

GREENSTEAD GREEN AND HALSTEAD RURAL PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING.

Draft minutes for the virtual meeting of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council. Held on Wednesday 13th May 2020 directly after the AGM.

Present

Cllr. Bill Dixey.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Pat Wickes. Signed in 7.15pm

County Cllr. Jo Beavis. Signed in 7.20pm

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

4 members of the public

Apologies: See AGM.

137/20 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr Pleasance declared an NPI in Item 143/20 Land at Forest Nursery. Cllr. Wickes declared an NPI in Item 150/20.

138/20 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. These were duly approved. **(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Item 117/20** - The Clerk reported that she had applied for the District Councillors Grant but had heard nothing. **Action:** Clerk to chase. NB The Clerk received an email from District Cllr. Schwier the next day confirming that we had been successful in the application. The delay was due to Covid 19 issues. **Item 118/20 Item 2.** Change of bank account – ongoing. **Item 121/20 Website** - Cllr. Pleasance reported that this had been updated. All councillors should have their new councillor email addresses. **Item 123/20 Fire Brigade consultation** – response sent in. **(c) To approve the notes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.** These were duly approved.

139/20 Public comment. A member of the public asked about the state of some of the footpaths in the area. Cllr. Hambling had reported the bridges to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways who will look at them. Byway 39 Claverings to Mystycroft is still shut possibly to stop vehicles, but it is also badly rutted. County Cllr. Beavis will report it.

140/20 County Councillor's report. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster welcomed County Cllr. Jo Beavis to the meeting. Cllr. Beavis reported on the following items:

Highways – still repairing potholes and other works. Parish Council can come to her if they need anything chasing with regards to Highways and footpaths.

ECC and Braintree District Council (BDC) – meetings continue via ZOOM and Microsoft Teams. They are also looking at using YouTube.

Covid 19 response – Cllr. David Finch, Leader of ECC, and Dr Mike Gogarty, ECC Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities are proving to be a highly effective team. They are involved with the Corona group which has been set up to use Village Agents to disseminate information and help to those who need it. Adult Social Care and Children Services continue. David Finch is monitoring deaths in Care Homes. David Finch and Graham Butland (BDC) are meeting regularly.

Recycling Centres and Green Bins will restart Monday 18th May 2020.

Scrutiny Panels – These are looking at recycling, Social Care, etc. Feedback to her any views and she will take them to the panels.

Parks – some may reopen over the coming weeks, but it is being monitored.

Essex Environment Committee – this is a cross party group who met for the first-time week beginning 11th May. They are looking at cycle paths and how to move around the county.

There being no further questions the Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked County Cllr. Beavis who left the meeting at 7.46pm.

141/20 District Councillor's report. This had been sent out prior to the meeting.

142/20 Finance. (a) To agree to continue with BHIB insurance at a cost of £526.25. Agreed. **(b) To agree the accounts for payment.** These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Approved.

Standing order	Mrs A.J. Degnan	£300.00	15/4/20 Salary	
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Standing order	Mrs A.J. Degnan	£300.00	15/6/20 Salary	
873	Village Hall	£16.00	11/3/20 meeting	
874	BHIB	£526.25	insurance membership	
875	EALC/NALC subscription	£188.34	fee	
	office expenses	£12.48	Calculator, tags	
876	Clerks expenses	£9.65	phone, mileage	£22.13

(c) To receive and approve the Annual Governance Return. (AGAR). This had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 2 which included the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 and Accounting Statements 2019/20 were duly approved. **(d) To sign the AGAR.** These were signed by the Chairman and RFO on Friday 15th May 2020 outside of the Clerk's/RFO's residence while maintaining social distance.

143/20 Planning update. For information only. 20/00367/HH Plum Tree Cottage. Approved. 20/00282/FUL Mystycroft Burtons Green. Retention of shipping containers for the storage of equipment. Pending. To Note: Cllr Wickes had declared an NPI when this was received and did not participate in the discussions. Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following comment on 9th April 2020: 'They object to this application as they feel these containers are not in keeping with the countryside and are intrusive in this rural area. They are also in conflict with Braintree District Council (BDC) policies.'

Planning Appeal: TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Site Address: Land at Forest Nursery White Ash Green Halstead Essex Description of Development: Permission in principle for 1 No. residential dwelling. Planning Application Ref: 19/02042/PIP Appellant's Name: Mr G Payze Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/20/3247114. Cllr Pleasance having declared an NPI was placed in the Waiting Room while this was discussed. The Parish Council had objected to this in December 2019 on the grounds that it was an inappropriate dwelling within a rural area. BDC had refused it on the same grounds. The appellant had appealed against the decision. After a brief discussion it was decided that no further comments were needed, and the response remained the same. Cllr. Pleasance was allowed back into the meeting.

Bournebridge Homes had resubmitted their plans after the agenda had been sent out. The previous plans had been strongly objected to by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster had instructed the Clerk to ask Planning for an extension to the 21st May 2020 deadline. The Clerk confirmed that she had done so and was awaiting a response from Planning. If an extension was granted there may be a need to schedule a Planning meeting on ZOOM. **Action:** Arrange ZOOM Planning Meeting. Clerk.

144/20 To confirm the cancellation of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 21st May due to the Covid 19 pandemic. It was agreed to cancel this for 2020. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster will still write his Chairman's report for inclusion on the parish council website. **Action:** Chairman to write his yearly report.

145/20 Update on Item 120/20 regarding Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. Cllr. Butler. Deferred from March meeting. In the absence of Cllr. Butler the Clerk was instructed to contact him. **Action:** Clerk to email Cllr. Butler and ask for an update.

146/20 CORONAVIRUS Covid-19 / SLCC guidance. The delegation of power is in the LGA 1972 section 101 and is delegation to the Clerk. To consider extending the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk, Chairman, and/or Vice-chairman during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents. This is a standby only and may not be used. The delegation of power was duly approved.

147/20 To decide if the Parish Council wish to take part in the Street Cleansing Agreement. It was agreed not to take part in this.

148/20 Update on Playing Field. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason reported work had started on the Playing Field safety matting that Monday (12th) and would take a week. There had been some issues due to the Covid 19 lockdown with some of Playground Facilities Ltd office staff which Cllr. Mason had been dealing with being furloughed. Cllr. Mason also had to provide some of the safety equipment and skips because they could not get the items. Fortunately, on lifting the green matting the underlying impact surface was found to be usable. It is hoped some money will be left over to use elsewhere in the Playing Field.. Invoices will be received from Cllr. Mason and Playground Facilities. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work.

149/20 To consider Greenwatch's request to place a pole on The Green for the SID. An email on this had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The meeting was open to Bob Dobson from Greenwatch. The position on the Green provides a clear line of site down Grange Hill and up to Crocklands. The pole did not have to be permanent. There was a discussion and Cllr. Mason suggested a hole in the ground where a removable pole can be placed. He was happy to dig it. Cllr. Dixey asked if it was legal for the pole to be on the same side for Halstead traffic. Cllr. Hambling reported that High Easter had one that dealt with both sides of the traffic. **Decision.** It was agreed for a hole/socket to be sunk into The Green which was level with the surface for the placement of the pole.

150/20 To consider a request from a resident of Burtons Green to place a village sign (provided by them) at Burtons Green and for the Parish Council to apply for and pay for planning permission. Cllr. Wickes having declared an NPI was placed in the Waiting Room while this was discussed. Emails from the resident, a Mr Stevens, had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was cheaper for the Parish Council to apply for planning permission hence the request. There was a discussion and the following comment was made ' The Chairman noted that Mr Stevens had made a number of trial village posts and was intending to invite residents of Burton Green to view the final version at a later date. It was therefore not appropriate to give the PC's view until this stage of the process had occurred and the overall response of residents known." It was decided to defer this to the July meeting and invite Mr Stevens to attend with examples of the sign. Cllr. Wickes returned to the meeting. **Action:** Clerk to email Mr Stevens with the Council's decision.

151/20 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling confirmed that all VE Day celebrations and the July Fete had been cancelled. Bob Dobson asked if the bridge could be washed – Cllr. Hambling will do this. The window boxes can go back up by the Nursery. Cllr. Mason had been approached by a resident asking if a flower bed could go by the bench on the green triangle. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a flower bed could be placed by Greenwatch on the triangle.

Cllr Wickes informed the meeting that her husband, Derek Wickes, had received an email update from Earls Colne Airfield. The airfield was operating has a refuel depot for survey helicopters. Some private owners have been going up once a month to maintain their hours and planes.

152/20 To note any items of correspondence. The Clerk had received confirmation that green bins will start to be collected from Monday 18th May 2020.

153/20 Future agenda items. Core documents, Asset List.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Next meeting to be confirmed.

Amanda Degnan

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