

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 6th September 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

107/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fellows and District Councillor Onslow.

108/10 Chairman's Announcements

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

109/10 Declarations of Interest

Councillors C. Rudd and D Rudd declared a prejudicial interest in 9(f) in that this affected a member of their family

Councillor Redman declared a personal interest in 9(b) in that his mother is on the Village Hall Committee.

110/10 Public Question Time

Mr Lewis asked if the Parish Council had sight of the Village Hall accounts. He reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had agreed to underwrite the Village Hall if there were any problems in the future and he felt that this should form part of the year end risk assessment.

The clerk was asked to check the paperwork to see if this is correct. The Chairman said that he is not aware of any liability on behalf of the Parish Council in regards to the Village Hall.

Mrs Carr explained that EHDC wanted assurance when they applied for grants that if anything happened to the Village Hall that the Parish Council would back them up.

Mrs Cheesman asked if there were spare copies of the Agenda available. A member of the public asked if Item 12 could be moved up the Agenda. It was agreed to discuss Item 12 after the approval of the last Minutes.

111/10 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 5th July 2010

There being no queries in regard to the minutes, acceptance was **proposed** by Councillor Rudd and **seconded** by Cllr Booton.

112/10 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Jerrard asked if Highways and the Police had been written to regarding people driving the wrong way down Longmoor Road. The clerk confirmed that this had been done but no response had been received. The clerk was asked to follow this up.

113/10 Allotments

Cllr Bridgman read out the letter received from Ms Ellis requesting an allotment and naming two other parties interested in having an allotment. He explained that the Parish Council has a remit to provide allotments which was done until about 1950 when demand tailed off. The allotment land off the Selborne road was sold off about 7 years ago and there has been no demand since. We now have no allotment land but have a request. Mr Bridgman would welcome any suggestions for location of suitable land. Mr Lewis explained that the Greatham Allotment Charity for Neighbourhood Poor had owned the land off Selborne Road but because it had not been used for some 40 years it was sold. The funds are now only available as a last resort for any parishioner who requires financial assistance whether temporary or permanently. The Charity Commission would not allow the funds to be used to purchase allotments. They are available to financially embarrassed people only. Mr Lewis said that he had not received any applications for some time. Cllr Jerrard said that the Council did have three allotment areas and that the other two were now under the new A3. He said that the Parish only need to consider allotments if they have received at least 6 applications and they are not obliged to purchase land for this. Mr Lewis reminded the council what would need to be done once the land is found. Health and safety requirements; fencing; water; paths kept up to date and safe facilities for people to work. Cllr Booton asked if the land behind the village hall could provide some allotments. Cllr Bridgman said he would

confer with the Village Hall committee to see if the land would be able to be used for allotments. A Parishioner asked if the land at the end of Bakers field would be used for allotments. Cllr Booton said that Highways had established that this is their land. Cllr Jerrard confirmed that this could not be used for allotments. The posts left up there will be removed. Cllr Bridgman said that he had identified who had put them up and had been to see them. They said they wanted to put an allotment on the land and he explained the legal situation to them. There is a 1947 map showing the land going right up to the highway. This is a site line which Highways have maintained ever since. The HCC Highways have sent him a letter requiring him to remove the posts. Cllr Bridgman said that it would appear that Mr Coryton gave the land to the village for the purpose of building the estate and the ground was left for the sight lines for the traffic. Cllr Booton explained that adverse possession can only be claimed after the land has been used in a certain way for 12 years and not before you start using it. He then suggested to Councillor Vaughan that such requests should be charged £250 and passed to the legal department. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that this plot of land would not be possible to register in this way as it is part of the highways. A parishioner said that a petition had been signed by many residents regarding the fencing of the grass land at Bakers field and gave it to Cllr Bridgman who confirmed that Highways had already written and they will prevent anything happening to that land.

He reverted to the letter received regarding allotments and said that whilst only three people had applied for an allotment we would like to help if possible. We would write to the Village Hall Committee to see if we could use the land behind the village hall.

114/10 Appointment of Councillor

Cllr Bridgman said that Councillor David Rudd was appointed to the Parish Council as the sole candidate for the election and that notification of this had been received from EHDC. He welcomed back Councillor Rudd to the council. Cllr D Rudd then signed his declaration.

115/10 Reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Vaughan reported that government funding would be cut by 40% over the next 5 years which represents an 8% cut in total. All requests for salt bins had been ordered. He said that Councillor D Kirk had died suddenly in August at 63 and would be sadly missed. He also reported the NHS annual profile for East Hampshire showed that this area was very healthy and only below the UK average in two areas

1. skin cancer 20/100,000 of population (av = 12.5)
2. road injuries 57.1/100,000 (av = 57.3)

Hospital stays account for 1400 more than the previous year but below the national average. Cllr Booton asked about the increased cars for sale in laybys. Cllr D Rudd said that there is now a 1hr restriction for parking in Bordon to prevent this. These cars are now being parked in the Greatham layby

116/10 Reports of Representative

(a) Coryton Almshouses

Nothing to report.

(b) Village Hall

Cllr Redman reported that the nursery school gas heaters had been ordered to replace existing at £3242 plus VAT. Remedial work was being carried out to drain the car park.

A grant has been applied for the Notice Board. The clerk reported that she had received a request from EHDC to know if the Parish Council were prepared to maintain the board. She confirmed that the Village Hall had agreed to the Notice Board previously approved by the Council. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Vaughan suggested that they may also wish to see a contribution from the Parish Council. It was agreed to offer £100 if asked and up to a maximum of £250. These were proposed by Cllr Jerrard and Seconded by Cllr C Rudd.

(c) Old Church

Councillor Bridgman reported that there had been a successful gathering at the Old Church on 5th September with between 20 and 30 people and a profit of £70 from the sales of teas cakes etc. The churchyard is in good order with thanks to the valued work from L'Abri.

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Cllr Bridgman said that we would write to the Highways regarding the need for repairs to the Petersfield Road. The clerk will respond to the Transport survey.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

The footpaths all have reasonable access. There are no staff but the L'Abri go out and walk and keep them clear.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton reported that at the recent planning committee meeting there were no concerns about any of the applications and that 5 Bakers Field had been refused by EHDC.

Planning conditions for Fern Farm. Cllr Jerrard reported that a request had been made to inspect the file. Lesley Wells had responded to say that this would take 20 days under the Freedom of Information Act. There was a further email with the very latest correspondence regarding condition 12 attached, saying that the whole file could be viewed at Penns Place. Cllr Bridgman requested the clerk to collect these before the end of the week.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Cllr Bridgman reported that the grass had been cut.

117/10 RFO report to 31/07

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

Bank reserve	£ 27820.99
Current	£ 547.15
Old church	£ 1,233.45

Schedule of payments

Payments to be made this month:

Clerk's salary July/Aug	£503.00
Clerk's expenses July/Aug	£ 26.18
Clerk's Holiday Pay	£118.07
Audit Commission fee	£334.88
Blackwell Press	£ 83.28
Strimmer service	£ 39.95
Total	£1105.36

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 C Rudd. The clerk will send the signed transfer request to the bank.

A letter has been received from the Audit Commission with the approved Annual Return.

A letter of thanks for the Grant has been received from St John the Baptist church.

The Mandate forms for new signatories to the bank were appropriately signed off.

Cllr Bridgman then reported to the Council correspondence regarding the government's council tax consultation including a well thought out reply from the clerk to Petersfield town council which he proposed was supported by this parish council and this was seconded by Cllr C Rudd. The clerk was asked to take appropriate action.

118/10 Parish Plan

Cllr Bridgman said that he was pleased that Mr Lewis was here and the the councillors were prepared to consider making up to £1000 available for expenditure if necessary. He Asked if Mr Lewis would like to comment.

Mr Lewis explained the problems he had experienced in getting support and or responses from the parish council, EHDC, HCC, the High commissioner and others. He had obtained

some information from someone at REME and had received a letter from the army regarding the bunker found in Longmoor Road in March 1987 adjacent to the pump stations. It had not until then been opened for at least 20 years and was tested as not radio active. The army could not say what had been in the bunkers or whether there were any other bunkers in the area. The royal engineers had been in there but not all the material had been removed. He found someone who had left the army in 1948 who said that the lakes at the bottom were used for training – bailey bridges, pumps and pontoons and that it was very sensitive during the war. He had asked what had happened to the old railway and the land around Longmoor Road He had had further meetings with the army and referred to apple pie where unexploded mines had been found and the site was evacuated for 2 days whilst these were diffused. He had spoken to an environmentalist who had said he would not do anything in the area as one would not know what was buried even if the ground seemed OK. The rumours in the village seem to have support for the documents he has, e.g. mustard gas buried during the war. The best situation is that the army have said that they will remove any contamination if any is found in the top soil or plants if it is proved this is caused by them. He is tired of meeting a brick wall. The draft plan is on the website and the only emails received to date have been spam. He therefore sees no point in pursuing this. Cllr Bridgman said he was sorry that he had not received various emails as his address had changed some 15 months ago and that he and the council fully supported Mr Lewis in the Parish Plan. Mr Lewis replied that he was tired with this as neither councils nor parishioners seem to be interested. Cllr Bridgman expressed thanks for the large amount of work that Mr Lewis had done and the information he had found out. Mr Lewis replied that he has spoken to people about joining a committee but cannot get anyone interested. Cllr Bridgman said he would visit Mr Lewis to talk through the parish plan and thanked Mr Lewis for his hard work and for the presentation.

Cllr D Rudd suggested Mr Lewis could contact Mr Dane who lives in Liss and had been with the Railways.

119/10 Correspondence

Cllr Jerrard said that he regretted he needed to leave the meeting and suggested that anything to do with the SDNP should be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

1. A response has been received from Inspector White in which he disagreed that Sgt Bromell knew nothing about Greatham and that he had been fully sighted regarding the issues here. Cllr Bridgman read out the response. Cllr Bridgman went on to say we can criticise them for what they do or do not do but they can claim that the issue is confidential and information cannot be released The public are poorly served in that regard. Mrs Cheesman asked why three motoring offences were all that he had mentioned.
2. Minutes of the EHAPT meeting of 9th June and the Agenda for their next meeting on 8th September in Liss village Hall.
3. HALC update with reference tot he government's localism bill.
4. East Hampshire Passenger Transport Consultation form to which the clerk will respond.
5. South Downs Joint Committee Annual Parish Letter and News sheet.
6. Information regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge
7. HALC Annual review and Agenda for the Annual Meeting on 23 October
8. A request from a potential buyer for 2 Oak cottages to know who owns the oak tree. Cllr Booton said that trees come under the hedge and ditch Act and that ownership would be with whoever owns the ditch. Cllr Bridgman said that he would respond to the letter.

120/10 Any Other business for the next Meeting

1. South Downs National Park

121/10 Date and place of next meeting:

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 4^h October 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.