

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 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. Gemma Todd

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

5 members of the public. PCSO John Thorne

**64/23 Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Pleasance who was away on business and Cllr Mason who was ill. Accepted. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Chris Siddall and District Cllr. Peter Schwier who were attending meetings.

**65/23 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** None.

**66/23 Item 1: To approve the minutes of the AGM held in May.** The AGM minutes were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Approved.

**Item 2: To approve the minutes of the May ordinary meeting.** With one minor amendment the minutes of the May 2023 ordinary meeting were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Approved. **Item 3: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings.** All matters arising were on the agenda.

**67/23 Public comment.** A resident raised the issue of a burst water main at the crossroads to Clavering on the right of Nuntys Lane near Nuntys Farm. It had been reported to Anglian Water at least five times and Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. The nearby wood was now flooded, and the road was in danger of collapsing. Cllr Hambling and Cllr. Todd to report the problem to ECC Highways using their Councillor email addresses. Footpath opposite the greenhouses near the Sandpit is covered in weeds and the footbridge is broken.

A resident asked why the grasscutters were not collecting the grass cuttings or cutting the Playing Field hedge. The Clerk explained that M D Landscapes no longer have a machine that collects cuttings due to there being no demand from clients for this service. The hedge will be cut in September. The Playing Field gate into Burtons Green Road needs repairing. Cllr. Mason is aware and will be dealing with it.

The drain down from the Farm Shop is full of weeds.

Cllr. Hambling had been approached by a resident who had asked if a community skip could be provided once a month. Toppesfield Parish Council have a refuse truck visit once a month.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster welcomed PCSO Thorne to the meeting. PCSO Thorne introduced himself and provided an update on his role and what issues have been

occurring in the area. He is happy to attend the next speed watch and will liaise with Greenwatch regarding this. Cllr. Foster raised concerns regarding littering in the area and Cllr. Todd had reported tyre burns on the road at Burtons Green where someone had been 'doughnutting.'

PCSO Thorne can be contacted via the Braintree Police Website. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster thanked PCSO Thorne for his time. PCSO Thorne left the meeting at 7.45pm.

**68/23 County Councillor's report.** In the absence of the County Councillor there was no report.

**69/23 District Councillor's report.** in the absence of the District Councillor there was no report.

**70/23 Finance: Item 1: To agree to continue membership of RCCE at £52.80 (same as last year).** Agreed. **Item 2: To agree to continue membership of BALC at £48.00.** Increase due to insurance cover for all Councillors whose parish belongs to BALC. Agreed. **Item 3: To agree the accounts for payment.** These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Todd All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

BACS/Cheque no	Payee	Amount	Reason
BACS	Derek Mason	£482.24	Gate paid 6/6/23
BACS	Online Playgrounds	£140.40	swing seat pd 12/6/23
SO	Amanda Degnan	£350.00	June salary pd 15/6/23
BACS	RoSPA	£102.60	playground inspection pd 22/6/23
BACS	RCCE	£52.80	membership
BACS	M D Landscapes	£1,062.00	grasscutting
BACS	BALC	£48.00	membership
BACS	Village hall	£20.00	meeting 12/7/23
BACS	Amazon Office expenses	£31.48	reimburse A.Degnan ink
SO	Amanda Degnan	£350.00	July salary pd 15/7/23
BACS	Amanda Degnan	£14.40	expenses
	<b>Total payments for July 2023</b>	<b>£2,653.92</b>	

**Item 4: Village Hall Valuation – Cllr. Butler. Deferred from the May meeting.** Clerk was asked to approach the Village Hall secretary for a valuation. **Action:** Clerk.

**71/23 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**

**Item 1: Planning Applications.** There were no Planning Applications.

**Item 2: For information only – APPLICATION NO: 23/00630/FUL DESCRIPTION: Erection of replacement workshop building (part retrospective). LOCATION: Burtons Green Nursery, Burtons Green, Greenstead Green– Approved.** Neighbours are still concerned. To be monitored for noise.

**23/01553/AGR DESCRIPTION: Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - 2No. Portal framed agricultural storage buildings LOCATION: Greenstead Hall Church Road Greenstead Green Essex – Information only.**

Bournebridge Hill development – objection from Ecology.

Cypress Lodge – solar panels - approved.

**72/23 Playing Field. Item 1: To consider items raised from the RoSPA report.**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no high-risk items only medium or low risk. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Mason to look at the items mentioned in the report. **Item 2: To agree to purchase another child swing seat and two toddler swing seats from Online Playgrounds at a cost of £316.80 inc. VAT.**

Proposed: Cllr. Hambling, Seconded: Cllr. Todd. Approved/ **Action:** Clerk. **Item 3: To consider purchasing galvanised steel sleeves to protect the legs of the wooden play equipment from the grass strimmer.** It was agreed to postpone this to a future meeting.

**73/23 To confirm the Parish Council will not be taking part in the Salt bag partnership 2023/24.** Proposed: Cllr. Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Todd. Agreed.

**74/23 Highways: Parish Councillors reports.** This was covered during Agenda Item 67/23 Public comment. There is a pothole near Magpie Hall, Plaistow Green Road.

**75/23 To consider approaching M.D. Landscapes for the removal of the dead tree in The Playing Field.** Proposed: Cllr Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. Agreed. Tree/logs to be left in the Playing Field for insects. **Action:** Clerk.

**76/23 Grants: To consider applying for a grant for new playground equipment and/or circular tree seat from either Enovert Community Trust (ECT) or from the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) grant or District Councillors Grant.** It was agreed to ask Cllr. Mason to obtain individual quotes for the following items: slide, steppingstones, seesaw, and swing safety matting surface. Clerk to obtain further information on the Enovert grant. CIF grant needs to be applied for by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023. **Action:** Cllr. Mason, Clerk.

**77/23 Village Hall: To agree to sign the legal agreement between Enovert Community Trust (ECT), Greenstead Green Village Hall and the Parish Council (as landowners) so that the hall committee may receive a grant for repairs and refurbishment of the hall. Deferred from the May meeting.** The Clerk provided an update from the Village Hall Secretary who is still waiting for the legal paperwork. In the absence of any paperwork, it was agreed in principle to sign when they are received. Deferred to the September meeting.

**78/23 To consider purchasing a new printer for the Clerk as the current one no longer works.** Clerk to provide pricings for a new printer with the purpose of applying for a District Councillor Grant. To be placed on the September meeting. **Action:** Clerk.

**79/23 To encourage councillors and residents to take part in Essex Highways public consultation on Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy.**

[www.essexhighways.org/ev-strategy](http://www.essexhighways.org/ev-strategy). The Chairman, Cllr. Foster encouraged everyone present to take part in the survey. Closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**80/23 Apologies Item 1. To agree to Cllr. Pleasance missing the September and November meeting. Reasons to be provided by the Clerk at the July meeting.**

The Clerk explained that due to work commitments Cllr Pleasance will be unable to attend the next 2 meetings and needs to give his apologies in advance and for these to be accepted as it will place him in danger of losing his seat. Proposed: Cllr Foster, Seconded: Cllr. Hambling. Agreed. Therefore, the proposal to agree to Cllr. Pleasance missing the next 2 meetings and excepting his reasons for this in advance was approved.

**Item 2 To remind Councillors that they are required under Schedule 12 of The Local Government Act 1974 to send apologies to the Clerk with reasons prior to the meeting. Clerk. Action:** Clerk to send email out to Councillors to remind them of this and the law.

**81/23 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr.**

Hambling is unable to attend the next BALC meeting. Clerk to send meeting link to Cllr. Pleasance who is the other BALC representative. EC2H had been renamed Greenway Halstead. Cllr. Hambling and the Chair of Greenway Halstead are to attend a meeting of Halstead Town Council to present the scheme to Halstead Councillors. This is due to the May election resulting in a number of new councillors who oppose the scheme.

Jean Hastings "Neighbourhood Watch" (NHW) reported that she had now met District Commander Martin Richards twice, and he was very appreciative of NHW. She may be helping him (in her role as member of the Braintree District NHW Steering Group), along with Clive Stewart, at a "Police event" in Halstead in August - being mirrored in Braintree and Witham on 2 other dates.

**82/23 To note any items of correspondence.** The Clerk had received an email about a footpath that was covered by crops which she had referred to the ECC Highways. The Clerk read out an email promoting a survey on Taxi services in the district.

**83/23 Future agenda items.** Training, printers, deferred items from this meeting.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 21.05.

**Next meeting Parish Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. 7.15pm Village Hall.**

**Signed.....**

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

**Date.....**

*Amanda Degnan*

**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](mailto:parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk). WWW. [greensteadgreenpc.org.uk](http://greensteadgreenpc.org.uk)**