

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 12th April 2010 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

049/10 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ascherl, Cllr Fellows

050/10 Chairman's Announcements

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

The Chairman reminded members that there is now a signing in book for members attending the meeting and asked for everyone to sign in.

051/10 Declarations of Interest

None

052/10 Appointment of Councillor

Cllr Bridgman reported the following regarding the appointment of Councillor Doug Curry:

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| 07/09/10 | Vacancy on GPC announced, following confirmation of resignation of Paul Lerner. |
| 02/11/09 | Appointment of Doug Curry as co-opted councillor. No objections raised. Doug attends GPC meetings on 7/12/09, 4/1/10, 1/2/10 and also meeting of the Village Hall Committee as representative of GPC. |
| 01/03/10 | Cllr Curry sends apologies for absence from GPC meeting. Parishioner Don Jerrard raises objections to appointment of Doug Curry, on grounds that a declaration of interests was not submitted to EHDC within 28 days of appointment. This is correct but it is not the fault of Cllr Curry, who has worked most competently as a councillor for Greatham. I propose to re-appoint Cllr Curry, and then submit the appropriate paperwork, but a vote of councillors decides to adjourn until April meeting. |
| 26/03/10 | I am informed that 10 parishioners have requested an election for the vacancy on GPC. No notification had been received by me or the clerk of this application until this time, which is in effect for a position that was filled on 2.11.09 |
| 06/04/10 | I visit EHDC and inspect the list of parishioners who wish to hold an election. I am not entirely surprised by the identities. I speak with Cllr Curry, and explain the facts to him. He requests time to consider the situation. |
| 10/04/10 | I receive the written resignation of Cllr Curry which I now produce. |
| 12/04/10 | I report this resignation to the Council, and pay tribute for the most competent and thoughtful contribution to parish life which Cllr Curry has made. I am personally extremely sorry to lose such a capable councillor, especially in |

these circumstances

I must point out that the parish council is appointed to serve the interests of the parish as a whole, and not to satisfy the preferences of any one parishioner.

That being so, I now PROPOSE that we reluctantly accept the resignation of Cllr Curry, and await the results of the election which will be held in June, at a cost to this council of some £1400. I rather doubt that the majority of parishioners will consider such monies well spent

Those are the facts of the issue and Cllr Bridgman asked for a seconder to accept Doug Curry's resignation. SECONDED by Cllr Booton. Cllr Bridgman then confirmed that as Doug Curry is no longer a councillor, that the District Council have set an election date for 3 June, with the following timetable: Receipt of nominations by noon 6 May; Publication of statements of persons nominated by noon 10 May; withdrawal of Candidate by noon 11 May. The relevant papers will be displayed on the non opening side of the main door.

Mr Larner said that there were a couple of facts not included above. He sent his resignation in early September, started a new job in October and early on 2010 he was told that his declaration of interests were still held on file by EHDC as they believed he was still a councillor. They claimed not to have received any notification of his resignation or any other notification regarding election of co-option of a new councillor. Cllr Bridgman thanked him for this information and said that in future correspondence with the council would be improved. Cllr Redman said that EHDC were under the impression that Greatham did not have a parish council. He could not speak for their level of efficiency and this is all he needs to say on this issue.

053/10 Public Question Time

Mr Jerrard said that there were a number of points in the previous item which were incorrect. On 2nd November we were told that there were no applications for the vacancy and only one nomination, Mr Curry. The Agenda Item 'Appointment of Councillor' had no notification of co-option. He said that none of the correct procedures had been followed and that is why he had challenged it. It is absolutely fundamental that the democratic process should be followed to the letter. Many people did not come to that meeting as they were intimidated by Mr Shea. The vacancy had not been advertised in the press or on the website as is often done. At the present time the village is in crisis and people in Wolfmere Lane and Longmoor road are feeling intimidated and there is insufficient protest to EHDC or the police. People therefore must have the opportunity to elect someone the people in Greatham need. Elections are about the democratic process. No declaration of Interest had been made and there was no signed acceptance of office. If this does not happen then the seat is vacant. 13 Applications does not mean there will be more than one candidate. The four willing candidates have agreed to discuss among themselves so that there is only 1 candidate and therefore no election. Cllr Booton told Mr Jerrard that he had been a good friend and supporter and was himself co-opted but did not go through this process when Mr Jerrard was on the parish council. He asked Mr Jerrard why he was trying to destroy the parish council when we need to all be pulling together to fight the current situation. He said that we are all good eggs and working hard and Mr Jerrard's behaviour makes him not want to do it any more and it is sad because you Mr Jerrard have a brilliant brain and we all want to work with you. Mr Jerrard replied that the people of Greatham must decide who they want as a parish councillor and that it is critical that it is done with due process and the proper system. Cllr Rudd said that she would like to remind that we should not get personal about things. Mr Larner said that the village needs a parish councillor who stands up to scrutiny and due process must be done correctly. Cllr /Redman said that the vacancy has been advertised and this will be followed by the election process so can we now move on.

Mr Rudd requested a private meeting with the councillors to discuss his problems. He does not want the councillors to walk away as we need to stick together. Every weekend Wolfmere Lane residents suffer from Mr Shea's actions. For example what right does Mr Shea have to put up no parking notices? Cllr Bridgman said this was a good point and that the council has stuck together and fought antagonism with a reasonable amount of success. Mrs Cheesman commented that the problem is with the EHDC. They knew in December that Mr Curry had

not submitted his declaration of interest. She spoke to them and they said they would chase it up. So they are not doing all they should be doing to help the parish council. We are entitled to their support but have to cross all the 'i's and 't's with no help from them. Cllr Bridgman thanked her for that.

Mrs Cheesman said that in November Inspector White told us regarding the various problems in the village and that 'if you want a cop you will have a cop'. She asked if it is possible to ask Inspector White to explain to the parish council why this does not apply to Greatham. Cllr Booton commented that a parishioner was riding a bike and was arrested by the police because he was riding a bike with a bucket on it. Mr Jerrard commented that this is precisely what is happening in this village. Innocent people are being harassed by the police and Not Mr Shea. They are just picking on easy targets.

054/10 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 1st March 2010

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

055/10 Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

056/10 Reports from County and District Councillors

Mrs Onslow sent her apologies.

Councillor Clarke reported that the government is to allocate an extra £100 million on repairs to the roads but Hampshire only to receive 1/70th. However, they will be spending £28m. Please report any indifferent areas of repair as in many places the standard is not good enough.

He also reported that there has for some time been a problem with various of the emergency numbers in the HCC booklet which do not work. A leaflet has now been produced with useful contacts which can be applied for. Cllr Bridgman asked the clerk to apply for these.

057/10 Reports of Representatives

(a) **Coryton Almshouses**

Cllr Booton reported that there is a meeting at Mrs Catherington's house on Thursday and that he will attend with Cllr Fellows and report afterwards.

(b) **Village Hall**

Doug Curry was the representative on the village hall committee. A letter has been received from the secretary to say 'It was brought to our attention .. that EHDC are prepared to pay half towards the cost of a new notice board. In view of this, as our funds are quite low at the moment we feel we are not in a position to contribute at this time. You seem to have made plenty of investigations so good luck with your quest.

Councillor Clarke said that if the District council were prepared to pay half then he was prepared to meet the other half of the cost. Mrs Cheesman asked who was to deal with this now. Councillor Clarke asked that a decent job should be done. It was agreed that the clerk should do this. Mrs Cheesman said that the board needs to be lit at night and that she will pass the information back to the clerk.

(c) **Old Church**

Cllr Bridgman reported that at the recent committee meeting it was agreed not to put sheep in the old church. Mrs Cheesman said that it looked very neat and tidy. Cllr Booton said that it was agreed with the Manor that we would supply the machinery and that they would look after the grounds permanently. Now that they have all the machinery it looks nice and tidy and they will keep it that way. Cllr Bridgman said that there will be an open day on 24 April from 12-4pm for all members of the parish and any other interested parties. Members of the committee will be present on that day. Mr Rudd commented that he is on the this committee but had not received any information. Cllr Bridgman apologised and said that he will be informed in the future.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Cllr Booton reported that the bus shelters have been interfered with graffiti and he was in touch with EHDC and within a couple of days it was cleared up. Mr Rudd said that a youth club was needed for the youngsters in the village.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

No one present

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton reported that there had been 3 applications.

- .1. 25542/005 Carylls where a garage had been erected. He had spoken to the neighbour who did not like the fact that it had been built in the back garden but accepted that the garage would not interfere with him.
- .2. 39704/001 A conservatory in Todmore to mirror that of next door. The neighbours had no complaint.
- .3. 23298/018 Le Court. A change from a two car to three car garage. There are only 4 houses at the top end of the market and he could see no objection to that.

Cllr Booton said that in future he would like to involve Cllr Rudd more. Mrs Cheesman asked if there had been a meeting. Cllr Booton said that there had been the visits and they were entitled to discuss the applications at a general meeting and to provide the report. The proposal is that in respect of these three applications, we do not raise any objections. **PROPOSED** Cllr Bridgman and **SECONDED** Cllr Redman. All agreed.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Cllr Bridgman reported that a little bin was needed and that a cabinet had been dumped. An inspection is due in May and we have been approached by N W Adams to carry out this inspection for £30. Mrs Cheesman asked if he was recognised by EHDC. Cllr Bridgman said we would contact Mr Adams to get a firm price and check that out. If he is reasonably priced it would be preferable to use him rather than ROSPA. Cllr Redman suggested we should also check with our insurance company. Cllr Bridgman asked the clerk to check this out and if not in order we would use ROSPA.

058/10 RFO report to 31/01/10

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

Bank reserve	£25,917.21
Current	£ 57.51
Old church	£ 1,227.21

Schedule of payments

Payments to be made this month:

Clerk's salary March 28 hours	£279.10
Clerk's expenses March	£ 24.63
Clerk's holiday pay March	£148.39
HALC Fee 2010/11 with NALC Levy	£207.00
Hampshire Playing Fields Assoc	£ 20.00
TOTAL	£697.12
BACS receipt for Parish Precept due 7 April	£6000.00

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £700.00 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.

059/10 Notice Board for Village Hall

Cllr Bridgman said that we had looked at some companies about a month ago and that the prices ranged from £109 to £ 1150. He asked the clerk to investigate and recommend a suitable board. Ideally two poles at reading height on the grassed area in front of the village hall and waterproof.

060/10 Correspondence

1. We have received a lengthy letter dated 3 March from Mr Lewis who notified the clerk that he has been conducting an investigation regarding the dumping at Fern Farm from before World

War II. He suggests that the record keeping on the farm and adjacent plot has not been very accurate. He is concerned that Mr Shea and the younger members of EHDC may have no idea of the kind of contamination that could be there. Cllr Bridgman will see Mr Lewis during the week. Cllr Booton said that he has paperwork on the contamination at Fern Farm which was a dump ground for the army. Cllr Clarke said that as far as he was aware there is no time limit and suggested we should contact the Environment Agency, with a copy to EHDC, asking them to confirm that all necessary procedures have been carried out to prove one way or the other if all contamination has been removed.

2. An email was received from John Rowles of Longmoor House, that he is concerned about the parked cars outside Woodland Cottages The first vehicle is dark blue in colour and difficult to see in the dark and he believes there is an urgent need for street lighting to illuminate the parked vehicles for the benefit of approaching traffic..
3. We have received a letter from EHDC regarding our request for information which was turned down but has now been reversed and they have sent us the documents for the application for 8 x 2 bed and 7 x 3 bed Affordable houses. Mr Jerrard said that Mr Wallace appealed against the decision and that is why the papers have now been released. He believes we have not been given all the papers and that some of the key ones are not there He has asked to see the missing documents but the person concerned is on holiday. Cllr Booton said that we are left to assume that EHDC having received a development application tried to cover it up so as not to get legal complications. Cllr Bridgman said it does beat me how they can say that they deal only in the facts revealed on an application when they have received an application for gypsy temporary housing and ignoring the one which was withdrawn. Cllr Booton said it does not bode well for keeping the community together and respecting EHDC decisions. They had the information to see that it was a ploy for further development for profit and should have turned it down but did not.
4. An email from Liss Sick and Poor Fund regarding the non attendance at their recent meeting. Cllr Booton asked the clerk to apologise and to explain to them that Cllr Fellows had a prior engagement and that he had gone to the wrong venue and by the time he realised it was at St Mary's church the meeting was ended.
5. We have received a notice extending the the Road closure of Footpath 501.
6. BT have advised us that they will email us when they have completed the transfer of ownership of the red Kiosk. For the time being they will retain responsibility for the power.
7. HALC draft constitution will shortly be made available on the website..
8. A notice regarding a Hampshire House Sparrow survey which we have been asked to display until 30 June.
9. HALC have informed us of a new power available to parish councils to create freemen and freewomen of the parish.
10. We have received the notices for the parliamentary Elections to be displayed.
11. The Audit commission have notified us of the appointment of the external auditor and sent us the Annual Return forms.
12. We have received the spring edition of 'Planning Hampshire's Future'.
13. EHDC are looking for volunteer walk leaders. There was not take up of this.
14. The renewal form for SLCC membership have been received. It was unanimously agreed to continue this membership.
15. An email from EHDC laying out the conditions for Grit bins.
16. A thank you and goodbye letter from the South Downs Campaign. Cllr Booton commented that they had done a good job.

061/10 Any Other Business

Councillor Clarke pointed out that this should only be any other business for the next meeting as no decisions can be made under this item until a future meeting.

Mr Rudd voiced his concerns as to what is going on at Fern Farm with regards to the water meadow which has now been destroyed the bales in the ditch with the foul water. DEFRA say they have contact EHDC who say there is no contamination. We therefore need photos to send to DEFRA to show them the problem – it actually stinks. A machine is used willy nilly, it bleeps all the time. The Laurels have nothing to do with the planning. 3 mini diggers and various other vehicles are parked there. Cllr Booton said yes he was getting fed up with ringing EHDC and getting no decent response. It is distressing the village and the

community. Mr Jerrard commented that the present owner of the land is Isbid and they cannot do anything as it is not owned by Mr Shea. Cllr Booton commented that for some reason they want to believe Mr Shea and not the members of the parish council. Cllr Redman said that the water should not be polluted. Cllr Rudd commented that every time any action is taken Mr Shea retaliates. Cllr Redman suggested we should contact the Environmental Health. Mr Rudd said that he had spoken to EHDC Environmental Health, Mrs Robinson who is looking into it and will contact DEFRA. She said she thinks we are being pushed from pillar to post. Councillor Clarke said that the NRA are too high up the line and that the EHDC Environmental Health is the right place to complain. Cllr Booton said that he feels so inadequate that he gets nowhere and we should invite the Environmental Health to do a site visit.

Mr Rudd said that Somerset CC are giving interest free loans to gypsies to buy land. Cllr Bridgman said that not a single part of the application for Fern Farm was queried even when he pointed out the inconsistencies. They had queried nothing and did not seem to think it part of their duty. Mr Jerrard said that the parish council must demand police protection. Cllr Bridgman said that he had been informed that this was a local matter not a police matter. Cllr Rudd suggested a visit to a resident of Wolfmere lane where everyone is frightened. Cllr Bridgman said that what is lacking is an effective enforcement agency. The primary agency is the police but they defer to the District Council in most matters. A most unsatisfactory situation. We will continue to make representation to all bodies and will not accept no for an answer and if all else fails we will go to the press. We will continue to contact and pursue but with no army to fight our corner there is a limit to what is achievable. Mr Rudd commented that it will become the National Park's responsibility. Cllr Bridgman said he has taken note of what has been said.

The Annual Parish Meeting date was set for Monday 24 May at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

062/10 Any Other business for the next Meeting

None.

063/10 Date and place of next meeting:

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 10 May 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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