

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.15pm These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

Present.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers.

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr. Peter Schwier

2 members of the public

1/23 Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received and duly accepted from Cllr. Mason and County Cllr. Siddall both of whom were away.

2/23 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest received.

3/23 Item 1 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Approved. **Item 2 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Item 103/22 Public Comment:**

Commemorative trees locations- this is a work in progress as some of the information regarding the events trees were planted for is missing. **106/22 Finance: Gigaclear free WIFI for the village hall** - the Clerk reported that Gigaclear was not in the village, so the village hall was unable to take advantage of this offer.

4/23 Public comment. A resident asked if there had been more information regarding 'Truecam.' **Action:** Clerk to ask County Cllr Siddall for an update.

5/23 County Councillor's report. Due to the absence of County Cllr. Siddall there was no report.

6/23 District Councillor's report. District Cllr. Peter Schwier had emailed a report to the Clerk prior to the meeting. **Action:** Clerk to circulate report.

District Cllr. Schwier was happy for his District Councillor Community grant to be used for items in the Playing Field rather than for the installation of an electric connection in the Playing Field.

On behalf of County Cllr. Siddall, District Cllr. Schwier reported that Essex County Council (ECC) through the cabinet have agreed on a 3.5% increase in their portion of the council tax bill for 2023/4. Two percent of this planned increase will go towards

child and adult social care. The rest will go into council expenditure. Braintree District Council (BDC) will vote on their portion of the council tax bill in early February.

District Cllr. Peter Schwier was thanked for his report by the Chairman. District Cllr. Schwier left the meeting at 19.26pm

7/23 Precept/Budget 2023/2024: Item 1. To agree and set the budget. There had been a Teams meeting in November to discuss the budget and precept. It had been decided to keep increases low and below RPI inflation. The budget was set at £12,812 which is an increase of £840 or 6.8%. This was due to small increases in insurance, clerks' salary and hall hire among other things. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster proposed accepting and setting the budget at £12,812, seconded Cllr. Hambling. All approved.

Item 2. To agree and set the Precept. The precept is to be set at £12,812 an increase of £840 which will result in a Band D property paying £46.33 for 2023/24 council tax. Last year it was £43.38. It was noted that the parish council no longer receive any additional money from BDC. **Proposal: To agree to set the Precept at £12,812.** Proposed: Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. All approved.

Item 3. Chairman to sign the Precept. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster and Clerk signed the Precept request. Clerk to send to BDC.

8/23 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. Proposed Cllr. Pleasance, Seconded: Cllr. Wickes. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

BACS/Cheque no		Payee	Amount	Reason
BACs		DM Payroll Services Ltd.	£60.00	Paid 12/12/22
SO		Mrs A Degnan	£333.34	Dec Salary pd 15/12/22
BACs	off exp	Amazon	£30.77	Ink
BACs		Greenstead Village Hall	£20.00	January meeting
SO		Mrs A Degnan	£333.34	January Salary 15/01/23
BACs		Mrs A Degnan	£11.30	Expenses
		Total payments for January 2023	£788.75	

Item 2: Update on District Councillor Community grant for electric in the Playing Field and to agree to use the Community Grant for replacement swing seats and not an electric cable and cover. District Cllr. Schwier is happy for the change of use for the grant. It was proposed not to use the grant for the electric cable and cover but to use it for the swing seats. **Proposal: to agree to use the Community Grant for replacement swing seats and not an electric cable and cover.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. Approved.

9/23 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Item 1 APPLICATION NO :22/03366/OUT DESCRIPTION: Outline application for the erection of 34 dwellings (including 24 market units and 10 social affordable units) with permission sought for access and drainage. LOCATION: Halstead Hall, Braintree Road, Greenstead Green. The Parish Council raised 'No Objection' to this application on the proviso that a condition and S106 agreement was put in place that the revenue from the sale of the market housing was put towards the Dementia Unit. Proposed: Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

Item 2: Planning enforcement: Update. Greenstead Hall – new entrance opening on the Halstead Road. Reported by Clerk and Cllr. Mason. The Clerk read an email received in November from District Cllr. Spray who had spoken to BDC Planning Enforcement about the new entrance way. There seemed to be another track into the site which they were now investigating. Cllr. Hambling had looked at an old Ordnance Survey map which showed a track way where the new road and entrance are. This may be the original entrance into the site. Cllr Mason had emailed Enforcement the previous week but had received no reply. **Action:** Clerk to contact Planning Enforcement for an update.

Item 3: Planning Updates. 22/02804/FUL Silver Birch – menage. This had been approved.

10/23 Highways: Item1. Parish Councillors Highway issues. Cllr. Pleasance asked the Clerk to formally approach County Cllr. Siddall to ask why the Sloe Hill Flood Alleviation scheme which was due to start in Autumn 2022 had been cancelled and when would the work be scheduled to start. **Action:** Clerk.

Item 2. To consider joining the '20's Plenty for Essex' campaign. An email on this had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster read out the schemes outline to the meeting. The scheme proposes having a 20mph speed limit on Essex roads in built up areas and lanes. It was noted that Essex Police have said they will not enforce it. It was decided to bring the item back to the March meeting. **Proposal:** To bring this item back to the March meeting to consider adopting it and for the Clerk to produce a template for consideration. Proposed: Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. Approved. **Action:** Clerk

Item 3 Update on Crocklands flooding. Cllr. Hambling had sent County Cllr. Chris Siddall all the information and pictures regarding the flooding and had received a reply from County Cllr. Siddall which the Clerk had circulated to all the councillors. A drainage engineer had investigated the area and had submitted a phase 2 capital drainage SWAS scheme which is programmed for 2023/24 works subject to funding approval. Cllr. Hambling expressed the view it would have been useful for the engineer to have spoken to a villager when they visited the village. He will speak to County Cllr. Siddall about this.

11/23 Playing Field: Item 1: Update on Playing Field. The Clerk reported that the parish council had been unsuccessful in their CIF grant application. Cllr Mason had sent an update to the Clerk regarding the swings and slide. He had contacted Wickstead but to date had received no information from them. He will contact them again.

Item 2: Update on installations of small new gate and fence for Playing Field.
Cllr. Mason. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Mason had purchased a small gate and will install it.

12/23 Trees: Update on purchase of trees to replace the dead tree in the Playing Field and the one at Plaistow Green. The Clerk had applied for the Locality Grant. There may be a cost for the removal of the tree in the Playing Field.

13/23 Training: Item 1. To agree to send Cllr Siggers on the two-day Councillor Training course at a cost of £90 + VAT per day. Proposed: Cllr. Hambling, Seconded: Cllr. Pleasance. Approved.

Item 2: To agree to send the Clerk and any councillors on the Elections Briefing 2023 course at a cost of £45 + VAT. Approved.

14/23 To agree to update the Annual Emergency Plan. Cllr. Pleasance and Cllr. Siggers to update. Note: to be updated by 31st January 2023.

15/23 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives. Greenwatch are holding a Coffee Morning every first Thursday of the month in the village hall at 10.30am. Promoted on Greenwatch's WhatsApp, Facebook and by leaflets. It is very well attended. Cllr. Hambling is attending a EC2H meeting and BALC meeting week beginning 15th January. He will report back at the March meeting.

16/23 To note any items of correspondence. Noted. The Clerk had sent out BDC emails which referred to their Housing Strategy consultation which runs until 7th February.

17/23 Future agenda items. Sim card. 20's Plenty, Annual Parish Meeting – refreshments and guest speaker.

18/23 From the 1st January 2023 the Clerks email address is now parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. Noted.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 20.36 pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 8th March 2023.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

Amanda Degnan

<p>Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council, C/O Greenstead Green Post Office, Greenstead Green Farm, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY. 01787 274992. parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</p>
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