

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.15pm. Greenstead Green Village Hall

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. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Gemma Todd. Attended via Teams

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

4 Members of the public

County Cllr. Chris Siddall

112/24 Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Cllr. Peter Schwier.

113/24 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Butler declared an NPI in Agenda Item 18/24 Calls for Sites GGHR2141- Change of boundary.

114/24 Minutes: Item 1: To approve the minutes of the October ordinary meeting. Proposed Cllr. Mason, Seconded Cllr. Pleasance. Approved. The minutes of the October ordinary meeting were duly approved.

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting that are not on the agenda. All matters arising were on the agenda.

115/24 County Councillor's report. County Cllr. Siddall provided the following update:

- Online reporting to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways is now easier with the ability to re-report items.
- Landfill to end ahead of schedule.
- £25 million boost to ECC Highways Priority 1 schemes. Each County Councillors now had access to a crew for 6 weeks during the year to repair roads.
- Pharmacy First had been launched.
- Funding for Food Banks and vulnerable people.

- Residents should hear about Communities Strengthening consultation by 6th January.
- County Cllr. Siddall still had grant funding left for projects.

County Cllr. Siddall then took questions from the assembly. Councillors expressed concern regarding the finish of recently repaired potholes in the parish that were already starting to breakup. County Cllr. Siddall advised taking pictures of these potholes, What3Words location and sending the details to the Clerk for her to send onto him to investigate. He also advised that if anyone had reported potholes and they are yet to be repaired to send the Report number to him and he will investigate.

Overgrown hedges were also raised. The landowners are responsible for cutting these back. County Cllr. Siddall advised that the Clerk should write to the owners first, if they do not cut the hedges write to him and he will instruct ECC Highways to cut the hedges back. Highways will then bill the landowner for the work. Cllr. Butler reported that he used to cut all the hedges and grass back but was then told that he was not insured for the first 1 metre as this was Highways land so had stopped doing it. County Cllr. Siddall asked Cllr. Butler to send details of this ruling to the Clerk for her to forward onto him to research further. **Action:** Cllr. Butler.

There being no further questions for County Cllr. Siddall the Chairman thanked him for his report.

116/24 District Councillor's report. In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was no report.

117/24 Finance: Item 1: To agree to the Clerk adding £20.00 top up to the phone account . Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved. It was decided to include a lump sum provision for the phone in the budget. **Item 2: To agree the accounts for payment.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

Method	Payee	Amount	Reason
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	October Salary pd 15/10/24
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	November Salary pd 15/11/24
BACS	Village Hall	£20.00	hall rental
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£22.60	expenses
Card	Ionos	£6.00	website 17/10/24
Card	Microsoft 365	£59.99	pd 7/11/24
Card	Cashback	£20.00	23/10/24 for heating
BACS	HMRC	£12.96	Income tax pd 22/10/24
BACS	HMRC	£13.00	Income tax pd 22/10/24
BACS	MD Landscapes	£1,089.60	Grasscutting and hedge
BACS	EALC	£480.00	Playground course held 16/10/24
BACS	DM Payroll	£60.00	Payroll services
SO	Colne Stour Association	£5.00	membership
	Total payments for November 2024	£2,513.15	

118/24 Planning and Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning applications. Applications can be viewed online at: www.braintree.gov.uk.

Item 1: Planning Applications: Any Planning Applications received after the agenda was published. At the Chairmans discretion.

APPLICATION NO : 24/02300/REM

DESCRIPTION : Application for Approval of Reserved Matters (in respect of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 19/00493/OUT granted 16.11.2022 (Allowed at appeal) for: Outline application for up to 200 residential dwellings (including 30% affordable housing), planting, landscaping, public open space and children's play area and sustainable drainage system (SuDS). All matters reserved with the exception of access.

LOCATION : Land Off, Bournebridge Hill, Greenstead Green. This application had only arrived on the day of the meeting. It was decided to ask BDC Planning for an extension until 18th December 2024. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Pleasance. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk.

Local Plan Review .Call for Sites: Cllr. Butler had declared an interest in GGHR2141 Housing – boundary corrected. Land to Southeast of Halstead.

GGHR2416 Road Infrastructure. Land East of Colchester Road, Halstead.

The modifications do not change the Parish Council's response to the recent Call for Sites request for comments. It was proposed 'no comment' on the changes but to wait until the next stage of the Local Plan Review. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All Agreed.

Item 2: Update on previous Planning applications. For information only

Cypress Lodge Application No: 24/01854/FUL. The Parish Council had objected to this application on the grounds of not in keeping with the area and in support of the neighbour. The applicants had adjusted the plans, but the neighbour was still not happy, and it was agreed to continue our objection in support. Still to be determined.

Item 3. Greenstead Hall: Update on recent enquiry regarding building work at the Hall. Residents who had attended recent Wedding Open Days at the Hall reported that there seemed to be building work taking place and had also been told that there were no Licensing restrictions. The Clerk had reported all of this to Licensing and to Planning Enforcement regarding the building works. To date she had heard nothing. The Clerk was instructed to chase Planning Enforcement for an update and to copy District Cllr. Spray in on the email. **Action:** Clerk.

119/24 Playing Field: Item 1: Update on playing field and items raised on the 2024 RoSPA report. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason reported that the swings have been repaired and just need to be painted. A three-plank walkway had snapped, and 3 rails were needed for the repair, but he was having problems trying to find rails with a

reasonable delivery charge. Cllr. Butler knew of a firm. **Action:** Cllr. Mason to liaise with Cllr. Butler.

Due to the house next door replacing their fence there is now an additional 4-5m stretch of land that needs to be scraped, levelled and reseeded in the Playing Field. At a cost of £12-1500. Cllr. Butler can provide a digger and Cllr. Mason can provide a driver. **Action:** To be added to the next agenda.

Item 2: Update on grant applications for outdoor gym equipment. Clerk. The Parish Council had been successful in its grant application for this.

Item 3: To consider approaching RoSPA or another company to carry out Operations inspections every 3 months. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk

Item 4: To consider placing a fence with a locked gate around the Boules pitch. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow the resident who had raised this at the October meeting to speak. The resident had spoken to other members of the Boules Club, and it had been decided not to pursue this item. They would like more seating though around the Playing Field. The meeting was then resumed.

120/24 Highways: Item1: Parish Councillors Highway issues. Burtons Green – Cllr. Todd raised the issue of dirty signs at the entrance and exit to the hamlet that need to be cleaned and overhanging vegetation. She was also reminding residents to report potholes.

Greenstead Green – Cllr. Hambling had reported the bridge on Footpath 36 was broken and dangerous to ECC Highways. It was logged as awaiting inspection. County Cllr Siddall told Cllr. Hambling to ring ECC Highways and report it as dangerous. Also, to report it to him via the Clerk. **Action:** Cllr. Hambling.

White Ash Green – Cllr. Pleasance asked about kerbing the verges in the area of White Ash Green. County Cllr. Siddall asked Cllr. Pleasance to send him photos of the area and he will raise it. **Action:** Cllr. Pleasance.

Cllr. Hambling asked if the Highway crew that County Cllr. Siddall had access to repaired drain covers and unblocked them. They do. **Action:** Cllr. Hambling to send details to Cllr. Siddall and re-report the drain online.

Item 2: Update on approaching ECC Highways and request that Burtons Green Road be considered for 'Quiet Lane' status. Cllr. Todd. This had now been submitted by County Cllr. Siddall and was going through the system.

121/24 Burtons Green: Mystycroft and land to the rear of Mystycroft regarding proposed siting of mobile home(s). Cllr. Todd. Cllr. Todd reported that one was in situ and paid rates. The more recent mobile home was currently an empty shell. At the moment there is nothing that can be done except keep a watch on the situation.

122/24 Storage shed: Update on proposal to consider purchasing a storage shed and where to locate it. Cllr. Hambling. A new 20ft shipping container cost £2550, a used one is £1695. This includes delivery, 2-year guarantee and buyback option but does not include VAT. 20ft is the smallest container available. Cllr. Mason

uses a galvanised 8ft-12ft container costing £1400 which is movable but not as robust as a shipping container. Cllr. Butler was happy to site the container on his land, but it must be rat proof. It will also need to be painted and insured. It was decided to purchase a new shipping container. **Action:** To be placed on the January agenda for approval and to confirm siting on Cllr. Butler's land.

123/24 VE Day: To consider whether to hold an event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. At the October meeting it was agreed that an event should be held. The Parish Council will support the event but will not organise it. It was decided to ask for volunteers to organise the event and to go from there.

124/24 Neighbourhood Plan: To consider entering a response regarding Finchingfield and Wethersfield Joint Neighbourhood Plan -Regulation 14 Pre-Plan Submission and Public Consultation. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster proposed 'no response regarding the consultation and thanking Finchingfield and Wethersfield for allowing Greenstead Green to take part in the consultation.' Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. **Action:** Clerk.

125/24 Meetings. Item 1: To approve the dates for 2025/26 parish council meetings. A copy of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. All agreed. Approved.

Dates for the 2025 Parish Council meetings.

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

15th January

12th March

Annual Parish Meeting 9th April

14th May Annual meeting of the Parish Council 7pm followed by an Ordinary meeting.

16th July

17th September

12th November

Item 2: To agree a date and location for the Budget meeting. It was agreed that this meeting would take place on the 4th December at 7.15 virtually. Clerk to send link out. **Action:** Clerk. Note. The meeting is now to be held on the 11th December.

126/24 To update the Open Spaces Action Plan. This is now called Potential Open Spaces Improvements (POSI) plan. The 'install power supply in the Playing Field' needs to be removed. Cllr. Butler to check the route of the railway line. Cllr. Hambling to ask at the next Greenway meeting about the railway line and the route the cycle path will take on it. To report back at the January meeting **Action:** Cllr. Butler, Cllr. Hambling and Clerk. For January agenda.

127/24 To discuss the recent proposal regarding a new town at Pattiswick /Coggeshall Road. Cllr. Todd. This had reappeared due to the recent Call for Sites for the Local Plan Review. To be dealt with when the Issues and Options stage is reached next year in the review.

128/24 Penny Pots: BT phonebox update from Cllr. Hambling. There had been more incidents. Cllr. Mason will see if he can fit a lock on the door. **Action:** Cllr. Mason.

129/24 Mobile phone signals: To discuss who to approach regarding the improvement of mobile phone signals in the Parish. There was a brief discussion on this and it was decided not to pursue this issue any further.

130/24 Remote Meetings Consultation: To consider participating in the recently announced Remote Meetings consultation. This had worked very well during the Pandemic and had resulted in more people attending Parish Council meetings. 'Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council welcome this consultation'. The Chairman Cllr. Foster also encouraged Councillors to participate in the consultation as individuals. The consultation is open until 19th December 2024. **Action:** Councillors. Link on email attached to Call to meeting email.

131/24 Braintree District Council Consultation – Work on a New Design Code Document. To encourage Councillors and residents to participate in this recently announced consultation. This consultation opened on the 4th November 2024 and is online. The Chairman, Cllr. Foster encouraged both Councillors and residents to participate in the consultation. <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/designcode>.

132/24 Public comment. A resident asked when the map will be hung in the hall. **Action:** To be placed on the next agenda.

Speedwatch had recorded 1900 vehicles one way going over 30-40 mph in the village in a month. They would like to see an ANPR camera in the village. They asked if the Truecam (handheld ANPR) which is in Maldon would be coming to the Braintree area. County Cllr. Siddall had been pushing for this to happen. Cllr. Siddall suggested that the Parish Council write to District Cllr. Tom Cunningham and ask for an update on Truecam and an idea of when it would be coming to the district. **Action:** To be placed on the January agenda

A resident reported that a planned meeting with the Police had been cancelled.

133/24 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Jean (Neighbourhood Watch) reported that she had met with the PCSO in the village who was visiting as part of a new project to visit each of her 5 patches. The PCSO will give as much notice as possible of her visits to the area. PC James Draper attended the recent Halstead Town Council meeting. **Action:** Clerk to invite the PCSO to a Parish Council meeting and to contact the Halstead Town Clerk for contact details of PC James Draper.

134/24 Future agenda items. Budget, map, landscaping, Truecam, Precept, chairs in playing field and any other items from this meeting.

135/24 To exclude the press and public. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 'That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 136/24 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the public bodies admission to meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2.n Resolution to exclude members of the press and public.

136/24 Outdoor Gym equipment: Item 1. To discuss and consider quotes for the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment. After some discussion it was decided that Cllr. Mason should speak to the installers and obtain fresh quotes as the original ones were from May.

At the discretion of the Chairman the following item was added.

Item 2: To agree signatories for the grant. It was agreed that the Chairman Cllr. Foster and Vice-Chairman Cllr. Mason should be the signatories.

There being no further items to discuss. The meeting closed at 21:56.

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15th January 202 . 7.15pm Village Hall.

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. 07782209224 . parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk</p>
--