

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2020 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 20.03

4 members of the public.

128/20 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Chris Butler. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Jo Beavis.

129/20 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None received.

130/20 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. These were duly approved.

(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Item 114/20 – Mystycroft to Claverings FP39. This had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and to County Cllr. Beavis who had asked for further information. The Clerk read out an email from County Cllr. Beavis which provided an update on this footpath and others. This footpath has now closed due to it being in a dangerous state. FP 46 which is opposite the Village Hall and was blocked by vegetation had now been cut.

114/20 Public comment. None.

115/20 County Councillor's report. In the absence of County Cllr. Beavis there was no report.

116/20 District Councillor's report. Deferred to later in the meeting.

117/20 To agree to apply for a District Councillor grant of £274.20 to go towards the cost of the repairs/redecoration of the village hall. It was unanimously agreed to apply for the grant. Action: Clerk to apply for grant.

118/20 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. These were duly approved.

Item 2. To agree to move the Parish Council's bank account from NatWest to a Barclays Community Bank account and to allow online access for the Clerk. It was unanimously agreed to move the Parish Council's bank account from NatWest to a Barclays Community Bank account and to allow online access. Action: Clerk to arrange appointment with Barclays.

119/20 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

APPLICATION NO: 20/00367/HH DESCRIPTION: Erection of a single storey side extension and first floor rear extension, LOCATION: Plum Tree Cottage Church Road Greenstead Green Essex CO9 1QP. No objection.

Item 1. Licensing: Foxborough Hills. Licence application 20/00020/LAPREM/LA. To consider a response to this. Cllr. Pleasance. Cllr Pleasance explained the background to this application. This is a memorial site to Coz Powell where a yearly music festival is performed. It is just over the border in Sible Hedingham. The application would allow 28 days of events including music, films and wild camping currently they apply for a temporary licence each year. Residents have expressed concerns about noise, and the number of days. The application has since been withdrawn. After some discussion it was decided not to put a formal objection in but to instead keep an eye on proceedings and for Cllr. Pleasance to bring the application back to the meeting if necessary.

Item 2. Planning update. For information only. 19/02265/HH Holly House - Granted. 19/02310/COUPA Russells Farm – Withdrawn.

120/20 Playing Field: Item 1. Safety matting and play equipment - to approve change of matting and to agree payment for installation. Cllr Mason provided an update on this item. After further research, he had decided to not go ahead with bark chippings as although cheap to install in the long term they cost more to maintain. Instead he had looked at a soft rubber mat inside concrete edging and had received quotes, excluding VAT, from Wickstead (£12,800), Playquips (£12,000 plus) and Playground Facilities (£10,552.33) to remove existing safety matting and install rubber matting and concrete edging . This matting has a 5-year warranty but will probably last 10-20 years and can be easily removed and replaced within the concrete edging. It was agreed to approve the change of matting from bark to rubber. It was also agreed to go ahead with the quote from Playground Facilities and a cheque for £3798.12 (inc VAT) for a 30% deposit to secure the work was duly written. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work with regards to this item Action: Cllr. Mason will liaise with Playground Facilities to arrange installation.

Item 2: Update on power supply and to thank District Cllr. Schwier for his grant towards this. Cllr. Mason is applying for grants for this. District Cllr. Schwier was thanked for his grant of £600.00 towards the cost of this.

116/20 District Councillor report. Deferred from earlier in the meeting. District Cllr. Schwier provided an update on the following:

County Cllr. Finch will be asking for a briefing to be sent out by EALC on Covid 19 to all councils

ECC has extra money for potholes

CIF grants are now available again.

Gridsurf a rapid electric charging station has started construction in Braintree

Consultation on Braintree High Street plus £100,000,000 has been received from the Government for the predestination of the High Street.

Great British Spring Clean 20th March until 18th April (Postponed to September 2020)

Meeting at Springwood Industrial Estate 29th April 2020 (Cancelled)

Meeting 23rd March Bures for the public to talk to officers (Cancelled)

District Councillors Community grants are continuing next financial year.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked District Cllr. Schwier for his update and grants.

121/20 Update on website and emails. Cllr. Pleasance Cllr. Pleasance had migrated the website and will send details to the Clerk. It was agreed that the format for the emails would be Cllr. Surname@... and will default to their personal email as well there will also be alias for the Chair and Clerk. Action Cllr. Pleasance to send details of new website to Clerk.

122/20 Annual Parish Meeting: Item 1. To consider whether to invite a guest speaker. It was agreed to ask the Right Honourable James Cleverly MP to the APM. District Cllr. Schwier was meeting him on Friday and offered to invite him. Action: Clerk to email to District Cllr. Schwier the details before Friday 13th March 2020.

Item 2. To consider what type of refreshments to provide. It was agreed to provide wine, soft drinks and nibbles.

123/20 To consider a response to Essex County Fire and Rescue service draft Integrated Risk Management Plan. After some discussion it was agreed the Chairman, Cllr. Foster will draft a response to this. Action. Cllr. Foster to draft response and send to the Clerk to forward.

124/20 To consider a response to Essex Rural Strategy refresh online consultation. It was agreed to respond to this as individuals. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster encouraged both councillors and residents to go online and respond.

125/20 To consider entering Essex Village of the Year. It was agreed to not enter this as there is still a lot of work to do. Update: Cancelled

126/20 Update on Item 120/20 regarding Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. Cllr. Butler. The Clerk had emailed Cllr. Butler regarding this but had not received a reply. Action: Deferred to next meeting

127/20 VE Day. Item 1: Update on activities and to confirm Public Liability insurance is in place. The Clerk confirmed Public Liability insurance is in place. Cllr. Hambling provided an update on all the events taking place over the VE Day weekend..

Item 2: To consider purchasing cancellation insurance. Cllr. Hambling. Not needed.

Update: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic all events have been cancelled.

128/20 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling provided an update on events for Greenwatch and the fete. The speed sign has arrived just waiting for the posts to be installed. Roundels on road are in as are the gateways. More signs to go up and some to be removed. The 30mph repeaters have been realigned. Cllr. Hambling thanked County Cllr. Beavis, District Cllr. Schwier, Greenwatch and ECC Highways for their help with these matters.

Cllr. Pleasance reported that the footpath sign was now installed at Pods Lane, but horse riders are still using it. He will contact local groups again asking them to update their maps.

A member of the Petanque group reported that this took place twice a week on a Tuesday and Sunday in all weathers.

129/20 To note any items of correspondence. These were noted.

130/20 Future agenda items. Core documents, Asset List. Encampments, Salt

131/20 To exclude the press and public. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 'That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 132/20 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the public bodies admission to meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2. Resolution to exclude members of the press and public

132/20 Village Hall. Village hall repairs. After some discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to draft a letter to the Village Hall Management Committee asking for clarification with regards to the hall and the Parish Council relationship, particularly responsibility for payment of invoices, accountability and finances.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 21.45.

The next meeting will be the AGM followed by an ordinary meeting on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. TO BE CONFIRMED.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

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