**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th July 2019 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30pm These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.**

**Present.**

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Jo Beavis

4 members of the public

58/19 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and excepted from Cllr. Butler, Cllr. Mason and District Cllr. Peter Schwier

59/19 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None declared.

60/19 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the AGM and the ordinary parish meeting both held 8th May 2019 were duly approved. The word Violeria was corrected to Veolia in item 51/19 (b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not on the agenda. Stisted Community Bus: Nothing to report. Item 48/19 Highways Speed Limit A131: The Clerk had sent the Parish Council’s comments to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and had received an email. The email explained that there had been objections to the proposed scheme and that it was now the subject of a Cabinet Member Action Report. Once a decision has been made the Parish Council will be informed. Item 52/19 (b) Footpath 46: The Clerk had written to the residents either side of this path asking for the hedges to be cut back with no response. ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways. Letter from Cllr. Thelma Ardley (retired): The Clerk read out a letter from former Cllr. Ardley thanking the Parish Council for their gift of a £25.00 gardening voucher. Cllr. Pleasance added that there had been a collection by White Ash Green residents which will be presented to former Cllr. Ardley

61/19 Public comment. A resident reported that the sign for Plaistow Green was missing. ACTION: Clerk to report to Braintree District Council (BDC)

62/19 County Councillor’s report. County Cllr. Beavis spoke about the following items:

* The Local Plan
* The Inspector’s response to Garden Communities
* Local Devolution
* Neighbourhood plans
* Libraries
* Halstead and Land E of Halstead

She had visited the Parish with Highways and looked at the Fingerposts and signage in the village. She intends on holding a meeting in early October at Queen’s Hall, Halstead for her parishes. After taking some questions from residents and councillors, Cllr. Beavis left the meeting at 8.20pm.

63/19 District Councillor’s report. in the absence of Cllr. Schwier there was no report.

64/19 Finance (a) To approve the accounts for payment. These were duly approved.

 (b) NatWest: it was resolved that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 (removal of previous Councillors and Clerks) and 6 (Ian Pleasance to be added) and the current mandate will continue as amended.

 **(c) to agree to consider Digital and Direct banking.** It was agreed to consider this. ACTION: Clerk to obtain further details.

 **(d) to agree to sign the letter of novation regarding Richard Edwards Group LLP.** Agreed.

65/19 Planning Updates including Community Governance Review update. The Clerk had received an email that day regarding an appeal by the owners of Stone Lakes, Sloe Hill. Clerk to forward the email on to Councillors for comments. The Clerk had also received a letter from BDC regarding Tree Preservations Orders in the vicinity of the Oakwood Development and Bournebridge Hill.

**Community Governance Review**. The Clerk confirmed that as of the 1st April 2019 the Oakwood Hill Development, land in the parish which is part of the Land East of Sudbury Road development and Stone’s Farm were now within the boundary of Halstead.

**66/19 Update on Oak Trees on The Green. Cllr. Dixey** These had been trimmed by Mortimer’s but no invoice as yet. Cllr. Dixey was thanked for his work regarding this matter.

**67/19 Playing Field: (a) To agree to a power supply to the Playing Field. Cllr Mason.**  Cllr. Hambling reported that Cllr. Mason is yet to receive a quotation from the electricity suppliers. Once received he will bring it to the Parish Council.

 **(b) Update on funding for Playing Field safety matting and play equipment. (Cllr. Mason).** Cllr. Mason had applied for funding from the Big Lotto grant. Cllr. Hambling reported that he had repaired one of the goalposts and the other one was at his house. Cllr. Mason is waiting for a response from ITSAgoal regarding parts.

 **(c) RoSPA report findings.** This had been distributed to the Councillors prior to the meeting. it was noted that there were lots of minor items on the report. Clerk to contact MD Landscapes regarding the removal of moss and strimmer damage to the bottom of equipment. Cllr. Hambling and Cllr. Mason will be visiting the Playing Field to look at some of the issues.

**68/19 Update on Fingerposts. Cllr. Hambling.**  Cllr. Hambling reported that these had gone to the ECC Local Highways Panel (LHP) for validation. No response as yet. He had written a letter to County Cllr. Beavis asking for ‘No footpath’ and ‘horse’ signs to be erected. The village gateway signs are being considered as is a reduction in the speed limit by the LHP.

**69/19 Greenwatch – to receive an update on a Portable Speed indicator sign. Cllr. Hambling** Greenwatch have collected the money for a Portable Speed indicator (SID). They have asked Highways if they need Highways permission to place it on private land and have been told they do not need permission. It was noted that the Parish Council originally supported Greenwatch with their plans for a device. It was noted that the Parish Council would have to own the SID if they want to insure it. Greenwatch would like the Parish Council to help with purchase of the SID.

in principle the Parish Council is happy to support Greenwatch and their SID scheme. Before committing themselves, the Councillors would like the following information. Idea of locations, costings, and written confirmation from Highways that permission is not needed for use on private land. ACTION Cllr. Hambling.

Clerk to check with insurers regarding cover of SID when placed on private land if the Parish Council own the SID.

Note. Cllr. Pleasance asked if it could be used to reduce speeding in the whole of the parish.

**70/19 To consider participating in the Salt Bag Partnership Scheme 2019/20.** Declined.

**71/19 To consider participating in VE Day 75 years celebration in May 2020.** There was a brief discussion on this. ACTION: Cllr. Hambling to speak to Cllr. Butler.

**72/19** **Update on Defibrillator. Cllr. Mason** A training session is to be held on 31st August 2019 at the village hall. The Clerk confirmed the defibrillator was covered by the Parish Council insurers.

**73/19 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.** Cllr. Hambling provided an update on Greenwatch. The Bingo night had raised £288 for the Fete expenses. The Cream Tea event was also successful. The Fete is to be held on 21st July 2019 12:00- 4:00 pm in the Playing Field. The Clerk was asked to contact MD Landscapes to see if the grass could be cut in the Playing Field before the event. Author Nick Butterworth will be opening the Fete. The flower troughs on the bridge are now installed and planted.

Cllr. Pleasance will be attending an Essex Superfast meeting.

Cllr. Wickes reported that George Courtauld was now the Chair of the Earls Colne Airfield Liaison group. Still no meeting date.

74/19 To note any items of correspondence. These were distributed.

75/19 Future agenda items. Emergency Plan, subscription to Windows, Standing Orders, Financial code, Code of Conduct, SID, VE Day.

**The nest meeting will be on Wednesday 11th September 2019.**

**There being no further business to transact the meeting ended at 9.20pm.**

**Signed……………………………………………………………………….**

**Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.**

**Date……………………………………………………………….**

**Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992.** **greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com****. WWW.** **greensteadgreenpc.org.uk.**