

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present Mrs A Rozario (clerk)

135/08 Apologies for Absence A J Ascherl,

136/08 Chairman's Announcements The Chairman pointed out the fire escapes in the event of a fire.

137/08 Declarations of Interest None

138/08 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.

A member of the public enquired as to the position of the Annual Return. RFO confirmed that this has been sent back to the Inland Revenue and we were awaiting their response. Confirmed also that a letter had been sent requesting the penalty notice to be waived, also awaiting a response.

A request was made that the Annual Return should be exhibited for public display and it was agreed that this should also be put on the parish website.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

139/08 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 6th October 2008

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Larner, Seconded by Cllr Rudd, with all in favour, the Minutes of the meeting of the Greatham Parish Council held on 6th October 2008 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

140/08 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the Minutes

141/08 Reports from County and District Councillors

No Councillors present to make a report.

Cllr Bridgman read out the letter from District Cllr Onslow. It was requested that a letter would be written by Cllr Bridgman to the Leader/Chairman of the District Council asking why they were not attending the Parish Council meetings. Cllr Lerner suggested also writing to Cllr Onslow stating how unhappy/appalled the residents of Greatham were to her response and question why she will not attend.

142/08 Current planning applications

A planning meeting was arranged for 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 13th November 2008.

Springwood Stables

Cllr Booton reported that the owner has confirmed that the horse boxes will be moved but are currently stuck in the mud and the shelters are to be sold off.

The outdoor lighting has already been put up, although it does not look like it is low level lighting. He did feel that by putting the lighting up it would give everyone a chance to see just what it would be like and the owner understands that she will have to take it down if planning is not granted. Any objections should be made at the planning sub-committee meeting 13/11/08.

Concrete Crusher on Blackmoor Estate

Cllrs Bridgman and Booton have both read through the application and will attend the site before the meeting.

Le Court

An application has been received for farm buildings to be made into 5 dwellings by Southdowns Development Company. Cllrs Bridgman and Booton will attend the site and it will be discussed at the meeting 13/11/08.

143/08 Financial Report

1. Cllr Bridgman presented the report prepared by RFO.
 - a) **Bank Reconciliation** – The balance on 31/10/08 for the reserve account was £34,849.86. The balance on 31/10/08 for the current account was £279.94. The balance for the Old Church account was £11,033.53.

b) Schedule of Payments

The Tree Advice Trust	£235.94
HALC (Clerk training)	£15.00
Clerk's fees	£144.90
HMRC	£91.98
Clerk's disbursements	£38.38
Fair Account (auditor)	£375.00
LUPIN (grant)	£400.00

- c) It was agreed that the invoice for The Tree Advice Trust should be paid from the monies held in the Old Church Fund. Cllr Bridgman would write and arrange for the amount to be transferred to the current account.
- d) It was agreed that the £15 be paid for the clerk's course.
- e) The clerk's fees, expenses and payment to HMRC were agreed.
- f) Cllr Bridgman reported that the auditor had returned the paper work this week together with an invoice for £375. It was agreed that this invoice be paid.
- g) Cllr Bridgman read out the letter received from Mrs Stothard of LUPIN requesting a grant of £400 towards the running costs of their charity. Cllr Larnier confirmed that previous payments had been made to LUPIN. It was agreed that as they do help some residents in the village that the full amount should be given. Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Booton.
- h) A transfer for £1300 would need to be made from the reserve account to the current account. Proposed by Cllr Fellows and seconded by Cllr Rudd. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he would attend the bank to arrange the transfer.

144/08 Reports of Representatives

- (a) Coryton Almshouses
Cllr Booton advised that he would attend the meeting on the 6th November at Mrs Cartwright's house and would report at the next meeting. Cllr Fellows was unable attend. It was also mentioned that a relative might be living at No. 3 and this was to be investigated.
- (b) Village Hall
Cllr Ascherl not available to report but she had reported to Cllr Bridgman after attending the village hall meetings. There is a new Chairman in place and a report has been produced together with a maintenance programme. The Village Hall Committee was meeting with EHDC to try to obtain money for the maintenance work.
- (c) HALC
Nothing to report.
- (d) Old Church
It was asked why no meetings had been arranged for the Old Church Committee. Cllr Bridgman confirmed he would request a public meeting be arranged at the village hall with a published agenda. It was also requested that the Parish Clerk should attend to take the minutes.

The £10,000 transferred from the Greatham Parish Council's reserve account to the Old Church reserve account was discussed. It was confirmed that this money was still the Parish Council's money and it could not be spent without the Parish Council's consent. The money had been transferred to aid an application made to English Heritage, but nothing came of the application.

It was also noted that not all the money in that account was from the Parish Council, as a small amount had been transferred when the Trust had been wound up, which was why a separate account was used.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he would write to the Secretary of the Old Church Committee to request a meeting.

(e) Transport and Highways

Cllr Booton said that he would write to Cllr Cartwright with regard to the traffic calming

(f) Footpaths and Tree Warden

Cllr Fellows handed out a report that he had compiled on the footpaths around Greatham. The Council would read through the report and it would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

It was requested that the footpath at Todmore should be cleared as it is getting very overgrown. The adjoining house to the footpath believes that they in fact own the footpath and there is a right of way over it, if this was the case then they would be liable for its upkeep. However this was not the view held by the Parish Council.

Cllr Bridgman thanked Cllr Fellows for compiling the report. Cllr Larner suggested that the report be filed on the website. It was thought this would be a good idea so that anyone who found a problem with any of the footpaths could then email their concerns.

It was agreed that a copy of the report should be sent to Barry Lockyear, the Footpath Agent at Hampshire County Council as he had said in the past that he did not know which footpaths needed attention.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the defective stile behind Todmore had now completely disappeared into the stream and he has informed Hampshire County Council of this.

(g) Planning Committee

Meeting arranged for 13th November at 7.00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

(h) Playground Committee

Cllr Booton confirmed that he had bought the rope for the playground area and that it would be put in place in the next couple of days.

The latches had been reported broken on the enclosed play area and Cllr Booton will arrange for these to be fixed.

Confirmed that everything else was in good order, and the play area was well used by the children of the village.

145/08 Petersfield Road Parking

Cllr Bridgman confirmed he had sent a letter to each of the new owners of Woodland Cottages firstly welcoming them to the village and secondly asking them not to park on the pavement or grass verges outside their houses. All the residents are now parking on the road.

The white lines were then discussed and whether or not it was in fact a clearway through the village. It was concluded that the clearway was advisory rather than obligatory. Cllr Booton said that as there was a bus stop opposite that he would prefer there to be double yellow lines outside Woodland Cottages to avoid the road being blocked. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the houses had inadequate parking and this was pointed out by the Parish Council when the applications were being considered. Cllr Larner suggested writing to the County Councillor asking for his views on this matter. The Parish Council all agreed that it was only a matter of time before an accident occurred.

Cllr Larner suggested that double yellow lines be laid outside Woodland Cottages but also a lay-by be put in opposite to relieve the parking problem. Cllr Larner proposed a letter be sent to the County Council requesting this action, seconded by Cllr Booton.

146/08 Selborne Road Footpath

Cllr Bridgman confirmed a letter had been written to the Council. He had also ascertained that the land was owned by Forge House which was in fact for sale. Cllr Bridgman had phoned the estate agents who agreed to contact the owners of Forge House and was awaiting their response.

147/08 Drainage of Playground

Cllr Bridgman reported on the background of the playground area, stating that the Parish Council in 2000 offered to build the playground area. When the playground was built it was advised to raise the playground by 6 inches, but this was not done. The drainage is not adequate at the playground area and something has to be done to rectify the problem. The Village Hall Committee has confirmed that the maintenance of the playground area lies with the Parish Council. Quotes had been obtained from several contractors, all for different work and for different amounts, varying from approx. £19,000 to approx. £6,000.

Cllrs Bridgman and Redman have inspected the site again and concluded that drainage ditches need to be put in either side of the zip wire which would then feed into an area behind the bottle banks which would need digging out. This in turn would need to feed to a drainage pipe running along the side of the car park, across under the car park to the drainage ditch running parallel with Petersfield Road, this would then be fed out to the rainwater drains in Petersfield Road. Cllr Redman confirmed that this drainage solution should be able to cope with any further works to be completed at the village hall.

Cllr Bridgman asked that the Parish Council accept the quote from JTS Services as they had quoted for this particular work. The quote was however dated December 2007 and was only valid for 28 days.

Cllr Larner mentioned that there had been talk of obtaining an independent surveyors report of the site to ensure that what is being proposed will actually solve the problem.

Cllrs Larner and Rudd were concerned that the Parish Council were just going for the cheapest quote and requested that further quotes be obtained for the same work. Cllr Booton agreed that further quotes should be obtained for the same specification, based on the work quoted by Mr Trodden of JTS.

Cllr Rudd thanked Cllr Redman for his time and efforts in this matter.

Cllr Larner proposed that JTS prepare a specification which would then be sent to the five contractors who had previously submitted their quotes, and ask them to prepare a quote on this specification. It would be requested that the quotes all be supplied within a time scale so that they could be sent to the Councillors to consider a week before the next meeting. A decision could then be made at the next meeting and a contractor then engaged. Cllr Rudd seconded this action.

A vote was taken with 5 Councillors agreeing to this action and Cllr Bridgman abstaining.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed the letters would be written.

A member of the public asked that it be pointed out that this was a compromise. Cllr Larner replied that there were further funds to be able to do further works if necessary and that this was merely the first stage.

148/08 Application for a bus shelter

A letter had been received from the children of No 1 Oak Cottages, requesting a bus shelter to be erected outside the front of the school. Cllr Bridgman wrote back on the 2nd October asking them to confirm how many people use this particular bus stop but has heard nothing back. A new bus shelter would cost in the region of £4,000. Cllr Larner asked that this matter be investigated further and not to dismiss it straight away. Cllr Bridgman confirmed he would write again to the children.

Following on it was mentioned that there may be greater need for a bus shelter on the Selborne Road which is used by a lot of people. It was agreed that up to date quotes should be obtained for bus shelters and ensure that it would be large enough for the number of people it would needed for.

It was suggested that a budget meeting should be arranged so that the residents could attend and make requests for what they would like the Parish Council to spend the money on.

149/08 Any other business for next meeting

- (i) Plans for budget.
- (ii) Dates for next year's Parish Council meetings.

150/08 Date and place of next meeting

Monday 1st December 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.