

# **GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Miss D Buckland (Chairman), Cllr D Rudd, Cllr A Bridgman, Cllr R Flack

**Also Present:** 10 members of the public and County Councillor Cartwright

## **052/07 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and identified the fire escapes for the public. Due to the lack of a locum clerk for the meeting, Cllr Buckland would be acting as clerk and would compare notes with Cllr Bridgman before the minutes were issued to ensure they were correct. She also stated that due to the clashing of meeting, Greatham Parish Council may have to consider moving the date of future meetings to the second Monday of the month but this would be a last resort.

## **053/07 Apologies for Absence**

Apologise had been received for Cllrs, Evans, Onslow and Chennell

## **054/07 Declarations of Interests**

The Chairman reminded all councillors of their duty to report any interests before that item had been reached. No declarations were received.

It was then:

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

Strong concerns were raised by some members of the public with regards to a camper van that is continually parked in the lay-by outside the village church. The Council agreed with the public that this could not be allowed to continue and a letter would be written to Whitehill Police Station raising this matter and requesting that it be dealt with by the police as soon as possible.

It was also requested that the Council also raise in the strongest terms with regards to the amount of parking outside the school in particular during the school run. Longmoor Road was also mentioned as parking occurs on both sides of the roads at all times causing obstructions. Some members of the public were very concerned about the safety of children crossing the road. It was agreed by the Council that a letter would be written to Whitehill Police Station regarding this matter and request that something was done before

a child was knocked down.

The issue of the drainage of the playground was raised. In the absence of Cllr. Evans, the Chairman assured the public that she would chase Cllr Evans and find out what was being done to rectify the matter. There were also strong concerns over the safety of certain items of play equipment in particular the zip slide. Cllr Buckland confirmed that she would personally chase Cllr Evans and ensure that safety was paramount. There were concerns by the council that the zip slide was being 'vandalised' by older children who place their own seats on the wire and causing damage to the gates. Parishioner Alan Booton stated that in his view the Parish Council was not taking seriously the subject of the playground, and asked for this comment to be minuted.

Standing orders were then re-instated

### **055/07 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 be approved and signed as a true and correct record**

### **056/07 Reports from County and District Councillors**

There were no reports from either councillor

### **057/07 Financial Matters**

#### **a) Research into alternative bankers**

Cllr Buckland reported that she had found three alternative banks for the council but none offered the same facilities as Nat West. Cllr Bridgman queried as to why the council was considering changing the bank account and Cllr Buckland explained that due to continuing problems contacting the bank and the inability for most of the current council to be able to perform transactions at the bank, including the receipt of bank statements, it was an option to start again with a new bank. Cllr Bridgman offered to attend the bank in Petersfield and try to establish what was going on. The council agreed to this action and thanked Cllr Bridgman for his help.

**RESOLVED: Proposed by DB, seconded by DR; Cllr Bridgman would attend the local branch of NatWest and try to establish what was wrong and needed to be done to get the bank account operational again.**

#### **b) Approval of payment of cheques as follows:**

Chq number 000529 payable to HM Revenue and Customs £47.52 for outstanding PA YE tax and National Insurance due.

Chq number 000531 payable to Diane Buckland for incurred advertising costs as follows: Petersfield Post-situations vacant £84.18

Petersfield Post- public notices (Code of Conduct) £72.47

Herald Group- situations vacant £161.24

Total: £317.89

**RESOLVED: that the above payments be approved**

**c) Applications for funds from LUPIN**

It was discussed what LUPIN actually do in the village an Cllr Flack confirmed that LUPIN offers help to people in the village by providing a free service for things such as transportation to hospital. Cllr Buckland confirmed that the council had already agreed to donate £300 to LUPIN but they had regarded a donation of £150 as more than enough.

**RESOLVED: that payment of £150 donation to LUPIN be made as requested.**

**d) Application for funding from Butser HomeStart**

This application was discussed briefly as HomeStart had only sent a covering letter with their request. Cllr Cartwright offered help on the matter and the Chairman invited him to speak. Cllr Cartwright confirmed that he was aware of what HomeStart was about and also that they had applied to the County Council for funding as well and received a grant for £3000.

**RESOLVED: that the matter be deferred until the next meeting of Greatham Parish Council and further information would be sought. (It was also thought that more councillors should be present for matters of funding.)**

**058/07 East Hampshire District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability**

Cllr Bridgman opened the discussion by stating that this matter had been discussed in detail by the previous council including a Parish Council meeting attended by Mrs Croker from EHDC on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005. It had been decided at that meeting that although the council recognised the need for affordable housing in the village, there was no land available for such developments except the garages in Bakers Field. The application from EHDC was later cancelled. It was agreed that nothing had changed since then and that the council should reply to that effect.

**RESOLVED: that a letter should be written to EHDC to state that although Greatham Parish Council recognised the need for affordable housing in the area, there was no land to their knowledge for this kind of development.**

**059/07 Correspondence**

The receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

- a) EHDC Community Forum Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007
- b) HAPTC bulletin Autumn 2007
- c) HCC Rural Pathfinder Final report

- d) Invitation to attend re-opening of the South Downs National Park inquiry: Cllr Buckland asked for it to be minuted that a letter of objection had been written on behalf of the Council and she would like to personally thank Mr Simon Meehan, Mr Alan Booton and Mrs Anna Dale-Harris for all their help in compiling information and photographs of the area to aid the objections.
- e) HAPTC memo re changes to name and contact details
- f) HAPTC memo re management development programme
- g) EHDC DVD Code of Conduct
- h) HCC Minerals Plan Regulation 26 Consultation
- i) EHDC Parish priorities for Open Spaces, recreation, transport and community facilities
- j) EHDC Community Forum Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007
- k) HAPTC Annual Report
- m) HAPTC email concerning Post Office closures
- n) EHDC email briefing on Community Safety Officers
- o) Letters from Audit Commission re concerns raised by some residents of village
- p) EHDC Standards Committee min of meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007

### **060/07 Concerns raised over the general running of Greatham Parish Council**

Cllr Buckland invited Cllr Bridgman to voice the concerns that he had expressed over the appointment of Hedleys Solicitors. Cllr Bridgman stated that he had posed a question at the GPC meeting of October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 concerning this appointment and had been informed by the clerk that it had occurred at an Exempt Session in June 2007. Cllr Bridgman had since read all three minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June and there was no record in any Council minutes of any resolution stating the appointment of Hedleys so they had technically not been appointed by the Council to act on their behalf. Cllr Buckland confirmed that although no official resolution had been written, the entire council had approved of Hedleys being appointed. Cllr Bridgman suggested that in that case, it should be confirmed in the meeting currently being held, that a resolution be made that the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> June be altered to include a proposal and resolution to appoint Hedleys solicitors on behalf of Greatham Parish Council. Cllr Buckland confirmed that the minutes could not be altered but an amendment would be added to include a full resolution as requested.

Cllr Bridgman also raised concerns over the calling of the emergency meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007. He had returned home at 10pm on 15/10/07 to find a notice dated 15/10/07, calling a council meeting at 7.00pm on 15/10/07. The required three working days notice had clearly not been given and despite the circumstances of notice not being available due to the nature of the meeting, Cllr Buckland tried to assure that no meeting had been called other than those necessary. Cllr Bridgman insisted that standards were not being followed not only for the sake of the councillors but also the parishioners who may wish to attend any meetings. Cllr Buckland offered her apologies for any inconvenience caused and suggested that should any further action be required, it be reported to the Standards Board. She also assured Cllr Bridgman that this would not happen again.

### **061/07 Planning Matters**

A planning application had been received for Cam Green Cottage in Church Lane. Cllr Buckland was concerned by the lack of councillors and asked if any members of the public has specifically attended the meeting to discuss this application. No public replied and it was agreed that the matter be deferred to a full Planning meeting when the matter could be discussed by the full council. A member of the public confirmed that the cottage had already been extended and the council agreed that the application may be over the 50% allowance. Concerns were also raised over the effect any work may have on the character of the cottage and the property next door which was listed.

**RESOLVED: that the application for Cam Cottage be deferred to a full planning meeting to be called the following week.**

### **062/07 To receive a Playground report**

This item had been discussed during the open session and Cllr Buckland again confirmed that she would chase Cllr Evans for updates.

### **063/07 To receive a Highways and Transport report**

There was no report available.

### **064/07 To receive a Footpath report and appoint an new representative**

There was no report available. A letter had been received before the meeting from Mr Booton declining the position of representative as he felt that a councillor would have more influence with the appropriate authorities. Cllr Buckland offered her help but due to other commitments, this was declined and Cllr Bridgman offered to take up the post, and this was agreed unanimously.

### **065/07 To receive a report from the Allotment Charity**

This item was on the agenda by mistake and will be removed from future meetings

### **066/07 To receive a report from the Old Church representative**

There was no report available but Cllr Buckland stated that she had received a query from Scotland with regards to a replacement headstone in the churchyard. This had been passed onto Cllr Onlsow who had in turn passed it onto the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. She was awaiting a response and would report back to the council as soon as possible

### **067/07 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 at 7.30 pm

**The meeting closed at 9.05pm**

**Signed** .....

**Date.** .....