

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 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. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

2 Members of the public

106/23 Apologies for absence. Cllr. Pleasance, Cllr. Todd . Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Pleasance who was away on business. This had been pre-approved at the July meeting. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Todd who was on holiday. Accepted. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Siddall and District Cllr. Schwier.

107/23 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None.

108/23 (a) To approve the minutes of the September Ordinary meeting. The minutes of the September 2023 ordinary meeting were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Butler, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Approved. **(b) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Agenda item 87/23 Public comment:** Resident's suggestion to move Public Comment to the end of November meeting. This is being trailed at this meeting. Residents were thanked for their emailed comments regarding issues. **Skip:** The Clerk had discovered that a licence is required to have a skip on Highways property. It was suggested that a dustcart would be more suitable due to issues with fly tipping. Dustcart to be placed on the January agenda. **94/23 MD Landscapes and dead tree:** As agreed at the last meeting Cllr. Butler had removed the dead tree from the Playing Field. The Parish Council thanked him for his help in this matter. **100/23 Defibrillator:** Pads and battery have been replaced. All other matters arising were on the agenda.

109/23 County Councillor's report. In the absence of Essex County Council (ECC) Cllr. Siddall. The Clerk read out a brief email from him:

1.) I was delighted to get repairs to pothole completed in Russel's road as part of my member allocation, I still have a few do please let me know if you have any others you would like me to put towards it.

2.) As members will be aware I have been pushing for the work on Sloe Hill to elevate flooding, this is scheduled to be done this month.

110/23 District Councillor’s report. In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier a brief report was emailed to the Clerk and is attached as Appendix A.

111/23 Finance: Item 1: To agree the accounts for payment. These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Butler, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

| BACS | Payee | Amount | Reason |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| BACS | Defibshop | £420.60 | pads and battery pd 26/9/23 |
| BACS | Mrs A J Degnan/ Amazon | £139.00 | Amazon - printer |
| SO | Mrs A J Degnan | £350.00 | October Salary pd 15/10/23 |
| BACS | Mrs A J Degnan/Land Registry | £9.00 | Land Registry searches x 3 Office expense |
| BACS | EALC | £228.00 | Training course - Cllr. Todd |
| BACS | BDC | £140.10 | Election |
| BACS | Mrs A J Degnan/Microsoft | £59.99 | Microsoft 365 office expense |
| BACS | M D Landscapes | £1,089.60 | grass cutting and hedge |
| BACS | Village Hall | £20.00 | hall rental |
| BACS | Mrs A J Degnan | £11.80 +£2.00= £13.80 | Expenses plus £2.00 for the heating |
| | Total payments for November 2023 | £2,468.09 Plus £2.00 | |

112/23 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.

Item 1: Planning Applications. To be advised. There were no planning applications.

Item 2: Update on entrance gates to Greenstead Hall. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason had met Natalie Banks from Planning Enforcement at the site of the entrance gates. The original plans had been for 2 simple pillars and set back from the road. This is what had been approved when the Planning Application had been discussed in 2012. The large, curved walls that had now been built are not what had been approved. After a number of emails Planning Enforcement informed Cllr. Mason that they were not going to pursue enforcement action. The owner of the site can put in for Retrospective Planning permission which would probably be approved but Planning Enforcement cannot force the owners to put in for retrospective permission. It was noted that if an application showing gates in the current style had been received by the Parish Council they would have objected. Cllr. Mason was thanked for his work on this issue.

Item 3: Update on previous Planning Applications. For information only.

APPLICATION NO : 23/01877/PLD DESCRIPTION : LOCATION : Copper Oaks Sloe Hill Halstead Essex CO9 1PA .Supported Childrens accommodation. Granted.

APPLICATION NO:23/01733/HH LOCATION :Westwell, White Ash Green, Halstead. Annex. Granted.

APPLICATION NO : 23/01767/FUL DESCRIPTION :Change of use from agricultural barn to private car storage and single storey side extension. LOCATION Stanstead Hall, Stanstead Hall Road, Greenstead Green. Granted. Braintree District Council (BDC) added a condition regarding external lighting which was one of the conditions asked for by the Parish Council.

APPLICATION NO : 23/01878/FUL LOCATION : Land East Of , Ayletts Farm, Plaistow Green Road. Change of use. This had been objected to by the Parish Council and Magpie Hall. The application had been withdrawn on Monday 6th November.

APPLICATION NO : 23/02302/TPO T1 Oak - Reduce tree into a monolith and leave standing. LOCATION : Ashford Lodge Cottage , Sudbury Road, Halstead. Pending.

APPLICATION NO : 23/02361/HH LOCATION : 8 Burtons Green Road, Greenstead Green, Essex. Extension. Pending.

Item 4. Update on meeting held with Bennett Homes on the 18th September.

This had been attended by Cllrs Foster, Siggers and Mason and the Clerk plus 3 representatives from Bennett Homes. The meeting was held on site at Halstead Hall to look at Bennett Homes revised plans for the site. Councillors raised concerns regarding parking on the site. Revised application is yet to be received for formal discussion.

113/23 Playing Field. Item 1: Update on items raised from the RoSPA report.

Cllr. Mason. New gate and posts for the Burtons Green entrance are on order. Cllr. Mason will install them when they arrive.

Cllr. Mason had received a verbal quote of £305 plus VAT for the welding repairs on the slide. It was agreed that this quote should be accepted. Proposed Cllr. Mason Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Agreed.

After a brief discussion it was decided to employ a decorator to repaint the swings and see saw. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Agreed.

Cllr. Mason had looked at the safety matting and could see no problems with the mats. As there is still an outstanding amount of £208 from the District Councillor grant left to spend this will be used towards the cost of the paint and welding.

114/23 Highways: Item 1: Parish Councillors reports. The drain and pothole on Grange Hill have been marked up by ECC Highways. The pothole by the bridge in Raven Hall Road had been repaired but there are still other potholes which need to be repaired. The drain in this road also needs to be rodded and jet washed as water is still flowing down the road. The dip outside the Village Hall also seems to be getting worse. **Action:** Clerk to report to ECC Highways.

Item 2: Update on approaching ECC Highways for permission to install a 'No Parking' sign at the green in White Ash Green or request that they install one.

It was agreed to apply for a licence for a sign from ECC Highway. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. **Action:** Clerk. **Item 3: Crocklands – Update on**

Clerk's email to County Cllr. Siddall regarding the repairs to the damaged pavement not being carried out when the drainage works were undertaken.

The Clerk had sent an email to County Cllr. Siddall regarding this issue. ECC Highways are monitoring the area as they do not regard it as urgent.

115/23 Grants: To consider Councillors suggestions for items which can be funded by applying for a grant from Enover and/or the District Councillor Grant. It was suggested an outdoor gym or play equipment for disabled children.

Action: Clerk to obtain prices for outdoor gym and for this item to be placed on the January Agenda.

116/23 Asset List: Item 1: To agree to write off the Epson printer (cost £129.00) purchased in 2018. Proposed Cllr. Butler, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Agreed. **Item 2: To update the Asset List with the Brother printer at a cost of £115.83 net.** **Item 3: To update the Asset List valuation of the Village Hall from £250,000 to £385,560.** All updates agreed.

117/23 Burtons Green Update: Item 1. Complaint regarding potential breaches of working hours at Logmasters Woodyard. Clerk now had a copy of the original 1985 planning application which showed the operating hours as being 7.30 to 20:00 hours Monday to Friday and 7.30 to 13:00 hours Saturday. No Sundays or Bank Holidays or use outside of these hours except for storage of materials, plant, or vehicles. Resident(s) to be asked to keep a diary for 8 weeks to monitor this situation and for Cllr. Todd to bring the findings back to the meeting. **Action:** Cllr. Todd. **Item 2: Confirmation of where Burtons Green green is and storage of items on what is believed to be the green by a local resident.** Cllr. Todd. Clerk. Although the Clerk had found maps which show that the piece of land does not belong to Logmasters it is unclear who it belongs to. This is to be fed back to Cllr. Todd.

118/23 '20's Plenty for Essex' campaign. To approve the statement regarding the Parish Council's position on this campaign. Proposed Cllr. Hambling, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Statement:** See Appendix B.

119/23 Meetings. Item 1: To approve the dates for 2024/25 parish council meetings.

Dates for the 2024 Parish Council meetings.

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

10th January

13th March

Annual Parish Meeting 17th April

8th May Annual meeting of the Parish Council 7pm followed by an ordinary meeting.

10th July

11th September

13th November

Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved.

Item 2: To agree a date and location for the Budget meeting. Wednesday 29th November 2023. 7.30pm. Clerk to send Teams link out. **Action:** Clerk.

120/23 To update the Open Spaces Action Plan. Power supply to be removed from the plan.

121/23 To consider purchasing a new noticeboard. Clerk. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk to bring quote to the next meeting .

122/23 To agree to the purchase of Ordnance Survey maps of the Parish for Cllr. Todd and Cllr. Siggers. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk.

123/23 To consider making a representation on the Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14) on the Earls Colne Neighbourhood Plan. This does not seem to be on their website. Clerk to contact Earls Colne Parish Clerk about this. **Action:** Clerk.

124/23 To remind Councillors and members of the public to take part in the EPOA Parking Guidance Consultation which ends 4th December 2023. The Chairman, Cllr Foster, reminded everyone to take part in the survey.

125/24 To remind Councillors and members of the public to take part in the ongoing Consultation regarding Recycling Centre Bookings which ends 19th November 2023. The Chairman, Cllr Foster, reminded everyone to take part in the survey.

126/23 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups.

Greenwatch wanted to know why the grass at Crocklands had not been cut. Cllr. Hambling had attended a meeting of Greenways Cycle path group to discuss the cycle path. Kelvedon to Coggeshall path is under construction, Earls Colne to Coggeshall is going ahead, Earls Colne to Halstead is stalled at Bluebridge so they are looking at Nightengale Hall Lane which had just become a 'Quiet Lane'. This connects to Earls Colne at the airfield and goes on to Greenstead Green and beyond. The proposal is in the early stages with the landowner. There is now a new cycling and walking improvement plan in place at BDC.

Events: Coffee Morning, The Grange, 10:30-12.30 18th November 2023

Christmas Bazaar, St James Church, 10.30-1.00, 9th December 2023.

Carol Singing round the Tree, The Green, 6pm 15th December 2023

127/23 Public comment. A resident spoke about speed watch. This happens once a week in the morning. The average speed is 28.8mph. The village is used as a 'rat run' by drivers. The speed gun can be used either end of the village and they will look at using it in White Ash Green. More volunteers are needed.

A resident asked if the bin collection poster could be displayed on the noticeboard.

A resident will send details of the company the village hall and church used for their noticeboards.

The Clerk had received the following comments by email from residents prior to the meeting. These had been sent out to the Councillors.

'.... wondered whether council could consider pursuing foot path repairs throughout village but mainly around Crocklands as noticed recently a person with walking frame had go into road and navigate past parked cars ,with traffic both ways passing them ,didn't look a safe or comfortable situation.'

'There are 2 or 3 people who live at the church end of GG who use walking frames and are in exactly the situation described when they go to farm shop, cafe, hairdressers or even village hall. We pétanque players would like to ask the PC to fix the playing field gate and its posts that give access from Burtons Green Road. The Nursery School take children on to playing field and like both gates closed - BG Rd gate is almost impossible to close, and the catch is broken. The gates on to Grange Hill, the Green have been done beautifully.'

'I concur with request that the council look into replacing the side gate to Playing field in Burtons Green Road which is now impossible to open/close.

A Resident also asked if the pavement at Crocklands could be swept so that all the loose stones could be removed.

128/23 Future agenda items. Noticeboard, budget and precept, dustcart, outdoor gym.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 9.06pm

Next meeting Parish Council Meeting 10th January 2024. 7.15pm Village Hall.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

Amanda Degnan

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| <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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Appendix A

110/23 District Councillor Report

Greenstead Green Parish Council meeting - November 2023

Wethersfield – as some may be aware, the Judicial Review brought by BDC concluded yesterday, inconclusively, as the Judge has reserved her judgement to a later date. This hearing was to contest the legality of the Home Office using Emergency Powers to convert RAF Wethersfield (and RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire) to migrant accommodation.

Additionally, the Home Office declared intention is to use the sites for at least a further 3 years. At another level I have asked to be included in local meetings, visits, and briefings on the day-to-day issues at Wethersfield as for some reason this Ward despite including part of the airfield was not considered to be involved. The last I heard there are several hundred migrants at the Wethersfield facility, with the Home Office intention to have a full complement of 1,700 by Christmas.

Stansted is applying to Uttlesford DC for Planning permission to extend the airport terminal towards the runway (increase of 35% of floor space) and replace the ageing people mover system with moving walkways, to accommodate greater passenger numbers and providing more space in the waiting area. Additionally in the near future the times when planes will regularly not land or take off will be increased, to between 23.00 and 07.00, from the current 23.30 to 06.30.

By last week there were over 16,000 Braintree households signed up to the new subscription service – this is over 25% of those who have been having garden waste collections.

Want to mention the consultation on the Essex Waste Strategy, now open on the ECC website – type “Consultations” into the Search box and look for waste management – Ends 22 Nov There are additional consultations on the resident booking system at the Recycling Centres, Ends 19 Nov, ...plus one on parking standards in Essex.

Don't forget my Cllr Community Grant which ends Feb 24.

Appendix B

Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural PC "20's Plenty for Essex"

26th September 2023

A statement regarding Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural PC (“The PC”) and the “20’s Plenty for Essex” campaign (“The Campaign”).

Background

At the PC meeting of 8th March 2023, motion 27/23 Item 2 was submitted.

Title:

To consider joining the ‘20’s Plenty for Essex’ campaign

Motion:

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 allow a higher limit.

This motion was debated, and a formal vote taken and minuted as follows :-

For: Cllr. Pleasance

Against: Cllr. Mason, Cllr. Hambling, Cllr. Siggers and Cllr. Wickes

Abstain: Cllr. Butler

Therefore, the motion was not supported.

Explanation

Parishioners, particularly those in Greenstead Green village, may quite reasonably query why this is the case - as anything which improves road safety would seem to be something which the Parish Council would support without question.

This statement attempts to provide some context as to why the motion was not supported.

For the avoidance of doubt, all members of The PC believe that any road safety-enhancing project which is practical and viable is a good thing for our communities. This is evidenced by the establishment and The PC's support of the Greenwatch Community Speed Watch scheme, and The PC's previous work on speed reduction and safety. However, the key points are practical and viable.

While councillors unanimously supported the sentiment behind The Campaign, the reasons for The PC voting against support of it were based on its viability - as follows :-

- The Campaign is advisory only, it is not a formal re-grading of roads as has been completed in Wales and London Zone 1.

As such it will not be supported and enforced by the police, nor can it be via Community Speed watch schemes such as Greenwatch.

- Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish ("The Parish") is a very large parish, spanning just under 100 square miles.

The Parish has road types and speeds ranging from National Speed limit 60mph carriageways to rural single-tracks. This includes "PR1" and "PR2" primary routes.

The motion would require The PC to support and advocate for the adoption of The Campaign across the entirety of The Parish, and this would not be practical for the majority of roads in The Parish.

In particular Local Highways Panel guidance is that "20's Plenty" schemes are not viable for PR1/PR2 routes.

- Similarly, based on the size of The Parish, installation and maintenance of signage would require considerable financial investment.

This investment could be better spent solving other issues in The Parish.

- Impact on farming and delivery vehicles.

A significant segment of traffic moving through The Parish is working vehicles - farming or delivering.

Expecting these to operate at or below 20 mph would impact delivery cycles and farming work throughput, and potentially increase noise and pollution.

- The key concern raised by residents will be the speed of traffic through Greenstead Green village.

Data captured by the village speed monitor showed an average of 28mph, which from a Highways legislative perspective would not be considered a speed problem by Essex Highways, nor Essex Police. This average was the same when sampled in March and in September.

While there will unfortunately always be vehicles passing through the village in excess of the average and limit, the operators of these vehicles are no more likely to adhere to an advisory 20mph request than they are a 30mph enforceable limit.

- Local Highways Panel process requires that requests for “20s Plenty” schemes must be validated to make sure they are likely to reduce the speeds and are suitable for the proposed location and must be accompanied by a Cabinet Member Approval (CMA).

The PC would not be able to propose one specific location for scheme implementation, and therefore unable to put a suitable speed-reduction proposal to our Cabinet Member.

Re-discussion

Concerns raised by a Greenstead Green resident led to a re-discussion of this subject, by approving a reversal of Standing Order 7 and adding it as item 102/23 to The PC meeting held on 13th September 2023.

102/33 ‘20’s Plenty for Essex’ campaign.

To agree to issue a statement regarding the Parish Council’s position on this campaign. This had been debated in March 2023 and there had been a recorded vote. Although the Councillors agreed with the sentiments behind the campaign the Police will not enforce it and it was on this basis the Councillors felt they could not support the campaign. A resident had raised concerns about this decision hence the reason why the item had been brought back to the table.

Cllr. Hambling reported that the speed camera showed the average speed in the village is 28mph.

After a discussion it was agreed to stay with their previous decision of not joining the campaign for ‘20’s Plenty for Essex’

Proposed: Cllr. Foster

Seconded: Cllr. Hambling

All agreed

It was unanimously agreed to issue a statement regarding this matter.