

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.15pm.**

**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. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr. Peter Schwier

Members of the public = 4

**1/22 Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mason and Cllr Butler. These were duly accepted and approved. County Cllr. Chris Siddall also sent his apologies.

**2/22 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** Cllr. Pleasance declared a non-pecuniary interest on Agenda Item 9/22: Item 1 Planning Application no 21/03699HH.

**3/22 Item 1 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the November 2021 meeting were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Dixey, Seconded Cllr. Hambling.

**Item 2 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Agenda Item 104/21 Item 2 Salt bin:** This had been replaced by Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. **Agenda Item 106/21 C. Cllr Comments: Photos of Burtons Green highway problems- Cllr. Wickes:** Cllr Wickes had sent the photos to the clerk who had forwarded them on to County Cllr Siddall, along with all the other highway issues raised. **Agenda Item 115/21 Greenwatch-Speed gun:** The clerk had forwarded the application to County Cllr. Siddall.

**4/22 Public comment.** A resident had been asked by a young neighbour (Ryan Wilson) who is volunteering for his Duke of Edinburgh award to offer his services as a volunteer to the Parish Council. Cllr. Hambling thanked Ros Hardy for her litter picking in the village during the Christmas break. A resident had sent an article on council grants to Cllr. Mason. The resident wanted to know more about them. District Cllr. Peter Schwier would cover it in his section.

**5/22 Country Councillor's report.** County Cllr. Chris Siddall had given permission for District Cllr. Peter Schwier to cover this. The following updates were provided:

- Essex County Council are increasing their part of the Council Tax to pay for services including Adult Social Care and health care.
- Climate Action fund for groups open until March 2023
- ECC have joined up with Essex Ramblers to deal with Public Right of Way issues (PROW). This had resulted in 30% of landowners putting PROW'S back into action.
- Arts and Culture fund. Apply online.
- Phase 2 of Warm Homes Grant had been started.

**6/22 District Councillor's report.** District Cllr. Peter Schwier provided the following update:

- Braintree District Council (BDC) customer survey. 80% of public happy with the way BDC run services.
- The Local Plan: Braintree Local Plan Section 2 is out for consultation
- Bus interchange in Braintree is now fully opened
- EScooter trails extended for another year
- Proposed 2.6% increase in the Council Tax.
- Recycling team did excellent job over Xmas

District Cllr. Schwier then took questions from the floor. Cllr. Hambling asked if his thanks could be passed onto the Street Scene Enforcement team who had quickly removed fly tipping that had blocked a road. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster asked about the planning application at Bournebridge Hill. District Cllr. Schwier will ask for an update and pass it on to the clerk.

**7/22 Precept/Budget 2022/2023: Item 1. To agree and set the budget. Item 2. To agree and set the Precept.** The Chairman, Cllr. Foster reported that there had been a Budget meeting on ZOOM on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The budget and precept for 2022-23 had been discussed. There had been cuts in some areas and increases in others including a budget for the Platinum Jubilee and Reserves, plus rises in the Playing Field and Audit budgets due to increases in the cost of living. The 2020/21 budget had been £10,451 and it was proposed to increase the budget to £11, 972 an increase of £5.30 on a Band D property. It was decided to take Item 1 and Item 2 together. Proposal: to agree and set the budget and precept at £11,972. Proposed Cllr Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

**Item 3. Chairman to sign the Precept.** The Chairman, Cllr. Foster signed the Precept for 2022/23.

**8/22 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Wickes. All agreed. The motion was duly carried.

BACS		DM Payroll	£60.00	Invoice paid 14/12/21
BACs		Live4Soccer	£1,684.95	Goalposts pd 16/12/21

BACS		Amanda Degnan	£316.67	Dec Salary pd 15/12/21
BACS		EALC	£84.00	Budget course
BACS		Amanda Degnan	£316.67	Jan Salary
BACS		Amanda Degnan	£12.70	Expenses
		<b>Total payments for January 2022</b>	£2,474.99	

**Item 2. To agree to extend the contract of the payroll provider ‘DM Payroll Services.’** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Dixey. All agreed. The motion was duly carried.

**9/22 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

**Item 1 APPLICATION NO :21/03699/HH DESCRIPTION:** Construction of detached two storey cart lodge together with ground floor side extension to existing dwelling, linking to cart lodge. **LOCATION:** Brambles, White Ash Green, Halstead

Cllr. Pleasance had declared an interest in this item and left the room during discussions. After a brief discussion it was proposed to raise ‘No Objection’ Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. Cllr. Pleasance returned to the meeting.

**Planning updates:** see attached list.

**Item 2 The Local Plan: Braintree Local Plan Section 2 Consultation. To consider a response to the consultation.**

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster explained that BDC were consulting on the main modifications only and that any comments would relate to these. It was decided not to comment on the consultation.

**10/22 Highways: Item 1 TRAF7759 RE: The Essex County Council (A131 Mount Hill and Oak Road, Halstead) (Restricted Road & 50MPH Speed Limit) Order 201\*:** To consider a response to the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph. The parish council had previously been consulted on this in 2019. It was agreed to ask if the speed limit could be lowered to 30mph, and the speed limit area extended to beyond Russells Road to the south. **Action:** Clerk

**Item 2: Parish Councillors Highway issues.** Burtons Green – Cllr. Wickes would like to see an HGV restriction in place in Burtons Green area. **Action:** Cllr. Wickes to send details to the clerk.

Star Stile – Cllr Dixey reported that the flooding by Oak Road, Maplestead had been pumped out and the sumps cleared but not the drain. When it rained it did clear quickly but it still needs work to be conducted on it. He also felt there was a need for HGV stop signs at the entrances to Star Stile.

Greenstead Green – Cllr. Hambling raised concerns about the increasing traffic on side roads. It was also noted that the car in the hedge had been reported and is being dealt with by BDC

White Ash Green – Cllr. Pleasance reported that there will be a road closure on Sloe Hill for 35 days to sort the flooding out. He will be asking for a scheme of works regarding this. He raised concerns about the lack of kerbing in the area and had received complaints from walkers about the verge gradually disappearing. He had emailed his concerns to both the County and District Councillors. The badly placed sign is still in situ. The clerk informed the meeting that she had been told it was Gosfield Parish Council who had asked for the sign. Deer warning signs are still needed.

Penny Pot Corner – Cllr. Foster reported that the black and white sign needed replacing. Cllr. Hambling suggested reported it on the ECC Highways portal and using the councillor email address.

The clerk had received an email just prior to the meeting from a resident in Greenstead Green asking for the SID to be returned to Church Road. It was explained that this is a temporary measure while the SID collects data from round the village. The clerk was asked to draft a response. **Action:** Clerk

**Item 3: To consider whether to respond to the Public Consultation on regional Transport Strategy as a Parish Council or individually.** It was decided not to respond to this as a Parish Council. The Chairman encouraged Councillors to respond as individuals to this consultation.

**11/22 Playing Field: Item 1. Update on installation of new gate. (Cllr. Mason).**

**Item 2. Update on new information signs. (Cllr. Mason).** In the absence of Cllr.

Mason it was agreed to defer these to the next meeting. **Item 3. Update on new goalposts. (Cllr. Hambling)** Cllr Hambling reported that he had received these and would be erecting them over the weekend.

**12/22 To update the Open Spaces Action Plan.** The disused railway was added to the plan. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster then signed the plan. **Action:** Clerk to send plan to BDC.

**13/22 To consider areas to plant trees and types of trees to be planted.** There will be space by the old railway once work has been completed on the cycle path. Cllr. Butler has taken the trees given to Greenwatch and is planting them. The bulbs they also received are being planted around the area. It was suggested planting some on Burtons Green triangle.

**14/22 Jubilee: To consider buying Jubilee mugs for the Jubilee weekend.** It was noted that Greenwatch is having a meeting to discuss the Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to email District Cllr. Schwier to find out how BDC is celebrating the Jubilee. To be deferred to the next meeting. **Action:** Clerk.

**15/22 To consider a request from the Chair of the Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council to participate in a meeting regarding the National Grid Substation Proposal.** Clerk to go back to the Chair of the Hennys, etc and thank him

for his email but Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council would like more information before participating in a meeting. **Action:** Clerk

**16/22 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives.** Cllr. Hambling updated the meeting on Greenwatch. He also provided an update on the Earls Colne Cycleway. It was noted that the PROW is being moved on to the old railway line. SuSTRANS is involved in the cycle way and there is support from the Government and private individuals.

**17/22 To note any items of correspondence. Noted** An email had been received from Cadent regarding work at White Ash Green. The Councillors were happy for the Clerk to sign the licence for works to proceed.

**18/22 Future agenda items.** Playing Field fencing, frame for the village map.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm. Next meeting to take place Wednesday 9th March 2022 at the Village Hall.

**Signed**.....

**Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.**

**Date**.....

<p>Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council. 8 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield. 01787 274992. <a href="mailto:greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com">greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com</a>. WWW. <a href="http://greensteadgreenpc.org.uk">greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</a>.</p>
---