

# **GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 1st October 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr Miss D Buckland (Chairman), Cllr M Chennell (Vice Chairman), Cllr A Bridgman, Cllr E Evans, Cllr R Flack, Cllr Mrs J Onslow, Cllr D Rudd

**Also Present:** Mr N Hitch (Locum Clerk), 10 members of the public

## **033/07 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and identified the fire escapes for the public.

## **034/07 Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

## **035/07 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr A Bridgman stated that as he was no longer representing the previous Clerk, he did not consider that he had a prejudicial interest in staff matters.

It was then:

**RESOLVED: that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes in order for Councillors to discuss topics with members of the public.**

No questions were forthcoming from the public

## **036/07 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held on 4th September 2007 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

## **037/07 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Mrs J Onslow reported that the consultation period for the South Downs National Park had now finished and the Inspectors decision on the boundary review was awaited. The District Council is reviewing its Housing Strategy and is keen to build on 'exception' sites wherever there is a need.

038/07

## Financial Matters

### a) Review of Banking Provision

Members were advised of the difficulties being experienced with National Westminster Bank Plc along with administrative difficulties being created by their procedures. Discussion centred on the possibility of changing bankers, with the need for local provision being of paramount importance.

**RESOLVED: that further investigation be undertaken on the options available from alternative bankers and the results reported to the next Council meeting.**

### b) Transfer to the Old Church Fund

Members noted this was a budgeted item. Concern was expressed about making the transfer in case the project was unable to proceed for any reason. It was noted that the Old Church was part of the village's heritage and that it was sensible to leave the funds under the control of the Parish Council, but earmarked for the use of the Old Church and earning interest. It was reported that the Old Church Fund was unable to move forward at present until it was established what funding they could obtain

**RESOLVED: that the transfer to the Old Church be approved and put aside into a high interest account, earmarked for the Old Church Fund and that a letter of intent be sent to the Fund indicating that up to £10,000 will be available to them assuming that other funding becomes available to allow the project to proceed**

### c) Approval of payment for invoices

Clarification was sought on the validity of Hedleys Solicitors appointment, following which it was:

**RESOLVED: that the following payments be approved:-**

1. Hedleys Solicitors £934.13
2. N Hitch (Locum Clerk) £164.82

### d) Future approval of Financial Accounts

It was noted that in future the Council will need to approve its Accounts before the 31<sup>st</sup> July in 2008 and 30<sup>th</sup> June in subsequent years

039/07

## Hampshire County Council's Small Grants Scheme

Following discussion, no projects were proposed for inclusion within this scheme.

040/07

**Village Hall Field Drainage**

Members noted that a scheme to improve the drainage had been suggested by the Hampshire Playing Fields Association and it became apparent that these details had not been seen by the Village Hall Trustees. It was also noted that the Parish Council had the responsibility for maintaining the land in the playing field. Following discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED: that the Hampshire Playing Fields Association specification be shared with the Village Hall Trustees, that three quotations be obtained by the Council based on this specification and a meeting be arranged with the Trustees to consult them on the proposed plans.**

041/07

**Parish Council Web Site**

Members considered whether they wished to have a dedicated Parish Council web site in addition to the current village site maintained by a member of the public. Issues such as cost and maintenance of the site were discussed with concerns being expressed about the ability of the future Clerk to undertake this work. Concern was expressed at some of the anti Parish Council material that had been placed on the village site in the recent past.

**RESOLVED: that standing orders be suspended to allow Mr Paul Larner to speak**

Mr Larner confirmed that he had no wish to alienate anybody through use of the village site and wanted it to be used by as many people as possible. He also commented on the technical issues involved in maintaining a site.

The Council moved back into normal session and:

**RESOLVED: not to proceed further with a dedicated Parish Council Web Site**

042/07

**Correspondence**

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

- a) EHDC South Planning Committee minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007
- b) Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils (HAPTC) memo advising of multimedia resources available for member Councils
- c) HAPTC memo concerning new guidance relating to the Licensing Act 2003
- d) Letter from Hampshire Constabulary concerning the Council computer.

**043/07**      **Planning Matters**

Members were advised that one Planning Application had been received after the meeting for this agenda had been produced for Kings Halt Stables. A Planning Committee meeting is to be convened after a visit to the site.

**044/07**      **Playground Report**

Members were advised that there had been a problem with the upright and a bolt had sheared off. The seat had therefore, been removed and discussions were taking place on whether this was a design fault.

**045/07**      **Highways and Transport Report**

It was noted that the pavement was crumbling on Petersfield Road outside Brambles and Chalfont. Also, the contractors at Greatham Inn had removed a bin and not re-instated it. Parking outside the school was becoming an increasing problem with vehicles blocking the Highway and the police were to be requested to visit the site to deal with the problem at drop off and pick up times.

**046/07**      **Footpath Report**

Anna Dale-Harris had indicated that she couldn't continue as footpath rep for the Council. It was suggested that Mr Alan Booton be contacted to ascertain if he is interested in the role. A footpath map of the parish has now been received.

**047/07**      **Allotment Charity**

The Committee Chairman, Mr Lewis advised members that the trustees were appointed by the Parish Council and worked in accordance with Charity Commission standards. He emphasised the Charity is only available for the people of the parish who are in genuine financial hardship. It cannot under any circumstances be used for groups of people.

**048/07**      **Old Church Representative**

The report was incorporated within the financial discussion on the transfer of monies to the Fund - minute number 038/07 (b) refers.

**049/07**      **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 5th November 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

**050/07 RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.**

**051/07 Staff Matters**

**RESOLVED: 1 that an advertisement be placed in the local papers, in as many places as possible and that a budget of £250 be allocated for this purpose.**

*Cllr A Bridgman left the meeting at 9.10p.m.*

- 2 that Mrs Cheeseman be paid the sum of £216.74 less deductions in respect of holiday pay and allowances whilst employed by the Council and a revised form P45 be completed**
- 3 that Hedleys Solicitors be re-appointed to act on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the employment tribunal hearing due on 23<sup>rd</sup> November for the previous Clerk.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.19 p.m.

.....Signature

.....Date