

# Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Greatham Parish Council held at Greatham Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared open at 7.30 p.m

## **001/10 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Fellows

## **002/10 Chairman's Announcements**

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

## **003/10 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **004/10 Public Question Time**

Mr Dale Harris said that the village hall extension had gone well and run very smoothly. The committee wish to launch the hall on Friday 29 January. Leaflets will be handed around the village with time and details. This is not only to enable the villagers to see and use the extension but also to thank everyone connected with the refurbishment including those bodies involved in grant assistance who will also be sent invitations

## **005/10 Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

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

## **006/10 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising.

## **007/10 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Mr Dale Harris confirmed that Mrs Onslow will be attending the launch of the Village Hall extension..

Cllr Clarke gave his report at 8.15. He reported that there are 45 County Council grit vehicles at present with 120 control staff. They had spent £600,000 to 21 December. They have two priority levels. Priority level 1 is attended to first with 3 saltings per day. Level 2 is then attended to where possible. He told the meeting that Petersfield have asked for salting bins. These cost £115+VAT for the 6cu ft and £158+VAT for the 10cu ft bins. They can be supplied by Greenham in Southampton. Cllr Rudd said that residents of Wolfmere Lane had asked if a salt bin could be made available as it gets very icy there. Cllr Clarke said that members need to agree the proposed locations with Chris White at Hampshire CC. He also noted that can be an eyesore and that they are not used for 98% of the year. It was agreed to put this item on the February Agenda.

## **008/10 Reports of Representatives**

### **(a) Coryton Almshouses**

Cllr Booton said there was nothing to report, they are fully occupied.

### **(b) Village Hall**

Cllr Curry reported that new rates had been set. He said that financing was requested in regard to an external notice board with an estimated cost of £8-900. Cllr Bridgman said we would see if we could arrange something as £8-900 is too much. Mr Dale Harris said that he had spoken with EHDC who said that it is possible to get assistance for this type of council facility and that he would pass the details to Cllr Curry. It was also suggested that the board could be double sided for other village organisations to use. Cllr Rudd said that she would speak with Blackmoor as she is aware that they too are getting a board.

She will investigate and see what can be obtained. Cllr Bridgman said that this will be put as an item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

(c) **Old Church**

Cllr Bridgman reported during the year £92 has been added to the church funds and that the grounds are now being maintained by L'Abri. It has been suggested that it may be easier to use sheep to keep the grounds down. This would need fencing which should be easily achieved. Cllr Bridgman will look into this with Cllr Redman and it will be discussed at the next Old church meeting..

(d) **Transport and Highways**

Cllr Booton reported that the 30mph sign had not yet happened and there was nothing else to report. Councillor Clarke confirmed that this was all going through.

(e) **Footpath and Tree Warden**

Cllr Bridgman said that he was not aware of any problems in this area.

(f) **Planning Committee**

Cllr Booton said that there have been some new applications

- Ham Barn, for some more units to be put in which is OK
- 5 Bakers Field amended plans. We have been in touch with planning
- Two storey extension next to Mrs Coffin came in over Christmas. We need to look into this and report back.
- West Liss Caravans, a reduction in the size of the shop
- Teasel cottage in Church lane.

There will be a Planning Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 in the village hall.

(g) **Playground Committee**

Cllr Bridgman confirmed that it is still well drained. The grass looks fine. We need to check that the contractor is still cutting when necessary. Mr Dale Harris commented that the drainage looks very effective as when one walks away from the drained area it becomes quite wet.

**009/10 RFO report to 31/12/09**

The Clerk read out the RFO report and the balances on accounts on 1<sup>st</sup> December are as follows:

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Bank reserve | £26,910,50 |
| Current      | £ 37.23    |
| Old church   | £ 1,227.09 |

**Schedule of payments**

Payments to be made this month:

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Clerk's salary December 22 hours | £220.00 |
| Clerk's expenses December        | £21.94  |

It was proposed that the schedule of payments be made and that £500.00 was to be transferred to the current account from the reserve account. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Rudd and **SECONDED** by Cllr Curry. The clerk will send the signed transfer request to the bank.

**010/10 Meeting adjourned**

19.55 two young men entered the hall and informed those present that there was a car on fire in the car park. The meeting was adjourned and a phone call made to the emergency services.

**011/10 Meeting resumed**

20.15 Cllr Bridgman reopened the meeting. The Fire Brigade were in attendance and the police were on their way.

## 012/10 Budget for 2010/11

Cllr Bridgman reported that the Precept had been reduced in 2006 after the costs of the playground had been accounted for. He does not anticipate any large scale expenses in the next year and that he is keen to keep the precept at the lowest needed. On the figures prepared, £12,000 should be enough and the minimum we can manage on.

(Cllr Ascherl left the meeting 8.25 as the police wished to see her regarding her vehicle and it was reported that the car fire was being treated as suspicious.)

**PROPOSED** Cllr Booton , **SECONDED** Cllr Redman. The vote was unanimous and the Chairman thanked the clerk for preparing the figures.

## 196/09 Correspondence

1. We received an email from Ian Robinson regarding the dates of the GPC Meetings for 2010 and asked for dates of sub committees meetings and in particular the planning meetings. It was unanimously agreed that the GPC Meetings would continue to be held the first Monday of each month and where it fell on a bank holiday it would then be held on the second Monday. For 2010 this means 12 April and 10 May. The clerk was asked to email Mr Robinson to inform him that Planning Meetings are only called when required, depending on recent applications and the Notices for these are displayed on the Greatham website.
2. Hampshire County Council have invited the Parish council to give them their views on why particular services are important and what alternative transport might be available. The clerk was to contact Mrs Upfield who is the local representative for the buses and to respond, and complete and return the forms. Councillor Clarke reported that Petersfield have no direct bus to QA hospital and have asked for a direct bus route to the hospital and this could be included in the Greatham report. Cllr Redman referred to the 37 route and suggested that this could be extended to include Greatham as at present it stops at Liss forest. He felt that the short extra distance would be of great service to Greatham parishioners.
3. EHDC Joint community forum minutes of 8.12.09 have been received, including consultation around the proposed 2010/2011 budget.
4. An email to inform us of a Budget consultation meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January at 11.am to discuss the Hampshire fire and Rescue authority and police authority budgets.
5. A letter from Ian Austin MP regarding War Memorials. This highlighted recent damage either through neglect or deliberate. Ours is in the church graveyard. Mr Rudd said he believes we have insurance. He will check this and let the clerk know. Cllr Bridgman does not see our war memorial as a risk of vandalism but would like to have the insurance aspect checked.
6. Email giving a plan map of the temporary Footpath closure from 10<sup>th</sup> Jan for two months approx. Cllr Bridgman commented that pedestrians could walk along Forest Road and through Liss and that this closure would not prevent anyone getting about.
7. A letter has been received from Julia Potter of EHDC in response to our request to them to confirm that they are actively seeking a suitable permanent site for gypsies. He read out the following:
  - Demand for sites within the district is demonstrated by existing unauthorised encampments and development. Without the provision of authorised sites within the district, the ability of the Council to prevent continuation of use at such sites is limited. Unauthorised sites are often not ideal for the occupiers or the settled community and create significant tension and conflict.
  - We currently have three sites that have temporary planning consent – one in Hawkley, one in Binsted and one in Greatham and one further unauthorised site. The risk to the Council is that if we do not find alternative permanent sites the area will be vulnerable to the creation of further unauthorised sites.

....The Council would hope to have a permanent site developed in early 2011, depending of funding being available and a landowner willing to make a site available.....I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the South Downs National Park is being established and will be the determining planning authority for

parts of the District from April 2011. Therefore they will be responsible for setting planning policies and deciding any future planning applications after this date.

Cllr Bridgman continued to say that she is looking. Councillor Clarke said that he understood that around £100,000 had been set aside for this.

Mr Shea asked if a landowner offered space for 35 vans would that be what they are looking for. Councillor Clarke replied yes but to a maximum of 6 vans per site. Mr Shea asked if no landowner had offered a site yet. Councillor Clarke said that the District council would decide on an area. Mr Shea said that his nephew would be happy to donate land as a site. He confirmed that this would be the field adjacent to Fern Farm belonging to his nephew. Cllr Bridgman informed him that Julia Potter, Head of Housing and Property Services is the person to talk to. Mr Shea said that he was sure we would prefer a traveller site to 15 low cost houses. Councillor Clarke commented that it was not automatic as the site would have to conform to the requirements of the district council but that in the first place he needs to contact them.

8. An email was also received from Lesley Wells saying that the council is looking for suitable gypsy sites within the district. To this end parish councils and Local Members within the district have been contacted to ascertain whether they are aware of any appropriate sites. However, finding a suitable site(s) is not without its difficulties, and is unlikely to be resolved easily or quickly.

#### **013/10 Any Other Business**

1. Meeting dates. It was agreed that we will meet on the first Monday of each month other than April and May when it is a bank holiday in those two the meetings will be held on the second Monday.
2. A member asked what we were doing about paying for the use of the church hall for meetings whilst the village hall was being refurbished. Cllr Rudd declared an interest and said she would not take part in this item. Following discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £50. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Curry and SECONDED by Cllr Booton. A cheque was the raised and signed.

#### **014/10 Any Other Business for next meeting**

None.

#### **015/10 Date and place of next meeting**

The next full Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.