

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30pm.

These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

Present.

Cllr. Thelma Ardley.

Cllr. Chris Butler

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. William Fossick

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi.

Together with 9 members of the public.

57/17 Apologies for absence. None received.

58/17 Declaration of interests. Cllr. Butler declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding The Local Plan.

59/17 (a) To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of both the AGM and the previous meeting were unanimously approved. **(b) Matters arising.** The village sign has been repaired but no bill yet, Cllr. Fossick to chase. Cllr. Fossick was thanked for his help in sorting out the repair. Kissing Gate was with Cllr. Beavis. Oak post – Cllr. Butler to do, Cllr Mason offered to help if needed. Cllr. Beavis is dealing with the pavement. It was noted that Jean Hastings had emailed Cllr. Beavis about the deep channels. It was noted that the Planning application for a Horse Walker was in Greenstead Green but had already been passed. The Clerk had contacted Planning about this but had heard nothing. Cllr. Mason had not looked at the stile as he had been told to wait for Cllr. Beavis and the Public Right of Way officer to look at it. After a brief discussion, the Chairman decided the £92.57 from the defunct Greenstead Green News should be returned to the Parish Council.

60/17 Public session. A resident had spoken to Highways after the last meeting and was upset that his concerns over the pavement at Crocklands, which he had raised several times previously, did not seem to have been reported to them. There is now a job number for the Crocklands pavement. A resident asked what the policy was regarding footpaths and trimming them in summer. It was noted that landowners must cut a path if there is a footpath in an arable field but outside of a field it is down to Highways. A resident asked if the recent article in The Halstead Gazette regarding Greenstead Green agreeing to hand over Oak Road to Halstead was correct. The Chairman advised that it is not correct.

61/17 District Councillor's report. County Councillor's report. In the absence of the County Councillor there was no report. District Councillor O'Reilly-Cicconi reported that the updated Open Spaces Action plan was now on BDC's website. He reminded the Council to

apply for his grant. He reported that the Green Bin collection would be suspended again over winter. He reported that Stansted Airport are currently consulting on increasing their cap by adding an additional 11 000 flights a year. He reported that the community transport scheme is increasing their fares. Information on this is available on Braintree's District Council website. Local Plan consultation ends on 28th July 2017. There is a new email service that residents can register on and receive updates, news and information relating to Braintree District Council. He reported on Highway Rangers who might be able to help with highway issues. He also noted the recent article in the Halstead Gazette and explained that Braintree can suggest boundary changes but it is up to the Boundary Commission to decide them. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been consulted on this and he offered to go to the meeting on Monday to raise the Parish Council's concerns.

62/17 (a) To agree the accounts for payment. (b) To approve the petty cash payments.
Approved.

63/17 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Planning no: 17/01167FUL. 2 Forge Cottages Grange Hill. The Parish Council agreed 'No Comment.'

Planning no: 16/02186/REM. Land South of Oak Road, Halstead. 'The Parish Council note the submission of documents and make no comment.'

A brief update was provided on the Sudbury Road Planning Application.

- a) Any other planning items. The Local Plan. The Chairman explained the background to The Local Plan and it was proposed that the "council do not raise any concerns regarding The Local Plan". Agreed.
- b) Street names for the Oak Road development. Cllr. Ardley produced a list of names of notable people in the area. Clerk to pass on to Braintree. It was also suggested looking at the 1835 Tithe Map for field and Manor names.

64/17 Children's Play Equipment at the Playing Field. Update. Action: Clerk to speak to Cllr. Beavis.

65/17 Moveable football goalposts at the Playing Field. Update. Cllr. Mason explained that the reason the goalposts have not been removed is due to them being concreted into place. Cllr. Butler offered to help, and the use of his forklift to remove them. **Action:** Cllr Butler and Mason to remove the goalposts towards end of August beginning of September. Clerk to speak to Cllr. Gill (Gosfield) regarding Gosfield's moveable posts.

66/17 RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Report. Update. Report had been received and there were some items that needed to be repaired. Cllr. Mason offered to source some quotes for the work. **Action:** Cllr. Mason to obtain 2/3 quotes for the repairs.

67/17 Greenwatch. Update on meeting to reduce speeding in the village. The Chairman updated the Parish Council. There had been 3 meetings to date with another meeting on the 31st July which Halstead in Bloom is attending. Lee Laphorne is the lead on this. Various ideas have been discussed including planters at the entrances to the village. A quiz has been

organised on the 10th August at the café to raise funds for the group. A Speed Report had been executed by the Police which had not been too bad but the Police acknowledged the machine was not in a good position and that the village does have a speeding problem.

68/17 Update on Website. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason explained the Council has received a cheque for £650.00 from The Transparency Grant to be used towards the purchase of a laptop, software and scanner. There is other funding available that can be used to pay someone to design a website and keep it up to date monthly. Essex Information can host a website for free and Cllr. Mason has registered on this and set up a Welcome page and format similar to Stisted. Amanda Brown, of EALC, has put Cllr. Mason in touch with James who has designed websites for other Parish Councils. James is happy to look at what Cllr. Mason has already done or design a website from scratch. Agendas and minutes need to appear on the website, and maybe other village information. Two options: 1. Continue with Essex Information and add pages gradually. 2. Apply for funding and ask James to do it. Discussion. **Action:** Cllr. Mason to apply for additional funding. Clerk to source laptop and other equipment. Everyone to look at Stisted website and other Parish Council websites. Cllr. Mason to obtain links from James to websites he has designed and send the links to the other Councillors.

69/17 White Ash Green items. Cllr. Ardley. Cllr. Ardley reported that rubbish is being dumped in Russells Road, she will speak to BDC and ask for a notice to be put up.

70/17 Footpaths report. A resident reported that she had come across two people surveying the byways to see if closure over the winter months had worked. Cllr. Wickes reported that she had been told the byways were not fit for purpose and that the barriers were illegal. Deep ruts had been found at Marks Hall.

71/17 Playing Field Management Committee report. None

72/17 Village Hall Management Committee report. None.

73/17 Neighbourhood Watch. Update. Jean Hastings. A report was read out. See attached.

74/17 Feedback from external meetings. None.

75/17 To note any items of correspondence. (a) Essex Rural Strategy Delivery – Neighbourhood Planning. To consider inviting a representative from the EALC to talk about this at the September meeting. Agreed.

76/17 To consider any items of urgent business. (Chairman) Boundary at Oak Road to be added to the September agenda.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992. amanda@degnan.com.

73/17

NHW Report to Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19 July 2017

There is not much to report this time. I hesitate to say things have “been quiet”, as there are always people around with an eye open for something to steal, but I like to think that having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Greenstead Green and Burtons Green does help.

I see my role as Village Co-ordinator as that of passing on information, with the help of the Street Co-ordinators, so that people can take responsibility for their own safety, both from a “home” and “personal” point of view.

I currently have around 40 villagers on my list to receive Newsletters and ECM messages via email. If I don't have your email address, just give me a ring and I'll add it. Unfortunately, the days of “notes through doors” are gone, and that means that some people don't receive anything, except the occasional item where I am supplied with enough copies for distribution to all. Even “Watchword” (the twice-yearly Newsletter produced by the Braintree District NHW Steering Group) becomes harder to obtain, their preferred method of distribution being via email,. However, I will carry on getting hard copies for as long as possible, because it does mean that at least people are aware that Neighbourhood Watch is still going!

I will be attending a meeting of the Braintree NHW Steering Group next week, and hope to collect some “NHW Guide Books”, which will subsequently wing their way to everyone.

Finally, don't forget to ring 101, or send them an email, if you see anything suspicious. Never put yourself in danger, and if something seems serious, don't hesitate to ring 999.

Jean Hastings
Village NHW Co-ordinator