

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

033/10 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ascherl who is unwell, Cllr Curry, County Cllr Clarke and District Cllr Onslow.

034/10 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.

035/10 Declarations of Interest

None

036/10 Appointment of Councillor

Cllr Bridgman said that this arises from the resignation of Cllr Lerner in September. The appropriate Notices were displayed and there was no request for an election within 14 days. It was therefore the duty of the Parish Council to make an appointment as soon as possible. They found a volunteer and the appointment was made at the November meeting. Cllr Curry has sat on the council since then. He was required to sign a declaration of acceptance and within 28 days pass a declaration of personal interests to the district council. In February 2010 the declaration had not been received by EHDC. We have therefore obtained the necessary forms to comply with the legislative requirements and Cllr Bridgman proposed to re-appoint Doug Curry who could then sign all the appropriate forms.

Mr Jerrard asked to see a copy of the notice and wanted to know where it had been fixed and when it was displayed on the website. Cllr Bridgman said that he was not sure if it went on the website but that it was put up on the board at the Village Hall. The board was later removed by the builders. He said he would find a copy of the notice. There was some scepticism about the notice having been put up. Cllr Bridgman reaffirmed that the notice was displayed and that no applications were received. He proposed we vote and appoint Doug Curry. A challenge was raised. Cllr Booton seconded the proposal. He did not know why Doug Curry did not have the appropriate papers but the simplest way to deal with the matter would be to re co-opt Doug Curry and ensure the paperwork was completed correctly. There ensued some heated discussion as to why the notice had not been put up in the church or pub. Mrs Cheesman said that the builders had removed the board on 14 September so the notice would not have been up for the statutory 14 days. Cllr Bridgman agreed that this could have been the case. Mr Jerrard said that a vacancy has arisen in this case because Doug Curry did not sign the acceptance form and therefore the Parish Council must go through the process again. Cllr Bridgman thanked him for his advice. There was further heated discussion. Cllr Bridgman said that this was a case of the paperwork mis-handling by the parish council and was no fault of Doug Curry and he could not see why we could not re co-opt Doug Curry. Cllr Rudd asked what EHDC have said about this. Mr Lewis said that Mrs Hernandez said that she could only advise as they cannot require the parish council to act in a particular way. Her advice was that the 14 day notice should be put up and hold an election if requested. Cllr Rudd said she would prefer to take this course. Mr Jerrard said that he would like the process done correctly and that Mrs Whelan had been advised by EHDC by an email which he read out. The clerk said that she had not received this email. It was then ascertained that EHDC had incorrectly addressed it. Mr Jerrard gave her a copy. Cllr Bridgman said that in view of the opinions raised he would accept Cllr Rudd's suggestion. We will put up the required notice tonight and at the next meeting we will co-opt if necessary. PROPOSED: Cllr Rudd, SECONDED Cllr Booton. Cllr Bridgman completed the

Notice which was put up in the Village Hall on 1 March 2010. It was also put up in the pub and on the church notice board.

037/10 Public Question Time

Mrs Cheeseman said she had a matter for Cllr Clarke and had hoped that he would be here. She asked if something could be done about the state of the road especially in Selborne road and Longmoor Road. Cllr Bridgman said we would write to Highways, he also noted that some people go the wrong side of the chicanes.

Mr Lewis asked what was being done to the Selborne Road. Cllr Booton informed him that a 30 mph speed limit was in process of being applied and that nothing further was being done to the road. The planning decision for the speed limit had been made but notices had to be put up before applying the speed limit and putting up the new speed signs. This may be the reason why it was not coordinated with the recent gas works in the Selborne Road. We will write to highways about this.

Mr Rudd said that he had been in contact with the enforcement officer at EHDC regarding the hay and straw in the ditch of Fern Farm field. He had reported this to DEFRA but they take 10 days to react. Cllr Bridgman said we would send a follow up letter to DEFRA and asked the clerk to do this. Mr Rudd said that he would pass the details to the clerk.

038/10 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 1st February 2010

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

039/10 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Rudd asked if contact had been made with other Parish Councils. Cllr Bridgman said that there had been an informal meeting and apologised to Cllr Rudd for not informing her. Representatives from 5 councils, all of which had issues with proposed gypsy sites, were invited so that we could discuss how best to deal with the issues. Only three people turned up representing 2 parish councils. Cllr Rudd said the councillors should all be involved. Cllr Booton said this meeting was just to get things going. Cllr Bridgman said he did not want to make a public meeting, just an initial meeting, the outcome of which was that it was agreed that a letter to EHDC should be drafted and circulated.

040/10 Reports from County and District Councillors

Mrs Onslow sent her apologies as did Cllr Clarke.

041/10 Reports of Representatives

(a) **Coryton Almshouses**

Nothing to report.

(b) **Village Hall**

Doug Curry was absent. Mrs Cheesman said that there was nothing special happening.

(c) **Old Church**

Dave Rudd reported that there was an article in the local paper that St Peters, West Liss was awarded some money as part of National Heritage. He will supply details of who to apply to. Cllr Bridgman said that it may be possible to keep sheep to keep the grounds down and that the committee will consider this.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

HCC have written regarding the 30mph speed limit on the B 3006 and delimiting Church Lane, enclosing a public notice that they are displaying. Cllr Bridgman said he hoped people will travel at that speed. Mrs Cheesman asked when this will be implemented. Cllr Bridgman said that HCC were looking for replies by 6 April therefore it would probably be June before the new limit is enforced.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

Nothing to report.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton said the committee needs to work with other parishes to centre efforts with the ongoing problems and he believes Priors Dean now also have the same issues.

(g) Playground Committee

Cllr Bridgman said that this remains in good order.

042/10 RFO report to 31/01/10

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

Bank reserve	£26,113.97
Current	£ 268.34
Old church	£ 1,227.09

Schedule of payments

Payments to be made this month:

Clerk's salary February 40 hours	£400.00
Clerk's expenses February	£ 10.83

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £200.00 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.

The Clerk expressed her thanks for the help in returning the Parish Council filing cabinets back to the committee room. She also requested approval to buy a remote hard drive for backing up the laptop. It was agreed to purchase this for up to £60.

043/10 Notice Board for Village Hall

Cllr Bridgman said that the Village Hall committee proposed spending £2000 on a notice board and had asked us to contribute half the cost. We said we would check alternative suppliers. He had looked at three. A post mounted frame 5ftx3ft for £780; one 40insx30ins with double door on posts £566 and one from a local firm with toughen glass for £1150. He felt we should certainly be able to find something considerable less than £2000. Cllr Rudd asked if the Village Hall committee had seen this information yet. He said that he would be passing the information to their committee for their next meeting. Mrs Cheesman said that the next Village Hall meeting was in two weeks time. Cllr Bridgman said he would liaise with the village Hall committee.

044/10 Telephone Kiosk

Cllr Fellows asked if the kiosk still had a phone. Dave Rudd suggested it could be used for advertising. Cllr Bridgman said that we could pay £300 pa to retain the telephony and keep it going or spend £1 to buy it. Cllr Redman suggested it could be used as a notice board. Cllr Bridgman said he had the contract to buy it for £1 including VAT. Cllr Bridgman and Booton signed the contract. Cllr Bridgman then said that this is now signed as previously agreed and read out the terms of the contract to the residents.

045/10 Correspondence

1. The clerk wrote to EHDC in January requesting sight of Application 51346/003 from Mr Clutterbuck for 15 houses on Fern Farm. We have received a response which says:
'A decision has been taken by the Council to withhold the information that you have requested for the reasons set out below. The information requested relates to a withdrawn application for which the applicant was not under any legal obligation to supply. The council has written to the applicant but consent to disclose the information has not been forthcoming. The information is therefore withheld under Regulation 12(5)(f) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004...The requested information contains personal data and this information is withheld .. In my view the public interest arguments against disclosure outweigh those in favour. The information is therefore withheld... You state in your letter dated 12 January 2010 that the documents requested had previously been inspected at the council Office by a third party, this was however a mistake on the part of the council. All documentation in relation to the withdrawn application should have been returned to the applicant and it is only through error that the council still holds the information.'

Cllr Bridgman said he had seen it on the Fern Farm file and was a letter to Mr Shea and Mr Clutterbuck simply asking which of them owned the fields. He believes they have no reason to withhold the file, they simply need to black out any personal details. Cllr Booton said that this application was mentioned at the September Planning Meeting. Cllr Bridgman suggested we write again. Mr Jerrard said that he was aware that they had put some of the 003 documents on file 001 in error. The ones he was aware of were that Mr Clutterbuck's application stated he was the owner and when he was asked to correct his he put in a certificate to say that Mr Shea was the owner. The reasons given by the council for not handing over the papers are invalid. Mr Lewis suggested that we should send a copy of the correspondence to the Information Commissioner. Cllr Bridgman thanked them for their input and said he would liaise with the clerk.

2. A letter was received from St John the Baptist Church. Cllr Rudd said she had a prejudicial interest and withdrew as she is on the PCC. The letter from Mrs Flack thanked the parish council for the £50 donation and asked them to consider increasing the PCC grant to £800. Cllr Booton said his wife attended the church and that he had a personal interest. He also stated that we would not be deciding on donations tonight. Cllr Redman said that the grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard had been at £400 for a very long time, maybe 10-15 years. Mr Rudd said that the reason for the request was that they have to be self sufficient. Everything at the church has to be funded. Collections dwindle as people die and the church is currently running at a deficit. The costs of the Church spire etc mean they need new funding. Cllr Booton said that the church is an important part of the parish. Mr Rudd asked that the war memorial should be cleaned before the next service. Pressure wash the back but care is needed at the front and it had not been cleaned for many years. This was agreed. Cllr Bridgman said that we would consider this request at the next meeting and look at other applications received by then. Generally we would not object to an increased figure but we need to see for what value.
3. We have received an email from Lesley Wells regarding Fern Farm responding to our letter enquiring if the planning conditions have all been met. Her response, which was read out by Cllr Bridgman is attached at the end of these minutes.

Cllr Bridgman said this email shows that EHDC are clearly content with the compliance despite the condition which states only one vehicle should be kept on site. He suggested we respond to EHDC that they must ensure their conditions are complied with. Mrs Cheesman asked how there can be 3 or 4 vehicles if only one person is living there. Cllr Rudd asked if we knew the dimensions of the van. Cllr Bridgman said that the application was for one high van and one towing van. Mrs Cheesman said that there was a double mobile home on the site. David Rudd asked who had done the survey. Cllr Booton said he was waiting to hear from the MOD. Mr Lewis said that he had spoken to a Lieutenant Colonel who said some of the materials previously held had been moved but some items were still there. Dave Rudd said that they used to throw things into pits. Mr Lewis suggested Cadmium was used there. Cllr Bridgman suggested we should write to the officer commanding the depot to ask for assurance and to find out what was buried. Cllr Booton asked if we could demand that a proper test be carried out.

4. An email from Richard Smith regarding dog fouling, and that it is socially untenable to allow a dog to foul and not clear it up. He is currently gathering evidence about the number of dog fouling incidents, so as to put their resources in the right vicinity. He asks that we inform him by email of any bad areas within our parish. Cllr Bridgman asked for confirmation of bad areas. It was suggested that the footpath from Petersfield Road and Todmore, and dogs are let off in the field behind the play ground.
5. John Geoghan of EHDC has asked if we would like a representative on the East Hampshire Road Safety council. Cllr Bridgman asked if there were any volunteers. There were none.
6. Andrew Wilson of HCC Environment department has written to inform us of their feasibility study regarding rail links and bus services with Bordon as part of the Ecotown work.
7. HCC have sent newsletters on the Countryside Access forum and the Small Grants Scheme and a revised leaflet concerning maintaining rights of way over land which is ploughed and cropped.

8. HALC have a course ' Core skills for new councillors on 3 March at Chineham village Hall 6pm
9. The Community Forum is meeting on Tuesday 2 March At St Peter's Hall, Meet the Community Safety Partnership.

046/10 Any Other Business

Cllr Fellows asked that as the Hindhead tunnel will be finished in 2011 is there anything official about Ham Barn roundabout? Cllr Bridgman felt they must have a plan but was not sure what. Dave Rudd said that a lot of surveys had been carried out. Cllr Bridgman suggested we would keep in mind that there may be a problem. Cllr Fellows asked if we could write to the official powers that be. Cllr Redman said that last year they had spent 3 weeks surveying the roundabout. Cllr Bridgman said that 17 lorries had overturned there since 1999. We will write to the Department of Transport and ask what their long terms plan are and copy this to HCC.

047/10 Any Other business for the next Meeting None.

048/10 Date and place of next meeting: The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 12 April 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.
There being no further business, the public meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Correspondence Item 3:

From: Lesley.Wells@easthants.gov.uk Lesley.Wells@easthants.gov.uk Subject:
Re: RE Fern Farm Planning Conditions. To: tmaeaw@yahoo.co.uk Date:

25/2/10, 16:51 Dear Teresa , As regard the conditions a landscape scheme (7) a biodiversity scheme provided on the land (8) a plan showing parking and turning on site etc (9 & 10) details of materials to be used for the utility room (15) have been approved by the Council. As regard the approved planting, this should be undertaken by the end of March 2010. The position is being monitored. Concerning a land contamination scheme (13) details have been submitted but were insufficient. The agent dealing with the matter, is having difficulties with securing the required details from the MOD. Once this information is obtained by the agent, revised details should be submitted. With reference to the occupancy of the site (3) this is the subject of an on-going investigation, as a James Butler is living on the land. That being said, we have been advised that he should move off this week.

Regarding condition 4, there tends to be 3/4 transit or smaller vans, parked overnight on the land which are used in both a personal/commercial capacity by members of the family. It has not been expedient to take formal enforcement action over this matter, as if it were found their primary use was commercial, (and we do not have evidence of this) and such action was taken these vehicles could be legally parked in Wolfmere Lane or Longmoor Road. This could cause problems with on-street parking and impact on neighbour amenity. Further the site is large enough to accommodate these vehicles without detriment to neighbours or the area. From on-going monitoring of the site, the other conditions on the permission are being complied with. That being said, a container has recently been placed on the land, which requires planning permission. Following informal action by the Council, this should be removed this week. This will be monitored. Regards,
Lesley Wells