

Greatham Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7.30pm
Greatham Village Hall**

Present

Parish Council Chairman, Carole Rudd
Locum Clerk, Sarah Bettin
County Councillors: Vaughan Clarke and Russell Oppenheimer
District Councillor Keith Budden
PCSO John Payne
11 members of the public

- Welcome from the Chairman** – The Chairman introduced herself and the Clerk and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. The public were reminded that this was not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of the village. The Chairman then went onto outline the content of the meeting. The Chairman pointed out the fire exits and asked members of the public to turn off mobile phones. She also requested that villagers raise their hand to speak and to give their name before speaking for the benefit of the clerk and minute taking. Finally she pointed out that as the meeting was a meeting of the village, only villagers or invited participants are entitled to speak.
- Apologies for Absence -**

Apologies were received from Alan Bridgman and Selene Regan.
- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 25th April 2016** –Don Jerrard proposed that they be accepted and David Rudd seconded the proposal. Those who attended the meeting accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record with no objections.
- Annual Report from the Parish Council Chairman.** – The current Parish Councillors were introduced and the Chairman detailed the role and duties of the Parish Council and encouraged members of the public to attend meetings. The Chairman then went on to talk about the grants that have been given within the village towards GVEC's Queen's Birthday Celebrations, the CAB, St John the Baptist Church for the upkeep of the churchyard and the Old Church.

The Chairman went on to explain what the Parish Council has done in the last year which included the following items;

- 14 planning applications have been considered throughout the year.
- SPAB (Society for Preservation of Ancient Buildings) were welcomed to the village in July to work on the Old Church. It was a very successful week with volunteers from the village arranging accommodation and food. The week was finished off with a BBQ at the new church. The Chairman thanked everybody that was involved and helped during the week.

Having explained what has been achieved in the last year the chairman continued to consider the coming year which included the following items;

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- A speedwatch co-ordinator was still needed
- Ongoing funding is still needed for the repairs to Dame Margery Caryll's tomb in the Old Church.
- The Village Newsletter will be continuing.

She finished by thanking all of the parish councilors for their hard work through the year.

5. Reports from invited participants – The Chairman introduced the following in turn;

a) Greatham Village Hall Trustees

Josh Dale-Harris reported on the Village Hall with the main project being to refurbish the main hall and improve the lighting, heating and insulation. Their plans are to open up through to the garden and add a patio area.

Storage is a problem and this is being thought about. New more comfortable chairs and a review of the sound system and outside lighting will all add to a project cost of £60,000. GVH has saved £34,800 so will be applying for grants to make up the rest. An architect has been appointed and his specification is due by 15 May 2017 and the trustees are hoping to complete the work by the late summer.

The nursery schools income has increased to £22,500 and the halls usage is steadily increasing. The tree planting scheme has seen over 200 trees planted and the allotments are doing well.

The hall is run by volunteers and thanks were given to both the volunteers and trustees.

The full report is filed with these minutes.

b) Greatham Allotment Charity

Jacqui Cheesman reported on the charity by giving a brief history. The charity holds a lot of funds and it would be great to have more applications. Money can be given to people who live in the village or have a connection to the village. In the last two years there has been an offer of fire wood which was distributed to people in the village. No funds have been awarded in the last 2 years. Any type or award can be considered.

It was suggested that an article be put in the village newsletter about the charity. Jacqui Cheesman said she would ask the church to mention it regularly.

The title of the charity is confusing. It was suggested to put a different title first.

c) The Old Church

Teresa Whelan, parish councilor and member of the sub-committee gave a report. A lot of work was done in the last year and from that it has become apparent that the tomb needs restoration work. Various charities etc. have been approached included William Morris and Tesco's for their token scheme. Working parties and an Open Day on Easter Saturday have taken place and a report will be published in the village magazine.

d) John Payne, Local PCSO

The area covered is quite large. John Payne went through the members of the team and gave details of how to contact the police and PCSO's including the 101 non crime number and 111 non emergency number and 105 for power cuts.

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There is a Hampshire Alert System with a website that you can sign up to which gives crime alerts etc. John attends the coffee morning at the church once a month and can be contacted by dialing 101. If he is not on duty a message will be forwarded.

He then went on to give some crime statistics with the Longmoor area having 19 dwelling burglaries so far this year and 85 non dwelling burglaries. Greatham has had only 2 break ins, one being on the Ham Barn industrial area and the other a shed break in. There have been 2 house break-ins in Liss recently.

He then went on to give some advice on crime prevention and distributed a home security survey.

A parishioner asked where one could get door stickers for no cold calling. These can be obtained from the local council.

e) County Councillor's Report

The Government support grant is falling and adult social care is a concern with a 30% increase in those over 85 by 2021. Council tax will be going up by 4.99%, 3% of that is for adult social care. Other areas have had cuts. A lot of correspondence to the county councillor is about the roads, usually to do with potholes. Except for the Isle of Wight, Hampshire has the lowest pothole count and the lowest compensation rate of any county in Southern England. Superfast Broadband continues to be a concern, especially in rural areas. Unemployment in the area continues to be low.

After 8 years as County Councillor Vaughan Clarke will be stepping down and handing over to a younger candidate. He thanked all members of the Parish Council for the time and interest that they have been prepared to give to make life better in the parish.

The full report is filed with these minutes.

f) District Councillor's Report

Keith Budden became District Councillor in July last year. EHDC is the only council to cut council tax this year and the hope is to cut it every year until 2020. This has been achieved by investment in commercial buildings, which are rented out to blue chip companies. Services have not been cut and the District Council provide services to other councils which bring another income stream.

A new company has been appointed to run the sport centres in the area. New facilities will be built in Alton and Bordon and Petersfield will be refurbished. This will all be done at no cost to council tax. The company's providing the facilities will provide the public areas and then have gym/spa areas which will be charged for.

More locally the grant available last years was given to GVEC. Dragon's teeth were installed near the school.

Finally a potential scam was highlighted. A group of people are selling plots in the Quarry Park Cemetery in Liss. EHDC have no knowledge of this.

6. Financial Report

The Chairman reported that for the current year the precept remains at £15000. The Parish Council has been advised by the internal auditor that reserves should be kept at a level approximately equivalent to the Council's annually recurring expenditure. The Chairman then introduced the clerk to present the report

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The Clerk stated that the year started on 1st April 2016 with £18,021 in the bank.

Income during the year was in the form of the precept which is charged to each house as part of the council tax bill. Additional grants and bank interest of £5853 were received through the year.

The main **expenditure** during the year is the clerk's salary and staff costs which totalled £5243. Other expenditure included: Grants and donations of £1517 made up of £500 for the East Hants CAB, £17 for the Remembrance Sunday wreath, and £1000 to GVEC. **Total expenditure** was £11,412. The year was ended with £27,462 in the bank.

A question was raised about the council tax having gone up by 2% which seemed strange as the precept is the same. It was thought that this could be because there is more relieve ie. single person in a dwelling etc.

7. Any other business

The Chairman reiterated that this is the Parish Meeting so would open the floor for any other business, questions or comments.

There was no other business.

8. Close of meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming along. She hoped it had been an interesting meeting and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

She drew the meeting to a close at 8.45pm

Date: _____ Approved: _____