

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 6th October 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

Present Cllrs A Bridgman, A J Booton, A Fellows, P J Larner, C A Rudd.

Also present Mrs A Rozario (clerk) and 16 members of the public

119/08 Apologies for Absence A J Ascherl, D Redman

120/08 Chairman's Announcements None

121/08 Declarations of Interest None

122/08 Appointment of Parish Clerk

Cllr Larner presented report to the Council on the interview process. The Parish Council received 5 applications which were short-listed to 3. Interviews were held for the 3 applicants on 22/09/08 by a committee made up of Cllrs Larner, Ascherl and Rudd.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Larner, seconded by Cllr Booton, all in favour of Mrs Anne Rozario to be employed as the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Cllr Booton congratulated Cllr Larner on the fair interviewing process.

123/08 Public Question Time

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

Concern was expressed regarding the land off Wolfmere Lane used by Springwood Stables. Cllr Booton answered questions on this matter, and said he had spoken to the owners and they had re-assured him that once the stables had been built the site would be returned to how it was before.

Several residents had received letters from a firm of solicitors acting for Mr Shea, regarding the right of way across the track running parallel to Wolfmere Lane. It was noted that Mr Shea was an undischarged bankrupt and this matter would be investigated by Cllr Bridgman and more information should be available at next month's meeting. Cllr Bridgman also advised setting up a residents meeting.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could investigate the reinstatement of the grass verges in two areas, namely outside the Silverbirch site and adjacent to the Rooks Farm.

It was also asked if the cycle track lines could be re-painted as they are worn out.

A member of the public asked if it was possible to ask Cllr Judy Onslow of EHDC and Cllr Cartwright of HCC to attend the next meeting. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that letters would be sent to the Cllrs asking them to attend the meeting in November.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

124/08 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 1st September 2008

Amendments to be made as follows:-

- (i) Cllr Fellows was not at the meeting.
- (ii) Typing error in list of payments should read HMRC and not HRMC.
- (iii) Item 10316 – Amend to show Cllr Bridgman to write to NJH
- (iv) Item 10320 – Le Court. Cllr Bridgman to check date.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Booton, Seconded by Cllr Larner, with all in favour, the Minutes of the meeting of the Greatham Parish Council held on 1st September 2008 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

125/08 Matters arising from the Minutes

(1) Play Area

- (i) Grass cutting – Cllr Larner asked if an advert had been placed for the tender. It was confirmed that an advertisement had been put in the Parish magazine.
- (ii) Rope fencing – Cllr Booton was to enquire about putting a new rope fencing in the playground.

(2) To the rear of Kingshott Cottages

The planning inspectors agreed to one house being built. A site meeting had been arranged but nobody on the Parish Council was invited. Darryl Phillips had said he would replace Mrs Mansey, but this had not happened. The property was now owned by Mr Shea.

(3) Point 10318

Cllrs Redman, Bridgman, Larner and Booton. Point remains to be done, should be done in the next week.

126/08 Reports from County and District Councillors

No such Councillors present to make report.

127/08 Current planning applications

Springwood Stables

Cllr Booton had a meeting with the owner of the stables who confirmed that everything is to go back to normal once the stables are completed and that the horses will be returned to the stables at night. Cllr Booton confirmed that he can only ask for their assurance that this will be the case.

128/08 Adoption of GPC Finance Regulations dated 7/3/05

Cllr Larner had prepared a report and went through his findings. Cllr Larner had drafted changes to the regulations and circulated to the other Councillors.

RESOLVED Cllr Larner proposed that the regulations be adopted, seconded by Cllr Rudd, a unanimous decision.

129/08 Financial Report to

1. Cllr Bridgman presented the report.
 - a) Bank Reconciliation – The balance on 01/09/08 for the reserve account was £35,349.86. The balance on 01/10/08 for the current account was £707.77.
 - b) Cllr Bridgman reported that the cheque to Handmade Places for £287.88 for the zip slide in the playground had on two occasions not been met by the bank, as there had been insufficient funds. The bank had therefore made a charge of £35 each time the cheque had been presented. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that a transfer of £500 had been requested from the Reserve account to the current account to cover this amount.
 - c) Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the present balance for the reserve account was £34,849.86 and £489.94 in the current account.
 - d) It was agreed that a letter should be written to Nat West Bank to ask for a refund of all penalty fees, including two previous penalties, making a total of £140.00
 - e) The balance in the Old Church account on 30/06/08 is £11,089.99.
2. Cllr Bridgman reported that he wrote to the Inland Revenue in July to advise them that the Parish Council had not had an RFO for the last six months. They in turn replied to say that the Parish Council had failed to reply and a penalty would be imposed at £100 for each month. The penalties now stood at £400. The Parish Council do not intend to pay this and will write and argue this point. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he would write to the Inland Revenue again explaining the situation. Cllr Booton said he would assist Cllr Bridgman if required.
3. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the Auditor came 09/09/08 and took the papers away and he seemed happy with the figures.
4. Cllr Bridgman requested a payment to Mrs P Slivkin for stepping in for two months to act as clerk to the Parish Council. The total for the invoices was £140 (minus 20% tax, £112). Cllr Larner queried the 20% tax. It was then agreed that the whole amount should be paid. Cllr Bridgman wrote a cheque for £140 in settlement, Cllrs Booton and Rudd countersigned.

130/08 Reports of Representatives

- (a) Coryton Almshouses

Cllr Booton advised that a meeting had been made on the 6th November at Mrs Cartwright's house. Cllrs Booton and Fellows would attend.

(b) Village Hall

Cllr Ascherl to report at the next Parish Council meeting.

(c) HALC

Nothing to report.

(d) Old Church

Cllr Booton summarized the report given by Arboricultural Advisory with regard to the Yew Tree at the Old Church. The tree has a fatal disease called Phytophthora Root Rot. Cllr Redman had suggested to Cllr Booton that a clipping might be taken from the tree. Copy of the report was given to Fran (?) for her input.

(e) Transport and Highways

Cllr Booton said that he was looking into the bus route through the village and would report back at the next meeting.

(f) Footpaths and Tree Warden

Cllr Fellows confirmed this was work in progress and would have more to report at the next Parish Council meeting.

(g) Planning Committee

Cllr Booton apologized that there was no meeting in September. A meeting would be fixed for the next month and if there were no matters arising then the meeting would be cancelled. Cllr Booton would check with the Village Hall Committee. Notices will be posted in the pub, village hall and the Church. 3 days notice would be given.

(h) Playground Committee

A meeting would be arranged in the next week regarding the drainage at the playground. Cllrs Bridgman, Booton and Larnar to attend.

131/08 Petersfield Road Parking

Cllr Bridgman spoke regarding the Silverbirch and Queens developments. At the time of the applications, objections were made with regard to the car parking and the District Council said this was not a problem. Cars are now being parked on the road out the front of Woodland Cottages, Petersfield Road.

Cllr Booton confirmed he had spoken to the owner of No. 1 and she was now parking her car off the road.

One member of the public whose daughter lives in No. 1 said that because her daughter had paid less for her property, she was not allowed to use the allocated parking to the rear of the properties. Cllr Bridgman said he would speak to her further on the matter.

It was agreed that letters should be written to all the new owners welcoming them to the village and advising them of the parking regulations and asking them to park in their allocated parking at the rear. A copy would be sent to EHDC.

132/08 Selborne Road Footpath

Cllr Bridgman reported that the footpath on the Selborne road was very overgrown due to the hedge needing to be cut. A letter would be written to EHDC and the land owner notifying them that the hedge needs cutting to make it safe to walk on the footpath. Cllr Bridgman to contact the land owner.

133/08 Any other business for next meeting

- (i) Cllr Lerner asked for the budget for 2009/2010 to start to be considered. In previous years there had been mid-term meetings, if the Council is to do this, then a draft budget will need to be put together.

Cllr Lerner asked that Parishioners would need to think what they would like to spend the money on.

A budget committee to be agreed.

- (ii) Cllr Bridgman had received a letter from Oak Cottages, Petersfield Road asking for a bus shelter to be provided. Cllr Bridgman will reply and it will go on the agenda for the next meeting.

134/08 Date and place of next meeting

Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.