

GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING HELD at GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL on
MONDAY, 1st MARCH, 2004, at 7.00pm.

04.031: PRESENT: Councillors E.Evans (Chairman); J. Lodder; M. Chenell; D.Jerrard; A. Booton; A. Bridgman, H. Rowles, and prospective clerk Freda Hillier. Three members of the public were present, and one member of the press.

04.032: OPEN SESSION. No questions or comments were put by the members of public present, so the meeting was opened formally at 7.01 pm.

04.033: APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

All appointed members being present, there were no apologies for absence.

04.034: MINUTES of LAST MEETING. The minutes of the meeting of 2/2/04 were considered. It was proposed by Cllr Jerrard, seconded by Cllr Lodder, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.

04.035: MATTERS ARISING. (a) BUS SERVICE; (04.021.) It was noted that the plans for the subsidised service had still not been finalised. **(b) PAYMENT OF CLERK (04.022)** Cllr Evans confirmed that payment had been made by him directly, pending change of signatories on the Parish Council account. **(c) PLAYGROUND FRAME REPAIR (04.026)** Cllr Evans confirmed that the repair had now been completed. **(d) OLD CHURCH ACCOUNT (04.026)** Full details yet to be retrieved. **ACTION: CLERK.**

(d)POLICING of PARISH: Cllr Bridgman reported that a letter had been sent to Supt. Rose on 24/2/04, & a reply was awaited.

04.036: AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Mr John Lancaster of Community Action Hampshire gave a twenty-minute presentation on this subject, and answered questions from councillors. He pointed out that a Housing Need survey could be carried out by CAH in Greatham free-of-charge, in order to ascertain the present level of need for "affordable housing". The survey questionnaire would be compiled in conjunction with the Parish Council, and could be distributed and analysed within six weeks. It was agreed that this would be a very useful exercise in itself, and relevant to the formation of the Parish Plan. The Chairman thanked Mr Lancaster for his presentation.

04.037: FINANCIAL MATTERS. Cllr. Evans reported that the subscription to the Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils (HAPTC) was due, and should be paid as soon as possible. **ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr. Evans also reported that a request had been received from the Greatham Parish Church Council for a donation to the upkeep of the churchyard, in the sum of £400 for 2004. Such a contribution had traditionally been made, but had been omitted in 2003. It was proposed by Cllr Lodder, seconded by Cllr. Booton, that payment for both years now be made. This was agreed, as funds were available. **ACTION: EE.**

Cllr. Evans reminded all new members that they should supply specimen signatures for the Bank Mandate as soon as possible. **ACTION: ALL**

04.038: PLANNING MATTERS. (a) LE COURT: Cllr. Jerrard reported on the situation up-to-date. After discussion, it was agreed that GPC should maintain its position of support for the amended applications, and argue against the EHDC proposal to demand a contribution for affordable housing off-site, from the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. It was agreed that Cllr. Booton should speak on behalf of GPC at the EHDC Planning meeting on 4/3/04, and deliver a prepared address. **ACTION: AJB, AB**

(b) SILVER BIRCH/QUEENS. Cllr. Jerrard reported on the situation to date. He had written to Mr Ellis of EHDC on 18/2/04, requesting details of the Queens Scheme. No reply had yet been received, though it was rumoured that work was due to begin at the Queens on 8/3/04. AS the Parish Council was due to be consulted by EHDC on the suitability of the scheme proposed, it was felt that EHDC Planning Department was acting in a disdainful manner, and should be pressed for a reply without further delay. Agreed unanimously. It was also agreed to invite Mr Neil Savage, the supposed new owner of the Queens, to address the council, as he had offered. **ACTION: DJ.**

(c) OTHER CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS; Cllr Jerrard reported on the following issues; **(1) LONGMOOR ROAD:** The developer had been invited to address the council, but no reply yet received. **(2) MILL FARM:** The applicant had been granted permission for a single-storey extension, but had lodged an appeal against refusal for a two-storey extension. This centred on the precedent apparently set by the EHDC decision in respect of Farm Cottage, Greatham Moor, an application similar in nature, and to which policy H16 applied. No reply had yet been received from Mr Ellis of EHDC Planning for clarification of H16 interpretation (sent 18/2/04) and this should be chased up. **ACTION: EE.**

(3) FORESTSIDE FARM & MOOR COTTAGE: Site meetings being arranged by DJ. **(4) EHDC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW:** Cllr. Jerrard reported that the EHDC response to GPC comments had been received, and would be replied to by Planning Subcommittee. **(5) PARISH PLAN:** Cllrs Jerrard & Bridgman had attended an EHDC Seminar on Parish Plans on 28/2/04, which had been helpful. It was proposed that the Planning Subcommittee meeting on 16/3/04 should consider arranging a Public Meeting during April, to assess public views on the Parish Plan. It was felt that a Saturday evening at 6.00pm would be the optimum time for such a meeting. **ACTION: DJ**

04.039: VILLAGE HALL: Cllr Evans reported that he had suggested to the Village Hall Committee that the Parish Council should pay an annual fee for use of the Village Hall as venue for meetings, and use of the committee room as a Parish Council office, with storage facilities for files. This would be more efficient for both organisations than separate payments for each meeting. The sum of £1000 per year had been proposed. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Lodder, seconded by Cllr Jerrard, that this proposal be adopted. Agreed. **ACTION: EE**

04.040: BLACKMOOR RECYCLING SITE: Cllr. Bridgman reminded the council that they had received an informal presentation from residents of the Benhams Lane area, on 2/2/04, expressing grave concerns over the operation of this soil and compost recycling site, which abutted the Parish boundary. It had been licensed, despite considerable objections, by Hampshire County Council, in July 2002, with stringent operating conditions attached. None of the 18 conditions would appear to be subject of enforcement, and this had significant implications for the environmental and social future of the Benhams Lane area. He proposed that the issue be raised with Whitehill Parish Council, Hampshire County Council, and the Environment Agency, and the operator. This was seconded by Cllr. Booton, and agreed. **ACTION: AB**

04.041: CREATION of PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE. Deferred. **ACTION: CLERK**

04.042: REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr. John West repeated his request to be supplied with agendas and minutes, and reported on proposed options for redrawing of ward boundaries. He recommended that the option to split

Petersfield Town into two, with Greatham represented by the Petersfield North councillor, was the best option, and this met with general agreement. He also reported that the Council Tax increase had been minimised as a result of a £7.5 million contribution from Central Government to Hampshire, no doubt inspired by the "Isitfair" campaign, which is based in Hampshire.

There was no report from the District Councillor.

04.043: REPORT FROM FOOTPATH REPRESENTATIVE. Cllr Booton reported that the damaged bridge on Footpath 3 had now been repaired by HCC. All other footpaths in the parish appeared to be in reasonable order.

04.044: CORRESPONDENCE. Cllr Evans tabled a letter received from the Standards Board for England, dated 31/1/04, which confirmed that a complaint had been made by Mr J. Graves and Mrs A. Dale-Harris (former parish Councillors) against Cllr Jerrard, alleging that he had failed to declare an interest in the matter of the Silver Birch/Queens debate at GPC meetings on 6/10/03 and 1/12/03, namely that he had lodged an objection in the High Court against the Public Inquiry verdict concerning these public houses, and allied matters. The conclusion of the Standards Board was that the allegations did not merit investigation. The letter is now a public document.

04.045: ANY OTHER BUSINESS. (1) Cllr Booton reported that he had advised the managers of "L'Abri" on techniques for repairing their boundary wall properly, and this was being done. He had noticed that defective blocks from the church layby had been removed, and assumed that HCC was repairing them. **(2)** Cllr Chenell commented that the traffic calming fencing adjacent to the school had still not been repaired, four months after being demolished by a Stagecoach bus. County Councillor West stated that this would be a HCC responsibility, and undertook to investigate the position. Cllr Chenell also undertook to investigate the delay in finalising the plans for a weekly bus service (see 04.021)

04.046: DATE & PLACE of NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed to meet at 7.00pm on Monday, 5th April, 2004, in the Village Hall.

04.047: MEETING DECLARED CLOSED at 9.14pm.