

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.20pm after the AGM.

Present.

Cllr. Thelma Ardley.

Cllr. Chris Butler

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. Derek Hambling.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi.

Together with 17 members of the public.

39/18 Apologies for absence. County Cllr. Jo Beavis.

40/18 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None.

41/18 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. With a few minor amendments the minutes for the previous meeting were duly approved.

(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. The Chairman, Paul Foster, reported back on a meeting that he, Cllr. Mason and the Clerk had with County Cllr. Beavis on 19th April. The issue of her non-attendance at parish council meetings was raised. She was fully aware of this and explained the main issue was a clash with Earls Colne PC. It was suggested moving the meetings to the second week of the month so she could attend, which she was happy with. Therefore, the Chairman, Cllr. Foster proposed moving future Parish Council meetings to the second week of the month. Agreed. It was noted that County Cllr. Beavis will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd May 2018.

Skips at Anglian Water site, Church Road: Cllr. Butler reported that some of the skips have been removed. He will be attending a meeting at the site on 17th May with Anglian Water to discuss the area, as rubbish needs to be removed. **Perspex:** Cllr. Mason has got the Perspex for the noticeboard and will replace it in the next week. **Petting Zoo:** Cllr. Butler reported that the Petting Zoo has a better fence but there is still an issue with the livestock escaping. **White Ash Green:** the issues with signs had been reported to Highways and they will be monitoring them. Love Lane requires further investigation. **New Swing:** This had

been invoiced and paid for and the information sent to Essex County Council (EEC) to reclaim the CIF funding. **Safety Matting:** Cllr. Mason had met with two contractors regarding this but is yet to hear anything from them. He will contact them again. He will also investigate the surface under the swings to see if it is concrete. Cllr. Butler believed that it was grass under the swings with the posts concreted in. To be confirmed. **BT Phone Box:** The contract has been signed. It was noted that it needs a good clean, so there will be a need to obtain quotes for this. It was suggested that once clean the BT Phone Box could be used for advertising but planning permission may be needed for this. **Website:** Cllr. Butler still to send German aerial photo, profiles are still to be received from some of the Councillors. **Fete:** The Clerk reported that the grass is due to be cut on 17th July 2018. She had also been in touch with the Parish Council's insurers who confirmed that the Fete will need their own insurance for the day. **Ravens Hall Road bridge over Bourne Brook:** There was a discussion on this. The Councillors wished it to be minuted that they feel the road surface to be very dangerous. Cllr. Mason has sent photos to County Cllr. Beavis and there have been complaints to Highways. County Cllr. Beavis at her meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair informed them that ECC Highways were considering improvements there is something planned for this section of the road.

42/18 Public comment. A member of the public asked about the stile as the bottom of Grange Hill. Cllr. Hambling reported that Highways have been out to inspect it and found it to be sound. The issue of the channels near Greenstead Lodge were raised again. It was noted that this was raised at the meeting with County Cllr. Beavis. A resident asked about Greenwatch. Cllr. Mason explained that they will have the speed gun for the next couple of months and will be in contact with Speed Watch volunteers. The next Greenwatch meeting would be on 21st May. A resident asked the Clerk to write to Highways asking them to collect signs they have left behind. Clerk to raise. A complaint was made regarding water running down Cllr. Butler's drive and into the road. Cllr. Butler to fix. Residents complained about the general state of the roads in the parish. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, informed the meeting that he and Cllr. Mason had raised this with County Cllr. Beavis. She had explained that the scale of works required in the county exceed the available budget.

43/18 District Councillor's report. District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi updated the meeting on a recent court case involving BDC. BDC had recently lost a major court case regarding planning. BDC had apparently been misinterpreting the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in refusing planning permission for isolated homes in the countryside. The Court of Appeal decided that due to there being no adopted plan, BDC need to go by the NPPF and that in order to refuse planning permission, the test was that 'isolated' means some distance from the nearest settlement. This means that anybody who applies to build a home in proximity to a settlement in theory is likely to receive planning permission. All the information regarding this matter is online on BDC's website. It was noted that this cannot be applied retrospectively. Cllr. Mason asked about the 5-year housing supply ; Cllr. O'Reilly Ciccone replied that BDC are no closer to completion on this.

44/18 County Councillor's report. None.

45/18 To agree the accounts for payment. These were duly approved.

- a) To sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This was duly approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman and Clerk.

46/18 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Planning no 18/00662/FUL. Removal and replacement of shed. Gatehouse Ashford Lodge Sudbury Road Halstead Essex CO9 2RR. The Parish Council made the following comments: "In principle the Parish Council are happy with the replacement of the shed. However, they agree with the Historic Buildings Consultant and feel more information is needed with regards to appearance and design of the building. Therefore, they feel they cannot support this application at this time until further details are provided."

- a) Planning updates. Chairman. It was noted that the David Wilson reserve matters application for Oak Road had been approved on the 11th May. It was noted that Stones Throw planning application for the removal and replacement of a porch and the construction of a car port had been recommended for approval by BDC Planning. Both the Parish Council and the Historic Buildings adviser had no objections to the porch but both had raised concerns with regards to the car port. This is going to the Planning Committee on the 22nd May. Cllr. Mason will see if he can attend.

47/18 To discuss response to the Government's Consultation: Powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, explained that he was not proposing the Parish Council make any representation on this. He noted that the Government hope to make it easier to move people on from unauthorised sites on private land. Cllr. Butler has had problems in the past with encampments. He explained that the Police can use Section 66 to move people on but don't use it. Cllr. Butler will be responding to the consultation. The Chairman asked if a copy of the response could be sent to the Clerk.

48/18 To decide if the Parish Council wish to take part in the Street Cleansing Agreement. It is noted that the Parish Council did not take part in this scheme last year. A sum of £439.84 is available to help with street cleansing. It is noted that a number of volunteers have been keeping the parish tidy over the years. The Chairman read out a list of what has to be done to participate in the scheme and receive the money. After some discussion it was decided the Parish Council did not wish to take part. It was suggested that Greenwatch might be interested but it would need to be made clear to them that the Agreement applied to the whole Parish. Cllr. Hambling will ask at the Fete meeting on the 31st May.

49/18 To discuss applying for the Braintree District Councillors Grant. £375.00. A new bench for the Playing Field was suggested. Cllr. Mason to investigate.

50/18 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Wickes reported back on the Earls Colne Liaison Committee for the airfield. The airfield has a new owner who welcomes complaints. It is now much better organised.

Cllr. Hambling reported back on Greenwatch and the Fete. There were two meetings scheduled for Sunday and Monday. The Fete will be on the Playing Field on the 22nd July raising money for Greenwatch and the Church. The speed gun will be returning to the village

and there will be morning and afternoon sessions. It was noted that you have to prove there is a speeding problem before the Police will do anything. Flower planting has been taking place. The flowers have come from the nursery. Please water. It is hoped to put a water butt outside the village hall for water. They now have their own bank account and Facebook page. It is hoped to raise enough money from future events to buy more plants and a portable flashing face speed sign.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, reported back on a meeting he had attended at Broomfield Hospital, held by the Mid Essex Health Trust. At this meeting Mid Essex outlined their plans for the future of the Trust. They intend to link Broomfield, Basildon and Southend Hospitals together. Concerns were expressed about patients having to travel long distances, but the Trust assured delegates this would not happen. The idea is to push excellent specialist care in certain hospitals, with patients' going there first before moving to a local hospital.

51/18 To note any items of correspondence. The Clerk had received an email from the Clerk at Whites Colne Parish Council asking for views on designating the Colne Valley as an AONB. The Clerk circulated a training poster for a course on Defibrillators. Cllr. Mason expressed an interest in attending. Clerk to book.

52/18 To consider any items of urgent business. (Chairman). There was a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting is on the 23rd May. Cllr. Butler will be unable to attend the meeting on the 11th July.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.....P.Foster.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....11/7/18.....

<p>Amanda Degan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992. greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com.</p>
