

GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD AT GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 20 MARCH 2000**

Present: Mrs G Anderson (Chair), Mr D Redman (Vice-Chair), Mrs A Dale-Harris, Mr E Evans, Mr W Budd, Mr P Gipton, Mr B Chiverton.

(7 members of the public and one representative from the local press were present).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of John West who had not received notice of the meeting in time to attend.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2000

The Chairman reported that at the meeting on 13 March, concerns were again raised regarding the accuracy of the minute taking. A discussion took place and the Clerk to the Parish Council felt unable to remain and left the meeting. It was decided that no further parish business could be conducted at this point and the Chairman closed the meeting.

2.1 A further meeting of the Parish Council was convened for 20 March 2000. The Chairman asked Mrs Pauline Lucas (3 Fairlawns) to take the minutes in the absence of the Clerk.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman addressed the meeting and stated that at this point she wished to introduce an emergency item for discussion. This centred around the events of the last few Parish meetings where individual members of the Parish Council had raised concerns about misrepresentation in the minutes of previous meetings which had necessitated in amendments being requested. This had led to lengthy, somewhat acrimonious discussions which had resulted in the situation where the Clerk had felt it necessary to leave the meeting on 13 March. The Chairman expressed her deep dissatisfaction at these events and stated that in her view this situation could not continue. She confirmed that she had now received the resignation of the Clerk. The Chairman stated that she had placed an advertisement in the forthcoming edition of the Parish Magazine. A D-H suggested that an advertisement be placed in the local papers and asked if it were possible to use the services of a locum clerk in the interim. Discussion took place around whether there was any regulation that the Clerk of the Parish Council should come from the village. The Chairman stated that this was not the case although traditionally this had been the custom. She suggested that she place an advertisement in the local press and this was agreed unanimously. The meeting asked Mrs Lucas if she would be interested in carrying out these duties in the interim period and she confirmed that she would.

3.1 The Chairman then informed the Council that during individual conversations with other Council members during last week, she had confirmed her intention to step down as Chairman in May, although she would continue as a Parish Councillor. During one of these conversations, it had been suggested to her that if a change of Chairman was to happen in May, it might be better for the change to take place immediately.

3.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that in view of this suggestion, she felt unable to continue in her role until this matter had been discussed by the Council and resolved to everyone's satisfaction. She therefore proposed that a discussion should take place without her being present and that the Vice-Chairman should take over the meeting at this point. This was agreed and the Chairman left the meeting. 4 members of the public also left the meeting at this time. Mrs Lucas asked the meeting to decide whether they wished to have the minutes taken verbatim or in note form. The Council agreed on notes.

3.3 A short discussion took place and several members of the Council expressed their satisfaction regarding the Chairmanship of Mrs Anderson. It was agreed that it would not be in the interests of the Parish Council or the residents of Greatham for the Chairman to be replaced at the current time. It was proposed that Mrs Anderson be asked to continue as Chairman until May. A vote took place and the Vice Chairman asked that this be recorded in full as follows:

Mr B Chiverton	-	agreed
Mr P Gripton	-	agreed
Mr W Budd	-	agreed
Mr E Evans	-	agreed
Mrs A Dale-Harris	-	agreed
Mr D Redman	-	agreed

Mrs Anderson was invited to return to the meeting and re-take the Chair, which she agreed to do, and the meeting continued.

3.4 The meeting continued under Matters Arising. ADH requested that amendments be noted regarding the minutes of 14 February 2000 and typewritten notes were handed to PL. The amendments to read:

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2000:

Delete: (Para 99/02) *she had been unfairly represented over her views on the precept rise.*

Substitute: ADH arrived after the minutes had been signed, but expressed concern that the report over the precept rise was inaccurate and incomplete.

Delete: *Her comments were duly noted.*

Delete: (para 99/08 Finance): *'However, ADH didn't feel any of the above would be of concern'*.

Substitute: ADH pointed out that Greatham's precept was currently relatively low. As there is a major village project which needs funding, and BB informed the meeting that the play area could cost as much as £40,000 in total, ADH proposed that it should receive a large sum from the Parish Council for one year, rather than smaller amounts over several years, to enable GLAMA to claim other grant monies as soon as possible. ADH informed the meeting that Buriton Parish Council had put its precept up for one year to £44 per head for a Band D property to enable them to build a Village Hall.

Para 99/03: Proposal that this should read:

It was announced at the meeting that there were two applicants for this vacancy, Brian Chiverton and Martin Chennell. ADH asked whether a vote could be postponed until after the meeting as she did not know either of the candidates and had received no information about either. Neither were present at the Meeting.

The above amendments were not opposed by the Council.

3.5 Minutes of the meeting on 14 February 2000 were signed by the Chairman.

3.6 County Surveyors meeting. Mr Gripton confirmed that he was still waiting to hear whether he could attend one of the meetings to be held in April. He agreed to contact the department for news and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: PG

3.7 Appraisal follow-up

Mr Gripton stated that he had completed a report to be published in the Parish magazine containing updates on GLAMA and tree planting. He confirmed that he was to give a presentation to Community Action in Petersfield on 21 March 2000.

3.8 Village Map

Mr Gripton confirmed that the aerial photographs had been taken and he was waiting for copies to be produced for committee approval.

ACTION: PG

3.9 Tree Warden

ADH confirmed that she had agreed to be tree warden. She asked that the Council officially thank Mr J Nolan for his efforts by way of a personal letter and via the Parish Magazine. She also raised the question of training and whether any courses were available or if anyone else in the parish had expertise in tree planting and management. It was agreed that courses would be sourced for ADH to attend and the parish magazine used to try and identify any expertise in the village.

ACTION:

**ADH - identification of courses
GA - letter to Mr Nolan/article.**

3.10 Duties of Clerk

GA stated that she would try and deal with the duties of the Clerk until a replacement was found but wished the Council to note that this might result in delays regarding some parish business. ADH offered to help.

ACTION: GA/ADH

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) The Chairman read a letter from Greatham Primary School expressing their thanks at the nomination from the Council of Mr Garth Humphries as School Governor representative. ADH asked if Mr Humphries could be invited to a parish council meeting to give feedback.

ACTION: GA

b) Letter received from Tony Carr on behalf of Todmore Neighbourhood Watch regarding increase in small crimes around the village. A meeting had been arranged in the village hall on 4 April at 7.30 for the whole village to attend when a policewoman and locksmith would be present to discuss crime prevention. A contribution of £15 towards the event had been received from the locksmith. Mr Carr requested that the council also make a donation. It was unanimously agreed that as this would be to the benefit of the whole community, the Parish Council would meet expenses over and above £15 upon production of receipts.

c) Notices of two applications to transfer justice licences were received. For information only, no action to be taken.

d) Notice of EHDC Car Parking 2000 meeting on 21 March 2000. PG and ADH to attend.

e) Two letters received from Nick Davies (present at meeting).

Letter 1 contained thanks to the council for traffic calming measures. The Chairman thanked Mr Davies for taking the trouble to write as it was unusual for the Parish Council to receive such letters.

Letter 2 brought to the attention of the meeting that weekend traffic is still driving through the village above the speed limits, although this did not happen during the week. It was agreed to ask the police to set up further speed traps. The issue raised regarding the Government's plans for housing in the South East would be addressed under Planning.

ACTION:

GA to contact police

f) Letter from GA to say that she has been asked by Huegette Jenkinson to organise a skittle evening and invite local organisation to play in a tournament event as part of the Patronal Festival. The Parish Council were invited to enter a team. Date Thursday 22 June at 7.00 p.m. teams of six. Members agreed to take part.

ACTION: ALL

g) Notice of Open afternoons 16 & 28 March. PG to attend 28 March.

ACTION: PG

h) Notice of Parish Council training sessions received for Saturday 24 June at 9.30 & Saturday 29 June at 2 p.m. ADH and EE to attend.

ACTION: ADH/EE

i) Letter from David Redman regarding HCC Grazing Area project. HCC happy to put 3 sheep on Old Parish Church land which is owned by the Parish. ADH raised her concern that planting had taken place in this area which might be damaged and that fences will have to be put up to contain the sheep. It was agreed to pass the letter to Huegette Jenkinson, Chairman of Trustees for her feedback.

ACTION: GA

j) Letter from Laurie Brown, Clerk to the Parish Council tendering her resignation. GA to photocopy and circulate to the meeting.

ACTION: GA

5. CIRCULARS

- a) EHDC - Hants Sports Directory 2000
- b) HAPTC - Newsletter February 2000
- c) Voluntary Action for East Hants - Community Safety Action Plan
- d) HCC - Hants Landscape Summary Consultation Draft
- e) EHDC - Newsbrief 18 February to 7 March

6. PLANNING

6.1 Chairman reported that she had no new planning applications as post still being sent to Clerk. She would be meeting with the Clerk next week effect handover.

6.2 ADH stated that she believed more pro-active approach should be taken with planning applications and that generally the Council should use the expertise of its members. She asked the meeting to note that she has some experience of planning in another role and would be happy to take the lead in this respect. It was agreed that ADH would receive planning applications as soon as they were received in order to prepare a report for the Council meetings.

ACTION: ADH

6.3 Some discussion took place over the HCC application to site a waste/mineral waste transfer system alongside the Ham Barn roundabout. ADH agreed to report back.

ACTION: ADH

6.4 Greatham Mill. ADH raised concerns about this application and suggested that a site visit take place before a decision is made.

ACTION:

**ADH to contact owners to arrange visit
GA/ADH/PG/EE to attend**

6.5 Crow Report. A discussion took place regarding the siting of new housing for Greatham. Judy Onslow confirmed that if no sites or number of houses to be built were identified by the Parish Council, the decision would be taken out of their hands. Greatham likely to be allocated 20/25 houses. She suggested that David Redman should meet with EHDC to discuss the situation given his extensive knowledge of the village and surrounding land. Other brownfield sites were discussed. Parish Council to continue to identify suitable sites.

**ACTION: ALL to identify sites
DR to set up meeting with EHDC**

7. FINANCE

7.1 One cheque to be signed for salary to Clerk of the Council for six months to 14 March 2000 - amount of £667.68. Additional expenses (receipts enclosed) amounted to £36.29 for the six months. **Total payment: £703.97.** Cheque counter-signed by D Redman (Vice Chairman).

8. VILLAGE MAP

8.1 PG stated that he had paid for the aerial photographs and was awaiting a receipt from City Explorer to present to the Council. ADH stated that she had not seen a proof of the map - PG to supply a copy. This project funded by Parish Council

ACTION: PG

8.2 Village History: PG asked the Council to consider whether they would consider this as a joint venture now, although it had originally started out of the Appraisal findings before PG became a Council member. Concerns were expressed at the cost of such a project and whether it could be viewed as beneficial to the community in view of the other heavy demands on funds at the present time. It was agreed that PG would present costs at the next meeting for further consideration.

ACTION: PG

9. TRAFFIC CALMING

9.1 The Chairman reported that a safety audit had been carried out by the Police on the three build outs from the Village Hall to the Longmoor Road. The first two had passed the inspection, but the third sited just before the, Longmoor Road has failed. This was due to motorists failing to see the build out at night when travelling in a northerly direction through the Village. They mistake the build out for an island and attempt to drive round it on the grass verge. It is proposed that the County Council will put a small amount of fencing up with reflectors to prevent this.

9.2 ADH suggested that the Parish Council write letters to Michael Mates and the County Highways Departments to thank them for their help with this project. Agreed.

ACTION: GA

9.3 Tree Planting. ADH stated that no grants had been applied for in Phase 1 as sufficient funds had been generated by donations. It was intended to approach EHDC for funds for Phase 2 next year if necessary, although donations had already been promised.

9.4 Two trees remain unplanted. 1 bare rooted beech tree which was not wanted by Eurotec and one flowering crab apple. Anyone wishing to plant these trees should contact ADH.

ACTION: ADH

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 APRIL 2000 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

10.1 PUBLIC MEETING: 17 APRIL at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. GA to investigate cost of hiring a television and video recorder for a video to be shown.

ACTION: GA

10.2 Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.