

**GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING HELD at GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL on**  
**MONDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2006 at 7pm**

**05.144 PRESENT:** Councillors; E Evans (Chairman); A Booton; A Bridgman (Vice Chairman) ; P Lerner; M Chennell; G Davis; Mrs T Wicking (Clerk to the Council) were present, together with eight members of the public also attended the meeting.

**05.145 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:** There were no apologies.

**05.146 NEW COUNCILLOR:** Mr Davis signed a Declaration of Acceptance and was welcomed to the Council by the Chairman.

**05.147 MINUTES of LAST MEETING:** Changes to last minutes; 05.136 should read proposed Cllr Booton and seconded Cllr Evans; 05.137 should read the "book available every meeting, and the Audit Commission is happy with everything"; 05.139 insert after Planning Committee "if there was recommendation for permission." The minutes were accepted with these alterations, proposed Cllr Booton, seconded Cllr Bridgman.

**05.148 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

**05.149 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** The Chairman reminded members of their obligation to make any declarations of interest.

**05.150 MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Jerrard asked if Daryl Phillips Had replied to our invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly. No, Clerk to chase.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Jerrard then voiced his concerns on Financial Control and suggested that new systems need to be put in place. He also voiced concerns on the Precept and whether there had been a proper budgetary review done on Council spending. He felt that the Council hadn't done this adequately and that they needed to be done in the future. He went on to say that the Parish Council has accrued £30,000 because the precept has remained very high, in 2001 the precept was around d £6,000, then increased to £8000 and then doubled to pay for the playground, and asked if the Council knew exactly what was going to be needed to pay for the playground, Old Church and Village Hall. He then said that I would be nice to present at the Annual Parish Meeting a plan on how the precept was going to be spent. Cllr Evans replied that the Parish Council has already received detail costing for the work needed on the Old Church. He went on to explain that when

the Parish Council applied to EHDC for a grant for the playground they were turned down, and EHDC stated that the reason for this was that the Parish Council had not put in enough money themselves. It was then decided by the Parish Council to put aside monies for future projects within the village, whatever they may turn out to be, so that EHDC couldn't use that excuse again. Cllr Evans went on to say that it is right to budget but the Parish Council also has to prepare for any contingency that might arise. For example, bus shelters, this week a complaint had been received by him regarding the state of the bus shelters. Initial enquiries have shown that it is probably going to cost between £4-6,000 to get the bus shelters into good order. With hindsight money should have been put aside every year for this eventuality, but it hasn't and so now it is going to cost more. Another example is the zip wire in the children's playground. Underneath it is a pool of disgusting, stagnating water. This is going to have to be sorted out at the same time as the drainage on the playground.

Cllr Larner commented that it was a good idea to put money aside for the bus shelters, and asked if a resolution had been passed to keep the precept high in order to put money aside for the Village Hall. Cllr Evans replied that he couldn't remember a specific resolution being taken, it was just agreed by the then Parish Council that it would be a good idea. Cllr Larner then stated that if there had been such a resolution then Cllrs Evans and Jerrard would not have had to withdraw from the precept meeting. Cllr Evans replied that it wasn't just for the Village Hall, but as a contingency for projects in the village so that EHDC would make like for like donations.

Cllr Jerrard offered to go through the minutes of previous meetings to see what had been said on this matter. He agreed that the playground was the responsibility of the Parish Council and the problems there must be addressed.

Cllr Chennell reminded the Council that the precept had been voted on and accepted, and the precept now fixed and can't be voted on again for another year, and that the bickering must stop. Cllr Bridgman commented that surely it was the purpose of the Parish Council is discussing relevant issues. Cllr Evans commented that until this year's precept none of the other councillors had shown any interest in the Accounts at all. Cllr Booton reminded the Council that it had been agreed to "call it quits" at the last meeting. Cllr Jerrard said that the way forward was to analyse the procedures and make resolutions retrospectively if necessary.

Cllr Davis asked about the history of the playground and the problems, Cllr Evans happy to explain. Cllr Booton added that when the playground was done it hadn't been anticipated that the drainage would be a problem and that even with the poor drainage it was still a fantastic facility for the village.

From the floor Mr Lewis stated that it was not possible to go back, "what's done is done", and perhaps the Council should consider

setting up a financial committee to make sure that there is a comprehensive budget available for next year. Cllr Evans said he thought this was a good idea, and Cllr Larner agreed adding that the Parish Council should look at other areas of its responsibility that may require finance; he also offered to be the committee. Cllr Evans said, for instance the lighting in Benham's Lane should be looked into. Cllr Larner commented that perhaps it would be a good idea to ask the villagers what they wanted.

Cllr Larner proposed setting up a Finance Sub-Committee and Cllr Booton seconded. The members will be appointed at the next meeting. All Councillors were in favour.

Cllr Chennell reported that the water leaks had been repaired and the litter bins ordered.

**05.151 FINANCIAL MATTERS:** Bank Reconciliation (previously circulated with the Agenda), and the Schedule of payments (circulated at meeting) proposed by Cllr Booton and seconded by Cllr Larner. Mr Lewis offered to do internal audit and Cllr Larner offered to help prepare y/e figures for AGM. **ACTION: CLERK/PL**

#### **05.152 CORRESPONDENCE;**

Letter from HCC re Pook Cottage: Cllr Booton will monitor.

Letter from Village Hall Trustees re playground zip wire: The Councillors discussed whether a sign should be put on the zip wire saying it was unsafe to use. Cllr Evans suggested the Council should get quotes for repairs.

Letter from Mr Aldred re parking in Longmoor Road: Cllr Chennell explained to the Council that Mr Aldred is complaining about people parking in Longmoor Road and reducing his visibility on exiting his drive. Cllr Chennell has contacted Highways and they had said that they will put down yellow lines if Mr Aldred is willing to pay for the work.

**05.153 PLANNING MATTERS:** Cllr Jerrard ran through the details of the last planning meeting:

9 Todmore - Appeal against Refusal for garage conversion: Cllr Bridgman said that he was surprised at this refusal and would be happy to write to the Inspector to that effect. Cllr Jerrard proposed, all agreed. **ACTION: AB**

1-3 Kingshott Cottages: There was nothing further to do at present.

Game Shop – Cllr Jerrard informed the Council that he had inspected the papers at EHDC and had attended the site inspection. The Inspector would not receive any representations, and Cllr Jerrard was

disturbed to find that EHDC and the applicants had already done a deal on the open space, however the Inspector did say that this was not relevant. Cllr Jerrard added that there was nothing further to do at present other than ask the Inspector to send his results as soon as available.

**ACTION: DJ**

Silver Birch & Queens Car Park: Just need to write to Ms Mansi reminding her of her previous letter.

Petersfield Herald Article on "EHDC Planning Debacle"; Cllr Jerrard circulated copies of the article for the Cllrs for information.

#### **05.154 REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:**

There was no report from the District Councillor.

County Councillor Mr Cartwright informed the Council that he had sent his apologies for the last meeting. He told the Council that HCC had been pleased to be able to keep the Council tax rise under 5%. Cllr Chennell asked Cllr Cartwright if he could intervene regarding the keep left bollard, which had been knocked over, on the corner as you turn into Greatham coming from Liss. He had asked Highways three times. Cllr Cartwright replied he would do what he could.

#### **05.155: REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a) **Coryton Almshouses:** Cllr Jerrard asked Cllr Evans for a copy of the letter from Mrs Cartwright. Cllr Evans reported that he didn't have it. Cllr Booton said that he would ring Mr Heeley and clarify position. **ACTION: AJB**
- b) **HAPTC:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Village Hall:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Old Church:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Transport & Highways:** Cllr Chennell reported that the No 73 bus service will be ceasing in June
- f) **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- g) **Le Court:** Nothing to report.
- h) **Blackmoor Recycling:** Nothing to report.

#### **05.156: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Cllr Chennell asked if it would be possible to have the microphone working for the next meeting, and have the heating turned up? Cllr Evans replied no problem with the microphone, but nothing he can do on the heating!

Cllr Jerrard reminded the Council that notices need to be put up regarding Annual Parish Assembly and Annual General Meeting. Had a reply been received from Daryl Phillips? **ACTION: CLERK**

**05. 157 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is on Monday 8th May 2006 at 7pm in the Village Hall. This meeting is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Annual Parish Assembly at the Village Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm.