

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 6th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present Mrs A Rozario (clerk)

061/09 Apologies for Absence Cllr A Ascherl

062/09 Chairman's Announcements

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

063/09 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rudd declared an interest in item number 12, the payment to Greatham PCC.

Cllrs Larner and Redman declared an interest in item number 13, correspondence received from GVEC.

064/09 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) Mrs Linda Carr asked if the stile at the back of Todmore could be repaired as this had completely disappeared now. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that he too had reported the stile on more than one occasion to HCC and still nothing had been done. Cllr Bridgman confirmed the Clerk would write again.

(ii) Mr Donald Jerrard wanted to comment on Greatham being in the National Park. He said that everyone should be aware that this does not solve the problems with planning in Greatham. The National Park will determine how planning will work, and they may or may not approve new developments. Mr Jerrard hoped that the Parish Council will make sure that the Parish Plan documents how the villagers want the village to be developed.

Cllr Carwright sits on the South Downs Joint Committee and he understood that the planning authority will revert back to the district councils. He said the South Downs Committee only has advisory powers and does not see that there is a problem yet.

Mr Roger Lewis supported Mr Jerrard and agreed that there was even more need for a parish plan.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

065/09 Village Hall Committee

Mr Josh Dale-Harris gave a presentation for a further grant from Greatham Parish Council for the extension of Greatham Village Hall.

Mr Dale-Harris confirmed that the start date was September 2009.

Cllr Larner asked for clarification on the developer's contributions. Mr Dale-Harris said an agreement was made when the Silver Birch and the Greatham Inn sites were developed that the developers had to pay £1,000 for each house, the money to be used in the village. When all the houses were sold the payment would be made. He envisaged that all would be sold within the next 5 years.

Mr Lewis commented on this, he had spoken to Mr Ellis at EHDC and he understood that there had to be 18 houses before this happened and that although there were 19 new houses in Greatham they did not have to pay because they were on separate sites.

Mr Jerrard said that under Section 106 Agreement, developer's contributions are made, so there would be £18,000 held, but he was not sure what would trigger the payment over to the Parish Council.

Mrs Pat Slivkin questioned what would happen should the houses not be sold but rented out by the developer, would the payment still be made?

The Clerk would check with EHDC as to the developer's contributions and when they might be paid over to the Parish Council.

Cllr Larner questioned whether the payments would be used for the Village Hall, this would have to be decided at a later stage.

Cllr Larner also asked about the possibility of having the Post Office/Shop located in the village hall, as it is a community building or possibly in the car park.

Cllr Cartwright said the County Council does make grants to help set up a shop/Post Office.

Cllr Larner asked Mr Dale-Harris to clarify the two phases mentioned in his report.

Mr Dale-Harris confirmed that phase 1 is the current plans and phase 2 is other maintenance not yet decided on. There was no commitment to phase 2 but would like to do more to the hall as and when they have the funds.

Cllr Larner added that as treasurer to GVEC and therefore used to fundraising, he did feel that the fundraising targets were maybe a bit ambitious.

Cllr Bridgman said no decision would be made today and the item would go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr Dale-Harris confirmed that the Village Hall Committee should have the tenders in for the building work at the end of May.

066/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd March 2009

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

067/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd February 2009

The Clerk had corrected the numbering of the last two items in the Minutes dated 2nd February 2009. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Rudd, with all in favour, **RESOLVED:** 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.

068/09 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

069/09 Reports from County Councillor

Cllr Cartwright from Hampshire County Council reported as follows:-

- (i) Council Tax – The County Council had kept down the percentage they had requested as low as possible.
- (ii) Toll House Corner/Selborne Road – Mandy Ware from HCC will visit the site soon and make her report on the situation.
- (iii) Cllr Cartwright confirmed that the County Council elections will be held soon and he will not be standing this year. He wished the Parish Council all the best for the future.

070/09 Greatham Post Office

Cllr Larner reported on the Post Office/Shop and how the action group had been set up. Following 4 meetings held by the action group a report had been produced with their findings. The findings were not commercial findings to be relied upon for any other purpose and the people involved had given their time for the benefit of the village.

Locations throughout the village had been discussed and funding options investigated. The Post Office at Frensham had been visited, as they had been through the process already.

The Plunkett Foundation had been very helpful with their advice and their recommendation was that a village survey needed to be undertaken to ensure that the Post Office/Shop is needed and wanted. They had also said there was a lot of funding available and the shop might be able to generate an income for the village hall. It has been decided by the action group to send out a questionnaire to the residents of Greatham.

Cllr Larner confirmed that the favoured locations were (i) the bottle store at The Greatham Inn or (ii) a portacabin in the village hall grounds.

Mr Dale-Harris questioned the possibility of using the old post office. Cllr Larner confirmed that the rents quoted by Mr Evans were not commercially viable. There was no guarantee that whoever bought the premises would run it as a post office and it was not known when this might happen.

Cllr Booton said the only guarantee was that Mr Evans did not want to run the premises as a shop any longer. If the post office had a more central position in the village it would be more accessible to everyone.

Cllr Bridgman thanked Cllr Larner for preparing the report.

Mrs Doris Voice confirmed she had the grant forms to hand but was not able to fill them in until it was known what to apply for.

Cllr Larner said the next stage was to send out the survey which was being arranged by Mrs Voice and Mrs Cheesman, look at the results and see if the demand is there for a post office/shop. He also said that the Parish Council needs to support Mrs Voice but everyone also needs to remember that the Parish Council cannot get involved in the running of a commercial venture.

071/09 Fern Farm Field

Cllr Bridgman said that a lot of work had been done in the field, but was not sure what this work was for, but presumably a planning application would be put in. EHDC have visited the site and they are happy with what is going on at the site.

Mr Jerrard said the same people had been developing behind Kingshott Cottages and that residents had been threatened by the people working there, one was even too scared to go out of her house.

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the Parish Council will maintain correspondence with EHDC.

A resident said she had phoned the County Council and they were not interested. She had also been in touch with Mrs Onslow who was not interested. The Forestry Commission, when contacted, did attend and were helpful.

Cllr Larner proposed that this matter be discussed further in an exempt session at the end of the meeting. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Larner, **SECONDED** by Cllr Fellows. **RESOLVED** that this matter be deferred to an exempt session

Cllr Booton added that he had been in touch with Mr Dane Swallow at EHDC who does feel that Greatham villagers are making a fuss.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact EHDC to see if there was an emergency contact number, in case anything happened over the Easter weekend.

072/09 Reports of Representatives

(a) Coryton Almshouses
Nothing to report.

(b) Village Hall
Cllr Ascherl was not available to report. Cllr Bridgman confirmed with regard to the dissolution clause, that nothing needed to be done as it was already covered under a different

document. Therefore should the Village Hall Trustees dissolve, any monies held would be passed to the Parish Council as there was no other local charity with similar standing.

(c) HALC

The Clerk confirmed that new model standing orders were due out later this year.

(d) The Old Church Committee

Cllr Bridgman reported on the meeting held by the Old Church Committee on the 31st March 2009. There was a possibility that sheep might be able to go on the grounds to maintain the grass. A Summer picnic and a Christmas carol service were also hopefully being arranged.

(e) Transport and Highways

Cllr Booton reported that the Rail Link had been cancelled, but Cllr Rudd thought it might have been saved. Cllr Booton confirmed he would check the position of the Rail Link bus.

(f) Footpaths and Tree Warden

Cllr Fellows reported that the top two issues for Greatham had now been given to the Clerk and she in turn would contact Kate Fryatt at Hampshire County Council.

(g) Planning Committee

Cllr Booton confirmed that no objection had been made with regard to the application on the land adjoining 1 Woodland Cottage.

Cllr Rudd asked if the trees were being replanted, and Cllr Booton confirmed that they were.

Cllr Lerner said he had received an email about a planning application at Carylls, Petersfield Road. A planning meeting might have to be arranged if the consultation period was before the next meeting.

(h) Playground Committee

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the drainage works are continuing and the entrance to the car park was due to be dug up tomorrow. Also Hand Made Places have attended the playground to carry out the maintenance requested.

073/09 RFO report

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

Reserve Account	£40,501.73
Old Church Account	£1,134.87
Current Account	£491.87

The payments to be made this month are:-

Clerk's fees and holiday pay	£694.01
Clerk's expenses	£65.69
HMRC NI (for clerk)	£64.45
Audit Commission fee (07/08)	£155.25
Audit Commission fee (complaint)	£920.00
SLCC subscription (clerk)	£102.00
Greatham PCC (grant)	£400.00
Hand Made Places	£381.80

The Clerk said that she was not sure the maintenance work had been carried out correctly at the playground as it looked like the old dog ban sign had been found and replaced and wanted to check that everything was definitely done before sending off the cheque in settlement.

Cllr Bridgman read out the sequence of letters regarding the complaints procedure carried out by the Audit Commission and why the fees were payable although over a year late.

Cllr Lerner said that he felt that residents should be able to write to the Audit Commission with any concerns they might have and that these costs should not deter them.

Cllr Booton said that we have to accept that these fees are payable.

Mr Lewis said he felt very strongly that the Audit Commission did not do anything and feels that the Audit Commission have failed in their job. Mr Lewis said he will personally be taking this matter further.

Mr Jerrard also felt strongly and said that the Audit Commission could not charge this fee.

Cllr Larner agreed that this invoice was charging for work that should have been covered by their normal fee.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Audit Commission for clarification of what work had been undertaken, and if a report had been undertaken, could the Parish Council have sight of it, as this was a large amount of money from the precept.

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made except for the Audit Commission fee of £920 and the account from Hand Made Places. A transfer letter asking for the sum of £1,200 to be transferred from the reserve account to the current account was signed by Cllrs Fellows, Larner and Bridgman. The cheques for the above payments were signed by Cllrs Bridgman, Booton and Redman.

074/09 Correspondence

- (1) Insurance quote had been received by the Clerk from Came & Company Insurance, which all Councillors would read through and it would be discussed at the next meeting.
- (2) A letter had been received from Hampshire Police confirming they were still going to continue with the 101 non-emergency telephone number.
- (3) EHDC had emailed the Clerk to ask if the Parish Council would agree to go "paperless" for EHDC's agendas and minutes. This was agreed and the Clerk will confirm.
- (4) An email had been received from Roger Lewis informing the Parish Council that 4 out of the 5 trustees will come to the end of their 4 year term in May 2009. The Trustees are Paul Larner, Alan Bridgman, Susan Booton and Roger Lewis. Mr Jerrard has a further two years to go of his term. As the Trustees were all happy to continue it was agreed that they should be allowed to do so.
- (5) GVEC – A letter had been received from Mrs Jane MacDonald as Chairman of the Greatham Village Events Committee requesting a grant in the sum of £1,000. Cllr Bridgman asked the clerk to invite Mrs MacDonald to attend the Parish Assembly on the 27th April to make her presentation and a decision should be made at the May meeting.

075/09 Date and place of next meeting

The next full Parish Council meeting would be on Monday 11th May 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Monday 27th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Greatham Village Hall.

The meeting then moved to an **EXEMPT SESSION** and the members of the public and press were asked to leave the meeting.

076/09 Fern Farm Field

Fern Farm Field was further discussed by the Parish Councillors and it was agreed that letters would be written to Mr Godfrey at EHDC, The Environment Agency, The Forestry Commission and Hampshire Constabulary.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.