

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024 at Greenstead Green Village Hall after the AGM.

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

Present.

Cllr. Chris Buter

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Gemma Todd.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

2 Members of the public

This meeting was called due to the cancellation of the 18th September 2024 meeting which was non-quorate.

91/24 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr. Paul Foster who was ill. His apologies were duly accepted. District Cllr. Peter Schwier sent his apologies as he was at Westminster.

92/24 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None were declared.

93/24 Minutes: Item 1: To approve the minutes of the Local Plan Review meeting held in August. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Approved. The minutes of the Local Plan Review meeting were duly approved. **Item 2: To approve the minutes of the July ordinary meeting.** Proposed Cllr. Hambling, Seconded Cllr. Todd. Approved. The minutes of the July ordinary meeting were duly approved.

Item 3: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings that are not on the agenda. 80/24 Highways: Item 3: Plaistow Green accident. The Chestnut tree seems to have recovered. The fingerpost which had been repaired had fallen again. Clerk to report to Highways. **Action: Clerk. 86/24 Penny Pots: Item 2 Wildflower seed planting:** Cllr. Hambling had been in touch with the residents to let them know that they could plant wildflower seeds. All other matters arising were on the agenda.

94/24 County Councillor's report. In the absence of County Cllr. Siddall there was no report.

95/24 District Councillor's report. In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was no report.

96/24 Finance: Item 1: To approve the yearly payment of £59.99 for Office 365 due 1st November. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Todd. All agreed.

Item 2: To agree to the Clerk withdrawing £20.00 in cash to be used for the heating and electricity meters in the hall. Clerk. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Todd. All agreed.

Item 3: To agree the accounts for payment. These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Pleasance, Seconded Cllr. Todd. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

Method		Payee	Amount	Reason
SO		Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	August salary pd 15/8/24
SO		Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	September Salary pd 15/9/24
BACS		Village Hall	£40.00	hall rental Sept and Nov
BACS		Mrs A J Degnan	£10.80	expenses
Card		Ionos	£6.00	website 16/7/24
Card		Ionos	£6.00	website 17/8/24
Card		Ionos	£6.00	website 16/9/24
Card		Three	£15.00	phone top-up 16/7/24
BACS		HMRC	£13.00	Income tax pd 6/8/24
BACS		HMRC	£13.04	Income tax pd 6/8/24
BACS		Live4Soccer	£81.95	football nets paid 16/7/24
		Total payments for July 2024	£915.79	

97/24 Planning and Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning applications. Applications can be viewed online at: www.braintree.gov.uk.

Item 1: Planning Applications: There were no Planning Applications to discuss.

Item 2: Update on previous Planning applications. For information only. Cllr. Mason read out the following update from Cllr. Foster.

Appeal RefZ1510/W/24/3341618 – Halstead Hall, Braintree Road Halstead

This was an appeal against the refusal of BDC to grant planning permission for 34 dwellings – 24 market units and 10 affordable units. The Inspector found that the proposal would have a degree of harm to the landscape character on the north-west part of the site until new tree planting matures. He also found the loss and potential damage to a number of veteran trees would outweigh the significant need for housing; and there would be harm to great crested newts. On balance, the Inspector therefore dismissed the appeal and refused permission on 18th September 2024.

Appeal RefZ1510/W/24/3346178 – Halstead Hall, Braintree Road Halstead

Another appeal at Halstead Hall, this time against BDC’s refusal to grant planning permission for the 37-bed dementia unit. The same Inspector dealt with this appeal. He didn’t agree with BDC that there would be a conflict with the policy relating to heritage assets. And he found there would not be any harm to the character and

appearance of the area. However, he found the proposed dementia unit would have an unacceptable effect on a high number of quality trees. He also wasn't happy about the potential harm to bats, based on the available information.

Interestingly, the Inspector touched on need for the unit. Essex County Council (ECC) stated that they did not consider there was a need for additional care home provision in the area. The Inspector disagreed and gave the need for the development significant weight. In the end, however, the loss of trees and harm to protected species outweighed this need and the appeal was dismissed. Planning permission was refused on 4th October.

Item 3: Update from Cllr. Foster regarding his recent attendance at the Planning Members Forum held 27th August. Cllr. Mason read out the following update from Cllr. Foster: **Bournebridge Hill - reserved matters**

Hopkins Homes, the developers who have acquired the Bournebridge Hill site from Gladman Homes, gave a presentation to Members. They presented illustrative layouts of the housing and landscaping proposals. A planning application for the remaining reserved matters, covering appearance, landscaping, layout and scale was due to be made in September. We will be consulted on this as a Parish Council.

Item 4: Update on the recent consultation on the BDC Local Plan Review and Call for Sites. BDC has agreed a revised timetable. The next key dates are:

16th October – final Call for Sites

31st October – Local Plan Sub Committee meeting

January/February 2025 – Issues and Options Consultation

98/24 Greenstead Hall: Update on the outcome of the Licensing Committee meeting held 26th July 2024. Cllr. Foster. Cllr. Mason read out the following update from Cllr. Foster:

BDC issued the decision on 2nd August, granting the application for a Premises Licence at Greenstead Hall.

The licensable activities permitted under this Premises Licence are:

1. Provision of Late-Night Refreshments indoors between 11pm and 12 midnight seven days a week.
2. Supply of Alcohol on the premises from 12:00 noon to midnight seven days a week, except on Friday and Saturdays when the time is extended to 2 am.

Essex Police asked for modifications to the conditions, and these were granted. These are set out in the licence.

99/24 Playing Field: Item 1: Update on playing field and items raised on the 2024 RoSPA report. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason reported that all high-risk items from the report have been completed including the welding of the swings. Only the low-risk items are left to do.

Cllr. Mason provided an update on the recent Routine Playground Inspection course he had attended. He is now qualified for 3 years. The council are fairly compliant with the playing field, but signs are needed on each entrance with instructions on who to contact and where first aid is available in an emergency. The signs also need to say that you are using the equipment at your own risk. Health and safety regulations had changed over the years previously you were not allowed to have an accident now as long as it is not a broken limb, amputation or severe head injury you can be injured, and it will not require an investigation by HSE. If a severe injury occurs HSE will investigate and if the parish council are found to be at fault they will be fined. Our insurance will cover the fine. But, if the injured party decides to take out a civil case then it will be against the Chair of the parish council. Only 2 cases have gone to court in the past 20 years.

The Playing Field equipment needs to be checked weekly or every 3 weeks. As well as the weekly checks there needs to be a post site inspection after the installation of new equipment, a 3 monthly check by an Operations Inspector of all equipment and the yearly check by RoSPA. Records of all types of checks have to be kept for 21 years. This is due to the fact that an injured child's claim does not start to be looked at until they reach 18 so the effect on their adult life can be assessed. This can take up to 3 years. There is a need to appoint an Operations Inspector. **Action:** Operations inspection to be placed on November agenda.

Item 2: Update on the purchase of new football nets. Cllr. Hambling. These had been bought and installed.

Item 3: Update on grant applications for outdoor gym equipment. Clerk. The Clerk reported that the grant application had been sent to Enover and she had answered a couple of questions on other funding streams and planning permission. Enover will be holding its Trustees grant award meeting on 22nd October. **Action:** To be placed on the November agenda

100/24 Highways: Item 1: Parish Councillors Highway issues. Cllr. Butler - Although potholes had been repaired in Ravens Hall Road they need to be redone as they were not repaired very well. Cllr. Todd - Burtons Green was only partly repaired the rest of it needs to be recovered. Cllr. Hambling - Grange Hill had been repaired but the drain cover had not been replaced so it will need to be dug up again to replace the cover and unblock the drain. The bridge on the Grange Hill to Ravens Hall Road footpath was broken. Cllr. Hambling and a member of the public had reported it to Highways. The Clerk had received an email confirming that the pavement at Crocklands is to be repaired.

Item 2: Update on approaching ECC Highways and request that Burtons Green Road be considered for 'Quiet Lane' status. Cllr. Todd. Deferred from July meeting. County Cllr. Siddall had contacted Cllr. Todd asking for What3Words location markers for the site. She had sent them to him for the whole of the road. She is yet to hear anything back. **Action:** To be placed on the November agenda.

101/24 Burtons Green: Update on ownership of Burtons Green green. Cllr. Todd and Clerk. Deferred from May and July meeting. Cllr. Todd had been

shown records which proved that the triangle of land does belong to Peter Trumpeter. They also confirmed that the Green was between Poplar and Grays Cottage.

102/24 Storage shed: Item 1: To consider purchasing a storage shed. Item 2: To consider where to locate it. Cllr. Hambling. Deferred from the May and July meeting. These items were taken together. Cllr. Hambling had spoken to Cllr. Butler about locating the storage shed on Cllr. Butler's land. It will need to be a large container as not only does the Remembrance items need to be stored, but Angela also had all the fete tables and chairs that need to be rehoused. It was noted that the restrictive covenant on the Playing Field stops the placing or building of any building on the site. Cllr. Hambling will price up the cost of a shipping container. Cllr. Mason uses something similar to a shipping container, but it comes in pieces and is cheaper. He will see how much they cost and bring the prices to the next meeting. **Action:** Cllr. Hambling and Mason to provide costs of storage containers for the November meeting. Add to November agenda.

103/24 Training: Item 1: To confirm that Cllr. Todd is on the Public Right of Way course to be held 13th November. Cllr. Todd confirmed that she is on the Public Right of Way online course.

Item 2: To consider applying for Councillor bursaries for Cllr. Todd and Cllr. Mason to help pay for the courses they are to attend. Cllr. Mason's bursary had been approved prior to the meeting as his course was at the beginning of the month. Proposal: To consider applying for a Councillor bursary for Cllr. Todd. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed.

104/24 VE Day: To consider whether to hold an event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. VE Day is on 8th May and is not a Bank Holiday. It was agreed to hold an event. **Action:** To be placed on the November agenda.

105/24 To consider applying for a Community Initiative Fund (CIF) grant for new play equipment. It was decided not to apply for this as Councillors were unsure what new play equipment was needed, and the closing date was the 18th October.

106/24 Lithium Batteries: To consider writing in support of 'The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill'. The councillors decided not to respond to this.

107/24 Neighbourhood Plan: Item 1: Earls Colne Neighbourhood Plan Consultation and Planning Policy Updates. The Councillors were happy with the comments they had made previously with regards to this matter and did not feel the need to respond further.

Item 2: Finchingfield and Wethersfield Joint Neighbourhood Plan -Regulation 14 Pre-Plan Submission and Public Consultation. To be placed on the November agenda.

108/24 Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Public Consultation. Councillors were encouraged to look at this and send their responses directly to the consultation.

109/24 Public comment. A resident asked what RoSPA meant – Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents. They also asked if a fence with a lock could be placed around the Boules green. **Action:** To be placed on the November agenda.

A resident raised the issue of 20,000 vehicles going through the village one way every month. This does not include the Crocklands traffic. They felt that there was a need to apply for a speed camera that issues fines. There was a discussion on this matter.

Cllr. Butler asked about mobile phone signals. **Action:** To be placed on the November agenda,

110/24 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Cllr. Hambling had been due to attend the BALC meeting that night but had missed it to attend the Parish Council meeting. Greenwatch have been sending their SID figures to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that she circulated them to the Councillors. The Councillors felt these figures were useful as it helped to see if speeding had increased and can be used to refer back to.

111/24 Future agenda items. Mystycroft, quiet lane, new town Pattiswick, meeting dates 2025, budget date, items from the October meeting.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 20:40.

Next Parish Council Meeting. 13th November 7.15 pm Village Hall.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

Amanda Dognan

<p>Amanda Dognan – Clerk to the Parish Council, C/O Greenstead Green Post Office, Greenstead Green Farm, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY. 07782209224 . parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</p>
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