

**Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Greenstead Green Village Hall at 7.15pm.**

**These are draft minutes yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.**

**Present.**

Cllr. Chris Butler

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Gemma Todd.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

3 Members of the public

**19/24 Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr. Chris Siddall and District Cllr. Peter Schwier.

**20/24 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.** None

**21/24 Item 1 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting held in January 2024 were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Foster, seconded Cllr. Mason. Approved.

**Item 2 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. 7/24 Finance Item 2 Antivirus software.** The Clerk thanked Cllr. Butler for the information regarding free Malware antivirus software provided by NatWest for its customers. This had now been downloaded onto the Parish Council laptop. All other matters arising were on the agenda.

**22/24 County Councillor's report.** In the absence of County Cllr. Siddall there was no update.

**23/24 District Councillor's report.** In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was no update.

**24/24 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment.** These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

BACS	Payee	Amount	Reason
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£350.00	February salary pd 15/2/24
BACS	Cllr. Pleasance for IONOS 2020-2024	£335.24	webhosting for website
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£350.00	March Salary pd 15/3/23
BACS	Village Hall	£20.00	hall rental
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£22.79	Amazon paper
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£100.65	Amazon ink for printer
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£11.00	BDC maps x2
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£21.40	Expenses
BACS	D.Mason Developments	£964.00	gate and swings
	<b>Total payments for March 2024</b>	<b>£2,175.08</b>	

**Item 2: To consider instructing the Clerk to investigate if the Parish Council can have a debit or credit card with their current account.** The Clerk explained the reasons behind this request. Cllr. Pleasance had been paying for the Parish Council website host IONOS monthly from his own account for 4 years by debit card. He is now to be reimbursed for the previous 4 years of expenditure and going forward for the monthly amount from March 2024. IONOS and Microsoft only take debit card payments as do some other companies. It was felt that having a debit card and not a credit card would allow the Parish Council to make the payments rather than Cllr. Pleasance and the Clerk using their personal accounts and being reimbursed. It was agreed to instruct the Clerk to investigate whether a debit card with a limit could be acquired by the Parish Council. Proposed Cllr. Todd, Seconded Cllr. Mason. Agreed, **Action:** Clerk to action.

**25/24 Planning and Braintree District Council Planning applications.**  
Applications can be viewed online at: [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk).

**Item 1: APPLICATION NO :24/00344/HH DESCRIPTION :Proposed garage LOCATION : Holly House , Church Road, Greenstead Green.** Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response 'No Objection.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

**APPLICATION NO :24/00339/FUL DESCRIPTION :Side extension to existing barn. LOCATION : Stanstead Hall , Stanstead Hall Road, Greenstead Green.** Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response: 'The Parish Council raise 'No Objection' subject to Place Services being satisfied with there being no adverse impact on the Grade 2 listed status of the hall.' Proposed Cllr. Butler, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

**APPLICATION NO :24/00501/HH DESCRIPTION :Proposed garage conversion LOCATION :Catnap , Plaistow Green Road, Greenstead Green.** Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council made the following response 'No Objection.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

**Action:** Clerk to send responses to Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning Department.

**Item 2: Update on previous Planning applications including an update from the Chairman regarding his attendance at 5<sup>th</sup> March Planning Committee. For information only.** The Chairman Cllr. Foster and Cllr. Todd had attended 5<sup>th</sup> March Planning Committee where the Halstead Hall development was discussed. It had been recommended for refusal by BDC Planning Officers due to concerns regarding highways. The Chairman Cllr. Foster made a statement at the Committee raising the Parish Councils concerns regarding visibility on leaving Russells Road, and the need for a footpath. BDC Landscape Officers had raised concerns regarding design, too many houses, small gardens, and the loss of trees. The application was refused. Bennett Homes were disappointed and felt they had been rushed into making the application by BDC. They might appeal or redesign the application.

The Chairman, Cllr. Foster felt that now BDC could show a 5-year housing supply they were able to 'pushback' against developments.

24/00181/FUL: Ayletts Farm, Plaistow. Land change of use from agriculture to equestrian. The Parish Council raised **No objection**, but this is subject to the following conditions being implemented. We require further details to be submitted and approved for the location of external lighting around the stables and the proposed menage, security measures, gates, and fences. hours of operation, and a requirement that no waste material be burnt on site.' Still to be determined.

### **26/24 Highways: Item1: Parish Councillors Highway issues.**

**White Ash Green:** The Clerk had raised the issue of water flowing down the drive into the road from the car wash at Whitehouse Business Park to BDC Planning Enforcement. They were not interested as it is an environmental issue. Cllr. Pleasance will observe the area for the next 2 months and take pictures. He will also talk to Thelma who had raised the issue. **Action:** Cllr. Pleasance.

Halstead Loop: Due to the weather Cllr. Pleasance had been unable to walk the loop He will investigate the path when the weather improves. **Action:** Cllr. Pleasance.

It was agreed to approach Gosfield Independent School and ask them to cut their hedge and verges up to 3 White Ash Green. **Action:** Clerk.

**Greenstead Green:** The blocked drain on Gladfen Hall Road had been cleared. The dip in the road outside the village hall had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and they were monitoring it. Ravens Hall Road – The Clerk had written to County Cllr. Siddall about the blocked and broken drain and potholes in this road but was yet to hear anything from Cllr. Siddall. The drain in Grange Hill Road had been reported to ECC Highways but Highways can do nothing until the weather improves.

**Halstead:** Councillors expressed concern regarding the possible introduction of paid parking in the High Street. They agreed with the email the Clerk had circulated from County and District Cllr. Butland who had raised concerns about the lack of public

consultation on this matter. It was felt that when a public consultation was sent out the Parish Council should respond.

**Item 2: Update on installing a 'No Parking' sign at the green in White Ash Green. Cllr. Pleasance.** Cllr. Pleasance had asked the residents where they wanted the signs placed. They had responded with why were signs needed. He will go back to the residents for further information on the issue.

**Item 3: Update on approaching ECC Highways and request that Burtons Green Road be considered for 'Quiet Lane' status. Cllr. Todd.** Cllr. Hambling reported that Halstead Town Council had applied for 'Quiet Lane' status for Russells Road. Therefore, the Parish Council could apply for 'Quiet Lane' status for Burtons Green. This item to be placed on the next agenda. Cllr. Todd to ask community for their views on 'Quiet Lane' status for Burtons Green. **Action:** Cllr. Todd. To be placed on the May agenda.

**27/24 Playing Field: Update on items raised from the RoSPA report. Cllr. Mason.** The gate was being replaced on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Painting of swings had been completed. Welding is still to be done as the ground is too wet for the Welder's van to be driven onto the field. RoSPA inspection is booked for May.

**28/24 Update regarding approaching Braintree District Council (BDC) about placing a dustcart in Greenstead Green on an occasional weekend for residents to dispose of waste materials. Cllr. Hambling.** Cllr. Hambling reported that BDC do not have the funds or staff to enable this so it will not happen.

**29/24 Outdoor Gym equipment: Update on purchase of Outdoor Gym equipment. Clerk.** Clerk had contacted the providers of outdoor gym equipment as agreed at the January meeting. She had received a quote from one provider and was going to meet another at the Playing Field Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. It is hoped to apply for a grant from Enover.

**30/24 Update on purchasing a new noticeboard. Clerk.** It was agreed to raise the cap from £1100.00 to £1273.00. Cllr. Mason was happy to remove the old noticeboard and install the new one.

**31/24 Update on the Annual Emergency Plan. Cllr. Pleasance.** Cllr. Pleasance had updated this. Hi-Vis jackets are still at Cllr. Mason's. It was agreed to use the councillor email addresses not personal ones and not to include photos. Cllr. Pleasance reported that the 2021 census showed the parish had got smaller, older and there were more people in managerial roles.

**32/24 Burtons Green: Update on ownership of Burtons Green green. Clerk.** The Clerk reported that the land in question was part of the highway and should be kept clear. ECC Highways can issue enforcement orders if necessary. **Action:** Clerk to go to Land Registry and find out who owns the land as it is not Highways.. Cllr. Todd to take photos of the area and send to Clerk. To be placed on the May agenda.

**33/24 Governance: Item 1: A reminder that Councillors must declare all gifts and hospitality over £50 that they have received as Councillors on their**

**Register of Interests. Item 2 Councillors to review their Register of Interests and update accordingly.** For information only.

**34/24 To consider taking part in Essex County Council (ECC) consultation on installing street EV charging points.** <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/sustainable-travel-planning-team/18a76e64>. Cllr, Siggers will fill the form out.

**35/24 Ford Ride London Classique 2024: Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural. Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. For information.** Clerk had asked for a map but had heard nothing. **Action:** Clerk to ask for map again.

**36/24 To consider taking part in Travel Essex Bus Services Survey.** <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/h-t/f9874637>. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster encouraged Councillors and residents to take part in the survey.

**37/24 To consider taking part in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan Review – 2025 to 2040 Public consultation from 6<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** [Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan review 2025 to 2040 | Essex County Council](#). Stisted Parish Council had raised concerns about the 3 sites in its parish. The Parish Council agreed to raise an objection to these sites in their response. **Action:** The Chairman, Cllr. Foster to draft a response to the review.

**38/24 Annual Parish meeting. Item 1. To consider whether to invite a guest.** This is being held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed not to invite a guest. **Item 2. To consider whether to provide refreshments.** It was agreed to provide refreshments.

**39/24 May meeting: To agree to move the 8<sup>th</sup> May meeting and AGM to the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 or to consider employing a Locum Clerk for the 8<sup>th</sup> May.** Proposed Cllr. Hambling, Seconded Cllr. Mason. Agreed. Cllr's Butler and Pleasance sent their apologies as they will be unable to attend the new date.

**40/24 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives.** Jean Hastings from Neighbourhood Watch provided an update. New Neighbourhood Watch signs are being put up in the village. She encouraged residents to attend the Neighbourhood Watch AGM on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm at The Maurice Rowson Hall, Gosfield.

Cllr. Hambling provided an update on Greenways cycle path group and Braintree Associations of Local Councils.

**41/24 Public comment.** A resident asked if the Clerk could write to County Cllr. Siddall asking for clarification about the £6 million funding received from Central Government for pothole repairs. They had heard only £2 million was to be used for potholes and wanted to know if this was correct.

A resident asked if the Parish Council could provide a hot water boiler for the Village Hall as there was no hot water in the kitchen. Cllr. Butler, Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, explained that there is a boiler for hot water in the hall and that it is the Hall Management Committee who are responsible for the hall and not the Parish Council.

Greenwatch have had mugs made for the Coffee Morning and have had 50-60 people attend the Coffee Morning's and Xmas Lunch. A resident had offered to purchase another SID for the village. In February 1100 vehicles going one way were recorded driving through the village.

Cllr. Mason will lend the spare Speed Camera to Cllr. Pleasance once Ken had charged it.

A resident asked about the static caravan at Cypress Lodge. This had planning permission.

**42/24 Future agenda items.** Items from this agenda, Audit.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024. 7.15pm Village Hall.**

**Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024. 7pm. AGM and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting. Village Hall.**

**Signed**.....

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

**Date**.....

*Amanda Degnan*

<p><b>Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council, C/O Greenstead Green Post Office, Greenstead Green Farm, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY. 07782209224</b> <a href="mailto:parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk">parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</a> . <b>WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</b></p>
--