

# Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

## **078/10 Apologies for Absence**

None

## **079/10 Chairman's Announcements**

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

## **080/10 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Rudd declared a prejudicial interest with regards to the Planning application for Pine Villas as she lives nearby.

## **081/10 Appointment of New councillors**

Cllr Bridgman said that Cllr Jerrard has been appointed to replace the unappointed Doug Curry on a technical matter and that he shall attempt to follow all due democratic processes for future elections.

Cllr Jerrard requested that the Agenda be clarified before Question time. He would like to speak on amending the Agenda. The clerk sets the Agenda and Councillors may make a request more than 10 days before a meeting for an item to be included. He sent an email asking for the Annual Parish Meeting to be included on the Agenda. This has not been included. He then sent a further email requesting the item to be added to the Agenda which should have been responded to by the clerk not the chairman. He said that it is normal practice for an Agenda item to be added late and that it would be for the council to decide if they will hear it.

He also requested an item to discuss the hearing of the complaint against Cllr Rudd.

Cllr Bridgman said that he had never known of an Agenda being amended previously, and then discussed with the other councillors. Cllr Redman agreed with Cllr Bridgman that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting would be considered at the next meeting in 2011, as has happened in the past. Cllr Jerrard responded that it was normal procedure to discuss at the Parish Council items that may need action during the ongoing year. Cllr Rudd said that she understood that anyone could ask for an item to be put on the Agenda and if it is a legal requirement we should follow the rules. The Clerk suggested that item 12 of the Agenda, which covered an item from the Annual Meeting, should be renamed 'Greatham Annual Meeting including Parish Plan'. This was agreed.

Cllr Jerrard requested an exempt session to discuss the hearing held the previous Tuesday regarding the complaint against a Councillor. Cllr Bridgman said that he saw little purpose in discussing this as there is nothing the Parish Council can do. Cllr Redman said that he did not wish to pass comment until he had read the findings as he had to have time to read and consider these first. Cllr Rudd asked for the matter not to be considered at this meeting. Cllr Fellows suggested that this should be an item at the next meeting when the councillors have had time to consider the findings. Cllr Jerrard said that the press comment will be this week and the councillor concerned is entitled to press comment from the Parish Council. On a vote of 3 to 2 it was agreed to carry this item forward to the July meeting.

## **82/10 Public Question Time**

Mrs Cheesman had two questions. 1. regarding the notice boards, were these intended to be for the sole use of the Parish council or for other village users as well? This would be considered under Agenda item 13. 2. regarding the information given by Sergeant Bromell at the Annual Parish Meeting, what period was he referring to when he referred to the low rate of

crime in Greatham. Was that from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year? If for a longer period then many crimes appear to have been omitted. Could the Parish council ask the police to explain? It is obvious that not many police support officers come to this village when one sees the number of motorists using their mobile phone. Many of the crimes over the last year were not mentioned and so there is concern that the offences are not being properly investigated. Inspector White said that if we want a cop we would get a cop. But this does not seem to happen in Greatham. Cllr Bridgman said we could write and ask them to come back. Also, to be fair to the new sergeant he had only been in post for three weeks so he was probably referring to that period. She also asked that the February and March minutes should be loaded onto the website.

Mr Shea applauded the Council for not making comment until they had received and read papers regarding the complaint which has gone on for a year and been brushed under the table and he is looking forward to the next meeting when the council will tell the meeting what they think.

#### **083/10 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Bridgman and **SECONDED** by Cllr Booton, with all in favour. The minutes were then signed. Cllr Jerrard asked that in future these should be distributed with the Agenda. This was agreed.

#### **084/10 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

#### **085/10 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Mrs Onslow sent her apologies. Councillor Clarke was welcomed by Cllr Bridgman. He informed the meeting that General Electric were looking for a public body to trial their green energy system and Hampshire were trying to become that public body.

#### **086/10 Reports of Representative**

(a) **Coryton Almshouses**

Cllr Booton reported that all is fine.

(b) **Village Hall**

Cllr Bridgman said that there is no representative at present and we have received a letter from the Village Hall Committee requesting that we appoint someone. Cllr Redman volunteered to take up this appointment. This was proposed by Cllr Booton and seconded by Cllr Fellows. In addition the grass needs cutting in the play area. Mrs Cheesman suggested that the same person was used as currently cuts the grass for the village hall. The clerk was asked to get three quotes for consideration at the next meeting.

(c) **Old Church**

Cllr Booton said that the grounds were being beautifully maintained it is much appreciated.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Nothing to report

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

Cllr Fellows said that they were all in pretty good order.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Rudd declared a personal interest with the regards to the planning application for 3 Pine Villas as she lives nearby and left the room.

Ham Barn – Cllr Booton reported that the application was for a secure area for keeping machinery. It seems very sensible to allow permission. Mrs Cheesman asked if it meant there would be additional machinery trundling up and down the A325. Cllr Booton said there is a weight limit in the village so any machinery movement would be up the A3. He said we will make a note on this.

Harris Caravan will be right out of the way so there is no problem and we should accept this as well.

Cllr Bridgman said that he had made site visits to Leigh Court and 3 Pine Villas and that there were no grounds for objection to either of these. He thanked Mr Harris for setting out an application that says exactly what it is.

Cllr Rudd returned to the meeting. Cllr Jerrard asked for his request to join the Planning sub committee to be considered. There are currently 3 members and when Cllr Lerner was in post there were 4 members so there is a vacancy. Cllr Bridgman said that Cllr Jerrard has asked to join the Planning sub committee and is there anyone else who wishes to be on this committee. Alan Bridgman proposed that Cllr Jerrard be appointed to the Planning Sub Committee and this was seconded by Cllr Booton.

(g) **Playground Committee**

The grass needs cutting as previously mentioned.

**087/10 RFO report to 31/05/10**

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

Bank reserve	£ 30,817.21
Current	£ 146.20
Old church	£ 1,233.33

**Schedule of payments**

Payments to be made this month:

Clerk's salary May	£400.00
Clerk's expenses May	£ 23.19
HALC	£6.00
EHDC	£49.75
Came and Co	£1327.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1806.07</b>

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £1800.00 was to be transferred to the current account from the reserve account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellows and **SECONDED** by Cllr Redman. The clerk will send the signed transfer request to the bank.

**Renewal of Insurance**

The clerk explained that the Parish Council insurance was a standard plan and therefore the price stood as Core Cover could not be reduced for unwanted items.

**Draft Financial Report and approval of Annual Return**

Cllr Bridgman read out the quotation of £200 from Alan Harland who conducted the internal audit last year. It was agreed to accept this. The date for the internal audit has been set for 18 June.

The clerk provided a reconciliation which showed how the figures from the Financial reports transferred to the Annual Return. Cllr Bridgman read out Section 2 the Annual Governance Statement. The Financial Report and completion of the Annual Return were approved and then signed by Cllr Bridgman

**088/10 Request for Grants**

**St John the Baptist Annual Grant**

Cllr Rudd declared a personal interest through her father and left the room.

The request to increase the grant to £800 from £400 was considered. Cllr Booton said that this increase was not unreasonable since the church forms an integral part of the community. Mrs Cheesman questioned if Cllr Booton should be present as his wife is a church warden. Councillor Clarke advised the meeting that it was not prejudicial as there was no financial interest and therefore Cllr Booton is allowed to speak, if it were preferential he would still be allowed to make a statement but could not vote. Cllr Redman said the church is a significant landmark in the village and proposed that the requested grant for £800 should be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Fellows.

### **Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

An email request has been received but no figure for the grant. Cllr Booton suggested that this should be carried forward to a future meeting when the amount requested is known.

### **089/10 Greatham Annual Parish Meeting including Parish Plan**

Cllr Jerrard said that the first Agenda item of the Annual Parish Meeting should have been 'Minutes of the previous meeting'. This did not happen in 2009 as there were no minutes available for 2008. The clerk stated that she had not located any minutes for 2009. Cllr Jerrard said that in that case there should have been a statement to say no minutes were available. It would also be normal to present a summary of the accounts to 31 March. It would have been helpful if this had happened.

Cllr Jerrard said that he would like discussion of the next item regarding Sergeant Bromell's presentation should be heard in exempt session since it concern possible criminal activity. This was agreed.

### **Parish Plan**

Unfortunately Mr Lewis was unable to attend. Cllr Bridgman read out the email from Roger Lewis giving the feedback from his meeting with Linda Munday of EHDC with their 8 point requirements and his opinion that this will take a lot longer than originally hoped. He also referred to the check-list which was attached. Both these documents had been circulated. He asked for any comments. Cllr Jerrard said that if planning were to accept our plan we must go through this process and get whatever funding we can for it. We must ask Mr Lewis to make a presentation to the council of the way forward and how funding should be sought. Cllr Booton agreed. Mrs Chessman suggested that Mr Lewis explain the need and advantage of the Parish Plan. Cllr Bridgman said he would invite Mr Lewis to speak at the next meeting

### **090/10 Notice Board for Village Hall**

The Clerk went through the three quotes and said that the Parish Council were not in a position to receive a grant as we had more than one year's precept in our reserves. She therefore suggested that the Village Hall committee should make the purchase and apply for the grant funding. The Board is to be sited at the Village Hall and they will also have use if a Double board is recommended. The options were discussed and it was agreed to recommend the two board, 2 x 6 A4 sheets, with three legs from Whitehill Direct at around £685. Cllr Bridgman said that we would write a letter to the village hall and that details would be taken by Cllr Redman to the next Village Hall Committee meeting. We would then be in a position to take advantage of the District Councillor's kind offer.

### **091/10 Correspondence**

1. A letter of 17 May from Kim Amey, Service Support Officer reminding Councillors that they need to update their Register of Interests Forms if any circumstance have changed. Cllr Jerrard said that he was going in on Thursday and so would bring back some forms if anyone needs to complete a new one.
2. A letter from EHDC regarding the costs for the Parish Elections 5 May 2011 suggesting an allowance of £2000 should be made in next year's budget.
3. A letter from EHDC regarding the Parish council by-election of 3 June for which there was only one nomination, Mr Donald Jerrard.
4. A email from EHDC regarding the vacancy of 10<sup>th</sup> May setting out an election date of 19 August. Cllr Jerrard said that he did not think this was the correct date as it should be 60 days from the date of the vacancy which would make it earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> August.
5. An email from EHAPTC regarding Code of Conduct briefings. Cllr Rudd asked the clerk to find out more details regarding the Bordon one on 7 July.
6. The clerk chased up DEFRA about potentially toxic land in Greatham and Mr Hinds has responded he will follow it up if we do not hear anything.
7. SDNP consultation letter requesting any views by 14<sup>th</sup> June.
8. An email from NALC with a briefing of the key features of the Queen's speech. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government said this important Localism Bill would shift the power back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

9. A letter from BT confirming that the Kiosk is now ours with a notice for us to put up.
  10. We have received nomination forms for the Good Neighbours Award.
  11. An email from Green Space offering a support package for management of green and open spaces. Not really appropriate for us.
  12. Alton Town Partnership are looking for a new Chairman.
  13. South-east Water regarding mains replacement from Greatham to West Liss to be laid across private farmland where possible. Due completion is December 2010.
  14. HALC have informed us of a new service – Local Associations Information Service, keeping members informed of new legislation and other relevant strategic consultations and developments.
  15. A reminder that the Sparrow survey ends 30 June – please complete if you have not already done so.
  16. Community First are looking for a Chairman of the Board. Contact Terry Bishop to apply.
  17. HCC information regarding the small grants scheme – Biodiversity.
  18. EHDC information regarding council tax exemption for people living in an annex.
  19. HCC invitation to a medieval Banquet on 25 June in the Great Hall, Winchester
  20. HCC are rolling out their Hampshire Action Teams to ensure county Council services meet local needs and priorities.
  21. Richard Smith has sent some Dog Fouling stickers for lamp posts etc. These were eagerly picked up.
- Councillor Clarke said that he had some cold calling stickers available. Cllr Booton said he would like to have some to hand out.

#### **091/10 Any Other business for the next Meeting**

None

#### **092/10 Date and place of next meeting:**

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>h</sup> July 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Please Note, as usual, there will be no meeting in August.

There being no further business, the public meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

#### **093/10 Exempt Session**

Present: Councillors Bridgman, Fellows, Rudd and Jerrard.

There was considerable discussion regarding the presentation of Sergeant Bromell at the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk agreed to write to Inspector White on the matter. The session closed at 10.18 p.m.