

Greatham Parish Council
Minutes of General Meeting Held 9th July 2007
At Greatham Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Diane Buckland (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. David Rudd
Cllr. Ray Flack
Cllr. Elwyn Evans
Cllr. Judy Onslow

Also present 15 members of the public

The meeting was opened at 19.30 by acting chairman Diane Buckland who welcomed everyone to the meeting. She apologised for not using the microphone but it was out of reach without moving all the chairs from the stage area.

1. Apologies for Absence

In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr. Evans would be taking notes.

Cllr. Flack reported that Cllr Martin Chennell would be unable to attend due to work commitments. Cllr. Onslow apologised on behalf of Cllr. M. Cartwright.

2. Election of Chairman

Due to the resignation of Peter Joyce, it was necessary to elect a new chairman. Cllr. Buckland asked for any nominations. Cllr. Onslow proposed the current vice-chairman, Diane Buckland, as chairman and this was seconded by Cllr. Evans. No other nominations were offered and Cllr. Buckland was elected as chairman by a unanimous vote.

3. Election of Vice-chairman

As Cllr. Buckland was now chairman, a new vice-chairman was necessary. Cllr. Buckland asked for any nominations and Cllr. Flack stated that, although not present, Cllr. Chennell would like to take up the position. This was proposed by Cllr. Evans and seconded by Cllr. Onslow. No other nominations were offered and Cllr. Chennell was elected as vice-chairman by a unanimous vote.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The chairman stated the following:

“It has come to our attention this afternoon that the ex-chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Jerrard, has announced that the Council is under investigation by the Police and refuses to hand over property of the Parish Council including a computer appropriated from the Parish Clerk, Mrs Cheesman, claiming that this is the subject of the police investigation and refuses to discuss the matter any further. This Council should duly minute this and will now go into exempt session for the rest of the Agenda.

This Council resolves to exclude members of the public and press to discuss exempt information under section 100i and schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.”

This action was proposed by Cllr. Buckland and seconded by Cllr. Onslow.

It was voted on by the council and the proposal was agreed by a unanimous vote.

The public were then requested to leave the meeting.

All members of the public left.

5. Public session

There was no public session

6. Declaration of Inserts

Cllr. Buckland reminded all councillors to declare an interest in any item on the agenda before that item is reached. Cllr. Onslow declared an interest in all Planning applications and would not vote on any planning issue.

7. Matters arising from Meeting held 4th June 2007

There were no matters arising from the above meeting

8. Approval of Minutes form Meeting Held 4th June 2007

Cllr. Flack did not agree with a statement that he had made concerning the clerk. He proposed that the minutes be re-written with the correct statement. This was seconded by Cllr. Rudd and agreed. The minutes would be re-written and presented again at the next meeting for approval.

9. Reports form County and District Councillors

There was no report from Cllr. Cartwright as he was not present. Cllr. Onslow stated that the only item from her was the new proposed South Downs National Park and it's implications on the village. She had requested that Mrs M. Parens attend the next meeting to present the plans to the council and they could ask any questions. She also requested that a letters be written on behalf of the council stating our position re the exclusion of Greatham from the park and the shortened 6 week consultation period. It was agreed that Greatham Parish Council did not approve the proposed park boundary and a letter would be written to the appropriate authorities on behalf of the council by the chairman.

10. Correspondence

i. Letter form Mr R. Lewis.

The chairman asked if all councillors had seen the letter to which they agreed. Former Chairman Peter Joyce had forwarded the letter to the independent auditor and as yet no response had been received. Cllr. Buckland was requested by the council to chase the matter for a reply.

ii. Advice from Hampshire Playing Fields Association re Drainage.

Cllr. Buckland had received a letter from the HPFA with specified details as to their recommended solution to the drainage of the play-area. This included details of the type of drainage material and pipe sizes. It also suggested that the best course of action would be a series of parallel drainage pipes across the play-area which would all lead to one central, larger pipe. This soak away pipe would then run from the play-area to the ditch that runs parallel to Petersfield Road via the car park. All councillors agreed that this would be the best solution to the problem and Cllr. Flack asked that sufficient soak away facilities were left should the Village Hall Committee wish to drain the entire field. It was agreed that it would be pointless not to provide this facility for the future. Cllrs. Evans and Rudd would submit the sketches and specified pipes to a number of companies to receive quotes for the work involved.

iii. External Audit

The external audit is due to be submitted by 31st July 2007. Due to the state of the council, Cllr. Buckland has contacted the Audit Commission and agreed an extension until 28th September 2007. The internal audit has found no faults and the figures would be approved at the council meeting to be held in September.

11. Financial Matters

All outstanding cheques were signed by three councillors. They are as follows.

Chq 00518 GVEC £500
00517 Play Safety Ltd £84.60
00516 P. Reynolds (Auditor) £125.00
00515 HM Revenue and Customs £119.07
00514 Clerks Salary - May £392.02
00513 D. Redman £400.00
00512 HM Revenue and Customs £84.26
00511 Clerks Salary - April £456.85
00510 HPFA £20.00
00509 SLCC £195.00
00508 Void
00507 Alliance Cornhill £1296.61
00506 HAPTC £94.50

Cllr. Evans asked if there were sufficient funds in the current account and after checking it was proposed by Cllr. Rudd that £5,000 be transferred from the deposit account to the current account to cover the cheques. This was seconded by Cllr. Onslow and all agreed. Cllr Evans would telephone the bank the next day to transfer the money.

12. Planning Matters

I. 21249/003/FUL/AE Swain Cottage, Petersfield Road, Greatham

The council have received no objections to this application. Cllrs. Flack and Chennell have visited the site and can see no visible causes for objection. This application has a closing date of 18th July and Cllr. Chennell would contact EHDC Planning Dept. to state that Greatham Parish Council have no objections to the above application in due course.

ii. 30819/003/FUL/LL 11 Wolfmere Lane, Greatham

The council have received no objections to this application. Cllrs. Flack and Chennell have visited the site and can see no visible causes for objection. Cllr. Rudd stated that the main cause for concern was the amount of cars parked on Wolfmere Lane and hopefully a garage may ease the problem. This application has a closing date of 27th July and Cllr. Chennell would inform the EHDC Planning dept in due course stating that Greatham Parish Council have no objections to the above planning applications.

13. Playground Report.

The Zip slide seat has been collected from the clerk. Cllr. Evans confirmed that the wire needed tightening before the seat was reinstalled. The council authorized Cllr. Evans to contact Hand Made Places to arrange to have the work necessary completed. This was to be done as soon as possible.

14. Date of Next Meeting.

The next scheduled general meeting would be held on Monday 4th September 2007 unless otherwise stated.

The meeting closed at 21.15

Signed.....

Date.....