

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at Greenstead Green Village Hall 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 (arrived 7.40pm)

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Chris Siddall

District Cllr. Peter Schwier

Together with three (3) members of the public

102/21 Apologies for absence. Cllr Mason. Apologies were duly received and accepted from Cllr. Mason.

103/21 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary (PI) or non-pecuniary interests (NPI) in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Butler declared an NPI in Agenda Item 109/21 Item 1 App No: 21/03101/FUL.

104/21 Item 1: To approve the minutes of the September ordinary meeting.

There was an amendment to Item 88/21 Cllr. Hambling. This should have read Cllr. Mason. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Wickes. All agreed. Therefore, the minutes were duly approved.

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings. Item 78/21:

The clerk reported that an email had been received from the family regarding permission and upkeep of the seat and memorial stone just after the September meeting. This had been circulated to the councillors and it was agreed to provide retrospective permission for the items to remain on the understanding the family will maintain the items. Action: To be revisited in March 2022. **Item 86/21:** Cllr Butler reported that the blocked pipe had been replaced in early September. As there has not been enough rain it is yet to see if it has the desired effect. The cesspit is a matter for the Environmental Agency. **Salt Bin:** This was due to be moved to a new location but had been removed by person(s) unknown. **Action:** Under further investigation. **Item 88/21: Burtons Green:** The road and bridge had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. **96/21:** Open Spaces Action Plan will be on the January agenda. Cllr. Butler asked which side of the railway the cycle way will

be on. Cllr. Hambling reported that it would be on the Courtauld side, and they have been approached regarding having a Public Right of Way (PROW) from the neighbouring field onto the railway line. Cllr. Hambling provided a brief update on the cycle way.

105/21 Public comment. A resident supported Cllr. Wickes comments regarding the state of the road and bridge in Burton's Green. Cllr. Hambling asked if Highways could be added as a separate agenda item for future meetings. Cllr. Hambling reported that a resident had asked him about the upkeep of the Defibrillator. To be noted that there is a 5-year service agreement in place and the batteries have 3 years left before needing replacement.

To be noted: Cllr. Hambling had received an anonymous letter from a concerned resident regarding No.4, Mill View.

106/21 County Councillor's report. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster welcomed County Cllr. Chris Siddall to the meeting. County Cllr. Siddall provided the following update:

- He welcomed the recent 3-year settlement for Local Government to help with budgets
- Pledge of £149 million for road maintenance
- EEC is to delegate minor highway problems down to local level
- Covid 19 rates are down throughout Essex.
- Local Highway Panels (LHP): He is the Chair of the LHP.
- There is a change of policy regarding Vehicle Activated Signs. (VAS) Parish Councils can now purchase their own which will give them more ability to control speeds.
- Cycle route. A meeting had taken place with local landowners to discuss the route from Earls Colne to Coggeshall.
- Locality Fund: He has £10,000 available for funding of projects. He has already given a grant towards the cycle path PROW on the Courtauld land. Please apply to him with a project for funding.

County Cllr. Siddall then took questions from the meeting. The following Highways matters were raised by Councillors and residents:

Cllr. Wickes (Burtons Green) raised the issue of the bridge in Burtons Green needing repairing again. It had been reported three times. It was suggested that she use her councillor email address when reporting as this seems to help. The hedges also needed cutting. Cllr. Butler explained that this was the landowner's responsibility and that a letter needed to be written to the Courtauld family who own the land. **Action:** Cllr. Wickes to take photos and send to clerk.

Cllr. Dixey (Star Stile) raised the issue of the blocked drain on the A131 by Oak Road. There is a fault number on it, but nothing has been done. The verges in Star Stile were damaged by an HGV last year. Cllr. Dixey would like to see signage installed banning HGV's.

Cllr. Pleasance (White Ash Green) would like to see the removal of the sign installed by BDC not Highways which is blocking the footpath at the top of Russells Road in

White Ash Green. He would also like the speed limit lowered as there have been two off roads on the corner in the past month. He also raised the issue of the removal of the verge at Cabana which had been reported to Highways and BDC Planning Enforcement. Highways had felt no action was needed. Nothing back yet from Enforcement. County Cllr. Siddall asked for it to be sent to him if there is no action from Enforcement.

Cllr. Hambling (Greenstead Green) reported the byway from Claverings to Burtons Green is impassable due to 4x4's using it. The telephone line is in fact in the mud. The pavement at Crocklands Corner had been looked at by Highways who felt it was not too bad when in fact it is in a bad state of repair. The Clerk reported that there had been a Freedom of Information (FOI) request on this item, and it showed that Highways had looked at it recently and felt it now needed repairs. Footpath 36 footbridge had been repaired but there was a big dip which collected water on the path from Home Farm to Burtons Green. Blocked drains between Grange Hill and Clavering, and at Rivenshall.

Cllr. Butler (Greenstead Green) reported the pipe at Penny Pot Corner is blocked between two drains which had led to three cars coming off the road due to flooding this year. This blockage has been reported and has been a problem for 2 years. At Greensteadhall a car came off at the corner due to a massive hole on the edge of the road. The crossroad's sign at Church Road needs replacing as the pole is rusted through and the sign is now lying in the hedge.

Action: County Cllr. Siddall asked the clerk for an email about all the highway issues to be sent to him. Clerk.

There being no further questions the Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked County Cllr. Siddall for his report.

107/21 District Councillor's report. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster welcomed District Cllr. Peter Schwier to the meeting. District Cllr. Schwier provided the following update:

- BDC playing fields were awarded 21 golds and 17 silvers in recent awards
- Horizon 120 is ongoing
- Victoria Square is nearly finished
- The budget will be increasing due to increased demand for services
- Open Spaces Action Plan needs to be in by 20th January 2022
- District Councillor grant is available. He final applications by early March

District Cllr. Schwier asked if he could be given a copy of the Tidings Hill decision which was being discussed under Item 109/21 Planning.

There being no further questions the Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked District Cllr. Schwier for his report. District Cllr. Schwier left the meeting at 20:22.

108/21 Finance: Item 1: To agree the accounts for payment. Proposed: Cllr. Hambling, Seconded: Cllr. Butler. All agreed. The motion was duly carried.

BACS		MD Landscapes	£1,490.40	Grasscutting
Bank card		Microsoft 365 (pd by Clerk)	£59.99	Office Expense
BACS		Amanda Degnan	£11.80	Expenses
SO		Amanda Degnan	£316.67	September Salary
SO		Amanda Degnan	£316.67	October Salary
SO		Amanda Degnan	£316.67	November Salary
		Total payments for November 2021	£2,512.20	

Item 2: To agree to pay for the Clerk to attend a Budget and Precept course at a cost of £70 + VAT. Proposed: Cllr. Hambling, Seconded: Cllr. Butler. All agreed. The motion was duly carried.

109/21 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Item 1 APPLICATION NO :21/03101/FUL DESCRIPTION: Erection of 80 dwellings (Class C3) including affordable homes, public open space including local equipped area for play, access from Tidings Hill, sustainable drainage systems, landscaping and all associated infrastructure and development LOCATION: Land North Of, Oak Road, Halstead. Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response. Although in Halstead the site borders Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish. The Parish Council 'Object' to this application on the following grounds:

1. The surrounding roads including Oak Road, Letches Lane and Tidings Hill are not suitable for the amount of traffic that will be generated by this development. Councillors are concerned that the residents will use the local narrow rural roads to avoid the Braintree bypass and see them becoming a 'rat run.' They would like to see a traffic scheme, for example 'No right turn' signs on exiting the estate, speed restrictions, etc, put in place.
2. The border with the parish of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural is very harsh. They would like to see some form of landscaping, for example, trees planted to soften the border and provide an obvious boundary.

Finally, Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council fully support Mid and South Essex NHS request that the S106 healthcare contribution is paid on commencement of the development.

APPLICATION NO: 21/03295/TDC DESCRIPTION: Erection of 1 No dwelling (Technical details following approval for planning in principle for a residential dwelling. LOCATION: Land Off, White Ash Green, Halstead. Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response 'No objection.'

Item 2. For information only: The following planning applications have been commented on:
 Application Number 21/02924/FUL - Chaseways, Russells Road. 'No Objection.'
 Application Number 21/02598/HH, Church Path Cottage. Revised plan. 'No Objection.'
 Application Number 21/02731/HH - White Ash House, 5 White Ash Green. Please note Cllr. Pleasance declared a Pecuniary interest and took no part in the discussions. 'No Objection.'

Application Number: 21/02512/HH Greenstead Hall, Church Road, Greenstead Green. 'No Objection.'

110/21 Playing Field: Item 1: Update on purchase of new gate for the Playing Field. Cllr. Mason **Item 3: Update on the new information signs for the Playing Field. Cllr. Mason.** Due to Cllr. Mason being absent both Items 1 and 3 were deferred to the next meeting.

Item 2: To agree to purchase new goal posts at a cost of £1595 including VAT. Cllr Hambling. Prior to the meeting information regarding the purchase of goal posts had been circulated to the councillors. It was noted that when Cllr. Hambling repaired the current goal post he received a letter of thanks from a resident. After a brief discussion it was decided to purchase a pair of aluminium and steel movable goal posts. Proposal: To agree to purchase new goal posts at a cost of £1595 including VAT. Proposed Cllr. Butler, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All Agreed. **Action:** Cllr. Hambling to go ahead and purchase new aluminium goal posts.

111/21 To consider the request by the Village Hall committee to allow them to install a new bench in memory of Ken Wisbey on the village green. After a brief discussion where it was noted that the bench will have a plaque the following was proposed: To agree to the request from the Village Hall Committee to allow them to install a new bench in memory of Ken Wisbey on the village green, Proposed: Cllr. Hambling, Seconded: Cllr. Pleasance. All agreed.

112/21 To consider a request from a resident to plant trees for the environment possibly by taking part in the Queen's Green Canopy Project. www.queensgreencanopy.org. The Clerk reported that Greenwatch had been successful in applying for bulbs and trees from BDC. It was suggested that the trees could go in the Playing Field or suitable sites along the roadside. It was decided to defer this matter to the January meeting.

113/21 Village Hall. Item 1: To consider investigating an internet connection for the hall. Cllr. Butler reported that the Village Hall Management committee had looked at this issue and decided against it due to costs. Cllr. Pleasance explained that a password would be needed for such a connection which would mean if it were used for anything unsuitable the management committee would be liable. It was agreed not to pursue this any further. **Item 2: To consider purchasing a secure letter box for parish council business and approaching the Village Hall committee to ask for it to be installed at the village hall.** The Clerk explained that this had been prompted by the recent murder of Sir David Amess MP. She had received emails from various bodies who deal with parish councils suggesting safety measures one of which was to use secure letter boxes at a village hall for example rather than clerk's home addresses for correspondence. Cllr. Butler suggested approaching the village Post Mistress and asking to use the Post Office as an address. This was felt to be a suitable alternative to a letter box. The clerk also explained that from January she will be using the Councillor emails rather than personal ones. This is for the same reason. **Action:** Clerk to approach Post Office.

114/21 Meetings. Item 1: To approve the dates for 2022/23 parish council meetings. These had been circulated prior to the meeting. it was agreed to leave the start time at 7.15pm. These were duly approved. **Action:** Clerk to publicise these

dates on the noticeboard and website. Clerk to approach James Cleverly, MP's office to invite him to the Annual Parish Meeting.

All at 7.15pm on a Wednesday. At the Village Hall

12th January

9th March

11th May Annual Parish Council Meeting 7pm followed by an Ordinary meeting

19th May Annual Parish Meeting

27th July

14th September

16th November

Item 2: To agree a date and location for the Budget meeting. This can be held on ZOOM has no formal decisions are made. Wednesday 5th January 2022, 7pm. **Action:** Clerk to circulate draft budget and ZOOM link.

115/21 Greenwatch: To consider a request for a donation towards a speed gun for use in the Parish of Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural. This had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster adjourned the meeting to enable Greenwatch representatives to address the Council. Greenwatch have been able to secure on loan a speed gun from Community Speedwatch. But they would still like to purchase their own at a cost of £999.00 as this will be more cost effective in the long run.. Due to Covid there is little money in their accounts as they have been unable to fundraise. Greenwatch would be responsible for the calibration costs and batteries. They only want funding for the purchase. Positions will need to be looked for in White Ash Green and Burtons Green and then permission will need to be granted for the speed gun to operate there.

The SID has only been on the Green for a month but is picking up speeds in excess of 35mph (45% of cars) and shows that once some cars are past the parked cars in Church Road they are hitting 60mph. The Police have been emailed the figures and will be coming out to monitor the road. The figures also show that the village is being used as a 'rat run' by drivers.

Cllr. Pleasance was happy to support the application on the understanding the speed gun is used in the entire parish.

County Cllr. Chris Siddall was happy to use some of his Locality Funding grant for purchase of the speed gun.

Proposal: To apply for Locality Funding for the purchase of the speed gun. Proposed: Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Pleasance. All agreed. **Action:** Application to County Cllr. Siddall.

116/21 For information only: To note that permission has been given for the temporary erection of soldier silhouettes on the village green for Remembrance. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Hambling for his work on these. Thanks, were also

expressed to Cllr. Mason for the wood, which he had received from Travis Perkins for free as it was the top sheets from pallets, and paint. It was noted that Cllr. Hambling had received a letter of thanks from a resident thanking him for his work. The silhouettes will be removed after Remembrance Sunday and stored by Cllr. Hambling.

117/21 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling reported that work is under way for a Jubilee dance in Cllr. Butler's barn. It was asked if Jubilee mugs be placed on the January agenda. Agreed

118/21 To note any items of correspondence. Distributed. An email of complaint had been received from a resident regarding the removal of the Salt Bin. Cllr. Pleasance asked about the Grasscutting, and the clerk provided an update on this. Cllr. Pleasance had received an email requesting benches to be placed on the Halstead Loop.

119/21 Future agenda items. Open Spaces Plan, Budget, and Precept. Highways, Jubilee mugs, Playing Field gate and Noticeboards. Tree planting.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 21.38.

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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