

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present.

Cllr. Chris Butler

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes. Arrived 19.55

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Jo Beavis

District Cllr. Peter Schwier

3 members of the public.

111/20 Apologies for absence. None.

112/20 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None declared.

113/20 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved. **(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.** Item 96/19

Fingerposts and Item 104/19 Blocked drain- These had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways by Cllr. Hambling and the Clerk, still waiting for a response from Highways. Item 107/19 District Councillors Grant - Applied for and approved. Item 108/19 Caravan in field – Cllr. Butler explained that this had been there for some time and was used for horse equipment only.

114/20 Public comment. A Resident asked if planning permission was required for a mobile unit which had appeared on Cllr Butlers property. Cllr. Butler confirmed he had spoken to Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning Department who had informed him that planning permission was not needed as it was a temporary building. It will be painted, and a hedge placed round it. The resident felt it was an improvement on what was there before.

A resident reported that the byway by Claverings to Mystycroft was impassable. It was also noted that Burtons Green Triangle was full of ruts from the recent hunt.

115/20 County Councillor's report. County Cllr. Beavis updated the parish council on the last Highways Panel. Gateway and horse signs have been passed; finger posts are still outstanding. This includes the one mentioned above. She noted that

there had been two accidents the previous week on Mount Hill near the new Oakwood Hill development due to the increase in traffic and speed. She has written to Highways and will be visiting residents along the road. She felt that highway changes should have been part of the development. Cllr. Dixey asked that when looking at the speed limit along Mount Hill the increased use of Halstead Hall should be taken into consideration as well. It was noted that a new access point by Parley Beams had appeared. Highways will be investigating it. Cllr. Beavis will update the Clerk on the speeding issues. All potholes have been logged.

ECC have declared a Climate Emergency.

County Cllr. Beavis will be attending the Local Plan hearing from the 14th January.

Election for Police and Crime Commissioner to take place in May.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster had visited the Oakwood Hill development and was happy to report that at least 4 roads had names suggested by former Parish Cllr. Ardley.

116/20 District Councillor's report. District Cllr. Schwier encouraged councillors and residents to visit Rivenhall Village Hall on Friday 10th January where a consultation was taking place on Rivenhall incinerator which has the backing of the Environmental Agency. This incinerator will affect everyone.

He too also expressed concerns regarding the Oakwood development and ECC Highways lack of concern over the traffic. He felt that S.106 agreements should have been used to make the developer pay for road changes. He felt Highways should have anticipated these problems. County Cllr. Beavis agreed with him.

Cllr. Schwier referred to an email he had sent to the clerk regarding funding for fingerpost repairs. The Clerk explained that she had replied to his email telling him that the fingerposts were in validation and the broken one had been reported to ECC Highways. She will forward Cllr. Schwier's email to Cllr's Hambling, Mason and Foster for their information. Action: Clerk to forward email

117/20 Precept/Budget 2020/2021 Item 1. To agree and set the budget. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster explained that there had been a Finance meeting on 6th January to discuss the budget. Increases had been agreed in Grasscutting, Clerk's salary and considering the recent RoSPA report a large increase in the Playing Field budget to £1000 to cover all repairs. A donation to Neighbourhood Watch was agreed (see 118.20 Item 3) and the Training budget was reduced. It was noted that there is no longer a Localism grant from BDC. The budget was agreed by all.

Item 2. To agree and set the precept. The precept will be £10007.00 an increase of £961.00 on last year. The Band D Tax Rate will rise to £36.39 up £3.62 from last year's rate of £32.78 which is a 10% increase for the year or .30p a month. The precept was agreed by all and the Chairman duly signed the Precept request. Action: Clerk to send Precept request to BDC

118/20 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. Approved. Cllr. Butler asked about the Defibrillator grant and Cllr. Mason confirmed that this can only be used for the defibrillator.

Item 2. Update on electronic banking. The Clerk had spoken to Gosfield Parish Council who use Barclays Community Interest Bank Account which allows dual BACS authorisation. She has since spoke to Barclays who have confirmed this is the case and that there is a debit card available as well. The Clerk will return to the meeting with details on what is needed to move accounts. Action: Clerk to contact Barclays and return to March meeting with an update.

Item 3. Decision regarding donation to Neighbourhood Watch (NW) as discussed at the Finance meeting held Monday 6th January 2020. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster explained that this had been due to an email from Clive Stewart, Chair of NW, in November asking for donations. It had been agreed at the Finance Meeting, 6th January, to donate £100.00 in the next Financial year. To be reviewed yearly.

119/20 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Planning No: 19/02265/HH Holly House, Church Road, Greenstead Green. Erection of a single storey rear extension and alterations (Revised scheme 19/01256/HH). The Parish Council unanimously agreed 'No Objection'.

Planning No:19/02310/COUPA Russells Farm, Russells Road, Greenstead Green. Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 3no. residential dwellings The Parish Council unanimously agreed 'No Objection.'

Item 2: Planning update. For information only. 18/01876/OUT Land North of Oak Road. Granted. 19/02042/PIP- Land at Forest Nursery. Parish Council objected. Application Refused. Halstead Hall has gone to appeal.

120/20 To agree a response to the Consultation: Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments Cllr. Butler will respond to this and send a copy to the Clerk. Action: Cllr Butler to respond. Copy of response to Clerk.

The Clerk had received an email regarding a free Briefing Day on this. Action: Clerk to forward Briefing Day email to Councillors.

121/20 To update the Open Spaces Action Plan. There was a discussion on this, and it was agreed to update the plan adding the missing information and including extra play equipment and the power supply. Action: Clerk to update plan and send to BDC.

122/20 Update on the Playing Field. Item 1. Power Supply and agree the payment for it. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason updated the Parish council on the power supply. UK Power Networks have quoted a cost of £6000 for the installation of the supply. There will be an additional cost for the lockable box and concrete base. It will now not be placed on the old bus stop as this would have been too expensive due to the need for 4-way traffic lights during the installation. Instead it will be going down

the side road with a box in the hedge by the slide. Funding will come from Greenwatch, the District Councillors grant and possibly a Big Lotto grant.

Item 2. Safety matting and play equipment. Cllr Mason Unfortunately due to the Defibrillator training not being signed off the Parish Council were turned down for a Big Lotto Grant as the Defibrillator account could not be closed.. Cllr. Mason has explained the situation to them, and it is hoped to reapply at the end of January.

The CIF grant needs to be spent before 31st March 2020. Due to the current lack of additional grants Cllr. Mason has looked at alternative safety surfaces. Safety matting will only last 10-15 years before needing replacement. He is proposing removing the existing matting around the swings, slide and see-saw and replacing with concrete or timber edging and bark chippings known as Safety Stix. This can be bought at £15.00 a cubic metre, will last longer as it can be topped up every 5 years and raked back into place. The work can be done by any groundworks company rather than playground specialists. This will allow the CIF grant to be used not only for the matting but also to paint the current equipment and add new equipment. Cllr. Mason will obtain 3 quotes from groundworks companies and email the quotes out to the Councillors as soon as possible. Action: Cllr. Mason to obtain quotes for groundworks.

Cllr. Mason was thanked for all his work on these items,

123/20 Update on the website and emails. Cllr. Pleasance. This had been agreed at the November meeting. Cllr. Pleasance will set up a separate account for the website and give the details to the Clerk. He is hoping to set it up in the next few weeks and migrate the old website over to the new host. Action: Cllr. Pleasance to set up the new website host.

124/20 To agree a response to Braintree District Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-2024. The Parish Council felt the strategy was too broad and could refer to any council, with a lack of targets. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster will respond to the consultation. Action: Chairman to write a response and send to Clerk who will pass on to BDC

The Clerk had received an email regarding a Leisure consultation. District Cllr. Schwier had already responded to this on behalf of his Ward. Action: Clerk to forward email to Councillors.

125/20 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling updated the meeting on recent fundraising events. The Xmas Bazaar raised £900. Lorraine and Julie were thanked for organising it. 50 people had attended Carols round the Xmas tree. Greenwatch Quiz in the Barn raised £290 for winter flowers.

Future Dates: Greenwatch meeting 20th January 2020, 7.30, Village Hall. 80's Disco 25th January 2020,.Village Hall. Quiz 7th March 2020, Village Hall for VE Day prepayments. Village Fete 19th July 2020. VE Day celebrations all in hand. Lorraine and Julie thanked for their work in organising this.

Cllr. Butler updated the meeting on the work that had taken place in the village hall regarding the leaks in the building due to a broken gully. The bill now needs to be paid. Action: Clerk to send Cllr. Butler information on village hall and VAT payments.

Cllr. Pleasance updated the meeting on Superfast Broadband. Dates have been revised again to November 2020 – June 2021.

126/20 To note any items of correspondence. Noted

127/20 Future agenda items. None received.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 21:15.

**Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 11th March 2020.at 7.30pm.
Greenstead Green Village Hall.**

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

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date...11/3/20.....

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