

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 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. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman. Chair.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

4 members of the public.

76/19 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Chairman Cllr Foster, Cllr Butler, County Cllr. Beavis and District Cllr Schwier.

77/19 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Mason, Vice-Chairman, declared a DPI in planning application 19/01567/FUL Bees Farm.

Cllr. Hambling declared an NPI in 19/00720/FUL Claverings Farm

78/19 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held 10th July 2019 were duly approved.

(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not on the agenda. Footpath 46: This had been reported, by the clerk, to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways Footpath section who are investigating it. **Stisted Community Bus:** Cllr. Mason, Vice-chairman, has spoken to the new Stisted Parish Council. He reported it was a still a work in progress. **Cllr. Ardley (retired):** Cllr. Dixey reported that Cllr. Ardley had bought two shrubs with her gift from the parish council. **Missing Plaistow Green sign:** replaced. **Finance (b) NatWest:** Paperwork had been handed in to NatWest. **MD Landscapes:** Clerk had contacted them regarding the moss, and strimmer damage. She had also asked about the hedge and this is due to be cut in the next few weeks. **Defibrillator:** Cllr. Mason, Vice-chairman, reported that the training session is due to be held on Saturday 2nd November and encouraged residents to attend. Action: Clerk to contact Hall Booking Clerk to book the hall.

79/19 Public comment. Resident asked about the Standing Order relating to amount of time for public comment which had appeared on the agenda. It was explained that this is written on a lot of parish councils' agendas so allowing everyone to have a say and to keep some order. The Playing Field hedge was raised. A resident raised concerns regarding the state of the pavement from No.11.

Crocklands and up to and including No.1 Crocklands. Also, the dip in the road outside the Village Hall is getting worse. Action: Clerk to report to ECC Highways. A resident asked what would happen if they used the Defibrillator and it went wrong, would there be a problem. Cllr. Mason, Vice-chairman, provided reassurance and explained how the Defibrillator worked. Cllr. Dixey asked the Clerk to write to No. 5, Constantine Cottages as their hedge is encroaching on to the pavement. Action: Clerk to write letter.

80/19 County Councillor's report. The clerk read out an email report from County Cllr. Beavis. Action: Clerk to send council's acceptance of attendance to the Town and Parish Summit, Thursday 19th September. 19:00 hours.

81/19 District Councillor's report. The clerk read out an email report from District Cllr. Schwier.

82/19 (a) To agree the accounts for payment. These were duly approved.

(b) Update on Digital and Direct banking. The Clerk provided an update on this. It was noted that digital banking only allows one user to sign electronic payments, which is not permitted under the Financial Regulations. It was suggested opening up another bank account for electronic payments only with a small amount of cash and administered by the clerk with approval for each payment. Action: Clerk to check with auditor and EALC to see if this is permitted.

83/19 Planning and Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning applications.

APPLICATION NO: 19/01567/FUL DESCRIPTION: Demolition of existing storage building and erection of two bedroom detached dwelling LOCATION: Bees Farm Plaistow Green. Cllr. Mason having declared a DPI left the room for this application. Cllr. Dixey proposed, Cllr. Wickes seconded to object to this application on the following grounds: 'The applicant's agent seeks to draw comparisons with the dwelling permitted at High Barn Hall. That was justified as a rural worker's dwelling because of the direct link to the existing kennels. There is no justification for a new dwelling on what could only very loosely be called a builder's yard. The lack of a five-year housing land supply does not justify a new dwelling in the countryside remote from services and facilities. They also felt it would set a precedent. It was also noted that the address should be 'Land south of Bees Farm'. Agreed. Cllr Hambling abstained.

With the Vice-Chairman's, approval the following applications were added to the agenda.

Application No: 19/00720/FUL. Proposed erection of 3 log cabins for use as holiday homes. Claverings Farm Holiday Lodges, Stisted Road. Cllr. Hambling having declared an NPI left the room for this application. It was agreed 'No Objection'

Application for variation of Condition 3 of approved application 13/00923/FUL - to allow use as a permanent dwelling. | The Coach House Russells Road. This was due to be discussed at the upcoming BDC Planning Meeting, 18th September 2019. Cllr. Mason will talk to Cllr. Foster regarding representing the Parish Council at this meeting.

(b) To agree a response to the Local Plan consultation. It was agreed to comment on this after the Town and Parish Summit meeting on the 19th September 2019.

84/19 Playing Field: (a) To agree to a power supply to the Playing Field. Cllr. Mason (deferred from July meeting) Cllr. Mason had met with UKPower Works the previous week. It had been a positive meeting and they will send him a price for the works. The power supply will be in a lockable steel box, 1000amps supply. It will be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Before use the meter will be read and then read again at the end of the event and the user charged. Cllr. Mason will return to the council with the quote.

(b) Update on funding for Playing Field safety matting and play equipment. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason had applied to the Big Lotto fund for £12,500 but the application had been rejected as their policy had changed. The maximum you can apply for now is £10,000. A new application was sent on the 14th August 2019 for £10,000. He is still waiting to hear. He will also obtain new quotes for the climbing frame and for reconstituted tyre rubber for the matting.

Cllr. Mason and Hambling will repair the goalpost.

(c) To consider the use of the Playing Field for under 8 football practice on a Sunday. Cllr. Wickes had been approached by Gareth Wilson with regards to using the Playing Field for under 8 football practice. His only concern were the rabbit holes. Cllr. Mason was happy to fill those in. It was agreed that he could use the Playing Field for football practice. Action: Clerk to speak to him.

(d) To receive a verbal report on the use of the Playing Field for the 2020 Fete. Cllr. Hambling. Cllr. Hambling explained that one of the ideas for next years fete is to have dog show. He asked if the ban on dogs in the Playing Field could be lifted on Fete Day. It was proposed to lift the ban on dogs using the Playing Field on Fete Day only. Agreed.

85/19 Greenwatch – to receive an update on a Portable Speed indicator sign. Cllr. Hambling. Cllr. Hambling informed the Parish Council that at a recent Greenwatch meeting it had been decided to fund the SID themselves rather than ask for money from the Parish Council as this would have resulted in the sign having to be used anywhere in the parish. It was noted that the clerk had spoken to the council's insurers about the SID. It was also noted that Greenwatch still have Stisted's speed camera but there may be another one available for their use.

86/19 Council Documents. To approve the following: The following two items were agreed en-bloc.

1. Standing orders including amendment.

2. New Financial Code

3. Updated Emergency Plan. It was agreed to add Cllr. Hambling's details to this and the Defibrillator before sending to BDC. The plan was then approved. Action Clerk to send updated plan to BDC.

87/19 IT: (a) To consider paying a yearly subscription for Office 365. Agreed.

(b) To investigate the introduction of bespoke Councillors emails. Cllr.

Pleasance. Cllr. Pleasance explained that this had been discussed at a recent Councillor Training Day. It was felt it was more professional, could be added to a parish council website, and would separate Parish Council business from private so complying with GDPR. Emails can be forwarded to a private account if necessary. It was agreed that Cllr. Pleasance will investigate further.

88/19 Update on VE Day 75 years celebration in May 2020. Cllr. Hambling. Cllr. Hambling had spoken to Cllr. Butler who has offered his barn. A VE Day committee may be set up. Cllr. Mason offered to help.

89/19 To consider applying for the District Councillor grant. It was agreed to apply for this. Action Clerk to find out how much is available.

90/19 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Pleasance provided an update on Essex Superfast Broadband- still delayed.

Cllr. Wickes expressed her concerns regarding the lack of a meeting for the Earls Colne Airfield Liaison committee. There has been no meeting for two years and there have been some problems recently.

Village Fete: Cllr. Hambling provided an update on this. £2300 had been raised which was split between the Church and Greenwatch. There is a Bingo night on the 27th September which is raising money for the Xmas Bazaar. £10.00 per head with a Fish and Chip supper.

91/19 To note any items of correspondence. Noted

92/19 Future agenda items. None

There being no further business to transact the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th November 2019. 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

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