

# Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Church Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

**153/09 Apologies for Absence**  
Councillors Ascherl and Fellows

**154/09 Chairman's Announcements**  
The Chairman pointed out the fire escapes in the event of a fire.

**155/09 Appointment of New Councillor**  
Councillor Larnier resigned in July. There have been no requests for an election and there has only been one nomination for Councillor. Doug Curry who lives at Greatham Green. He was PROPOSED by Cllr Booton. There were no objections and Cllr Rudd abstained. Councillor Curry was invited to join the table.

**156/09 Declarations of Interest**  
None

**157/09 Public Question Time**  
This item was suspended until after after Item 9 when everyone was invited to put questions to Inspector White.

**158/09 Report from Inspector White of Whitehill Police**

Cllr Bridgman Welcomed Inspector White of Whitehill Police. The Inspector introduced himself as the inspector for the Safer Neighbourhood Scheme in East Hants covering areas around Alton and Petersfield and based in Whitehill. He said that he would talk about policing in Greatham and a couple of issues.

He said that it was pleasing that the crime and disorder issues in the village are very low compared to East Hants and the rest of the country. 2008 and 2009 had similar crime and disorder levels. There were 10 crime and disorder incidents in October several of which were significant to the victims and are ongoing. Between April and October there were 4 burglaries, 4 Crime, 5 Rowdy, 1 theft and 1 theft of a motor vehicle which is considered very low. PCSO Tedder has applied for another position within Hampshire and if successful he will take up that position in January 2010. If he is appointed Inspector White will appoint another PCSO and he asked that if anyone had any concerns to please let him know.

One of the issues is regarding 6 burglaries in Bakers Field where residents have been asked to join the no calling scheme. 23/24 October some people called at Bakersfield in a blue van with red tailgate and two males. He wanted to reassure the residents of the police are trying to catch these people.

A second issue is regarding road traffic collisions. They received a letter in May there have been 5 accidents resulting in damage and 5 resulting in minor injuries. Mainly from cars losing control on the windy rural roads. Whitehill police monitoring has been removed and so we can feel neglected but he will ensure that there is a road policy unit up here to cover our patch to help keep the speed down and keep the patrols going.

Inspector White then asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Q. Does the local crime not mainly refer back to one person?

A No. He is aware of the subject. Mr Shea has ongoing civil legal proceedings. Other behaviour has been investigated and may have resulted in criminal behaviour and the police

need to investigate these but they must be able to prove beyond reasonable doubt so as to be able to pass to the CPS for action.

Q. There is a consensus that the investigation is not going through and that items get put into folders and get lost.

A. If an individual of group can come forward with written comprehensive information regarding criminal behaviour the police will investigate. If you have been affected by criminal behaviour we must have written evidence to carry forward.

Q. The police have a statutory duty to investigate crimes but the report did not mention assault, intimidation, threatening behaviour or shotgun usage. Examples were given of these allegations together with the investigating officer's response which effectively said there was not enough evidence; this even though there were independent witnesses. The community is being let down by the police and do not wish to be fooled any longer.

A. Regarding last example, a colleague had spoken on the telephone and provided a strategy to manage the situation in the next 24 hours.

Q. What is the strategy?

A. this is not for a public forum. He re-iterated that they need evidence in order to investigate

Q. Is not a licence required for a shot gun and are they not required to be locked away. Examples were again given and the claim that a vet put the animal down was denied as there were independent witnesses who saw what had happened. Why did the investigating officer not believe the witnesses? Another example was given and the fact that people were too frightened to report that to the police.

A. He hears the frustration and concerns of community tension which needs to be handled delicately. If all individuals experiencing criminal behaviour either together or individually contact the police they will collate the information and the collation is what enables the police to move forward. A lot of villagers do not know what the police do. He will look into the video and Crime Nos not investigated. It is important that the police remain impartial. They need confidence with the evidence to take the matter further.

Q. Please can you look at a letter that was sent to Chief Inspector Kedge giving photos and instances of offences.

A. I will do what I can and if at all possible take the matter forward.

Q. Are you aware of the repeated threats not only to villagers but also by villagers? It appears we have one person doing what he likes in an unlawful manner and Sergeant Shaw saying he is satisfied with the responses from this person.

A. I cannot tell you what action the police have taken regarding firearms. Nor do I know about offences that may have taken place elsewhere. It is important to remember that if anyone is behaving in a criminal way and the police get information, they must not discuss until action is actually being taken as opposed to gathering information. He must be seen to be impartial. However, he is considerably concerned with regard to today's incident. Please give the police more information on any incidents whether Bakers Field or others and this will not leave his bulletin board until the matter is proved or disproved and to do this evidence is required. Trust me.

Q. The people of Greatham do not want to come forward and do not trust the police as they get no feedback.

A. I hear what you say, let me think it over the next few days. Balance must be maintained.

Q. Referring to a vehicle stolen from Greatham subsequently found by Surrey Police who did not know it had been stolen and put an advert in the paper which was the only way the vehicle was recovered.

A. I will take away your comment regarding internal communication and deal with it.

Q. Chief Inspector Kedge was told of lack of communication with the police and said he would deal with it. What else are you looking at?

A. He only has access to information in his own policing business. If anyone feels that they are not being taken seriously enough there is a complaints process. He knows what has

come to his door and has been moved forward. If anything else happens, it is critical for information to be provided to him at an early stage.

Q Even with a crime number what confidences does that give us for the police to protect us? We are a long way down the road and nothing is happening and it could get to the point that things could boil over. The Chief Constable and Chief Inspector Kedge had been written to about this and the reply from CI Kedge was not satisfactory.

A Confidence. I hear what you say, why you are frustrated and the reasons for it. I Will not try to excuse what has happened historically. Is very concerned about Greatham and not a day goes by when I don't look at Greatham to get quick and smart action to have the best chance to get evidence to take forward. He has a meeting with CI Kedge this week and will speak with him.

Q How are you keeping down speeding in the village? We do not want an nasty incident. Cars often do speeds of 50 or 60. Between 8.30 and 9.00 they race through the village doing about 90!

A Please supply details re specific times of the day, individuals, locations and will police in unmarked cars. He will communicate through the PC and she will report back. Regarding the community tension if anyone receives behaviour they find intimidating report to him, but do not mention the incident to friends or relatives as it can get back. If he finds a breach of confidence he will take action.

Q How much more information do you need for the CPS? How much more do we have to put up with?

A This is down the members of the community behaving in ways not socially acceptable. If he can take action in the future he will. But reminded of the possible outcome if a penalty is applied but it may not be a jail sentence and could make matters worse.

Cllr Bridgman thanked the Inspector and said that he looked forward to positive police action to deal with the problems. Cllr Booton said we all need to work together and that he finds it incredible that planning can have been granted in these circumstances and understands that it is not just a police issue. Cllr Bridgman thanked Inspector White for addressing the meeting and listening to the parishioners concerns.

#### **159/09 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

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

#### **160/09 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No points arising.

#### **161/09 Village Shop**

Mrs Buckland was invited to address the meeting. She informed the meeting that the shop will open in three weeks from today. She is not asking for financial support but she would like an up to date letter to confirm that the Parish Council supports the venture. She said that she had lots of support from the villagers. Mrs Voice asked who owned the shop. Mrs Buckland explained that she had purchased a 5 year lease from Mr Shea who had bought the property from Mr Evans. Cllr Bridgman said the council will discuss the application for support. The council asked what her plans were and she said that it would be a general store as before including newspapers but no paper rounds and she is in negotiation with the Post Office to see if they will allow her to reopen that. She was applying for £2,000 from the district council and £7,000 from the county council. There was discussion regarding the ownership of the property and whether this would affect the support from the village. Cllr Bridgman said that the council and most of the village considered a replacement shop desirable. Cllr Booton said that as a village we must support the shop but that it was put out as a Post Office and shop and this he would support and just the shop is not the main inconvenience. Cllr Rudd said that she felt Mrs Buckland may need the profits from the Post Office the make the business viable and that care needs to be taken because of other implications. Cllr Booton said it is up to the individuals owning the business if leasing and paying rent, they need to know how the income will be generated. Cllr Redman said he would like to see a shop by someone somewhere. Mrs Voice said that she had intended to open a shop when the village hall

reopened. Cllr Rudd said that she thought the shop was a very good idea but be careful. Cllr Bridgman said the plans are well advance and it will happen with or without approval. Do we support this? Support was carried by a majority of 3 to nil. We will issue a press release to say plans to open a village shop are supported in general by the Parish council and wishes Mrs Buckland good luck In her venture.

## **162/09 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Onslow sent her apologies.

Cllr Clarke advised of a planned new multi-user route from Alice Holt via Queen Elizabeth Park to Portsmouth to be known as Shipwright way. There will be a consultation on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Alton Maltings at 6.30pm.

Regarding flooding work. A nozzle has been put down all drains and a coloured spot painted onto the road alongside to show the work has been done. If you see any drains which have not been cleaned please let the authority know. Feel free to report this to the Highways department.

Cllr Clarke was asked what the HCC are doing about permanent gypsy sites. EHDC has done nothing. Cllr Clarke said he will see who the gypsy rep is at County council. Mr Jerrard said that it is a District Council matter to find a site. Cllr Bridgman said we will ask EHDC what they are doing about locating a site for gypsies and alleged travellers and asked the clerk to attend to this.

## **163/09 Reports of Representatives**

### **(a) Coryton Almshouses**

Cllr Booton said there is a meeting on Wednesday but there is not a lot to do as this is well run.

### **(b) Village Hall**

There is no representative here but we have received correspondence regarding new projects. Cllr Bridgman read the plans which are seeking grant assistance, However, as we have no parish plan at present this cannot be presented as being part of one.

The 5 year plans include refurbishing the main hall with better tables and chairs for up to 100 and 150 seated theatre style – estimate £45k.

Properly drained and white lined soccer pitch £20k.

Enhance the hall for performing arts with provision of theatre lighting and stage equipment £15k.

Provide multi-use games area for 5 a side mini soccer, hockey, netball £45k

Provisions for activities e.g. cycling, skateboarding, allotments, nature trail, caravan/camping etc.

Cllr Bridgman asked for thoughts on these plans. Cllr Rudd explained her concerns for relying on the pre-school income. Cllr Redman commented negatively on the skateboard park and was concerned that draining the football pitch could be double their estimate. Mrs Cheesman pointed out that the matter had been raised on the 2008 Agenda but the 2009 one clashed with Fern Farm planning. Cllr Rudd suggested this should be put to the village as was done with the shop. Mr Lewis suggested the parish council could be responsible if the village hall went bust. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that his could be the case. Cllr Clarke said that it was for the village Hall committee to take to the district council not the parish council. It could be appropriate for us to send a letter saying we look forward to the improved facilities but not the appropriate of the sums mentioned.

### **(c) Old Church**

No further information. L'Abri has agreed to cut the grass in the very near future and attempt to keep the graveyard accessible to all.

### **(d) Transport and Highways**

Cllr Booton reported that he had received a phone call regarding the speed situation on the main road from Mrs Porter to say that something is being done. It was reported that the road drain outside April cottage has problems with a bad kerb section job which encourages debris to collect and causes back up flooding in Longmoor Road. This can get quite bad. The clerk will write to the appropriate authority regarding this. Cllr Bridgman noted that a new drain has been installed in Petersfield road after four years.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

All is in the same order as a year ago. We received a thank you from the council but nothing has been done. Cllr Booton said that we need to check some footbridges with Liss. Reference was made to the person who used to clear the footpaths. Is there a rambling society we could approach to continue this work? Alan Booton pointed out that the paths are the responsibility of the council and the hedges are the responsibility of the appropriate landowner. L'Abri will be happy to do some of this work. Cllr Bridgman suggested we should take up the footpaths with the council and find a rambling society.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton said there is to be a planning committee meeting on 10 November at 7.30pm in the church hall when three applications will be considered.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Cllr Booton confirmed that the repairs had been done to the paving.

**164/09 RFO report to 31/10/09**

Cllr Rudd requested that the RFO reports should be circulated to the parish councillors prior to the parish council meeting. This was agreed.

Cllr Bridgman read out the RFO report and the balances on accounts on 1<sup>st</sup> November are as follows:

Bank reserve	£27,910.50
Current	£ 107.39
Old church	£ 1,184.98

**Schedule of payments**

Payments to be made this month:

Clerk's salary for October	£340.00
Clerk's expenses	£ 21.81
HALC video postage	£ 1.85

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £500.00 was to be transferred to the current account from the reserve account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Booton and **SECONDED** by Cllr Rudd. The clerk will send the signed transfer request to the bank.

**165/09 Correspondence**

1. An email has been received from Lesley Wells of EHDC Planning to say they are monitoring Fern Farm. Cllr Bridgman he referred to the position between the local council and the police and said that we shall take action to ensure that the appropriate authority does do something. He asked that parishioners take as much detail as possible regarding all vehicles entering and leaving the farm as this would be very helpful. He confirmed that Danny Shea's wife has not been granted permission to live at Fern Farm. It was pointed out that the hay rounds are moved to annoy anyone who upsets Mr Shea; the river is brown from decaying hay and the spores are bad for health. As EHDC claim that he is a farmer should we complain to DEFRA and draw attention to the position? Cllr Redman said that the thought that not a lot would happen as they have done nothing about previous complaints. The hay rot in the water may be a concern of NRA therefore we will write to them about our concerns as this feeds the river Rother. We need to gather any evidence on this please.
2. We have received an email from Katie Clarke regarding speed signs. We will notify her to contact HCC Highways. We will also check our street lamps are the appropriate distance.
3. We have received an email from Steve Lugg requesting us to complete a survey. The clerk will deal with this.
4. We have received a number of meeting notifications and invitations.  
3 November Community Forum Petersfield Liss and surrounding villages – notice will be left out at the back.  
12 November Forest Community Centre, Bordon 10-1pm, preview of master plan  
14 November Transport meeting Cllr Fellows will attend

- 2 December East Hants Local Highways meeting 10-12 Winchester identifying local needs for highways capital programme for 2010/2011
5. A request from Steve Lugg for more councils to attend future AGMs as the 2009 Meeting was not well attended but very well received.
6. Advance notice of the closure of Rose Bridge, Liss Railway. This will be from 7 January to 23 February 2010.

**166/09 Any Other Business**

None.

**167/09 Any Other Business for next meeting**

None.

**168/09 Date and place of next meeting**

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall which will be lit.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.