

**GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING HELD at GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL on**  
**MONDAY, 5th June 2006 at 7pm**

**05.179 PRESENT:** Councillors; D Jerrard (Chairman); A Booton; A Bridgman (Vice Chairman) ; P Larner; G Davis; E Evans (arrived after the meeting had started; M Chennell (arrived after the meeting had started); Mrs T Wicking (Clerk to the Council) were present, together with five members of the public also attended the meeting.

**05.180 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from County Councillor Mr Cartwright.

**05.181 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** Proposed by Cllr Booton and seconded by Cllr Davis,

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2006, copies of which had been previously circulate, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

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

**05.183 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** The Chairman reminded members of their obligation to make any declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest.

**05.184 MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Booton reported that he hadn't yet spoken to Mr Healy re Coryton Almshouses but would do so as soon as possible. Cllr Larner reported that the Finance Committee was still looking for a third member.

**05.185 FINANCIAL MATTERS:** No Bank Reconciliation this month as The accounts were being audited. Proposed by Cllr Jerrard and seconded by Cllr Booton;

**RESOLVED:** That the Summary of Receipts & Payments Account Y/E 31/03/06, copies of which had been previously circulated, be agreed.

Cllr Evans reported to the Council that there were insufficient funds in the Current Account to pay the Clerk's salary as he hadn't been asked to transfer any money. There then followed an intense discussion amongst the Council with regard to financial arrangements. Proposed by Cllr Davis seconded by Cllr Evans;

**RESOLVED:** That a monthly standing order of £500 be set up from the reserve account to the current account in order to ensure this situation is avoided in the future. All councillors agreed.

**05.186 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Larner reported that currently this committee only numbered himself and Cllr Bridgman and another member is needed, he went on to say that the first job of the new committee would be to review the finances and expenditure of the council to make sure that the Council is fully aware of it's responsibilities i.e. Bus shelters. There then followed a discussion about the bus shelters, the Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk was waiting for a quote to replace the bus shelter on Selborne Road at the same time as repairing the ones discussed at the last meeting.

Returning to the Finance Committee, the Chairman asked if any of the other Councillors would be willing to serve, as the committee should have its first meeting as soon as possible. Cllr Davis stated that he would sit on the committee if there were no other volunteers. Mr Peter Godwin, a parishioner who had attended the Annual Parish Assembly, was suggested as a possibility. Cllr Evans raised a query as to whether a non-council member could be asked. The Chairman replied that he has checked the legal position and it was alright as long as the committee was non-decision making. Cllr Evans urged caution and reminded the Council that non-council members has sat on committees in the past and it had not been a success and they had eventually been removed. Cllr Booton commented that he felt in sensitive areas, such as finances, it would be good to have a non-council member as this could only help with transparency. The Chairman asked Cllr Davis to approach Mr Godwin. Cllr Evans commented to the Chairman that there was nothing more transparent than having the books on the table every month where anyone can come up and see them at any time. The Chairman replied that at the Annual Parish Assembly it was apparent that the parishioners had appreciated having all the details given to them. Cllr Evans answered that it is part of the Council's Standing Orders that anyone can follow procedure and ask for a copy of the accounts.

There then followed a discussion about audibility. The meeting was adjourned so that the hearing loop could be set up.

The meeting was re-convened after three minutes with the hearing loop in place.

Proposed that Cllr Davis be asked to approach Mr Godwin and ask him whether he is interested in joining the Finance Committee, seconded Cllr Bridgman. The Council voted; 4 for the proposal, 2 against. The Chairman did not vote.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Davis be asked to approach Mr Godwin and ask him whether he is interested in joining the Finance Committee.

The Chairman continued by stating that at the Annual Parish Assembly it had been discussed that the Council would have a Budget meeting in November and a Precept meeting in December, and possibly a policy setting meeting in October. Cllr Lerner commented that such a meeting would probably have to be earlier than October as it would be necessary to ascertain costs and get the required quotes etc before the Budget meeting. He went on to say that he felt the Budget needed to be looked at in two parts; regular payments and unusual payments i.e. playground drainage and perhaps the best thing would be to have a Finance Committee meeting and take it from there.

#### **05.187 CORRESPONDENCE;**

Letter from HCC re Minerals

Letter from South Downs Committee re conference. Cllrs Booton & Bridgman volunteered, Cllr Jerrard also interested in attending. Clerk to book places. **ACTION: CLERK**

Letter from Hampshire Constabulary re newsletter. The Council decided that they would be interested in receiving a dozen copies for distribution around the village. **ACTION: CLERK**

**05.188 PLANNING MATTERS:** Cllr Booton ran through the details of the last planning meeting:

Farm Cottage – F24177/006/FUL/DM. Cllr Booton explained the details of the application and reported that permission had been granted, although it is over 50%, which is not a good idea.

Heath Harrison Cottages – Cllr Booton explained that although this cottage has been extended over 50% in the past this application was to enclose the porch in order to enable the applicants to alter the stairs to make them safer. The Council had no objections to this application.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Greatham Primary School – Single storey extension to replace temporary classroom. – Cllr Booton declared a prejudicial interest and removed himself from the room. Cllr Lerner declared a personal interest. The papers were passed to Cllr Bridgman and it was decided that this matter would be dealt with at the next planning committee meeting. Cllr Chennell commented that he had no problem with the application but could it be a condition of any permission given that the school sort out the car parking problem. The car parking at the school was discussed, Cllr Evans pointed out that there was nothing the school, council or even HCC could do about the car parking. The police were at the school last week and it made no difference. Cllr Lerner asked if anyone would be interested in a debate on the car park?

Silver Birch – Post Decision Amendment to garden plot 14. Cllr Jerrard reported that he had spoken to Julia Mansi who confirmed that the badger survey had recently been done by a reputable organisation, and it appeared that the badgers had moved out of the building site. Cllr Jerrard also reported that he had received a telephone call from a lady who had seen a lot of slow worms at the back of Wolfmere Lane, and he felt that EHDC were not taking the biodiversity issues seriously enough. He suggested that the matter should be discussed in exempt session. Cllr Evans stated that if the Chairman had hard facts to discuss an exempt session would be appropriate but if it was just speculation then he wasn't interested in hearing it. Cllr Davis said that surely if the badger survey had been done by a reputable group then either the badgers were there or they weren't. The Council agreed to write to EHDC to say that it doesn't accept this decision as it hasn't been properly consulted. Cllr Bridgman agreed to draft a letter for further discussion at the planning committee meeting. **ACTION: AB**

West Fork, F.27086/020/FUL/PL – change of use to caravan storage. It was agreed that this be discussed at the planning committee meeting and the Clerk would contact EHDC for a time extension.

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

There were no reports from the District or County Councillors.

**05.190 ALLOTMENT CHARITY:** The Clerk reported no applicants for the vacancy. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

**05.191 PLAYGROUND:** Cllr Evans passed the Council an invoice from Mr Paul Ellis for cutting the grass at the playground. The Chairman asked Cllr Evans to explain the invoice; Cllr Evans replied that it was agreed at the December meeting to employ this gentleman to cut the grass. It was also agreed that nothing needed to be done over winter and that he would begin in the spring. Cllr Evans told the Council that a playground committee should had been formed, and since he was no longer Chairman he had not been carrying out the statutory inspections and the log book had not been filled in. The Chairman replied that he had asked the Clerk to arrange a hand over meeting between himself and Cllr Evans, but Cllr Evans had declined. The Chairman asked the Clerk if a quotation had been received from Mr Ellis. After an angry exchange between the Chairman and Cllr Evans, Cllr Evans left the meeting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Mr Ellis to clarify the position. Cllr Larner reported that he had received a lot of very positive

feedback from parents and children, and if Mr Ellis is happy to carry on he should be asked to do so as he had done a very good job.

Cllr Davis offered his apologies and left the meeting due to a prior engagement.

Proposed Cllr Chennell, seconded Cllr Bridgman;

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Ellis is asked to continue cutting the grass at the playground.

Cllr Chennell asked what was happening about the drainage on the playground. Cllr Jerrard replied that as discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly, the Village Hall Committee were getting quotes for the work as the land belongs to them, although the Parish Council will probably be paying for the work as the equipment belongs to the Parish Council. Awaiting quotes from Village Hall Committee.

#### **05.192 VILLAGE HALL DONATION:**

Cllr Chennell asked what the position was with regard to the monies for the Village Hall. Cllr Jerrard reported that this had also been discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly and the latest position is that the Village Hall Committee (VHC) needs to decide what needs to be done at the Village Hall and apply for grants. He also reported that the VHC will be having a debate on the issue at their AGM on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Jerrard confirmed that the VHC had applied to the Parish Council for a grant towards the work at the village hall but as yet there is no decision on what work will be done and how much is required, although Mrs Coffin the Chairman of the VHC had intimated at the Annual Parish Assembly that she felt it unlikely to be as much as £20,000. There followed a discussion about the sum that the VHC may require. Cllr Bridgman suggested that the Finance Committee should look into this matter. Cllr Larner pointed out that the starting point had to be a request from the VHC for a specific amount of money. Cllr Chennell asked that this item be on the agenda again for the next meeting.

#### **05.193 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES;**

- a) **Coryton Almshouses:** Cllr Bridgman attended that last meeting and reported that one cottage would be available from end April.
- b) **HAPTC:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Village Hall:** Nothing further to report.
- d) **Old Church:** Mrs Jenkinson reported that it had been very damp in the Old Church last time she had been in there. Cllr Booton said he would check and report back. The Chairman asked if it would be possible for the

Old Church Committee to provide a list of contact names to the Parish Council. **ACTION: CLERK**

- e) Transport & Highways:** Nothing to report.
- f) Footpaths:** Cllr Booton reported that he had received a letter from EHDC asking for details of any footpaths with problems. He also confirmed that the surface of the footpath through to Bradshott would be dealt with.
- g) Le Court:** Cllr Booton reported that he had spoken to a gentleman from Blackmoor Parish Council who had told him that Berkeley Homes have pulled out of the proposed development.
- h) Blackmoor Recycling:** Nothing to report.

#### **05.194: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Chairman asked for approval for payments to Mr Ellis and the Allianz Cornhill (insurance). All agreed

Cllr Lerner asked if there could be more details on the agenda, he specifically requested more information on each agenda item in order to be able to work out what they were all about. **ACTION: CLERK**

The Chairman proposed starting future meetings at 7.30pm as requested at the Annual Parish Assembly, and by some of the members of public present. All agreed. **ACTION: CLERK**

**05. 195 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is on **Monday 3rd July 2006 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.