

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 2nd March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present Mrs A Rozario (clerk)

046/09 Apologies for Absence Cllrs A Ascherl and A Fellows

047/09 Chairman's Announcements

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

048/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

049/09 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) Mr D Rudd said that there was another container on the site now known as Ferne Farm Field and would like to know if this contravenes the use as agricultural land.
- (ii) Mr Rudd asked if the unsuccessful drainage contractors had been written to stating that they were unsuccessful. Cllr Bridgman reported that no letters had been sent as yet, but once the Parish Council was sure it was going ahead he would then write to the other contractors.
- (iii) Mrs L Carr spoke on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, and asked with regard to the drainage works, whether it could be done with as little disturbance to the village hall users as possible, as they do have bookings already for March and April. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the chosen contractor was probably going to start work over the Easter holidays so that it did not disturb the nursery school and those dropping off children at the primary school. As soon as a definite date was given the Parish Council would let the Village Hall Committee know.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

050/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd February 2009

RESOLVED: PROPOSED by Cllr Rudd, **SECONDED** by Cllr Booton, with all in favour, the Minutes of the meeting of the Greatham Parish Council held on 2nd February 2009 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

051/09 Matters arising from the Minutes

- (i) Cllr Bridgman reported on the matter of the Audit Commission Annual Return, stating that this had now been completed and returned by the Audit Commission.
- (ii) Cllr Bridgman reported on the matter of Chris Youngs PAYE, stating that the cheque had been sent off for the outstanding PAYE. A letter had also been sent to the PAYE office asking for a refund of the overpayment.
- (iii) Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the Clerk had written a letter to Inspector Rickwood of Whitehill Police Station asking that the Parish Council be kept informed of any further meetings in the village and also inviting him to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk had not received a reply to date. Cllr Bridgman had however met Inspector Rickwood at a recent meeting and he had confirmed to Cllr Bridgman that he would attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- (iv) The Clerk had asked the Bank to confirm the situation with regard to bank guarantees for the funds held by the Parish Council. To date no response.

052/09 Reports from County and District Councillors

Both Cllr Cartwright from Hampshire County Council and Cllr Onslow from East Hampshire District Council had sent their apologies, but there was nothing to report.

053/09 Dog Fouling in Longmoor Road

Cllr Bridgman reported that the Clerk had been in touch with EHDC and there were now dog fouling stickers placed around the village and a new dual purpose bin had been installed along Longmoor Road at the bottom of Hopeswood.

054/09 RFO report

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

Reserve Account	£42,134.67
Old Church Account	£1,132.93
Current Account	£206.35

The payments to be made this month are:-

Clerk's fees	£320.00
Clerk's expenses	£37.67
HMRC PAYE tax (for clerk)	£80.00
Greatham Village Hall (hire 2009)	£1,000.00
HALC affiliation fee	£199.00

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and the sum of £1,650.00 be transferred from the current account to the reserve account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lerner and **SECONDED** by Cllr Rudd. A transfer letter was then signed by Cllrs Rudd, Lerner and Bridgman. The cheques for the above payments were signed by Cllrs Bridgman, Booton and Redman.

055/09 Parish Council Bank Accounts

Cllr Bridgman reported that the bank had decided they did not need the mandate forms previously signed by all the Councillors to allow the Clerk to obtain information, but that a letter signed by three councillors would suffice. Cllrs Rudd, Lerner and Bridgman signed the letter to the Bank.

056/09 Reports of Representatives

(a) Coryton Almshouses

Cllr Booton said there had not been any meetings and there was nothing to report.

(b) Village Hall

Cllr Bridgman had received a letter from the Village Hall Committee, which he read out. The Village Hall Committee had been asked by East Hampshire District Council to amend their constitution by adding a "dissolution clause". This would state that in the event of the Charities assets being sold following its dissolution then the proceeds should go to the community. The Village Hall Committee asked if the Parish Council would take on the responsibility for ensuring that the proceeds are used for the benefit of the community of Greatham.

Cllr Bridgman said he was sure that the Parish Council would be willing to do this but that legally they may not be able to.

Cllr Lerner said he thought that should this position arise that the proceeds were to go back to the State or to the Charities Commission.

Mrs L Carr confirmed that the money needed to go to a charity or organisation for the benefit of the people of Greatham. As there was no other suitable organisation the Village Hall Committee felt the Parish Council was the only possibility.

Cllr Lerner expressed his concern that the Parish Councillors would then have to be Trustees when they might not want to be.

Cllr Redman stated that in the previous Village Hall Constitution it had stated that the Parish Council would take on this role.

Mrs Carr agreed to let the Parish Council have further paperwork to help them make their decision and this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on 6th April 2009.

(c) HALC

The Clerk confirmed that the Charles Arnold-Baker book was still missing. It was agreed that as the next edition is due in the Summer that the Parish Council would not buy a new one yet. Mrs J Cheesman kindly offered to let the Clerk borrow her own personal copy.

(d) Old Church

Cllr Booton reported that the Yew Tree in the Old Church grounds was diseased and was probably not going to last more than 20 to 30 years. Pruning the tree would only make the tree deteriorate faster. Mr Peter Cat had agreed to take cuttings of the tree to preserve it and this should be done before the next meeting.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he would arrange a meeting with the new committee soon.

Cllr Booton said he would speak with L'Abri to see if they could help replace the sign at the Old Church.

(e) Transport and Highways

Cllr Booton reported that the Clerk had met with Mr S Neat from Hampshire Highways and he has agreed to re-instate the grass verges where necessary.

Cllr Lerner requested that the grass verges be reinstated along the Petersfield Road near the Silver Birch Mews, in particular outside Fulfords. This was supposed to have been done by the developers of the Silver Birch Mews. The Clerk would write and ask for this to be done.

Cllr Rudd said she had received a request about the Rail Link bus coming through the village. Cllr Booton said he would chase up this matter.

(f) Footpaths and Tree Warden

Clerk confirmed that an email has been received from Kate Fryatt asking for our top two issues so that they can prioritise these. The Clerk confirmed that this had been forwarded to Cllrs Bridgman and Fellows and was awaiting their response. The Clerk would speak with Cllr Fellows to find out what he would like to see done first and Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he knew of a new stile that was needed.

(g) Planning Committee

The Clerk has recently spoken to the Planning Department at East Hampshire District Council who appeared to have an old email address. EHDC said that most parishes only received emailed copies of the applications and that hard copies were not sent out. The email address can be changed. Cllr Lerner said that a new email address can be made which would then distribute a copy of the planning applications to all the councillors on the Planning Committee and the Clerk. Cllr Lerner will arrange for this to be done and let the Clerk have the details so that it can be set up with EHDC.

A planning application had been lodged with EHDC for Thele Knapp House, Petersfield Road, Greatham. Application Number 51377. The application was for a two storey front extension with integral double garage following demolition of existing double garage. Enlarged replacement window and removal of window to rear. New front porch. No paper work had been received from EHDC. Cllrs Booton and Bridgman would attend the property.

(h) Playground Committee

Cllr Bridgman confirmed the current situation with regard to the playground drainage as mentioned before. Copies of the proposed drainage plans had been given to the Village Hall Chairman and these will be discussed at the next Village Hall Committee meeting to be held on the 16th March.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the Hand Made Places quote received previously did include all the work the Parish Council had asked them to do. The quote was therefore a good price and he suggested that this work be agreed. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lerner and **SECONDED** by Cllr Booton. The Clerk will write to Hand Made Places asking them to carry out the maintenance.

057/09 Parish Plan

Cllr Bridgman knew of another two people who wished to help with the Parish Plan. Cllr Bridgman confirmed he will also join the committee.

058/09 Any Other Business

Cllr Bridgman read out the letter received from Blackmoor Stores stating that the Greatham Post Office will cease trading at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 25th March 2009 and Blackmoor Stores will cease trading at 12 noon on Saturday 28th March.

Cllr Booton said Mrs Doris Voice would like to take on the Post Office and shop facilities at the village hall, either as a mobile unit or set up within the village hall. The villages of Frensham and Kingsley already have this facility working.

Concern was raised that should the Post Office close in three weeks, the village may not get another Post Office.

It was agreed that Cllr Booton and the Clerk would meet with Mrs Voice to see what could be done.

The Councillors agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting would be arranged for Monday 9th March at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. to establish what the residents of Greatham thought of this proposal.

059/09 Any Other Business for next meeting

Greatham Post Office would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

060/09 Date and place of next meeting

The next full Parish Council meeting would be on Monday 6th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

An Extraordinary Meeting would be held on Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.