

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.15pm
These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

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.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Jo Beavis

Members of the public = 6

22/21 Apologies for absence. District Cllr. P. Schwier.

23/21 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Pleasance declared a NPI in agenda item 41/21.

24/21 (a) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, seconded Cllr. Dixey. All agreed. Therefore, the minutes were duly approved. **(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Item 7/21 – Precept-** This had been signed and sent to Braintree District Council (BDC). **Item 14/21 – Open Spaces Plan –** This had been amended and sent to BDC.

25/21 Public comment. Mr Chris Siddall the Conservative candidate for Halstead at the upcoming May 6th County Council elections introduced himself to the meeting and provided a brief resume of his previous experience.

A resident asked Cllr. Mason about the speed gun's whereabouts as an email had been sent out from the Speedwatch co-ordinator with a date for resumption of speed checks. Cllr. Mason reported that Stisted still have the speed gun, but it should not be a problem in getting access to it. Cllr. Mason had not received the email which the resident will forward it to Cllr. Mason. The resident also asked about the bench from the park which Cllr. Mason was repairing. Cllr. Mason reported that the bench was repaired and ready to go back in the park.

A resident asked if Greenwatch could replace the Christmas Tree on the Green as the top of it had died and install a plaque referencing who had gifted the original tree. There is money in the Greenwatch account for this. Cllr. Hambling explained that the money in the bank account is from stallholder deposits for last year's fete which had been carried over to this year. If the 2021 fete does not happen the deposits will

have to be paid back. Cllr Mason felt that they need to find out why the tree has died before replacing it. A question was asked about the Salt Bin's move. Cllr. Mason would talk about this under Item 30/21.

26/21 County Councillor's report. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster welcomed County Cllr. Beavis to the meeting. Cllr. Beavis provided an update on the following:

- Essex County Council (ECC) have met and agreed the 2021/22 budget
- BDC have met and agreed the 2021/22 budget.
- ECC have taken advantage of the Social Care cap.
- Potholes and jetting drains - behind because of the weather and pandemic
- Flooding – 1. Greenstead Green – Cllr. Beavis thanked the parish council for the photos of flooding. Engineers will be coming out to do more research on the SUDs scheme
2. Penny Pots – Engineers have been out but there is a landownership issue. Cllr. Butler queried this as he felt that the drain was blocked. Cllr. Beavis explained that the drain had been jetted but there was a problem with a ditch. Cllr. Butler asked if ECC Highways could contact him. **Action:** Cllr. Beavis to put ECC Highways in touch with Cllr. Butler.
- 3. Oak Road – Halstead- landownership issue. A ditch order has been issued regarding this.
- 4. Oak Road – Star Stile area – Cllr Beavis had visited this area and sent photos to ECC Highways. The jet wash is to be sent out to this area to jet wash the drains.
- Covid- the Pump House Surgery, Earls Colne is a vaccination centre. There is a possibility of another one opening in the north of the District.
- Cycle path EC2H – Cllr Beavis had attended a meeting on 9th March. It was noted that Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural PC has yet to identify land for a cycle path.
- Highways – 1. ECC have allocated £400,000 for next 3 years for BDC highways.
2. HGV survey in Star Stile and other small roads.
- £10,000 County Councillor grant has been allocated.

County Cllr. Beavis then took questions from the meeting. Cllr. Butler asked about the route of the cycle path. Nothing had been agreed yet. Cllr. Hambling explained they were looking at the old railway line. This belongs to Cllr. Butler's family and he will check if the line is in Halstead or Greenstead Green. **Action:** Cllr. Butler.

Cllr Hambling asked about the ongoing replacement of fingerposts. Cllr. Beavis has a list of replacements she will pass on to him. She also asked for more fingerposts problems to be sent to her.

Cllr. Mason complained about the littering problem. Cllr. Beavis explained that there would be an extraordinary meeting at BDC dealing with the Environment and littering would be discussed.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked County Cllr. Beavis for her update.

27/21 District Councillor's report. A report from District Cllr. Schwier had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman updated the meeting with the following from the report:

1. We currently have 5 hospital vaccination hubs administering vaccines, 34 GP-led vaccination services, 3 community pharmacies and 11 large-scale vaccination centres across Essex

2. For Braintree the Section 1 Plan includes Policy SP4 which requires a minimum housing requirement of 14,320 new homes over the period 2013 to 2033, an annual average of 716 new homes. Through Policy SP5, the Section 1 Plan also sets out employment land requirements for Braintree of 20.9 and 43.3 hectares for the Plan period.

3. Response time has been 23 seconds to answer telephone calls in last 1/4 report (down from 34) - extraordinary demand due to Pandemic.

4. Council Tax collection is 85.6% (down slightly) but the best in the County. Gentle reminders sent to residents who have fallen behind.

5. Built 177 affordable homes this year -set target is 150.

6. Getting Grants out - 35 initiatives _ massive effort by economic development officers since 2020 to give out £ 35M to 2,600 District businesses.

28/21 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. Therefore, the accounts were duly approved.

Cheque Number		Payee	Amount	Reason
897		Mrs A J Degnan	£67.36	Expenses
898		Mrs A J Degnan	£50.00	Outstanding salary
899 or BACS		Playground Facilities Ltd	£1,800.00	Deposit
SO		Mrs A J Degnan	£300.00	15/03/2021 Salary
		Total Payments for March 2021	£2,217.36	

Item 2 Online banking update – Clerk. The clerk reported that herself and one councillor needed to sign before the application could go any further.

29/21 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

21/00322/HH & 21/00323/LBC DESCRIPTION: Erection of side/rear single storey extension
LOCATION: Plaistow House, Plaistow Green, Greenstead Green ‘No Objection’. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

20/02246/OUT DESCRIPTION: Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved for the demolition of 1no. 2 storey existing dwelling and the construction of 1no. 2 storey 4 bed dwelling

and the conversion of an existing agricultural barn to residential use and the erection of 5 bay cart lodge. LOCATION: Chaseways, Russells Road, Greenstead Green. This application was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

20/01568/FUL | Demolition and removal of existing buildings, erection of Warehouse Extension with associated ground works. | Whitehouse Business Park White Ash Green Halstead Essex CO9 1PB. The following response was agreed to be submitted to BDC Planning:

'In principle the parish council have 'No Objection' to the proposed extension but they would like the following restrictions to be included:

1. Delivery hours to be restricted to Monday to Friday 8am- 6pm and Saturday 8am - 12pm.
2. Construction hours to be restricted to Monday to Friday 8am- 6pm and Saturday 8am -12pm.
3. They would like the proposed Lighting scheme enhanced so that it considers the local residents' concerns regarding light pollution and its effect on them not just its effect on Biodiversity. This will allow residents to continue to enjoy their residential amenities without being affected by intrusive light levels.

Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. With one objection, regarding delivery times only, the motion was duly carried. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster will attend the Planning Meeting on 16th March to speak on the parish council's behalf. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Pleasance for bringing this application to the attention of the parish council.

APPLICATION NO :21/00663/LBC DESCRIPTION: Repairs to garden wall. LOCATION: The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Greenstead Green. 'No Objection' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

30/21 Playing Field. Item 1. District Councillor Grant update – Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that the parish council were to receive £450.00 towards the cost of the new Playing Field gate. Thanks were expressed to District Cllr. Schwier for this grant. **Item 2. Update on purchase of the Climbing Frame and associated safety matting. Cllr. Mason.** This is to be installed week beginning 22nd March. Cllr. Mason asked for volunteers on 20th March to help clear the site in preparation for the installation. He will also move the salt bin to its new position and measure for a new gate as well. **Action:** Cllr. Mason and volunteers 20th March, 10am Playing Field.

31/21 Highways: White Ash Green: Item 1. To ask Highways to look at the verge along White Ash Green, between White Ash House and Gosfield Corner and consider kerbing it. Item 2. The 'triangle' green area at the junction of Russells Road and Halstead Road to consider kerbing it. Item 3. To ask Highways to consider installing/reinstalling deer warning signs in Halstead Road and Sloe Hill. To note White Ash House is Cllr. Pleasance's home. Taken enbloc. Cllr. Pleasance explained that the verge is being destroyed by vehicles which is causing pedestrians to have to walk in the road. He wanted to see the verges kerbed like the rest of the road. He would also like the deer warning signs installed /reinstalled as there have been several incidents with deer and cars. Cllr. Pleasance as spoken to County Cllr. Beavis who was asked by the Chairman, Cllr. Foster for a response. County Cllr. Beavis explained that a traffic survey would be

taking place shortly in the Halstead Road and that the bus stop at Cut Hedge House was being replaced. Before approaching Highways with the aforementioned items, she would need agreement from the parish council to do so.

The following motion was proposed: To ask County Cllr Beavis to approach ECC Highways with the following:

- To kerb the verge from White Ash House to Gosfield Corner
- To kerb the 'triangle' green area at the junction of Russells Road and Halstead Road.
- To install deer warning signs in Halstead Road, Sloe Hill and Claverings and Pattiswick.

Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. Therefore, the motion was duly carried. **Action:** Clerk and County Cllr. Beavis

Item 4. Russells Road is this a protected lane? Cllr Foster reported that A document on protected lanes produced by BDC in 2013 had been found online which confirmed that Russells Road is not a protected lane.

Burtens Green: Item 5. To ask Highways to look at the verges and road on the way to & through Burtens Green which has potholes that have been reported and deep ruts in the verge. Item 6. Green Lane from Burtens Green to Claverings. Item 7 Flooding in the area. Cllr. Wickes. County Cllr Beavis agreed to log these items with Highways as well as the lack of road sweeping. She will also find out the official line regarding green lanes, gates, and off-roaders. **Action:** Clerk and County Cllr. Beavis

Star Stile: For information only. Damage to Star Stile Lane caused by articulated lorry on 10th or 11th February had been reported by Cllr. Dixey.

32/21 Annual Parish Meeting: Item 1. To consider moving the APM to June after all restrictions have been removed. It was agreed to move the meeting to 30th June. Update: the information the Clerk had received was incorrect therefore, the meeting will remain on Thursday 20th May. **Item 2. To consider whether to invite a guest speaker.** It was proposed to invite the Honourable James Cleverly, MP to the APM. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All agreed. **Action:** clerk to approach Mr Cleverly's office with invite. **Item 3. To consider what type of refreshments to provide.** If allowed to meet face to face wine and nibbles.

33/21 To look at installing recycling Bins. Cllr Mason After a brief discussion it was decided not to progress this any further due to the lack of a suitable site.

34/21 BT Box at Penny Pots. Update. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason had received 2 quotes from M J Decorators and Paul Mark Lang both about £400. The following motion was proposed: to spend up to £500 on repainting the BT Box at Penny Pots. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason with one objection the motion was duly carried. **Action:** Cllr. Mason to liaise with the painters. Clerk to send Cllr. Mason the painting specification.

35/21 Noticeboard. Update. Action: Cllr. Mason to collect the key from the Clerk.

36/21 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling provided an update on the waste tip in Stisted. Investigation is still ongoing by BDC. Fete: Cllr Hambling reported that the fete committee are waiting to see how the easing of restrictions turns out before organising anything.

37/21 To note any items of correspondence. None.

38/21 Future agenda items. Street cleaning.

39/21 To agree date to sign cheques and documents. To be arranged.

40/21 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 41/21 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.

41/21 Payroll Provider: To appoint a new payroll provider. Having declared a NPI Cllr. Pleasance left the meeting. A report on this had been circulated prior to the meeting. After a brief discussion it was agreed to appoint DM Payroll for one year. This was the lowest cost of the estimates received. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk

There being no further business to attend to the meeting ended at 21.17.

Next Meeting is the AGM followed by the ordinary council meeting on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7.00. 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>
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