

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 7th September 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Present Cllrs A Bridgman, A J Booton, A J Ascherl, D Redman and C Rudd
Also present Mrs T Whelan (clerk)

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

127/09 Apologies for Absence Cllr A Fellows

128/09 Chairman's Announcements

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

128/09 Appointment of New Clerk

Cllr Bridgman informed the meeting that the former clerk resigned in July and a sub committee was appointed to select a replacement. There were some 15 applicants and I am please to welcome Teresa Whelan has been appointed as our new clerk. Mrs Carr requested name and address details which were given.

130/09 Declarations of Interest

None

131/09 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 Carr requested an update on repairs to the footpath into the village through Todmore to Petersfield Road noting that the style has been removed. Cllr Bridgman said that the clerk had been in contact in with the appropriate officer. Cllr Booton said that this was being handled from Q Elizabeth Country Park and he did not think the style was being replaced. He would double check. There was a debate as to who was responsible, Mr Lewis said he understood that it was the council's responsibility except between houses 4 and 5 which was the developer's (Bewley Homes).

(ii) Mrs Carr said she had been asked to raise the question of grass cutting at the old church. Cllr Bridgman said we will try to get it cut on Andrew Fellows return and asked the clerk to renew correspondence.

(iii) Mr Jerrard spoke regarding Mr Shea's behaviour. Mrs Carr commented that she heard that he had been arrested in connection with Bordean House. Mr Jerrard asked what help the Parish Council could give to the villagers to ensure proper help from the police if this was necessitated. Mr Price wanted to know what backing would be received from the Parish Council to ensure that the stipulations in the temporary planning were upheld. Cllr Bridgman said he was aware of the EHDC approval but had not yet seen the permission and he understood that it was conditional on there being only a Longmoor Road entrance to Fern Farm. He suggested that it may be possible to send a letter to Wolfmere and Longmoor residents asking them to keep an eye open and inform the Parish Council if the terms of planning were exceeded at any time. Jackie Cheeseman asked if a licence is required for lorries. Mr Lewis asked how, if Highways had not been consulted, could EHDC committee make a decision. Mr Jerrard reported that Mr Phillips said it would not be fair to the applicant to make the decision subject to highways. Cllr Booton said the District Council had let us down when they could have utilised some of the MOD land around to make a suitable site available for the gypsies. It was noted with regret that Judy Onslow was not at this meeting. Cllr Bridgman reported that she had been opposed to the planning at the Council Meeting. Cllr Booton said that the only feedback he had was that if permission had not been given and it had gone to appeal, then full permission may have been granted. At lease this way the DC has control as the permission is temporary. Mr Jerrard said that if Mr Shea appealed we would have gone to a public enquiry and Mr Shea would have had to pay. He does not believe that permission would have been granted especially with press pressure. Cllr

Bridgman said we would monitor the site and continue to observe and ensure evidence was received in the appropriate quarter. Nothing will happen unless local residents act together with the Parish Council and we need to organise effective publicity. He suggested everyone should write to Mr Mates and he would back getting the press involved. Mr Jerrard suggested also writing to Mr Hines and the Lib Dem Mr Carew should be asked and invite all three to attend a meeting in Greatham to say what they are going to do.

Cllr Bridgman thanked every one for their contributions to the discussion.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

132/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 6th July 2009

Cllr Bridgman explained that exempt service meant no public and did not mean that it would be secret for ever just that there should be no detail in the minutes. As neither Cllrs Ascherl nor Redman were at that meeting Cllrs Rudd, Bridgman and Booton accepted there was deserved criticism and therefore amended Minute of item 126/09 which will be signed and circulated.

PROPOSED by Cllr Bridgman, Seconded by Cllr Rudd, with all in favour, the Minutes as amended by Cllr Bridgman of the meeting of the Greatham Parish Council held on 6th July 2009 be approved.

133/09 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Bridgman reported an email received today from Cllr Larner in which he said ' I was asked to reconsider my resignation, however I regret that my decision has not changed' . The resignation was accepted and the necessary procedures will be put into place to appoint a replacement. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that EHDC had been informed and that he had received papers from them.

134/09 Reports from County and District Councillors

Judy Onslow was not in attendance. County councillor Vaughan Clark apologised for his late arrival and was welcomed by Cllr Bridgman. He explained that Greatham will be included in the trialising of Parish Lengths men. He has £10,000 available to give to 10 parishes including Greatham, to engage and run their own Lengths men. Another 10 parishes will receive the personnel to do the cleaning, signs, bollards litter, drainage etc. This is to see which of the two methods is the best. The best method will then be rolled out .

Cllr Clark reported that he had written to Mandy Ware regarding the junction with the Selborne road and that a 30 mph speed limit was being considered. Police support was vital for this to be effective.

Cllr Clark had attended to planning meeting for Fern Farm and said that it was an absolute disgrace and that the Regulations were stacked against us, he referred to a similar problem he had in the "70s and that we need to get a change in the law. Cllr Booton commented that the Regulations were not put there to be exploited by travellers. Cllr Clark confirmed that it is an offence to use a shotgun and asked if the police had been informed. Mr Lewis confirmed that he had written to the Chief Constable three weeks ago and so far had received no reply. Cllr Clark suggested that next time a copy should be sent to the Home Secretary.. Cllr Booton said that the District Council had let us down by not finding a site and that when one traveller gets away with it, then another will follow and it will get worse. Cllr Clark was informed of Mr O'Shea's land purchase in Langrish.

Cllr Bridgman thanked County Councillor Clark for taking the trouble to attend the Parish Meeting.

135/09 Reports of Representatives

(a) Coryton Almshouses

Cllr Bridgman has received a request from a Greatham resident and he will respond directly.

(b) Village Hall

Following the resignation of Cllr Larner we need a new representative for the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Booton suggested either Mr Fellows or the new councillor. Mrs Carr said that the next meeting is 21st September and they would not accept a temporary rep. Therefore if we appoint a new representative at the 5th October GPC meeting that person will be able to attend the October meeting at Mr Dale-Harris's house.

(c) **Old Church**

The grass needs cutting again. The July picnic has been rearranged for 13th September. It is in Parish magazine. Publicity to go up this week. Cllr Bridgman advised that if we supply the machines, Mr Fellows will ensure that the grounds are looked after. Cllr Booton donated a hedge trimmer and they have a strimmer. As long as L'Abri are there they will take responsibility.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Cllr Bridgman advised that a meeting is to be arranged re Forest Road speed limit and Cllr Booton will attend on a date to be agreed. Also, that Inspector White has assured him of enhanced police patrol activity in Greatham. A meeting will also be arranged regarding parking outside Woodland Cottages.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

EHDC has invited the Parish to nominate three favourite trees for a scheme of HCC tree admirers to consider, and from which trees will be selected to have a plaque put up. Mr Lewis says this is part of identifying 100,000 trees in the UIK to get special preservation throughout the country. Mrs Carr asked to whom the nominations should be sent. Mr Jerrard suggested giving to the Gardening club.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton reported on the EHDC planning meeting regarding Fern Farm. The Parish Council were not allowed access to the meeting but were able to view proceedings via a TV screen. He will let Wolfmere Lane know what is going on and give support in any way. This is a ludicrous situation. Both Cllr Bridgman and Mr Jerrard will stand up to this and do anything needed.

Other applications: The Turf Centre wish to open up more land.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Nothing to report.

136/09 RFO report to 31/08/09

Schedule of payments

Cllr Bridgman read out the RFO report and the balances on accounts on 1st September are as follows:

Bank reserve	£30,906.74
Current	£ 2,161.60
Old church	£ 1,134.98

the schedule of payments to be made this month are:

Clerk's salary July	£315.00
Clerk's salary August + holiday	£307.20
Clerk's expenses	£41.65
Alan J Harland	£287.50
Audit Commission fees	£920.00
Blackwell Press	£62.86
Rent advance to village hall	£5,000.00

Despite our complaints and Mr Lewis's meeting with the Audit Commissioners we must accept that we have to pay this bill. Act says they set the fees and all other charges to the Council. There is no protection so we are paying.

We have agreed to pay 5 years rent in advance to the Greatham Village Hall, £5,000. We have a signed Agreement that this relates to rental payments from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2015. We are able to do this because of excess funds built up 5 years ago. We have spent the funds for the playground and are now only drawing £12,000 from the precept.

Cllr Rudd asked what would happen regarding the rent for the three meetings we are not in the Village Hall as we shall be paying for the church Hall during this time. Cllr Bridgman requested the clerk to add to the letter that we wish to extend the period by the number of months we shall need to be renting the church hall as they are charging the same rent as the Village Hall.

Cllr Bridgman concluded that we have received a VAT repayment of £2058.32. The total of the payments is £6934.21.

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £5,000.00 was to be transferred to the current account from the reserve account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Redman. The clerk will send the signed transfer request to the bank.

137/09 Correspondence

1. A letter has been received from the Chief Constable apologising for the delay and assures us of best attention at all times. Regarding the patrolling of the village by the police community patrol office, he has spoken to PC Tedder and he is sad to hear our concerns and assures us of continued attendance and support. Cllr Bridgman asked the clerk to seek a meeting with the new Inspector at Whitehill, Inspector White.
2. BT have sent a letter regarding the Red telephone kiosk which they invite us to adopt for £1. They will remove the telephony and transfer the structure to us. Mrs Carr mentioned that Blackmoor put up notices in their box. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Rudd and **SECONDED** by Cllr Booton. The vote was unanimous.
3. HCC driver pass plus scheme regarding new qualified driver subsidy. This was published and paid in May.
4. A letter was received from HCC regarding the parking outside Woodland Cottages with suggested dates for a meeting. The clerk was asked to arrange for 23 September.
5. An email was received from Greg Hutton regarding our litter bins. Ours was disposed of as scrap. We can purchase at £250 plus VAT plus installation. They double up as litter and dog bins. Mrs Carr asked who empties these bins. Also could one be made available for the village hall please. The clerk was asked to look into this.
6. HCC Minerals and waste Development Scoping Report. We will hear more later
7. EHDC Association of Parish councils including a presentation by Cllr Ken C. Cllr Bridgman will attend.
8. Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Mr Lugg Chief Executive has sent an invitation to the AGM on Saturday 10th October at 11.00am. Councillors were asked if anyone could attend. No one was available. Cllr Bridgman has made a note in his diary and Cllr Booton may go as well.
9. Hillside Sure Start sent letter regarding the children. This was passed to Mrs Carr for the Village Hall Committee
10. An email was received from Dick Bowery, Clerk to Liss PC regarding a meeting concerning speed limit in Forest Road. The clerk was asked to arrange for Wednesday 23rd September.
11. EHDC sent a circular regarding naming a favourite tree between 1st September and 31st December. We have plenty of time for this.

138/09 Any Other Business

None

138/09 Any Other Business for next meeting

None.

139/09 Date and place of next meeting

The next full Parish Council meeting would be on Monday 5th October 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall which will be lit.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.