

# Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present Mrs A Rozario (clerk)

**001/09 Apologies for Absence** A J Ascherl, A Fellows

**002/09 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman pointed out the fire escapes in the event of a fire.

**003/09 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Rudd declared an interest in item number 15(h) regarding the drainage quotations for the children's playground.

**004/09 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.

- (i) A member of the public said that a pavement had been unearthed along the B3006 where the Highways Department are due to start work this week, and asked if this might be left available for the public to be able to walk along. Cllr Bridgman said the Council would contact East Hampshire County Council to enquire what was to happen to the footpath.
- (ii) Another member of the public asked if the Council could talk about the junction which joins the B3006 and the damage incurred to the property on the corner of that road. Cllr Bridgman said that this was to be dealt with under item number 10 on the agenda.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

**005/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

**006/09 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising from the Minutes

**007/09 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Cartwright from Hampshire County Council was present and he reported on two items from Hampshire County Council. The first one was to say he had met with the clerk following the last Parish Council meeting to help obtain the right point of contact.

The second item was to say that the B3006 would be closed as previously mentioned.

Cllr Larner then asked Cllr Cartwright if he could throw any light on the matter of the road works and the footpath along the B3006. Cllr Cartwright did not have any further information.

Cllr Booton asked Cllr Cartwright about the dangerous bend on that road and the letter received from Mrs Tricia Porter. This would be discussed in full later in the meeting.

District Councillor, Mrs Judy Onslow was not present to make a report. Cllr Bridgman read a letter received from Cllr Ferris Cowper, the Leader of East Hampshire District Council stating that District Councillors are not obliged to attend all parish council meetings.

**008/09 Bus Shelter**

Cllr Bridgman reported on the matter. Cllr Larner confirmed that he had contacted the Head at Greatham Primary School to obtain her views on the possibility of having a bus shelter right

outside the front of the school. The Head was not happy about the possibility primarily due to the safety issues and the further congestion it could cause.

Cllr Booton felt that the cost of a bus shelter was too great for just two people. Cllr Larner commented that no further response had been received from the two girls who had originally asked for the bus shelter. Bakers Field might have a greater need for a bus shelter and the Parish Council should therefore balance the cost with the need.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the cost of the bus shelter outweighed the need for a shelter, which could not easily be sited where it had been requested.

#### **009/09 Wolfmere Lane**

Cllr Bridgman reported on a letter written to EHDC and the reply received dated 18/12/08. Cllr Bridgman had also inspected the site today, and said there was nothing on the site at the moment. Nothing to report.

Cllr Booton reported that a resident had told him that there is now electricity supplied to the shelters. It was questioned whether they were still classed as animal shelters.

The clerk will contact EHDC and obtain their confirmation that it does remain agricultural land.

#### **010/09 Toll House Corner**

Cllr Bridgman read out a letter from Mrs Porter and agreed that something needed to be done. Cllr Larner said that he felt the speed limit is too high and needs to be reduced. Cllr Cartwright said that advisory signs did not mean much as the cars do not have to slow down.

Cllr Booton said that he had spoken to Mrs Porter who has been left for many months without a fence, waiting for it to be fixed.

Cllr Cartwright said that if the speed limit was to be changed we should speak to Alan Todd at The Highways Department of East Hampshire District Council who would pass it on to the relevant department and speed limit monitoring would be set up first.

Mr Jerrard asked if maybe a "dangerous bend" sign could be put up and/or chevron warning signs.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to EHDC to ask if new signs could be put up and replace the old ones. Cllr Cartwright asked for a copy to be sent to him. The Clerk would also write to Mrs Porter letter her know what the Council were doing to help.

#### **011/09 Dog Fouling in Longmoor Road**

Cllr Bridgman reported on the situation and said that this matter had been dealt with.

Mrs Wheeler then addressed the Council and said that whilst it was better, it was still an ongoing problem. The stickers that had been sent were peeling off. Mrs Wheeler said that there was street furniture (lamp posts) which formal signs could be attached to, and asked if this could be done.

Cllr Larner suggested that the Parish Council write to EHDC to ask for a dog poo bin.

The Clerk will write and ask for both formal signs and the dog poo bin.

#### **012/09 RFO report**

Cllr Bridgman read out the RFO report and the balances on the accounts were as follows:-

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Reserve Account    | £33,008.55 |
| Old Church Account | £11,046.94 |
| Current Account    | £577.93    |

The only payments for this month were the clerk's fees, expenses and PAYE tax, totalling £423.73.

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £500 was to be transferred from the reserve account to the current account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton, **SECONDED** by Cllr Larner.

#### **013/09 Old Church Fund Bank Account**

Cllr Bridgman then commented on the Old Church Fund and the monies held by the Council in that account. The insurance company said that all monies must be held by the Parish Council and the Old Church Committee is not responsible for any money. Cllr Bridgman then reported on the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and the en masse resignation from the committee.

Cllr Booton confirmed that the £10,000 had only been transferred to try and obtain a grant from English Heritage and he did not feel that it was necessary to have a separate account.

Cllr Larner said the interest on the £10,000 was actually due to the Council. He proposed that we keep the account going but withdraw the £10,000. Cllr Booton also agreed that this was a good idea.

Cllr Redman said that there was maintenance to be done on the Old Church, such as lime washing and grass cutting. Mr David Rudd said that we may need to check the condition of the alabaster tomb.

Cllr Bridgman asked if the Parish Council should transfer the £10,000 back into the Council's reserve account or just close the account altogether.

**PROPOSED** that the account should be kept open but that the £10,000 should be transferred back into the Parish Council Reserve Account. **PROPOSED** by Councillor Booton **SECONDED** by Cllr Larner.

#### **014/09 Bank Mandate Forms**

Cllr Bridgman produced the bank mandate forms which the Clerk had asked to be completed by all the Councillors. This would enable the Clerk to obtain information from the bank and therefore report fully on the bank accounts. At present three councillor's signatures are needed to process cheques and it was felt that it was unnecessary for the Clerk to be able to write cheques but merely to obtain the balances and make transfers at the local branch.

Mr Jerrard commented that all cheques need to be signed at council meetings, as dictated in the financial regulations. The forms were then signed by Councillor Bridgman and the other Councillors at the meeting. The Clerk will obtain Cllr Fellows and Cllr Ascherl's signatures at the next meeting.

#### **015/09 Clerk's Telephone Costs**

Cllr Bridgman reported that the Clerk had requested for an up-grade on her home phone to cover the cost of the phone calls made on behalf of the Council. By paying the up-grade of £4.85 plus VAT the phone calls made by the Clerk would be free, except those made to 0845 numbers and mobile phones. This would be less expensive than the clerk itemising the phone bill each month. Cllr Larner said he thought this would be in line with what the Council had paid previously to clerks. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Redman.

#### **016/09 Draft Budget 2009/2010**

Cllr Larner reported on how the budget is put together and how it is dealt with by EHDC. This would be the last opportunity to discuss the budget as the precept has to be agreed at this meeting. Cllr Larner then reported on the amendments made since the last meeting. It was noted that these figures were not approval of spending these exact amounts.

No additional projects have been requested, although there are items like the grass verges which are still being looked into.

Cllr Booton congratulated Cllr Larner on putting this budget together.

Cllr Bridgman said that the precept had been kept at £12,000 for the last two years which would in effect be paid out of every household's council tax.

**AGREED - ALL IN FAVOUR** of the budget as prepared. Cllr Larner confirmed the budget would be available on the website.

**017/09 Precept**

The precept was agreed at £12,000 for 2009/2010. The Clerk would send the precept form to EHDC.

**018/09 Reports of Representatives**

(a) Coryton Almshouses

Cllr Booton said there was nothing to report and no news on the daughter living in number 3.

(b) Village Hall

Cllr Ascherl was not available to report. Cllr Bridgman read out a letter from the Village Hall confirming their position.

(c) HALC

Cllr Bridgman wrote asking for a barrister's opinion on Wolfmere, but no reply had been received. Cllr Bridgman will chase them up.

(d) Old Church

Cllr Bridgman reported on the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December (see earlier report in item 013/09). An advert was to be put in the next Parish magazine.

(e) Transport and Highways

Cllr Booton reported on the progress. Two letters had been sent to Alan Todd at EHDC Highways, the first one was a copy of the letter sent to Michael Cartwright regarding parking outside Woodland Cottages and the second letter was about the grass verges near the school. No reply had to date been received, the clerk had chased this up and Mr Todd said that a letter was due to come out shortly. Reported again on the road works on the junction of B3006 coming out of the village. Also white lines had been painted on Church Lane near where the car recently went in the ditch, this could mean that more bollards are to be installed. The Clerk will check the position on these matters.

(f) Footpaths and Tree Warden

Cllr Fellows not available to report.

(g) Planning Committee

No planning meeting in December. One application was received for a fence at Golds Farm. Cllrs Booton and Bridgman went to inspect and could not see any reason to object.

Springwood Stables - The outdoor lighting had been approved and a copy of the report had been received from EHDC.

Concrete Crusher at Blackmoor – Cllr Booton reported on the situation. An application was to be heard on 14/01 at 10.00 a.m. Cllr Bridgman asked if anyone would like to attend the meeting. No-one was able to attend.

(h) Playground Committee

(1) **Drainage of Playground** – Cllr Bridgman confirmed he had received the three quotations.

It was advised that Cllr Rudd should at this time leave the room as she had declared an interest in this matter. Cllr Rudd did then leave the room.

Cllr Larner asked if the quotations were all drawn to the same specification. Cllr Larner then read through the quotations. Cllr Larner then asked if an exempt meeting could be arranged to discuss the quotations, as they were commercial quotes and the figures could not be discussed at an open meeting. The Clerk confirmed that copies of the quotations would be given to all Councillors and an exempt meeting would be arranged on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

(2) **Grass Cutting** – Cllr Larner suggested that Nick Hunter should be contacted and advised why the grassing cutting job had been advertised recently as this had not been done. Cllr Bridgman said that he would contact Mr Hunter.

- (3) **ROSPA report** - the Clerk had only received the report by email today. A copy would be circulated to all Councillors.
- (4) **Painting of Playground** – The painting of the playground had been requested by a member of the public at the last meeting. It was felt that painting the playground would lead to a lot more maintenance of the playground and there might be issues with paint coming off which would not be suitable in a children's play area. The rock holds were also asked if they could be renewed as they had faded. The clerk had enquired with Hand Made Places who confirmed that the rock holds were £70 plus VAT for 20. If the Council wanted them to be fitted it would cost a further £200 for one day. It was agreed that the ROSPA report would be discussed at the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**019/09 Parish Plan**

Cllr Bridgman asked for Councillors to prepare a Parish Plan. EHDC would have the Parish Plan placed on file and would have to take this into account when looking at any planning applications.

It was agreed that an advert should be placed for committee members as this did not have to be completed by the councillors themselves.

**020/09 Any Other Business for next meeting**

There was no other business for the next meeting in February.

**021/09 Date and place of next meeting**

The next full Parish Council meeting would be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.