

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council virtual meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 via ZOOM. 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.

Together with 5 members of the public

175/20 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from County Cllr. Jo Beavis, District Cllr. Peter Schwier and Cllr. Butler.

176/20 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Mason declared an NPI in 183/20 Item 1 Tamarisk.

177/20 Number was not used

178/20 Item 1: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. The minutes were duly approved.

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not on the agenda. Item 159/20 – Public comment- Bridges and stile: These had been reported. Cllr. Hambling confirmed that Essex County Council (ECC) Highways had declared them all safe. **Item 159/20 Public comment - Salt Bin and Item 167/20 Salt Bag Partnership:** Cllr Mason had looked at moving the salt bin. He reported that the salt inside is unusable. The Clerk confirmed that Highways will not take back any unused salt. Cllr. Mason will empty the salt bin and move it.. **Action:** Cllr Mason. **Item 165/20 Item 2 - Coggleshall Neighbourhood Plan:** A response to this had been drafted and sent. **Item 172/20 – Receive reports etc:** Crowbridge Farm planning application. An objection had been drafted and sent.

179/20 Public comment. A resident asked when the Playing Field hedge would be cut – September. A resident expressed the opinion that the salt bin had not been used since ECC Highways salt gritters had started gritting the roads and suggested permanently removing the salt bin. It was felt that the bridges over the ditches on the westerly footpath were not safe contrary to Highway's findings. A resident noted that the net in the goalpost on the Playing Field was in a terrible state. Cllr. Mason has emailed Intergoal to obtain spare parts to repair the broken goalpost which is at Cllr. Hambling's house. It might be possible to use the net from the broken goalpost to replace the ripped net on the Playing Field. Cllr. Mason felt the goalposts were not

robust enough and although a good idea will need replacing. **Action:** Cllr's Mason and Hambling to look at switching the nets around. A resident had reported the dog bin in Mill View to Braintree District Council (BDC) as it was full and had broken off its post injuring someone when it happened. **Action:** Clerk to report as well.

180/20 County Councillor's report. This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Beavis would like the parish council's top 6 potholes. Locations to be sent to the Clerk. Cllr. Dixey asked if the Clerk would raise the drains and ditches in Star Stile Road with Cllr Beavis. **Action:** Clerk and Councillors

181/20 District Councillor's report. in the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was nothing to report.

182/20 Finance. Item 1: To agree the accounts for payment. These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Wickes. All agreed. Approved.

Standing

Order	Amanda Degnan	£300.00	15/9/20 Salary
886	D.Mason Development	£276.00	Skip for matting
887	W.Dixey	£45.40	Repairs to bench
888	Ladywell	£32.00	Payroll
889	Amanda Degnan	£50.00	Outstanding salary
890	Amanda Degnan	£42.58	Expenses inc Zoom
	Total payments for Sept 2020	£745.98	

Standing

Order	Amanda Degnan	£300.00	15/10/2020 Salary
-------	---------------	---------	-------------------

Item 2: Update on Barclays. The Clerk provided an update on this. It is still a 2 hour wait on the telephone to speak to someone. The Clerk had investigated online banking with the Parish Council's current bank, NatWest, and discovered it could be applied for online. The Clerk was instructed to apply for online banking with NatWest. **Action:** Clerk.

Item 3: To authorise the reclaiming of VAT. VAT refund of up to £1547. The Clerk was authorised to reclaim this. **Action:** Clerk.

Item 4: To approve the yearly payment for Office 365. At a cost of £59.99. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All agreed. Approved.

Item 5: To consider purchasing an A1 sized map from BDC at a cost per print of £2 + VAT B&W or £5.50 +VAT Colour. It was proposed to purchase 2 colour maps for the Clerk and Village Hall and 7 black and white maps for the Councillors. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. Approved. **Action:** Clerk.

183/20 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Item 1: For information only. Mystycroft 20/00282/FUL. Retention of Shipping Containers- refused. Shipping Containers are still there. if not removed by end of September, clerk will raise it with Planning at BDC. **Action:** Clerk.

Stones Throw 20/00800/HH. Revised plans for building work- approved.

Tamarisk- shipping container in front garden reported to Planning. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster opened the meeting to Mr Radmall owner of Tamarisk. Mr Radmall expressed disappointment that no one had come to him directly to ask about the container which he is using as a shed. He had checked the legality of whether he could install one which he could. Cllr. Mason explained he had received 2 verbal reports and 2 emails regarding the container from residents asking how it was allowed but Mystycroft was not. This was due to the owner of Mystycroft operating a commercial business and therefore needing planning permission. The container at Tamarisk is for personal use. The Chairman thanked Mr Radmall for attending.

Halstead Hall – 25 bed Dementia unit and construction of 30 bungalows. This had been turned down by the Inspector due to legal issues, ecology, and design.

Correspondence from Strutt & Parker had been received asking for comments regarding a development between Halstead Hall and Blamster's Farm. It had been decided to wait for the planning application before commenting.

Cllr. Pleasance provided an update on 69 Halstead Road, Gosfield which had been bought with the intention of placing Traveller caravans on it. This had been reported to BDC, ECC, D. Cllr. Schwier, C. Cllr. Beavis and the Hon. James Cleverly MP. A stop notice had been placed on the site. Although in Gosfield parish it is on the border with White Ash Green so there may be a need to place a joint objection to the site.

Item 2: To agree a date to discuss Government White Paper on Changes to the Planning System and Planning Inspectors modification to the local plan. There is also the 2018 Household Projections from the local plan as well. **Action:** Clerk to circulate potential meeting dates.

184/20 Playing Field. Item 1: Update including broken chair and power supply. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Dixey who had repaired one of the broken chairs. Cllr. Mason reported that the other chair was beyond economic repair and will need replacing. The Clerk explained why the power supply was on the agenda. This was due to the District Councillor's grant of £600 that had been received on the understanding that it would be put towards the cost of installing power at the playing field. The Clerk had received an email from BDC asking if this had been spent, which it had not. Cllr. Mason and Hambling explained that due to the pandemic fundraising towards the cost of the power supply could not take place. It was suggested that the grant could be put towards something else. The Clerk was asked to investigate this and to send an email to D. Cllr Schwier to seek his approval. **Action:** Clerk

Item 2: Update on RoSPA report. Item 3: To consider replacing or repairing gates to the Playing Field. These two items were taken together. The top gate posts need re-concreting in. The catches on the safety gates need replacing as a child allegedly managed to run into the road. The fence also needs looking at. The five-bar gate also needs replacing, perhaps using the District Councillor grant if given permission to do so. Cllr. Mason will provide a quote for the work. **Action:** Cllr. Mason.

It was noted that the welding on the slide that RoSPA keeps referring to requires someone who can do onsite welding. Cllr. Mason is struggling to find someone who can do this.

Item 4: Update on CIF application. The Clerk had applied for the full amount of £10,000. Still waiting to hear from the CIF board.

185/20 Neighbourhood Plan. Item 1: Update from meeting with Jan Stobart.

An update was provided on this. It was noted that Gosfield PC is developing a Neighbourhood Plan and would like to talk to the Parish Council about cross border working with regards to White Ash Green. Cllr. Pleasance is due to meet Cllr. Mark Bloomfield who is the lead on Gosfield's Neighbourhood Plan.

Item 2: To consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan and applying for funding to employ a consultant. It was noted that this is a big commitment and there was some discussion as to whether it would be of any use. It was suggested not only talking to Gosfield but also Halstead Town Council and Stisted PC. Cllr. Mason suggested a joint project with both Gosfield and Stisted. It was decided to place a piece on the website and Facebook to see if anyone is interested in getting involved in developing a plan. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster will draft an item for the website. **Action:** Cllr. Foster.

186/20 Crocklands. To consider what action to take regarding flooding and uneven pavements. This had been raised by a concerned resident of Crocklands who had been affected by the flash flooding in August. It was noted that the Leader of ECC, David Finch, had responded to her complaints and that ECC Highways had attended and found nothing wrong. It is hoped that the recent drainage work undertaken in Church Road and Burtons Green Road will relieve the water. It was also noted that County Cllr. Beavis had also responded to the complaint. The pavement is uneven and as been reported to ECC Highways on previous occasions. It was decided to keep the situation under observation.

187/20 Stisted: Update on waste tip opposite Brooks Farm. Cllr. Hambling.

There had been a highly constructive meeting via ZOOM with Stisted Parish Council on Monday 7th September. Letters had been sent by both Stisted Parish Council and Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council to the local MP James Cleverly. The Clerk provided an update from Stisted Parish Council. Their Chair had contacted Gladwish again and they have agreed to remove the waste in the next couple of weeks and will also be contacting Edward May the adjoining landowner. Cllr. Mason asked Cllr. Pleasance if it was possible to use keywords to ensure Stisted's website popped up when looking for land in Essex to explain what can be done on this land. Cllr. Pleasance thought it could be done and it was agreed that Cllr. Mason will send Cllr. Pleasance's contact details to Stisted Parish Council.

Action: Cllr. Mason.

188/20 To consider request from member of the public to place a bench with plaque in memory of their father in Greenstead Green at their cost. An email regarding this had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to accept this request. The meeting was then opened to allow a member of the Parochial Church

Council to speak. They too had received an email regarding a bench which they had agreed to place in the church grounds from the same family. **Action:** Clerk to contact family.

189/20 Council Documents. To approve the following:

- 1. Standing Orders**
- 2. Financial Code.**
- 3. Emergency Plan.**

The above items were approved enbloc. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

190/20 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.

Greenwatch: Cllr. Hambling asked Bob Dobson for details of the flashing speed sign to be sent onto Stisted Parish Council. Greenwatch speed patrol: Cllr. Mason had submitted the forms to allow speed watch to recommence. It was noted that Stisted Parish Council had asked for the return of the speed gun. It is hoped that Greenwatch will soon be able to have a speed gun of their own.

191/20 To note any items of correspondence. The Clerk read a letter of thanks from Clive Stewart, Chair of Neighbourhood Watch for the donation the Parish Council had sent. Clerk to send letter out to Councillors. Other items of correspondence were noted.

192/20 Future agenda items. 2021 meeting dates, Reserve policy, noticeboard

193/20 To agree date to sign cheques and documents. Friday 11th September and Saturday 12th September 2020.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 11th November 2020. Time and venue to be confirmed.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

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