

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 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. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr. Peter Schwier (arrived 20.45)

8 members of the public

**93/19 Apologies for absence.** Cllr. Chris Butler, County Cllr. Jo Beavis.

**94/19 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** None were declared.

**95/19 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** Approved.

**(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not on the agenda.** Footpath 46 – Action: Clerk to chase, Defibrillator training 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019- only 3 people turned up, so the training obligation was not met as at least 8 people were needed. It may require another training session otherwise the funding might have to be returned to the Big Lotto Fund. Action: Cllr. Mason to pass details onto Clerk. Crocklands pavement and dip in road – Clerk had reported this to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways who are investigating it. Football practice – Clerk reported that they had found somewhere else to practice. Earls Colne Airfield Liaison Committee – Cllr. Wickes reported that there may be a meeting later this month. Item 79/19 Constantine Cottages hedge – they have been written to.

Planning update:

Braintree District Council (BDC) decisions. 19/01567/ FUL Bees Farm- refused. 19/00720/FUL Claverings- granted, 19/00923/FUL Coach House – granted.

Parish council response to 19/01709/FUL Conversion of first and half ground floor garage to annex. Villa Farm, Burtons Green, Greenstead Green 'In principle they have no objection to this application but want the following conditions attached; That it remains part of the curtilage of the main building and cannot be sold as a separate dwelling. They also wish to see Section 106 applied'.

**96/19 Public comment.** Cllr. Hambling reported that the fingerpost on the Green had collapsed, he will report it. A resident asked for an update on the Roundels, gateways and signage. These have been validated, just waiting for the work to start. It was noted that the work will also include the respacing of the 30mph repeater signs.

**97/19 County Councillor's report.** Due to her standing as a candidate in the upcoming General Election Cllr. Beavis was unable to attend the meeting due to Purdah being in place.

**98/19 District Councillor's report. This was deferred to later in the meeting.**

**99/19 (a) To agree the accounts for payment** Approved. **(b) Update on Digital and Direct banking.** Clerk had sent an email to Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) and is waiting to hear back. Clerk will also contact Gosfield who use online banking.

**100/19 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

**(a) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78**  
Site Address: Halstead Hall Braintree Road Halstead Essex CO9 1SL Description of Development: Demolish outbuildings, extend and refurbish existing redundant building to form 25 bed dementia unit.... Planning Application Ref: 18/01481/FUL. **This is an appeal against non-determination by BDC. Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural had raised no objection to this in September 2018 and felt that that comment still stood.**

**b) Update on the Parish Council's response to The Local Plan consultation.**  
The following response had been sent to the Local Plan Consultation in September 2019: **'Having looked at the consultation on the Local Plan; section 1. Garden Communities. The majority of Councillors were against carrying on with Local Plan; Section 1 at the moment and instead wish to see BDC come forward at the earliest opportunity with a consultation and subsequent hearing by the Planning Inspector on Local Plan: Section 2.'**

Cllr. Mason had attended a workshop arranged by North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) and provided a verbal report on the event.

**101/19 Playing Field: (a) Update on power supply to the Playing Field and to agree the payment. Cllr. Mason** No cost yet from UK Power Networks. They required a site to place the power supply and it was agreed to place the supply on the old bus stop concrete base.

**(b) Update on funding for Playing Field safety matting and play equipment. Cllr. Mason.** Should hear in the next two weeks if we have been successful in funding from the Big Lotto fund.

**102/19 To (a) agree the meeting dates for 2020.** The Village Hall Management Committee asked if the meetings could be held on a different night, unfortunately some of the councillors could only make Wednesdays so it was agreed to leave it as it was. The dates for the 2020 meetings, with one change of date for the Annual Parish Meeting, were duly approved.

8<sup>th</sup> January ordinary meeting.

11<sup>th</sup> March

13<sup>th</sup> May AGM and ordinary meeting

21<sup>st</sup> May Annual Parish Meeting (changed from 20<sup>th</sup> May)

8<sup>th</sup> July

9<sup>th</sup> September

11<sup>th</sup> November

**(b) Finance meeting date.** To be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 7.30pm at Cllr. Mason's residence.

**103/19 IT (a) To agree to purchase bespoke Councillors emails. Cllr Pleasance (b) To consider renewing the current parish council's website host or moving it to another host. Cllr. Pleasance.** These two items were taken together. A report on this had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the current website was due to be renewed in March 2020 at a cost of £201.00 for 2 years with bespoke emails costing extra. Cllr. Pleasance recommended a cheaper host (1&1 IONOS) which would include bespoke emails at no extra cost, currently £99.00 Inc. VAT for 2 years. He is happy to set this all up but needs either a pre-paid credit card or a debit/credit card/BACS to do so. It was agreed to move the website to another host. Action: Clerk to speak to NatWest regarding cards and BACS.

**(c) To consider purchasing an external hard drive for back-up purposes.** It was agreed to purchase one at a cost of up to £50.00 for 1tb.

**104/19 Report on blocked drains in Star Stile Lane. Cllr. Dixey.** These had been reported 18 months ago along with a fingerpost by Cllr. Dixey. The fingerpost had been repaired but the gullies had not been cleared. They are now covered by the verge and as they are next to the cricket pitch hedge possibly come under Halstead. Councillors also reported blocked drains at Burtons Green Road, Stisted Road, and Grange Hill. Action: Clerk to report them to ECC Highways.

**98/19 District Councillor's report. This was deferred from earlier in the meeting.** District Cllr. Peter Schwier arrived at 20.45 and provided an update on the Local Plan consultation. The consultation hearing with the Planning Inspector will start on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for two weeks at Colchester Football Stadium. Gigaclear broadband are now installing broadband in parts of BDC's rural areas. BDC budget for 2020/21 progressing well. Cllr Schwier asked for a list of the blocked gullies in the parish. Action: Clerk to send list to him.

**105/19 To consider purchasing the 2019 Clerks Manual.** It was agreed to purchase this at a cost of £49.99.

**106/19 To respond to an email from Braintree Neighbourhood Watch asking for a donation.** This was deferred to the Finance Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked Jean Hastings for all her hard work. Action: Clerk to email Jean the parish council's thanks.

**107/19 District Councillors grant: to decide what to purchase with the grant of up to £600.** It was decided to put this towards the power supply in the Playing Field. District Cllr. Peter Schwier was thanked for his help. Action: Clerk to apply for grant.

**108/19 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.** Cllr. Hambling provided an update on the various events going on in the parish:

23<sup>rd</sup> November- tea in the village hall entrance being a prize for the tombola for the Christmas Bazaar. 2-4

7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Greenwatch Quiz at The Barn

8<sup>th</sup> December - Xmas Bazaar in the village hall

9<sup>th</sup> December – Carols around the Xmas tree on the Green. 6.30pm

25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Greenwatch disco.

VE Day celebrations – street party in the Playing Field 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 bring your own food. 9<sup>th</sup> May evening celebrations in Chris Butler’s barn to include live music, readings about wartime experiences, and disco. 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 quiz to raise funds for VE Day celebrations and Help for Heroes. Thanks, were expressed to the two parishioners who have helped organise these events.

Cllr. Wickes reported that residents have complained to her about the amount of mud on the roads, speeding and the damage to the green by farmers. District Cllr. Peter Schwier explained it was the duty of farmers to clear the road of mud. It was suggested writing to the local farm. Cllr. Wickes had also noticed a caravan in one of the fields at Bluebridge, Halstead. She will speak to Cllr. Butler who is believed to own the field and report back to the Clerk.

**109/19 To note any items of correspondence.** Noted.

**110/19 Future agenda items.** Open Spaces Action Plan, Precept, Budget.

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

**The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. 7.30pm. Greenstead Green Village Hall.**

Signed.....

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

Date.....

<p><b>Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992. <a href="mailto:greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com">greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com</a>. WWW. <a href="http://greensteadgreenpc.org.uk">greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</a>.</b></p>
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