

# Greatham Parish Council

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

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

**140/09 Apologies for Absence** None

**141/09 Chairman's Announcements**

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

**142/09 Declarations of Interest**

None

**143/09 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 Cheesman requested that whilst the work was being done to the Village Hall, a copy for the Agenda should be put on the outside of the window to the committee room. This was agreed.

(ii) Mrs Cheesman requested to see a copy of the July and September Minutes and said that she may have some questions relating to these at a later point.

(iii) Mr Jerrard spoke regarding continued activity at Fern Farm and asked if EHDC is going to start doing something regarding access to the site and trees. Cllr Bridgman explained that there is very little the Parish Council could do other than co-ordinate pressure from the Parish Council and Residents and he will cover this later in the meeting. He urged residents of Wolfmere Lane and Longmoor road to write to complain to the EHDC to ensure action from the EHDC and that the Parish Council will do whatever possible to ensure that the rule of law applies. Mr Lewis asked if a petition signed by all the residents would have an effect. Cllr Bridgman agreed that it may be advantageous. Cllr Booton reported that he had tried to ring Lesley Wells who was always in a meeting. He will continue to try to get hold of her and he will put on all pressure to get them to ensure compliance with the conditions they have put on the permission. Cllr Booton will ring Dave Rudd personally with her answers. Cllr Bridgman informed the meeting that we have been sent the conditions. Mr Lewis said that he would like to see a petition with a copy to the Secretary of State which he felt would probably have more impact than individual letters.

A member of the public said he would like the following facts minuted:

1. The land behind Kingshott cottages was transferred on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 to Deborah Shea, wife of Danny Shea and then immediately transferred to Emma Louise Gunning.
2. The house beside Chalfont was let out to Danny Shea in the name of Charlotte Murray, Daughter in law of Danny Shea and the sum of £10,000 was paid apparently with an option to purchase after 6 months.
3. Part of the land at Bordean Manor was purchased in 2007 and part in 2008 by Ibrid SL the same company which purchased part of Fern Farm before it was sold to Danny Shea's son. Danny Shea has said he is intending to purchase this land and John Foote Forster has agreed to sell it to him. This transaction is currently going on. This all shows that it is incorrect that they need more houses.

4. Three of Danny Shea's accomplices now live in the village shop along with Miss Buckland. They are totally interlinked with the Shea family and their business colleagues and working with Mr Evans. EHDC must be informed of illegal activities including fraud. Councillor Cowper and Daryl Phillips were all told of clear suspicion of Money Laundering and fraud. They have not taken notice of this. There is still the problem of violence. Mr Shea has apparently now shot a sheep and there are photos of the sheep dead in the field. Meanwhile, the four witnesses to intimidation by Mr Shea, and to the shooting of the pig have still not been interviewed. The member of the public has received a letter that no action is to be taken and that he is not to upset Mr Shea. He believes the Parish Council should be writing to the council and the Police. Throughout the country there is criticism of action not being taken where it is necessary. Cllr Booton commented that there is no doubt that in the last few months crime has gone up, the digger, burglaries etc since the occupation of Fern Farm. Cllr Bridgman thanked the member of the public and told him that this items would be discussed further in the Agenda.. It was pointed out that the District Council do not know about Mr Shea's involvement with Kingshott cottages, the house next the Chalfont or of Bordean house which is still going on at the moment.

(iv)

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

**Standing orders were then reinstated.**

**144/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Rudd and **SECONDED** by Cllr Redman, with all in favour. The minutes were then signed

**145/09 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No points arising.

**146/09 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Clarke reported there were negotiations with the team of the South Downs which has 15 members each representing anything between 30,000 and 23 people so we can imagine the difficulties this causes. There are particular arguments regarding rights of way. The Bill Comes into effect in April 2011 but Cllr Clarke would like us to be aware that District plans will still be being worked on after that date.

**147/09 Reports of Representatives**

(a) **Coryton Almshouses**

Cllr Booton said there was nothing to report.

(b) **Village Hall**

We need a new representative for the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Fellows volunteered for the post and. Cllr Bridgman said he was confident with Cllr Fellows as our representative. The clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee of the appointment..

(c) **Old Church**

Cllr Bridgman reported that last month's picnic attracted 25 people. The Church had been cleaned, the grass cut and refreshments were served. The takings of £50 presented by Mrs Coffin and Mrs Hedicker Were now paid in. the next event will be the carol service just before Christmas. Mrs Anderson said she was very glad about the picnic and asked what steps were being taken regarding the preservation of the alabaster tomb. She also asked who the members of the new Old Church sub-committee are. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the committee is made up of himself, Sue Booton, Debbie Hedicker and David Rudd. Also that they intend to repair the notice board and post a brief history of the Old Church inside the Nave area. Mrs Anderson asked if this would only be accessible by a key holder. Cllr Bridgman explained that it was planned to make a weatherproof display case on the outside wall and that it should be ready before Christmas. It would be funded from the £1184 currently in the Old Church account. Mrs Anderson asked if the Parish Council are aware that the fund is intended for the church upkeep and not promotion. Cllr Bridgman said that he

expected the cost of the display case to be in the region of £20. Cllr Booton explained that L'Abri have agreed to maintain the grounds using machinery supplied by the Parish council. They already have a hedge cutter and now need a heavy duty strimmer which they will be getting. Mrs Anderson commented that the previous Old Church committee had worked very hard and over a long period and was very sad to think that everything is going downhill. She hopes that the Parish Council will take it in the spirit in which the comment is meant. Cllr Bridgman said it was appreciated and that we would have no problem in agreeing to that and shall continue to receive funds to restore the tomb. Mrs Anderson said that it was very sad that seven good volunteers had been lost. Cllr Bridgman agreed and said that he did not understand why. He then confirmed that the Old Church is being looked after but that in the last month the person organising the cutting had been abroad.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Cllr Booton reported that he had attended a meeting regarding Forest Road speed limits where the bus and people park which is just in Greatham. He said that we would write to confirm that providing that the costs are theirs and not ours, we agree to moving the 30pmh sign to the Greatham side of Liss Forest and possibly some slow down for horses signs. Cllr Bridgman reported that he had met with Mandy Ware regarding the parking outside Woodlands and they had discussed the situation. He pointed out that the Parish Council had objected regarding the parking before planning consent was given. And that there is a problem with the four vehicle parked outside Woodlands. Mandy Ware suggested some bays opposite the bus stop but they are short of funds. Cllr Bridgman told the meeting that he does not see that we can expect any further action. Mrs Anderson reminded the meeting about how the Parish Council had worked and found the best way of working with the Highways Agency regarding the installation of the pinch points. Cllr Bridgman explained how when the new houses were planned the Parish Council said there was no room for parking but the District Council did not accept the Parish Council's representations and the Government inspector gave permission. Highways for both EHDC and HCC did not make objections. The Parish Council also objected regarding the parking.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

Nothing further to report. We will consider this again in the next few months. The footpaths division seems understaffed, the style has been removed and is not to be replaced.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton said there is to be a planning committee meeting on 13 October at 7.30pm in the church Hall. Mr Jerrard asked how many applications were being considered. Cllr Booton advised that three had been received but nothing of great importance. Cllr Bridgman advised that we had received the Minutes of the EHDC Planning Meeting when the permission for Fern Farm was granted. He said that there are several interesting points dealing with conditions, for example no more than one commercial vehicle; no commercial activity, no more than 4 caravans; and that within two months a detailed landscape and planting scheme; also within two months provisions for loading and unloading and parking of vehicles and ensuring that vehicles can enter and leave the property in forward gear; and for the duration of the permission access to Wolfmere Lane is prohibited from the site. Cllr Bridgman considered these to be strong points but agreed that unless our views are made known to the District Council they may not be enforced especially since Mr Phillips has moved on. He proposed that we write to the residents of Wolfmere Lane and Longmoor Road explaining the conditions and could they please refer back to the Clerk with any infringements so that this could be pulled together and we will notify the council of all infringements of the Terms of the Planning Consent and demand action. Mrs Anderson suggested that this might be more useful to be sent to all the village not just the specific roads it impacts on. It would be cohesive for the Village of Greatham to pull together. Cllr Booton explained to Councillor Clarke that this is destroying the village badly, crime has gone up and confidence that EHDC will take the necessary action is very low. Mr Jerrard reported that 10 days ago a sheep was shot with eye witnesses; two months ago it was a pig and he considered that it is just a matter of time before a human gets shot. There has been no action from either the Police or the District Council in spite of the fact the Mr Shea is on probation and has been using a gun. Mr Shea nearly hit a man on a bike with his two children. Mr Lewis reported that he had written to the Chief Constable by recorded delivery and was told when ringing up

to get an answer that his letter had been mislaid. The local district commander had thanked him for the information. Cllr Booton said that Mr Shea is claiming to be a gypsy when in fact he is a domiciled traveller. Mr Rudd reported that the motorbikes go up and down, there is old hay stacked up which produces rats and the digger is constantly digging or being moved about the field and he feels that there is no support. Mrs Anderson asked for her comments to be minuted and said that she feels that this village has been intimidated for a long time by the O'Shea family and is very sad that we have come to this point there is a lot to do, as there always has been, and it is now beyond the pale. We are a tiny dot and have got above ourselves. She has been here 20 years, quite a long time and doesn't like where we are at all. We maybe have issues but it does not sit well with her at all and she wants to make it public. Cllr Bridgman replied that he is confident that the Parish Council is working to the best of its ability within the powers available. Mrs Anderson replied that she did not believe that. When she was chairman everything was done with the best and most honest intent. Cllr Booton asked what made her think we are any different and did she not believe that the current council has that integrity? Cllr Rudd said that she had first hand experience of Fern Farm though not about the O'Sheas and was trying to do her best for the village and it was a learning curve for her too and finds Mrs Anderson's comments offensive. Cllr Bridgman thanked Mrs Anderson for her input and asked her to check the facts regarding the history of this Council. Mrs Anderson wished the Council well and said that the village was too scared to speak up. Cllr Bridgman said we have made a note of your points which we will consider.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Cllr Rudd reported a loose stepping stone to the left of the slide. Cllr Booton confirmed that this will be attended to. This is because the ground has now dried out after the successful drainage scheme.

**148/09 RFO report to 30/09/09**

**Schedule of payments**

The Clerk read out the RFO report and the balances on accounts on 1<sup>st</sup> October are as follows:

Bank reserve	£27,906.74
Current	£ 227.29
Old church	£ 1,184.98

the only payment to be made this month is:

Clerk's salary for September	£120.00
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Cllr Bridgman reported that we are currently quite well off financially, having paid five year's in advance to the Village Hall committee to assist their rebuilding and asked if there were any Questions. There were none.

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Redman.

**149/09 Correspondence**

1. A letter has been received from the Hampshire Police Authority inviting applications to the appointment of Independent Member of the Hampshire Police Authority commencing 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 with a 4 year term of office, The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> October.
2. An email has been received from Steve Lugg of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils informing us of a pilot agreement with the Land Registry to enable Parish Councils to register their land easily and at an affordable price.
3. A reminder from Susan Halstead that the consultation on the future of South Downs National Park Authority closes on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. She reported that at September's EHAPTC

meeting there was unanimous preference for a large park authority with 37 members, which would give 8 Parish members. There is a meeting on 7th October at 7.30 pm in Arundel for anyone wishing to be considered as a representative on the New National Authority.

4. An Action update has been received from Greening Alton and Holybourne Campaign . Their next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the Crown Hotel's cellar bar for anyone interested.

5. There were no volunteers..

6. A letter has been received from Ken Thornber of Hampshire County Council regarding the Charter between Local Councils and the County Council. In order to help review the Charter, he has sent us a questionnaire to be completed by 27<sup>th</sup> November. The clerk was deputed to complete this and return to HCC.

7. An email from Linda Carr requesting notification of our selection of the designated representative on the Village Hall Committee. The clerk will inform them of Cllr Fellows' appointment.

8. The clerk has requested that a printer is purchased as currently there is none that connects to the laptop. A recommendation was made for a Brother for £55 as shown in the Blackmoor Press catalogue (our nominated supplier). Mr Jerrard suggested that a laser jet may be more cost effective. The clerk was authorised to spend up to £150. This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Ascherl.

9. Cllr Booton referred to an email received from Dave Wallace drawing attention to the fact that Fern Farm had been granted temporary permission subject to a number of conditions. He asked what the Parish Council plans to do to ensure these are adhered to. He also said that he expected the Parish Council to put pressure on EHDC to find an alternative gypsy site so that at the end of the three year term there will be no need for this permission. He also asked about the increased crime in the village, referring to the theft of the digger outside the village hall and the negative press that Greatham is receiving. Cllr Booton said that Councillor Clarke had agreed to take this forward and Cllr Rudd suggested that we should also write to the police, in particular to Inspector White who will be attending our November meeting. Cllr Fellows said that he liked the petition idea and asked how we could move this forward. Mr Lewis suggested that the Parish Council should write about our complaints and that the residents should raise the petition – worded clearly and effectively. Mr Rudd said that quite a few elderly people are scared. Councillor Clarke said that in Sheet where there is a licence for very late music outside, the residents were asked to ring an enforcement officer if there were any problems; on the first night 11 people rang. Therefore if someone will be strong enough to make the call they could take on this role. Cllr Bridgman said that we need to assist this method by letter, itemising different incidents. Cllr Bridgman and the Clerk will work out a letter to be sent to Councillor Clarke, the residents and EHDC. Cllr Rudd asked if this could please be forceful and if it could be circulated to all Councillors prior to being sent. Cllr Booton suggested that the more phone calls and action taken, the more likely we will get a response, we need to point out all the facts and within the next week or so and place the letter on the website. In addition we shall also place the minutes of the EHDC planning meeting on our website.. Mr Lewis said that he had done a study of 30 councils and nobody is interested in anything, David Cameron, Public Accounts, Audit Commission, or the media. This was a 34 page report with executive summary on the ability of the public to communicate with the authorities – either way around. There is an Audit Commission publication which states on page 1 that complaints should be made to the ombudsman but on page 2 it states that they will not look at local council complaints. This is ridiculous. Nobody is interested.

10.

**150/09**            **Any Other Business**

Mrs Cheesman said that she did have a question. She does appreciate the work that the Council does. The July Meeting did not appoint a sub committee to appoint the new clerk but in the September Minutes it was reported that a sub committee was appointed. Cllr Booton said he would like to apologise and Cllr Bridgman said he would do it correctly in future and also apologised. Mrs Cheesman said that she had rung the EHDC electoral rep who did not know that Teresa Whelan was the new clerk. The clerk expressed surprise as she had received a number of different communications from EHDC. She said she would contact EHDC to ensure all departments were aware of the change. Mrs Cheesman also asked if the clerk would write to HALC on her behalf as she needs some information regarding cleaning and they will only deal directly with the clerk. It was agreed that Mrs Cheesman should email the clerk who will forward this request to HALC.

**151/09**            **Any Other Business for next meeting**

None.

**152/09**            **Date and place of next meeting**

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 2nd November 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.