

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30pm. These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.**

**Present.**

Cllr. Chris Butler

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi (left 8pm)

District Cllr. Peter Schwier (arrived 8.30pm)

Together with 6 members of the public.

**1/19 Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Thelma Ardley and the Vice- Chairman, Cllr Derek Mason. These were duly approved. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Beavis.

**2/19 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** None were declared.

**3/19 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** There was a correction at 93/18 (b). The word 'roundels' was removed and replaced with 'speed limit from'. The minutes were duly approved.

**(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.** Cllr. Butler provided an update on the condition of the village hall. The damp on the side party wall is due to broken lead flashing. Negotiations are ongoing with the neighbours. The damp on the back wall is due to the window sills being cracked. Repairs to this are the responsibility of the hall management committee. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, provided an update on recent planning applications. The Clerk provided an update on horses using Pods Lane and the missing stile in Russells Road.

**4/19 Public comment.** Cllr David Burge from Stisted Parish Council introduced himself and explained he was there to talk about the fortnightly bus service that is run by volunteers in Stisted. They are looking to expand it into neighbouring villages and wondered if Greenstead Green would be interested in taking part. Currently, it runs on alternate Saturday mornings to Marks Farm, Tesco and Braintree, and may expand to include Freeport for the youngsters. The minibus is rented from BDC. It costs £4.00 for a return journey or free to bus pass users. The parish councillors expressed interest and asked for posters for the noticeboard, website, and post office so that it could be promoted.

A resident asked about the website. This is up and running. The details were given out. It is also on the noticeboard. It was suggested that details should also be displayed in the shop.

A resident asked why the gates to the green lanes in the area were still open when from October to March 2018 they were closed. Cllr. Wickes explained that the off roaders had won their court appeal regarding green lanes and these can no longer be blocked. It was noted that some of the lanes are now impassable. Marks Hall Estate is aware.

**5/19 District Councillor's report.** Cllr. John O'Reilly-Ciccone provided an update on the timing of the Local Plan. It is hoped to be adopted in 2020 although it is more likely 2021. Cllr. O'Reilly-Ciccone gave his apologies for the March 2019 meeting and his goodbyes as he is standing down in May after serving as a Councillor since 1998. He hopes before he leaves to obtain a date from Highways regarding the flooding issue in Greenstead Green. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, thanked Cllr O'Reilly-Ciccone for his service over the years.

**6/19 County Councillor's report, to include updates on 30MPH Village entrance roundels and Highway survey regarding Electronic Speed Sign.** In the absence of The Clerk read out an email from Councillor Beavis regarding the highway survey. The Chairman also provided an update. The speed survey shows that the average mean speed in Church Road is compliant with Essex County Councils (ECC) Highways speed targets. Greenwatch reported that they had spoken to Jasmine Wiles, Assistant Highway Liaison Officer who reports to Cllr. Beavis. Ms Wiles had confirmed that a Speed Indication Device would not be approved by Highways. The roundels would probably also be refused. There was a discussion about the survey. It was felt that it had been diluted by being held over 24 hours rather than 12 hours, and the lack of lights and pavement had not been taken into account. It was noted that since the previous survey in 2017 the volume of traffic had remained the same but the speed had gone up. Ms Wiles has suggested that planting and gates at the entrance to the village, similar to Stisted, would be favoured by Highways. She is happy to come out and do a site survey for the gates. Greenwatch would maintain the gates, with one being at each end of the main road.

Cllr. Burge, Stisted Parish Council, provided an update on what Stisted have done and how effective it has been.

Greenwatch formally asked the Parish Council if they could have permission to approach Jasmine Wiles for a site assessment for the gates. The Parish Council agreed to Greenwatch's request.

**7/19 (a) To agree the accounts for payment.** These were duly approved.

**(b) To approve the budget and Precept for 2019/20.** A Finance meeting had been held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 to discuss the 2019/20 budget and Precept. It was noted that last year the Parish Council had drawn on reserves in order to keep the precept increase around 5%. The PC had also received the Localism grant. This year there was no grant and the reserves needed to be restored. It was also noted that the tax base this year had dropped. The Band D rate for this year would be £34.52; last year it was £23.44. In real terms this works out at just under £10.00 but percentage wise it would be just under 40%. The budget and Precept were duly approved.

**(c) Chairman to sign the Precept papers.** These were signed by the Chairman.

**8/19 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

Planning No: 18/01749/FUL Land East of Sudbury Road Halstead Essex Revised plans: Erection of 218 homes with associated infrastructure including SUDs features, new accesses from Tylneys Road and Winston Way, hard and soft landscaping and provision of public open space.

After a discussion it was agreed to make the same comments as last time. Which were: "The Parish Council acknowledges that principle of residential development on the site has already been accepted with the grant of planning permission 17/00575/OUT. The PC's comments therefore focus upon the proposed parkland and public open space which falls within our parish boundary.

The delivery of 13.53 ha of public open space is welcomed and supported. We consider that the landscape and nature conservation management plan which accompanies the planning application provides a good framework for a regime of landscape and nature conservation management of the retained parkland and other habitats and new landscape provision associated with the Halstead residential development site, to the east of Sudbury Road. The full implementation of the landscape management plan will enable the landscaped park to become an attractive and useable setting for the proposed residential scheme. It is important, therefore, that the landscape management plan is ratified through Section 106 Agreement to ensure that the biodiversity and landscape interests of the site are enhanced and safeguarded in perpetuity. The PC is keen to ensure that the structural planting along the northern edge of the residential development is maintained throughout the life of the development."

Planning No: 18/02313/OUT Land East of Sloe Hill Halstead Essex: Erection of nine dwellings and access. After a discussion the Parish Council made the following comments: 'Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council object to this application due to the following concerns:

- The access to the site is on a bend. Therefore, visibility is an issue for vehicles entering and leaving the site.
- Likewise, the road speed is 40mph at this point and so the speed of the traffic on that part of the road is a concern.
- The adverse impact on Sloe House a Grade 2 listed building.'

Planning No: 19/00028/FUL. A permanent five bar entrance gate. Land South of Oak Road Halstead Essex, and Planning No: 18/02303/FUL Installation of a temporary sales area and the change of use of residential garages located between plots 1 and 2 to a marketing suite for the period Jan 2019 – Dec 2020 including the construction of 6 car parking spaces and 1200mm high estate railings. After a brief discussion Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following comments: 'No objection.'

**9/19 Playing Field (a) Update on CIF application.** The Clerk reported that the PC had been successful in their bid and had received £9162.50 towards the replacing of Safety matting in the Playing Field. It was hoped to use this as leverage for further grants. Cllr Butler suggested approaching the Essex Environment Trust. **(b) To approve Cllr. Mason applying for additional grants to replace the safety matting.** This was unanimously approved.

**10/19 To update and approve the Open Spaces Action Plan.** To remain the same.  
Approved.

**11/19 Update on Defibrillator funding.** Cllr. Mason had been successful in his bid from the Big Lotto Fund. £3,028 had been awarded for this

**12/19 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.** Cllr. Hambling reported that the Christmas Bazaar had raised £725.10 which was split between the Hall and Church. The carols round the tree had also been a success. Planning for the Fete had started. The Greenwatch Quiz to be held at the Barns on the 19<sup>th</sup> January was sold out.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, reported that the Earls Colne Airfield Liaison Group meeting had been cancelled. District Cllr. Peter Schwier explained that this was due to a lack of staff and it is hoped to rearrange a meeting in March. He reported that there had been a dramatic decrease in the number of complaints regarding airplanes. This was due to the new owner using video at the airfield and YouTube to show permitted flight areas. He also reported that the airfield is submitting plans for two new buildings to be used for storage and by Essex Air Ambulance.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, reported on an interesting closed meeting the Parish Council had with Gladman's regarding proposed housing on Land West of Sudbury Road in Halstead but which borders Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural parish., The Councillors had asked for a more defined border to be used.

**13/19 To note any items of correspondence.** The Clerk confirmed that the BT box is covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Best Village in Essex application to be given to Cllr. Mason.

**19/19 Future Agenda items.** Fingerposts. Cllr Hambling gave his apologies for the March meeting.

The next meeting will be 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30.

The meeting closed at 21.05pm

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.</b> <a href="mailto:greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com">greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com</a>. <a href="http://WWW.greensteadgreenpc.org.uk">WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</a>.</p>
--