

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 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. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Pat Wickes.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

County Cllr. Chris Siddall

District Cllr. Peter Schwier

Together with 5 members of the public

19/23 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Paul Foster who was on holiday.

20/23 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest.

21/23 Item 1 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed Cllr. Pleasance, Seconded Cllr. Siggers. Agreed. Therefore, the minutes of the January 2023 meeting were approved. **Item 2 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting which are not on the agenda. Item 4/23 Public Comment Truecam** – still a work in progress. **Item 7/23 Precept** – this had been forwarded to Braintree District Council (BDC). **Item 10/23 Highways Sloe Hill-** still waiting for further information on this.

22/23 Public comment. A resident raised concerns about the need to prebook time slots for the recycling centre.

23/23 County Councillor's report County Cllr. Chris Siddall reported on the following:

- Pothole repair scheme – 136 potholes had been allocated to this.
- Bournebridge Hill scheme had been completed.
- Highway Rangers are now defunct.
- More money for potholes and pavement repairs in 2023/24 budget.
- Essex County Council (ECC) 2023/24 budget had increased by 3.7%

There were no questions for County Cllr. Siddall and he was thanked for his report by Cllr. Mason, Vice-Chairman.

24/23 District Councillor's report. District Councillor Peter Schwier reported on the following:

- Eastlight rent to be increased by 7%.
- DigiGo on demand transport service had been a remarkable success.
- Horizon 120 site had many new businesses opening up.
- Job Fair 25th March 2023 9-1 at The Plaza, Horizon 120 site.
- Rural Prosperity Fund - £600,000 available. Minimum grant £10,000 maximum £50,000. For Parish Councils and community group projects in the rural area. Apply online.

The Vice-Chairman Cllr. Mason asked about the Millennium Slip roads that had been due to be built. District Cllr. Schwier explained that funding for these had been pushed back and so the funding BDC had set aside was being given as a £25 bonus to residents.

There being no further questions District Cllr. Schwier was thanked for his time by the Vice-Chair. District Cllr. Schwier then left the meeting at 19:40.

25/23 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. Proposed Cllr. Hambling, Seconded Cllr. Mason. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

BACS/Cheque no	Payee	Amount	Reason
BACs	EALC	£54.00	Paid 18/01/23 Election course
SO	Mrs A Degnan	£333.34	Feb Salary pd 15/02/23
BACs	EALC	£216.00	Councillor course
BACs	Greenstead Village Hall	£20.00	March meeting
SO	Mrs A Degnan	£333.34	March salary pd 15/03/23
BACs	Mrs A Degnan	£16.10	Expenses
BACs	Kings & co	£365.00	Trees
	Total payments for March 2023	£1,337.78	

Item 2. Village hall valuation. Cllr. Butler. Cllr. Butler will provide an updated valuation of the village hall for the Assets List for the next meeting.

26/23 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Item 1: Planning enforcement: Update. Greenstead Hall – new entrance opening on the Halstead Road. Reported by Clerk and Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason had received an update from BDC Planning Enforcement regarding this. Planning permission for the gateway was obtained in 2012 as part of the planning application for the wedding barns. A 'meaningful start' in 2012 on building the barns was conducted by the

previous owner and completed by the current owner hence the entrance way. Therefore, the entrance way is approved and not a planning breach. Cllr. Mason did note that the splay for the original entrance way was different from the current splay and has queried this with Enforcement. **Action:** Cllr. Mason to forward email from Planning Enforcement to the clerk.

27/23 Highways: Item 1. Parish Councillors Highway issues. Cllr. Wickes (Burtons Green) raised the ongoing issue of the broken crash barrier on the bridge at Burtons Green Road. This had been reported several times. To be reported again using councillor email address. County Cllr. Siddall asked for the reference number to be forwarded to him when reported. Cllr. Butler (Greenstead Green) reported that a drain had blown in Ravens Hall Road on the east side of the bridge. **Item 2. To consider joining the '20's Plenty for Essex' campaign.** The motion is: Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council:

- supports the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign,
- calls on Essex County Council to implement 20mph in Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural and
- will write to Essex County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout the county where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

This motion was put to the vote. For: Cllr. Pleasance, Against: Cllr. Mason, Cllr. Hambling, Cllr. Siggers and Cllr. Wickes. Cllr Butler abstained. Therefore, the motion was not supported.

Item 3 Update on Crocklands flooding. There is no further update on this. County Cllr Siddall will chase. **Item 4. To consider approaching ECC Highways regarding salting of the roads in Greenstead Green.** It was confirmed that the roads are being salted as per the ECC Highways salting rota.

28/23 Playing Field: Item 1: Update on Playing Field including new seats for the swings. Cllr. Mason had received a quote of £70.80 including VAT (seat) and £43.20 including VAT (chains) for one swing seat with chains from Onlineplaygrounds. A total of £228.00 including VAT for two seats and chains. The clerk had received a quote from Wickstead, who had supplied the swings, of £178.55 excluding VAT for just two swing seats with fixings but no chains.

Item 2: Update on installations of new small gate and fence for Playing Field. **Cllr. Mason.** The gate and fixings had been purchased. Cllr. Mason hoped to install the gate on Saturday 11th March 2023.

29/23 Trees: Update on purchase of trees to replace the dead tree in the Playing Field and the one at Plaistow Green. These had been purchased and will be planted by Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Butler to remove dead tree in The Playing Field.

30/23 Update on the Annual Emergency Plan. Ongoing. **Action:** Cllr. Siggers to send his contact details to Cllr. Pleasance for inclusion in the plan.

31/23 To consider sending a response to ECC regarding the recently announced requirement for booking entry times to use the recycling centres by motorised vehicles. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to ECC expressing Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council's concerns regarding this as it is felt it will lead to more fly tipping in the parish. It is felt some form of monitoring of fly tipping needs to be put in place. **Action:** Clerk to write letter.

32/23 To consider a response to be sent to the local schools in Gosfield with regards to their continued erection of noticeboards on parish council land at White Ash Green without prior permission. Cllr. Pleasance will make an informal approach to the local schools regarding the erection of notice boards on parish council land and remind them of the need to ask permission first.

34/23 Annual Parish meeting. Item 1. To consider whether to invite a guest. It was agreed to approach James Cleverly, MP. **Item 2. To consider whether to provide refreshments.** It was agreed to provide refreshments and wine. **Action:** Clerk.

35/23 Afternoon Tea with the outgoing BDC Chair. Who would like to attend. Cllr. Mason is attending this as Chair of Braintree Athletics Club and as a councillor. Clerk to ask the Chairman Cllr. Foster if he wishes to attend. **Action:** Clerk

36/23 To consider purchasing a SIM card for the Clerk to use as the Parish Council phone number. This was agreed. **Action:** Clerk

37/23 Election update from Clerk. The Clerk reminded Councillors and residents who wish to stand as councillors that they will need to hand their nomination papers in by hand before **4pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023.** Notice of Election is believed to be the 27th March 2023. Polling Day is Thursday 4th May. The Clerk also reminded everyone that ID will be needed to vote.

38/23 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives. Cllr. Hambling reported that he had attended a meeting of the EC2H cycleway. The Coggeshall to Kelvedon route is currently stalled due to issues with land owners. The Earls Colne to Coggeshall route is being created by Sustrans. The old railway line at Halstead is being cleared of vegetation prior to its use as a cycleway.

Cllr. Hambling had also attended a meeting by Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC). There had been an interesting talk from Chief Constable Harrington. Truecam had been mentioned and this will be PCO operated in Essex. Local councils in attendance at BALC had expressed their anger to BDC about the decision to charge for emptying Green bins. It was noted that BDC will receive funding if they charge for the service.

Cllr. Mason and Cllr. Butler had been asked to place a concrete plinth on The Village Green for the memorial bench for Ken Wisbey. The Clerk confirmed that this had

been agreed at the Parish council meeting dated 10th November 2021 Agenda Item 111/21. **Action:** Cllr Mason and Cllr Butler.

39/23 To note any items of correspondence. Noted. All items of correspondence had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting and noted. The Clerk had received a letter from BDC regarding Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) placed on trees at the Bournebridge Hill site. The meeting was briefly adjourned to deal with some comments from the public regarding an email on Mill View which had been circulated to the Councillors. The email raised issues regarding lighting and CCTV at a private property which do not come under the mandate of the parish council. The Parish Council also confirmed that street lighting in the village and the converting of The Chase into a road, which were also raised in the email, will not be happening. This had also been confirmed by Eastlight in an email to a concerned resident. The meeting was then reopened.

40/23 Future agenda items.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 21:10.

Next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 19:15.

AGM and Ordinary Parish Council meeting Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 19:00.

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. greensteadgreenclerk@outlook.com. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</p>
--