outstanding jobs had been completed and the clerk advised that she would obtain time frames for the remaining jobs from the maintenance contractor.

14. ALLOTMENTS: There was a proposal which was seconded regarding setting up of an allotment association. To do this there would need to be a consultation with the current allotment holders to gauge their thoughts and

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views on whether this would be welcomed. The clerk was asked to obtain dates and times of availability of the allotment sub committee to move this proposal forward. *A/P 241203 refers.*

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- 25/26 budget requirements for precept negotiations would be included on the January agenda. The clerk will send out details of the current budget including spend for consideration. Cllr Hubbard advised that tidy up of the trees on the HFRG would need to be factored into the budget.
- GOV.UK email addresses. Clerk asked to obtain costs for switching all current email addresses and domain names to GOV.UK. *A/P 241204 refers*
- Inclusion of repairs to the post on the Village sign. Recollection that Bakers of Danbury who had refurbished the sign had stated that they could effect a repair to the damaged post. The clerk was instructed to write to them accordingly. *A/P241205 refers*

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

There being no further business the meeting was concluded at 8.22pm

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 14th January at 19.30pm in the Village Hall.