

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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 Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi. District Councillor.

Together with 7 members of the public.

7 representatives from Bloor Homes.

**98/17 Apologies for absence.** Cllr Jo Beavis, County Councillor.

**99/17 Declaration of interests.** Cllr. Butler declared a family interest in 17/01551/FUL Froyz Hall and a Pecuniary Interest in 17/01932/REM and 17/01952/REM Land South of Oak Road.

**100/17 Presentation from Bloor Homes regarding the Oak Road development.** The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, explained that the original plans for 192 homes had been withdrawn and a new plan for 183 homes had been introduced which would be discussed under Agenda Item 105/17. The meeting was then opened to Bloor Homes who explained that one of the reasons for the changes was due to a change in officer at BDC and the feedback they had received from them and the public. The spine road was a separate application which was approved and so work had started on this. The new plan had the playground in a different area and the houses were now more in keeping with the architecture of Halstead. A variety of questions were asked by both Councillors and members of the public, which included concerns about the width of Oak Road. Bloor Homes explained there was a S278 agreement on widening Oak Road and providing a footpath which had been approved by ECC. Bloor offered to send a simplified programme to the Clerk for distribution to the Councillors and thanked the Councillors for their time. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, thanked Bloor Homes for their presentation and detailed plans. Bloor Homes then left.

**101/17 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were duly approved. **(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.** Oak post still to do. Goalposts have been removed and the new ones installed. The bridge on the footpath by Russells Road has been repaired. Footpaths have been reported to BDC. The Clerk reported that the Oak trees on the village green and on the pavement, do not have a TPO on them so can be trimmed. Meeting with Cllr Beavis still to do. BDC have been told that the Parish Council are happy for the boundary surrounding the Oak Road site to be moved to Halstead. The meeting regarding this will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at BDC, Cllr Mason will attend. The next phase of the Transparency Grant has been received. This will be used for the website design and training, Cllr. Mason has contacted James the website designer regarding this. It was noted that a discussion is needed regarding what to put on the website. It was also noted that the website will need to be updated every other month. Cllr. Mason encouraged the councillors to look at other Parish Council websites. Cllr. Butler had spoken to Martin Render, from Community Heartbeat Trust, about the Defibrillator and had been sent a guide regarding defibrillators and if suitable for the community. He will send the information back to Martin. He also reported that he had received a quote from Sibley regarding the cabinet.

**102/17 Public comment.** A member of the public asked why someone in the village couldn't trim the trees if they have no order on them. Cllr. Mason offered to speak to Greenwatch to see if it is something they would like to do. A member of the public wanted to know if the Parish Council had paid for the refurbishment of the seat on the village green. Cllr. Mason explained that the Parish Council had not paid for the refurbishment it would be coming from Greenwatch funds as now they can borrow the speed camera from Stisted they decided to use some of the money raised for a speed camera to refurbish the seat. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work. The drains need clearing from the Farm Shop to Burtons Green Road- Clerk to raise with Highways. A parishioner asked why the slow sign on the road near Crocklands, which he had first raised in September 2016, had not been repainted – Clerk to raise with Highways.

**103/17 District Councillor's report. County Councillor's report.** Cllr. O'Reilly-Ciccione reported that there will be a rise of 3.92% in Council Tax due to Central Government cutting BDC's funding. The rise is needed to cover a one-million-pound hole in BDC's projected budget. The District Plan is with the Inspectorate and hopefully a resolution will be reached by late 2018. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, asked about the proposed garden village plan at West Tey - 3000 homes which is about 835 homes a year. The BDC have no power over developers and so can't force them to build. Next April's reforms will hopefully make it simpler for issues to be addressed. Cllr. O'Reilly-Ciccione then left the meeting. In the absence of the County Councillor there was no report.

**104/17 (a) To agree the accounts for payment.** Approved **(b) To approve the petty cash payments.** Approved.

**105/17 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

Planning no: 17/00332/TPO St James Church, Greenstead Green. Tree Works. The Parish Council agreed “No comment.”

Planning no: 17/01551/FUL Land North of Froyz Hall. Pennypot Corner. New Glamping Site with amenity block. It was noted that the owner will be on site and that a commercial site makes it easier to move Travellers on. The Parish Council agreed “No comment.”

Planning no: 17/01876/FUL. Halstead Cricket Club, Colne Engaine Road. Erection of a score box. The Parish Council agreed “No comment.”

Planning no: 17/01897/PLD. Laurel Cottage, Grange Hill. Application for a proposed lawful development certificate. **For information only.** Councillors expressed concerns about the change to business use and potential parking issues. Clerk to check with Planning regarding these.

Planning no: 17/01932/REM. Land South of Oak Road, Halstead. Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 14/01580/OUT - Details of internal spine road to serve Parcel A of the development. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed “No comment.”

Planning no: 17/01952/REM. Land South of Oak Road Halstead. Application for approval of all matters reserved by Condition 2 of outline planning permission 14/01580/OUT, for the development of 183 residential dwellings (including up to 30% affordable housing), convenience store, parking, structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, children's play area, surface water attenuation and associated ancillary works. The outline planning application was not an EIA application. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed “No comment.”

**106/17 To agree to the private use of The Playing Field during an August weekend by Annie Webster.** The Chairman opened the meeting to allow Annie Webster to speak. She explained that she had been in contact with the Clerk by email about hiring the Playing Field for a private birthday party during the August Bank Holiday weekend. She described it has a mini festival with music and food for family and friends and villagers only. They were hiring the village hall for facilities and were also looking at possibly camping in their garden and the field. They intended to send flyers out to everyone in the village to let them know what was happening. The music would stop at 11pm. Both Councillors and members of the public asked a variety of questions and raised concerns regarding the policing of the event, parking, numbers attending and collection of rubbish. Cllr. Mason suggested a contract should be drawn up regarding terms and conditions. Cllr. Butler offered to discuss camping arrangements with Mrs Webster. Cllr. Fossick suggested a contribution towards the upkeep of the field if they wanted to use it. It was also suggested that permission might be needed from BDC. Mrs Webster was asked to speak to BDC and Environmental Health and come back to the Parish Council in writing with information on how the event will work addressing the concerns raised, including liability before a decision could be made. The Clerk was also asked to contact the Parish Council insurers to ask about liability.

**107/17 Children's Play Equipment and the Playing Field. Update. Cllr. Mason.** Cllr. Fossick had provided Cllr. Mason with the contact details of his friend's company, Wicksteed Playgrounds. Cllr. Mason had met with them at the Playing Field and discovered that the current swings and seesaw were from them. The quote they sent was for £3500 for a swinging chair, they had also sent a quote for the same amount for a roundabout with disabled access. The clerk had received a quote from Playquip for £2747. It was noted that both the quotes from Playquip and Sovereign were for more equipment but these were made out of timber with metal posts and cleats, guaranteed for 10 years while Wicksteed's quotes were for one piece of equipment each but these were made of galvanised metal and guaranteed for 25 years. It was noted that there were grants available for disabled play equipment. Cllr. Mason added that during the site visit, the Wicksteed representative drew attention to the safety matting. This is 10 years old and rotting. It will cost £8000 to replace. It was noted that ROSPA had not mentioned it during their inspection. There was a discussion on whether to use the funding towards new matting.

The Parish Council agreed to purchase the swing seat and for Cllr. Mason to research grants for a disabled access roundabout and safety matting. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work.

**108/17 Telephone Box Penny Pot Corner. To agree to its adoption by the Parish Council.** It was noted that when the phone box on the green was offered to the Parish Council for adoption they declined the offer due to the ongoing costs involved, which was £300.00 a year, at the time. There was a discussion on whether the council wanted to adopt it, could they move it from Penny Pot if they adopted it and what you could do with it, could it be sold. The Clerk was asked to find out if adopted means are we buying it and what we are allowed to do with it.

**109/17 White Ash Green items. Mobile Home and long-term use of Holiday Let. Cllr. Ardley.** Cllr Ardley reported that the footpath at Karami had been cleared. Pods Lane is now a footpath but not a Bridal path. It has been cleared by residents and a finger post has been put up by BDC. The overhanging branches at Woodcot had been cleared. The Clerk had written an email to Planning about a mobile home and 3 stables, which had appeared on land next to Shardhigs, Russels Road, after concerns had been raised by residents. The land has nothing to do with Shardhigs. It was believed that the mobile home and stables do not have planning permission. The new owners of the land had apparently been told to place a mobile home on the site by the Police after a break-in at the stables. The Clerk had also spoken to Planning who had visited the site and reported that they were not concerned as they felt the mobile home was related to what was taking place on the site and as long as no one is living in it and it is temporary it should be alright. It was suggested to keep an eye on the site. Concerns had also been raised by the long-term use of a holiday let. Planning Department had spoken to the owner and as we understand it, he is the one living there so it is permitted.

**110/17 1. Blocked Drains in Star Stile Lane. 2. Overhanging hedge to footpath at No. 4 Constantine Cottages. Cllr. Dixey.** 1. Two blocked drains opposite Coach House and Star Stile House- Clerk to report to Highways. 2. Hedge at No.4 Constantine Cottages is in need of cutting back – Clerk to write a letter to the occupier.

**111/17 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.** A report was received on the recent meeting of the Earls Colne Airfield Liaison Group meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. It was noted that Essex Air Ambulance is increasing its flights. The Greenstead Green sector will receive 22% of the Air Ambulance noise, while 47% of the noise will affect Burtons Green. The flying club has changed ownership and they have set up a DVD to show trainee pilots where they can fly. 16 complaints had been received about noise. It was noted that new procedures regarding noise abatement had been discussed at the meeting. Cllr. Mason reported that Greenwatch had carried out their first speed watch on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November and caught two cars speeding. The next one will be at 7am on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. They have 12 regular volunteers. Speed watch should take place every two weeks.

**112/17 To note any items of correspondence. Essex Heritage Trust.** It was noted that Essex Heritage Trust has grants of up to £10,000 available. Clerk to give a copy of the letter to Cllr. Wickes. The Clerk distributed the correspondence.

**113/17 To agree a date for the Financial Meeting.** The Finance meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30 pm at the village hall. Clerk to check with Booking Clerk regarding the availability of the hall.

**114/17 To consider any items of urgent business. (Chairman)** Cllr. Butler suggested bringing the Parish Council meetings forward to 7pm due to them finishing so late. It was decided to leave the time as it is.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

Signed.....

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

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