

Mrs. Wendy Hall
 Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
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MINUTES

Minutes of the Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7pm in Great Easton Village Hall.

Present

Cllr Martens (Chair)
 Cllr Hurst
 Cllr Neale
 Cllr Thake

04.22.01	Chairman opened the meeting
04.22.02	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Note and approve Cllr Claxton, Cllr Hahn, Cllr England, Cllr Down, Cllr Foley & Cllr Taylor.
04.22.03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING None
04.22.04	MINUTES To receive, consider, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 rd February 2022.
04.22.05	MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT WI logo received – the artwork for the plaque was causing some issues which the company was trying to resolve. The flag was raised for the monthly meeting in April and would be every month to celebrate centenary.
04.22.06	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION A resident from Gallows Green attended regarding speed limit application submitted back in 2019 to ECC, application referred to government guidance setting of speed limits & ECC policy statement, however this was too late for the annual budget. Approx 1 year ago there was some discussion from highways and a slow horses sign would be erected this is still outstanding on LHP. Traffic has now increased and more pressure needs to be put on ECC asking for PC help. Chairman advises that he will speak with Cllr Foley. Representative from GECA asked about an email received in relation to hall charges. Chairman advised this was a trial to allow recognized community groups up to three hours use foc. In addition, one extended booking per year (up to eight hours) at a rate of £45 to cover cleaning costs. Request for toilets at Village Hall be used during the soapbox - Chairman will raise with other absent Councillor's to make final decision. Resident asks about website and accounts, Clerk informs that this is being updated and transferred over to PDF. Resident asks the PC if there are plans to sell Brocks Mead Land - Chairman advised that there had been a visit by the travelling community prompting a resident from Brocks mead to attend the meeting to ask

	<p>the PC to consider selling land. Some Cllrs not familiar with land so a walk about to be arranged in the future. The current maintenance costs are circa £2800 pa.</p> <p>Resident asks if this could become an area with meadow grass, Chairman advises this has been trialed in another area and eventually had to be cut. Residents' views to non-cutting of areas could be added to the survey for the LNP in relation to creating meadow land.</p> <p>Planting of four fruit trees in Burns undertaken as were three fruit trees planted in Brocks Mead. Daffodil bulb distribution will be going ahead for residents to plant in open spaces this autumn.</p>
04.22.07	<p>VILLAGE HALL BROADBAND Cllr Hahn – The Village Hall broadband is up and running. The speaker will be connected to Wi-Fi as well to allow people to play music.</p>
04.22.08	<p>LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN No further updates as Jackie Deane was not present.</p>
04.22.09	<p>RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS The Cllr reports have been circulated and will be added to website.</p>
04.22.10	<p>RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE Clerk asks Councillors to provide more detail when asking for items to be added to the Agenda, need to state exactly what they would like to discuss as comments have been made from fellow councillors.</p>
04.22.11	<p>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT AND AGREE PAYMENTS First half of Precept £13,624.00 received second half will be received in 6 months-time. Total Precept £27,248.00. The Chairman spoke generally about the need for necessary repairs and improvements to the hall. Expenses £2264.48</p>
04.22.12	<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS – TO RECEIVE AND RATIFY UTT/22/0931/CLE PROPOSAL: Existing outbuilding. LOCATION: The Byre Coldarbour Farm Councillor's to review and report back to Clerk.</p>
04.22.13	<p>PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY – TO NOTE</p> <p>UTT/21/3576/LB PROPOSAL: Demolition of stables & former forge building & conversion & extension of barn to form a dwelling LOCATION: Old Forge, Duton Hill DECISION: Refused</p> <p>UTT/21/2138/FUL PROPOSAL: Demolition of stables & former forge building & conversion & extension of barn to form a dwelling LOCATION: Old Forge, Duton Hill DECISION: Refused</p> <p>UTT/22/0534/HHF PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and proposed erection of single storey rear erection. LOCATION: Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton DECISION: Approved with condition</p>

04.22.14	<p>ROAD MARKINGS</p> <p>Issues raised for the bend from Dunmow on the B184 from Ray's Bridge to P&A Woods as cars are crossing the line as they are unable to see road markings. This has been reported to ECC and to ask Cllr Foley to provide assistance.</p>
04.22.15	<p>WIDENING OF FOOTPATH 24</p> <p>Ford footpath north to Duton Hill, bridge to Tilty ford south of Brocks mead through to Lt Easton narrowed due to buildup of growth. There is no railing next to the river approx. 5ft drop, cost to widen to 900mm is £300 from approved contractor Messer land work. Vote taken Vote: Agreed – 4 x Councillor's</p>
04.22.16	<p>DITCH ADJACENT TO GREAT EASTON PLAYING FIELD</p> <p>The blocked ditch needs clearing Messer Land work quoted £350 to dig out and clear pipe. Cllr Neale suggested that a large pipe with metal shuttering although costlier, it may be easier to maintain. Cllr Neale to speak to Nigel Messer and report at next meeting. Growth still needs clearing. The Cllrs voted to clear growth. Vote 4 x Councillors agreed</p>
04.22.17	<p>INSURANCE</p> <p>Cllr Neale raised his concerns referred to in his emails to all councillors on 19.02.22 (attached). He had asked for the insurance details from Clerk. Cllr Neale asked if quotes were seen, as he rung the insurance and we would have been covered with excess of £100. Chairman advises Figure was £950 this rose to £1000 due to tree stump and the rest was VAT, with regard to insurance we have to specify in documents what we are insuring eg: Village Hall etc, this land is owned by us not River Authority, this needed to be dealt expeditiously due to safety concerns identified. 18 companies were called and 3 responses, Acer Tree approved by PC were able to attend promptly and work was completed on Mon/Tues. Cllr Neale raised his concern that the stump will need to be removed and further costs involved, photos are circulated. Chairman advises we were informed it needed to be specified on our schedule. Chairman asks for schedule to be circulated amongst Councillor's.</p> <p>Insurance renewal has just been received, this will need to be looked at as certain insured items may be under insured or over insured, Cllr Neale to look at insurance prices and distribute findings to clerk/councillors prior to the next meeting as policy is due for renewal at the end of May.</p> <p>Cllr Neale asked about Public Liability Insurance and were other organisations approached, Clerk advises they were, Cllr Neale approached WI member and she informed they were not. Cllr Thake and Cllr Hurst advise that DHCA were asked, and they do not plan to hire the hall for events but if they were they would get insurance.</p> <p>Chairman asks Cllr Neale in relation to GECA insurance for the Firework display as this was not on GECA Liability insurance and the council had not received any additional PI insurance. Cllr Neale advises this is a one off - copy to be sent to clerk.</p>
04.22.18	<p>DAMAGE TO PARISH COUNCIL VERGES & ROAD SURFACE</p> <p>Cllr Neale states letter needs to be sent UDC to repair road around church as extremely dangerous and damaged very badly also damage caused by farm vehicles and HGV's along the grass, a storm drain has been crushed. To consider steels or mini bollards may be placed along the verge to prevent damage. Chairman advises that he has met with local farmers - he stated that cars were inconsiderately parked, making it difficult for tractors to pass through. Chairman asks what Cllr Neale would like as an outcome. Chairman asks if wooden bollards along Green, however opinion before was this would be unattractive, Cllr Neale to ask for opinion and advise.</p>
04.22.19	<p>TILTY CHURCH CAR PARK</p> <p>Item deferred to next month due to Cllr England and Cllr Hahn Absent. This will become a standing item on the Agenda.</p>
04.22.20	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)</p>

- **Planning** – Nothing to report. Butchers Yard still no decision on UDC.
- **Village hall** – Still awaiting quotes for bar area. Cllr Neale states dishwasher on hold until kitchen refurb, Chairman advises that Dishwasher purchase needs to go ahead ASAP as we cannot wait for remedial works which could happen in 2023.
- **Open spaces (to include playing fields and play areas)** – DHCA have ordered the zip wire to be installed before September. After the storm cracked a willow in Burns the branch swing will need to be removed. A local tree surgeon will be contacted regarding a tree survey.
- The Great Easton playing field entrance is leaking water due to Gigaclear causing a problem, Gigaclear to be contacted. The beacon is unable to be used at present due to it leaning after speaking to landowner. Cllr Neale and Cllr Martens to asses beacon and a temporary repair needed to light for Jubilee.
- **Footpaths, road safety and highways** – Cllr Thake asks about footpath update in Duton Hill, repair should have been carried out within 40 days, member of public advises that this was being repaired today, Cllr Thake to check. Cllr Thake advises she will chase Rissa Long in relation to blocked drain.
- **River interests** – Low water level and rivers are very overgrown. Hogweed spraying to take place on Saturday 30th April 2022 in same areas as last year in Duton Hill and Great Easton.
- **Airport** – Cllr Absent nothing to report.
- **DHCA/Duton Hill** – Street party on the Friday 3rd June and beacon lighting on the Thursday 2nd June
- **GECA** – Saturday 4th June street party, 5 or 6 tables to be borrowed from Village Hall.
- **DUFC** – No further meetings or correspondence, DUFC are not training as often now due to the closing of the season throughout June, July & August
- **IT, Website and social media** – Facebook page now deleted, and the website is user friendly.

04.22.21	ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT MONTHS AGENDA OR IN FIVE PARISHES MAGAZINE
04.22.22	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2022 subject to change.
04.22.23	CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9:05 pm

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

From: cllr.neale@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.neale@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2022 8:50 pm
To: cllr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Cc: cllr.england@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.england@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>;
cllr.hahn@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.hahn@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>;
cllr.claxton@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.claxton@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>;
cllr.thake@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.thake@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>;
cllr.hurst@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.hurst@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>;
cllr.down@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cllr.down@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Blown over tree by the Ford - Great Easton

Tristan,
Many thanks for your prompt reply.
I appreciate this might be our responsibility if the tree is indeed on parish council land and not within the jurisdiction of the River [Essex Waterways].
Given the damage caused to third party properties then are we not insured for such eventualities and therefore would need to proceed with caution until we consult with our insurers, otherwise this will incur unnecessary expenditure to the parish council?
Look forward to hearing your thoughts.
Regards
Peter

On 19 Feb 2022, at 20:31, cllr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk wrote:

Evening Peter

You have every right to be concerned as fallen trees are extremely hazardous and pose significant risks to the uninformed. This link will give some inkling as to the dangers:
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-26/what-causes-fallen-trees-to-spring-back-up-after-storm/10942124>

The assessments undertaken today by myself, a professional safety advisor, and a local specialist with twenty five years in the tree maintenance field, both identified the danger this tree poses to the public and to a certain extent, the property owner.

Prompt, decisive action was required.

Nevertheless, I contacted eighteen arborist companies today and got responses from three and conducted six site visits. The contractor appointed is Acer Trees, a local company who is on our approved list and who has undertaken work previously for the parish council.

Price alone is never the deciding factor when outsourcing as there are numerous other criteria to be considered. However, on this occasion, not only could Acer mobilise within twenty-four hours, but their price was the lowest on the day.

Thanks to those councillors for their offers of support - this one did take us by surprise. I have kept the property owner updated during the day and he is very appreciative of our efforts.

Regards Tristan

Cllr Tristan Martens
Chairman, Great Easton & Tilty Parish
Council

From: cldr.neale@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.neale@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2022 6:48:35 PM
To: cldr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Cc: cldr.england@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.england@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; cldr.hahn@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.hahn@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Mark Claxton <mclaxton@gmail.com>; cldr.hurst@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.hurst@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; cldr.thake@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.thake@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; cldr.claxton@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.claxton@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; cldr.down@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk <cldr.down@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Blown over tree by the Ford - Great Easton

Good Evening Tristan,

I am very concerned that yet again despite at a previous parish council meeting, 'that we should always put any work required out to tender' clearly in this case that has not happened. Who is the Contractor and how much has the parish council been quoted to undertake the job?

We have been accused in the past of non-transparency, we have a duty to make sure that we get good value for money, without putting this out to tender we run the risk of wasting money and favouritism. Whilst I accept we will need to do this work, there is no danger to life or property and therefore we have a responsibility to follow procedure whereby all councillors are in agreement as to whom to appoint having seen all of the tenders.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter

On 19 Feb 2022, at 17:12, cldr.martens@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk wrote:

Afternoon All

Just an update regarding the tree - we have now got a contractor to start the removal on Monday and it's hoped to complete and clear the area in one day. The bigger issue is the rootball which they will try to winch back into situ - failing that, it will need to be removed at a significant cost.

The other problem is that the footpath has been undermined when the roots pulled out which is not going to be easy to repair. We shall have to get someone in to look at it.

I'll tape the area off later and have ordered some 'Footpath closed' signs.

Thanks Tristan