

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall
On Thursday, 3rd May 2018, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: PCllrs J Nott (Chairman) A Cooper, D Smith, S Bolter, T Flower, J Halls, P Collett
Parish Clerk
Footpaths representative Leslie Crumpton-Taylor
Community Agent Jayne Laken

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Flower proposed Cllr Nott be elected as chairman for 2018/19, seconded by Cllr Cooper; there were no other nominations; this was unanimously agreed.

It was resolved that James Nott was elected as chairman for 2018/19. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman was signed.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Nott proposed Cllr Flower be elected as vice chairman for 2018/19, seconded by Cllr Cooper; there were no other nominations this was unanimously agreed.

It was resolved that Terence Flower was elected as vice-chairman for 2018/19.

3. Apologies for Absence

District Cllr Wendy Scattergood.

4. Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman welcomed new Councillor David Smith to his first Council meeting. There had been one application by Peter Collett to fill the current vacancy, to be co-opted this evening.

5. To Co-opt to fill vacancy

The Chairman proposed that Peter Collett be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Bolter and unanimously agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. The Register of Interests is to be completed within 28 days.

6. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest for agenda item 13, being a Vice-President of the Cricket Club.

7. Public Speaking

None.

8. Appointment of Representatives & Responsible Members

The following representatives were appointed:

Playing Field	Cllr D Smith
Planning Committee	Cllrs J Nott, T Flower, S Bolter, D Smith
Rents Fields Charity	Cllr S Bolter
Village Hall	Cllr T Flower
Tree Warden	Cllr T Flower
Transport	Cllr S Bolter
Finance	Cllr J Halls
Highways	Cllrs Cooper and Collett
Emergency Contacts	Clerk

Village footpaths rep
Neighbourhood Watch
Internal Auditor

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor
Helen Skerratt
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

Mr Crumpton-Taylor was thanked for carrying out the internal audit for the PC and agreed to continue with this job.

9. Approval of Minutes

Amendment

Cllr Bolter asked for an amendment to minute 4 of the January meeting, that he abstained from voting for a contractor for the pavilion work.

The Clerk read out from her notes.....*Smith & Scillitoe were appointed to carry out the pavilion repairs. All Cllrs were in favour.*

The Chairman asked whether the PC accepted the amendment, this was agreed.

The minutes of the January PC meeting were then accepted and signed.

10. Clerks Report

The Clerks report was noted.

11. Reports from Representatives

Community Agent

Jayne Laken gave an update on her work as a Community Agent and her role in supporting older people in Essex. Jayne wanted to start a club for older people and asked for names of people who may be interested in becoming involved. The Clerk will let Jayne have contact details of a potential person and a contact for the parish magazine. Jayne was thanked for her report.

Village Hall

Cllr Flower reported that £600 had been raised from a recent quiz night.

Footpaths

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported that the footbridge opposite the Pheasant was not on the definitive map and it may have been put in by builders when nearby houses were being built. The bridge is rotten and without it there would be no access to the footpath. ECC will need to adopt the footbridge.

Tree Warden

Cllr Flower reported that the oak trees along Delvyn's Lane had only 1 of the original trees left. He will be replacing some of the gaps along the Lane.

County Broadband

Cllr Bolter gave an update on the eligibility for funding if speeds are not reached. County Broadband representative to go on the list for next year's AGM.

12. Highways maintenance

Cllrs discussed the amount of pot holes at various locations around the village and that some pot holes had been filled while others had been left. A list of the pot holes will be compiled for the Clerk to write to Cllr Finch, asking him for a timescale of when the work will be done.

It was then agreed that Cllr Smith will be the highways representative and Cllr Cooper will be the playing field representative for the Council.

Our request to the Local Highways Panel for better signage at Moat Farm Corner had been 'validated' by ECC. The next LHP meeting is not until the end of June.

13. Playing Field

Pavilion

Cllrs discussed the letter from John Butcher and the problems with the toilets. The Chairman reported that the plumbing had been dealt with. Letters will be sent to the cricket club asking them to let us know of any problems so that the PC could inspect straightaway, also to the football club to remind them of their responsibility to keep it clean after use and to report any problems to the PC.

Representatives from both clubs will be invited to the next PC meeting. The pavilion roof is holding at the moment but will need attention in the future. Some boarding at the rear has been replaced with plywood sheeting. The cricket club are still pursuing grant funding for updating the building.

S106 monies - purchase of cross trainer

The price of the cross trainer had increased since the original quote had expired. Cllrs decided the cross trainer would be sited in the corner (bus shelter end) of the playing field; the spoil will be left and Cllrs Nott and Cooper will arrange to remove this; the workmen will be able to use either cricket or village hall facilities. The order will be confirmed with Fenland Leisure. BDC to be notified of the position of the cross trainer.

Contractor for strimming & mowing work.

Two quotes had been received and were considered. Councillors were in favour of using someone from the village but this would depend on whether the contract could be negotiated satisfactorily re public liability and invoice details. The Clerk will make contact with Glenn Drury to confirm details.

14. Planning

All planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were itemised on Appendix B.

18/00699/FUL & 18/00700/LBC Ardsley Audley End Gestingthorpe

Erection of single storey rear extension

The planning committee had considered the application and had no objection.

Planning correspondence

Cllr Bolter suggested a reply be sent to District Cllr Wendy Scattergood's letter on how BDC want responses to planning applications. There are problems accessing the BDC website to view the Local Plan policies. Cllr Bolter will draft a letter for consideration at the July PC meeting.

15. Matters arising from the Annual Village Meeting

Dog mess bins

BDC have already supplied our quota and any further bins would have to be purchased. BDC will be asked whether they can supply us with A5 signs. An advert will go in the parish magazine to remind everyone to pick up their dog mess; it will also be posted on Facebook.

Overhanging hedges along North End road

These have been reported. Ref. 2566403.

Neighbourhood Watch

Helen Skerrett is organising a village meeting.

Local Services Fund

Details were given to the new Councillors.

16. Street Cleaning Contract 2018/19

There were no changes to the terms and conditions of the contract; the contract was signed. The PC will organise a village litter pick; Cllr Smith agreed to be the co-ordinator. The date was agreed as Saturday 14th July at 10:00am outside the Church/village hall. The hall will be open to provide refreshments and BDC will be asked to provide equipment. An advert will go in the parish magazine.

17. PC Insurance 2018/19

Two quotes were discussed. The Clerk will find out whether BHIB insurance company have given a like for like quote by the previous company and check up on the query about inspection of play equipment. The Clerk advised full council is required to make a decision; a decision will be needed before the policy is due to start on June 1st

18. New General Data Protection Regulations

Cllrs discussed the requirements needed. There is no requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer following information received from EALC. As long as the PC are seen to be making a start working towards the regulations this is sufficient.

19. Finance

Receipts & Payments

Details of all receipts and payments (Appendix C) had been circulated prior to the meeting; these were approved.

Cheque signatories

Cllrs Nott, Flower, Bolter and Cooper are currently the cheque signatories; no change is needed.

Bank reconciliation

Cllr Halls had verified the bank reconciliation and signed the bank statement as per Financial Regulations.

20. Approval of Annual Accounts 2017/18

Exemption certificate

It was resolved that the PC declare it is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit Small Authorities Regulations 2015. The certificate will be sent to the auditors.

Cllrs unanimously approved the internal audit report, bank reconciliation, annual receipts and payments sheet, supporting statement and fixed asset list.

Cllrs considered the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1 of the Annual Return.

It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

Section 1 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Cllrs considered the Accounting Statements, Section 2 of the Annual Return.

It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements.

Section 2 was signed by the Chairman, having been signed by the Clerk beforehand.

21. Correspondence and Matters for Report

Reminder that a new Register of Interests will need to be completed if there any changes to Councillors' interests.

New Model Standing Orders 2018 – to go on the July agenda

Neighbourhood Watch have asked for a donation – to go on the July agenda

Oates Cottages query whether original terms for shared ownership have changed – Chairman to find out further information from Chris Harman.

22. Agenda items for the next meeting

As listed in the minutes.

23. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date was suggested as 12th July; to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm.

Date..... Chairman.....

NB

Date of the next meeting will be Thursday 19th July.

Cllr Cooper asked that he be recorded as 'A Vice President' of the Cricket Club in the minutes of the January meeting.