

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present.**

Cllr. Thelma Ardley.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Jo. Beavis.

District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi.

Together with 6 members of the public.

**85/18 Apologies for absence.** Cllr. Chris Butler, Cllr. Bill Dixey.

**86/18 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** None were declared.

**87/18 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes were duly approved.

**(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.** Issue of damp in the hall: Clerk to write to Cllr. Butler to find out more details. Planning Applications: Former Whitehouse gym, the conversion to offices has been approved, Grain Store at Greenstead Farm has not been determined yet. BT Box: this has been cleaned by Cllrs. Ardley and Wickes and the Parish Clerk. The Chairman thanked them for their work.

**88/18 Public comment.** None.

**89/18 District Councillor's report.** District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi told the meeting about a free Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day for the lonely from 12.30 – 4pm. This will be at the Royal British Legion, Witham. Help with transport is available. Contact number is 01376 511165 or Xmas455.org.uk. He informed the Parish Council that The Open Spaces Action Plan is up for review. Therefore, the parishes entry will need to be looked at to see if it still covers their needs. A question was asked about the Local Plan and Garden Communities. Cllr. O'Reilly-Cicconi provided an update. It was noted that the Government has published new projections which suggest a decrease in the number of new homes that need to be built. District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi left the meeting at 7.48pm.

**90/18 County Councillor's report.** County Cllr. Jo Beavis spoke further about the Local Plan and its potential impact on the area. She thanked Cllr. Ardley and Hambling for attending the Cluster Meeting in October. She provided information on Essex County Councils (ECC) pilot scheme to devolve funding down to parishes. To date 85 parish councils have come forward and have all been accepted for the pilot. She reported that there is a new Cabinet Member for Highways and that an extra £2 million has been found to repair potholes in Essex. She is asking for suggestions for the top twenty worst potholes in her area. She has already had 10 put forward including the Oak Road to Bourne Farm area which is in Greenstead Green. Highways has also surveyed paths in the villages. There is a consultation on closures of Essex Libraries and Cllr Beavis encouraged residents to have their say.

Cllr Ardley spoke about the Cluster meeting and how she agreed with comments made by Earls Colne that ECC Highways don't seem to listen to the parish councils regarding planning applications and infrastructure. Cllr. Beavis noted this and spoke about Halstead Town Council's response to 18/01876/OUT. They are objecting to it on grounds of infrastructure and intend to write to developers asking them to work together regarding road changes. Halstead Town Council have also sent photos to Cllr Beavis regarding the mud on the surrounding roads at the Oak Road development and these have been sent on to the Cabinet Member responsible. She also noted that Uttlesford District Council has agreed to Stansted Airport expanding. She will let the Clerk know when the next Cluster meeting is scheduled.

**91/18 To agree the accounts for payment.** These were duly approved.

**92/18 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

Planning no: 18/01920/FUL. Catnap Plaistow Green Road Greenstead Green Essex CO9 1QA. Single storey rear and side extensions. Insertion of 2 No dormers to south west elevation. After a brief discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed 'No Objection'.

Planning no: 18/01876/OUT. Land North of Oak Road Halstead Essex. Outline planning application with all matters reserved for 28 market and 22 affordable dwellings, public open space and associated development. The Councillors of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council acknowledge that this site is not within the Parish of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural. They wish to raise the following comment: 'The Parish Council of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural object on the grounds that there is insufficient information accompanying the planning application to demonstrate that the site can accommodate 50 dwellings. In particular, the illustrative masterplan lacks the details needed to give the decision-maker confidence that the applicant will be able to deliver a scheme which incorporates appropriate separating distances between the proposed and existing neighbouring residential properties.'

**93/18 To agree to support Greenwatch in (a) purchasing an electronic speeding sign with posts.** Lee Laphorne, representing Greenwatch, provided an update on Greenwatch and the problem of speeding in the village. They have had a police speed survey carried out which shows there is a problem. They have raised money for a speed sign, total cost of which, including posts and VAT, is £4033. They would like the Parish Council to support the

sign and cover the shortfall of £1065. County Cllr. Beavis explained there will need to be a formal request to Highways to erect a sign and explained the criteria needed to obtain approval. Greenwatch have already spoken to the Highways Liaison Officer who works with Cllr Beavis on the Local Highway Panel. Cllr Beavis will make sure she is copied in on emails regarding this. The Clerk read out a response from the Parish Councils insurers which explained that the poles and sign will need to be owned and insured by the Parish Council if the council take responsibility for it.

The Chairman proposed that the PC fund the shortfall of £1,065, which was seconded by Cllr. Mason, all agreed. It was also noted that it will need to be included on the precept. It was suggested that Greenwatch gift the money they have raised to the Parish Council who will purchase, insure and take responsibility for the sign once it is approved by Highways.

Cllr. Mason asked Greenwatch if they would help with painting the play equipment. Mr Laphthorne agreed to place it on Greenwatch's agenda.

**(b) approaching Highways to paint 30mph roundels on road entrances to the village.** Mr Laphthorne asked if Highways could be approached to have 30mph roundels painted on the approach roads to the village. County Cllr. Beavis will visit the village with her Liaison Officer to look at the issue.

Cllrs Mason and Hambling asked for the following to be placed on the next agenda 'to approach Highways to have 40mph roundels ~~speed limit from~~ <sup>PRF</sup> at Claverings' painted.  
Action: Clerk

Mr Laphthorne thanked the Parish Council for their time.

**94/18 To agree to the planting of a slow growing Christmas Tree on the village green.** (Cllr. Mason) Cllr. Mason explained that the farm shop had offered to sponsor the Christmas tree but wanted a permanent rather than a temporary one to be placed on the playing field. The Parish Council prefer the village green. It was suggested planting it in a tub in the ground and gauge reactions.

The Parish Council agreed to the placing of a Christmas Tree on the village green. Greenwatch to go back to the farm shop to discuss.

**95/18 Playing Field (a) update on Picnic table** Cllr. Mason provided an update on this. Enviroworld were now charging a delivery charge of £110. He had found another company, Marmax Products, which was charging £349 + £45 delivery+ Vat. It was agreed to use them instead. **(b) Update on ROSPA report** Cllr. Mason was working through this and was looking at funding. **(c) Update on CIF funding.** The Clerk reported that she had sent this off and was waiting for a response.

**96/18 To investigate the use of Skips and Asbestos at the Anglian Water site, Church Road. (Deferred from September meeting)** This had been resolved with the skips having been removed and the area fenced off and gates installed.

**97/18 Progress report on funding for the Defibrillator. Cllr Mason.** Cllr. Mason provided an update on this. He had applied for a grant for £3700 from the Big Lotto grant for the

purchase, installation and training for a defibrillator. He should hear before Christmas if the Parish Council have been successful.

**98/18 To agree to adopt the Emergency Plan.** It was agreed to adopt the Emergency Plan. Clerk to send a copy to Braintree District Council.

**99/18 To nominate the top two potholes in the parish for repairs to be put forward to County Cllr. Beavis.** Already discussed with County Cllr. Beavis.

**100/18 To (a) agree the meeting dates for 2019.** The Clerk had distributed suggested dates before the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to hold the bi-monthly meetings on the second week of the month. To note that the January meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> as neither the Clerk or County Cllr. Beavis is available. It was also agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. **(b) Finance meeting date.** It was agreed to hold this on 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 8pm at Cllr. Mason's home.

**101/18 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.** Cllr. Hambling provided an update on Greenwatch's activities. There will be a Xmas Bazaar on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 12 -3, in the village hall and Xmas Carols on 13<sup>th</sup> December, time to be confirmed. Cllr. Ardley reported that she had attended an Armistice Tree Planting ceremony at Halstead Public Gardens in October. She also reported that the stile on footpath number 15, Russells Road, had disappeared. Clerk to report to Footpaths, ECC. She also reported that horses are using Pods Lane, Footpath 49, and so a barrier is needed to prevent this. Clerk to report to Footpaths, ECC. To be placed on the next agenda. Lorries are still using Love Lane, but this maybe due to GPS instructions.

Cllr. Wickes reported that the gates on the green lane between Clavering Farm and Burton's Green had been removed due to a change in the path's designation. She also reported that the gate on the path between Burtons Green and Marks Hall is now permanently open. Cllr. Mason reported that this was due to a change in the law whereby 4x4's can no longer be charged for using byways. She also reported that there has been no meeting of the Earls Colne Airfield Liaison Group for 9 months.

**102/18 To note any items of correspondence.** Noted.

**103/18 Future agenda items.** Open Spaces Plan, Roundels at Claverings, budget.

**Meeting ended 21.30.**

Signed.....P.R.Foster.....

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

Date.....16/1/19.....

**Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992.**  
[greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com](mailto:greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com). WWW. [greensteadgreenpc.org.uk](http://greensteadgreenpc.org.uk).