

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 on ZOOM after the AGM.

These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

Present. See AGM Minutes

49/21 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None were declared.

50/21 Item 1: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All in favour. Therefore, the minutes of 10th March 2021 meeting were duly approved.

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Item 30/21 Item 2. Volunteers to remove the old climbing frame, Saturday 20th March: This had successfully taken place. The volunteers and Cllr. Mason were thanked for their time and efforts.

51/21 Public comment. A resident expressed concern and asked for advice regarding Planning Application 21/01243 The Coach House, Russells Road. They felt it was too big and intrusive. A resident asked for an update on the speed gun. Cllr. Mason had emailed and visited Stisted but had yet to receive the speed gun. There were also issues with the area coordinator for Speed watch. Personnel have changed several times and are not replying to their emails about obtaining a new speed gun. It was felt that at the next Greenwatch meeting discussion should take place regarding fundraising for a speed gun for Greenstead Green. A new resident to the area expressed concern regarding the speeding in the parish. They were updated on what had been done to combat speeding including roundels and the SID by Greenwatch in the area. It was suggested that they join the local WhatsApp group to keep up to date with what is going on and were invited to join Greenwatch as well.

52/21 County Councillor's report. County Cllr. Beavis started her update by thanking all the staff at Essex County Council for all their work during the Pandemic. She noted that average speed testing had been paused during the lockdowns due to the lack of traffic. The following points were made:

- Extra funding for children's mental health, after school clubs and laptops
- £7.2 million awarded to Local Highway Panels (LHP) with £750,000 going into the Braintree District Council (BDC) LHP with monies set aside for fingerposts, and bollards
- White Ash Green – all the issues brought up at the March parish council meeting including verges have been processed by County. They may go to the LHP, but it is possible Highway Rangers could do some of the work. Deer signs with County but may also go to the LHP
- Burtons Green -The issues with green lanes have been put forward for more investigation
- Solution to the HGV problem in Halstead is ongoing

- Adult Care- concerns with closure of care homes and reducing of services at Halstead Hospital and whether 'Care in the Community' is working

Cllr. Beavis also drew the meetings attention to the County Councillor grant money which could be used to help fund a speed gun. On ending her update County Cllr. Beavis took questions from the meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked County Cllr. Beavis and asked when the 30mph speed limit extension by the Oakwood Estate would be implemented. Cllr. Beavis was unsure what the delay was but thought it could be the backlog due to Covid.

Cllr Butler had heard nothing from Highways regarding the drains at Penny Pot Corner. He asked County Cllr. Beavis to email him a contact. **Action:** County Cllr Beavis.

53/21 District Councillor's report. District Cllr. Schwier had issued his yearly report which had been distributed by the clerk to the councillors. He reported the following:

- Covid 19 tests available from libraries and online
- E-Scooter's trial ongoing in Braintree
- Manor Street on time and on budget. Eastlight have purchased homes there for social and shared ownership
- E-letters to businesses have been sent out by BDC
- District Cllr. Sue Wilson was appointed the new chairman of BDC at their AGM
- The constitution has been updated regarding online petitions

On ending his update District Cllr. Schwier took questions from the meeting

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked District Cllr. Schwier and asked when the Gladman application at Bournebridge Hill would be determined. Cllr. Schwier explained he was now on the Planning Committee so cannot answer but will forward any information he receives.

Cllr. Mason asked about the ongoing situation at Stisted regarding the rubbish dump. District Cllr. Schwier had no news but that it was still an open case with the Environmental Agency. Cllr. Hambling had attended the recent Stisted Parish Council meeting and reported that BDC and the Environmental Agency were prosecuting both the rubbish tip owner and the landowner.

54/21 Finance. Item 1: To agree the accounts for payment. Cllr. Mason queried the invoice from Playground Facilities. He will check if the invoice is correct.

Proposal: To approve the accounts for payment subject to further discussions with the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr. Mason regarding Playground Facilities invoice.

Approved. Apart from the Playground Facilities invoice, the accounts for payment were duly approved. **Update 10th May 2021:** The Playground Invoice was checked and found to be correct. It was approved for payment by Cllr's Foster (Chairman), Mason (Vice-Chair) and Pleasance and duly paid.

Cheque Number		Payee	Amount	Reason
BACS		Langdon Decorators Ltd	£480.00	BT box pd 29/4/21
Bacs		EALC/NALC	£196.90	Membership
Bacs		BHIB Insurance	£532.04	Insurance
Bacs		Richard Edwards	£354.00	Audit
Bacs		Playground Facilities	£14,312.84	Playground
Bacs		D. Mason Developments Ltd	£332.18	Skip and paint
Bacs		Amanda Degnan	£54.73	Expenses inc Zoom
SO		Amanda Degnan	£300.00	April Salary 15/4/21
SO		Amanda Degnan	£300.00	May Salary 15/4/21
Bacs		Amanda Degnan	£33.34	Outstanding Salary
		Total payments for May 2021	£16,896.03	

Item 2: Update on online banking. Clerk. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council is now signed up for online banking. It was agreed that Cllr. Pleasance would make the payments by BACS for May with two other councillors copied in on the emails instructing these payments. The Clerk was thanked for all her work in sorting out outline banking.

Item 3: Update on new Payroll provider. Clerk. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were now using DM Payroll Services Ltd.

55/21 To receive and approve the Annual Governance Return. (AGAR) Item 1: The Annual Internal Audit Report is received and noted. Proposed Cllr. Dixey, Seconded Cllr Butler. Received and noted. **Item 2: The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) is approved.** Proposed Cllr. Dixey, Seconded Cllr Butler. All agreed. Approved **Item 3: The Accounting Statements (Section 2) are approved.** Proposed Cllr. Dixey, Seconded Cllr Butler. All agreed. Approved. **Item 4: The Certificate of Exemption is approved.** Proposed Cllr. Dixey, Seconded Cllr Butler. All agreed. Approved

56/21 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications. For consideration:

Item 1 - APPLICATION NO :21/01243/HH DESCRIPTION: Proposed outbuilding ancillary to the main dwelling. LOCATION: The Coach House, Russells Road, Greenstead Green Councillors expressed concerns about the size and distance from the main house. **Proposal:** To object to this application on the following grounds. Its size and location from the main house are inappropriate for its intended purpose as a granny annexe. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Pleasance. All agreed. Therefore, the proposal was duly carried.

Item 2 - App ref 21/00493 (land adjacent to Conies Farm, Oak Road, Halstead) - this is just outside our parish in Halstead. 'No Objection' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr Mason. All Agreed.

Item 3 - App ref 21/01331 (Paigles, Church Road, Greenstead Green). 'No Objection'. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All Agreed

Planning applications for information only

Item 4 - App ref 21/00942 (Bluebridge Farmhouse, Colchester Road, Halstead) - Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council had made the following response 'Object to this application on the following grounds:

Condition 6 was added to ensure the development accorded with Policy RLP 18 of the 2005 Braintree LP. The policy says that proposals will be permitted subject to a condition ensuring the annex will remain solely as ancillary accommodation to be occupied in association with the main dwelling. The passing of the elderly dependent family member occupying the property was inevitable and should not trigger the removal of the condition. If the applicant was seeking a variation of the condition to allow short-term letting, that might be acceptable, but removal is contrary to the policy in the Parish Council's opinion.

Item 5 - App ref 20/01568 (Whitehorse Business Park) The Chairman, Cllr. Foster, and Cllr. Pleasance had spoken at BDC Planning meeting with regards to this matter and the Parish's concerns. They reported that BDC agreed to a condition restricting construction hours and amended the condition on external lighting to specifically refer to impacts on residents as well as bats. BDC could not restrict delivery times as the main building on site was permitted without any restrictions about delivery times, otherwise they would have done so.

Item 6 - App ref 21/00263 (land off White Ash Green, Halstead) The Parish Council had raised 'No Objection' on this application which had been subsequently approved by BDC at their Planning Meeting on 12th April.

Item 7 - App ref 21/01398 (Ayletts Farm, Plaistow Green Road. This had been for information only and referred to a new access track.

57/21 Playing Field. Item 1: Update on purchase of the Climbing Frame and associated safety matting. Cllr. Mason. This had been completed and was now in use. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work in this matter.

Item 2: To consider naming the Climbing Frame after the late Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster suggested naming the Playing Field after the Duke of Edinburgh and not just the climbing frame. After much debate it was decided to vote on the following proposal 'To consider naming the Climbing Frame after the late Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh'. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. 5 in favour 2 against. Therefore, the proposal was duly carried. Wording for plaque to be decided at the July meeting.

Item 3: Update on purchase of new gate for Playing Field. Cllr. Mason was happy to source a gate. Proposed Cllr. Hambling, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All agreed.
Action: Cllr. Mason to purchase a new gate.

58/21 To decide if the Parish Council wish to take part in the Street Cleansing Agreement. After a brief discussion it was agreed not to take part in this. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. To note Burtons Green has not been swept recently. Cllr. Wickes to report using the Highways portal.

59/21 To consider an alternative venue for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on 20th May or to consider cancelling it. The legal challenge in the courts had failed and although the hall would open just for the Parish Council. It was felt the restrictions still in place would be too restrictive. Cllr. Butler kindly offered the use of the tea garden so the meeting could be held outdoors but it was felt that the weather was too inclement. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster therefore proposed cancelling the APM. This was seconded by Cllr. Mason. All agreed and the motion was duly carried. Cllr. Butler was thanked for his kind offer.

60/21 To consider a response to the Government's Call for Evidence with regards to remote meetings. The Clerk had sent the link out regarding this to all Councillors. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster encouraged everyone to respond to the survey including the public by 17th June 2021. **Action:** Clerk to forward link to resident.

61/21 BT Phonebox at Penny Pots. Update. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster noted that the BT box had been repainted and the work carried out was of a good standard. Cllr. Mason and Langdon's Decorators Ltd were thanked for their work

62/21 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling reported that a fete was under consideration for later in the year. There was nothing to report on the cycle route. He confirmed that he had spoken to Cllr. Butler about the cycle route. He also reported that the footpath near his home had been repaired by ECC Highways. Ken Rogers, Greenwatch- reported that a box had been placed in the village shop to collect responses to a Greenwatch survey.

63/21 To note any items of correspondence. The Clerk had received an email from a resident offering a Horse Chestnut and a Cotoneaster horizontalis to the Parish.

64/21 Future agenda items. Online banking Code of Practice.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 21.55.

Next meeting Wednesday 7th July 2021 7.15. Greenstead Green Village Hall.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

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