

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Village Hall

On Thursday, 22nd November 2018, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Parish Cllrs J Nott (Chair), A Cooper, T Flower, P Collett, D Smith, S Bolter
Mr Crumpton-Taylor - Footpath representative
Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the November meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr Wendy Scattergood, County Cllr David Finch, John Butcher – Cricket Club
Jane Halls had sent her resignation as a Parish Councillor, due to work commitments.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 3, being a Vice-President of Gestingthorpe Cricket Club.

Cllr Nott declared a non-pecuniary interest in any discussions on Nether Hall Farm, being a client of the applicant.

3. Report from Gestingthorpe Cricket Club

John Butcher had sent an update for the meeting; he has no funding sources at the moment so the extension project is on hold, the pipework will be drained for the winter and they will monitor the pavilion roof, they would like fixtures for 2019 to be put on the PC website, thanks were given to the PC for keeping the playing field in good order.

Russell Meekings had advised that the football club has had to disband due to lack of players to make up a team. He would like to place an advert in the parish magazine for any local interest. Cllrs agreed on a small donation of £20 from the football club for the use of the playing field on a few occasions. The football club goal posts can stay up until the end of the season.

4. Public Speaking

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Flower, seconded Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed.

6. Clerks Report

The Clerks report was noted.

7. Reports from Representatives

Village Hall

Cllr Flower reported that the committee has a £17,000 balance in their funds of which £6,000 will be allocated for work on the toilets, a front window has been repaired and side window work has been agreed. A new Trust document has been prepared and agreed. They have had samples of sound baffles but no decision to go ahead as yet.

Tree Warden

Oates Avenue trees are looking well and are being checked regularly, replacement trees are in stock if necessary. A letter of thanks will be sent to Chris Harman for his work on this project.

Footpaths

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor advised that a footpath sign at Audley End had fallen at an angle; this had been reported on the ECC website.

Broadband

Cllr Bolter reported that he has been advised that work is on schedule for fibre broadband to the premises by June 2019 but has not yet had confirmation. Original 2008 CBB supplied routers are not able to make best use of the speeds available now; they will need to be changed to take advantage of the higher speed to be on offer.

Passenger Transport

Cllr Bolter reported on the difficulty in obtaining a meaningful timetable for the DaRT buses and despite all efforts and promises, no information has been received. The Clerk will write to DaRT and Essex CC to progress this.

8. Highways

Pot holes

Following a request from Cllr Finch, the PC had advised that the priority area for Gestingthorpe was between Pot Kiln Chase and Hill Farm turn off.

Barriers

The barriers damaged by a car had been repaired but the area around the undercutting is still to be done.

Signage at Moat Farm corner

The Local Highways Panel are going ahead with better signage at this area; cost for the work is estimated at £5,500.00.

Crossroads

The PC had requested better signage at the crossroads following an accident involving two vehicles. Since the accident the white lines and "slow" markings had been repainted.

SID sign, Sudbury Road

Cllrs reported inconsistent readings on this sign and will monitor it for further action if necessary.

9. Speeding traffic at Audley End

A speed survey had shown that the average speed was over 35mph and the Local Highways Panel were pursuing putting in a VAS (vehicle activated sign).

Cllr Collett is pursuing setting up a Speedwatch group and is awaiting a reply from the Little Yeldham representative. He will compose an advert for the parish magazine asking for volunteers, to enable this scheme to go ahead.

10 Planning

All planning applications made and decisions received were itemised on Appendix B.

Councillors considered the following:

18/01712/FUL Nether Hall Farm Nether Hill Gestingthorpe

Installation of external cladding and the provision of a concrete floor to the existing building (retrospective) and the proposed change of use of the building to a joinery workshop (Use Class B2 - General Industrial)

The PC will send a reply of "no objection" for this application.

Open Spaces Action Plan

No changes to the OSAP were raised.

11. Playing Field

Cllrs felt that the playing field work has improved and Mr Layzell is endeavouring to make a good job; the PC will continue to monitor. The annual cost of the work has increased but was thought to be competitive with other contractors and that Mr Layzell was best placed to continue with the job.

BDC's 3 year contract to cut the main area of the playing field is ending and their price will increase by around 3%. Cllrs agreed that a good service is provided and we will continue with them.

Cllr Cooper requested any unsafe branches on the playing field are reported to him. The Clerk will ask Graham Nicholl to do a survey of the trees to flag up any problems.

12. Cricket Pavilion

As the football club has folded, the extra pipework proposed is no longer required; Cllr Nott will inform Andy Tarbin. Cllrs are mindful that the roof will need to be replaced and funding will be needed. Cllr Smith advised that Onduline roofing sheets would be suitable. Cllr Nott will make enquiries for costs.

13. To review Standing Orders

After some discussion Cllr Nott proposed that the Model Standing Orders 2018 be adopted, seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed. Cllr Bolter then asked for a rider that included using our current Standing Order No. 13 h for planning applications; this was agreed.

14. Risk Assessments

Pavilion risk assessment

A fire extinguisher inspection was carried out on 15th November; awaiting a report and invoice from Flameskill.

PC risk assessment

Cllrs discussed various points on the risk assessment. Statutory documents, contract work and safety issues are reviewed on regular basis and dealt with as necessary.

15. To review Internal Controls

Cllrs considered the PC's internal control system was satisfactory.

16. Parish Council Finance

S137 donation to the Essex Air Ambulance

Cllrs unanimously approved this donation

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

Leslie-Crumpton Taylor was thanked for his half year internal audit report.

17. Correspondence and Matters to Report

The Clerk's vacancy will be advertised with EALC.

18. Items for the next agenda

Budget forecast 2019/20.

19. Date of Next Meetings

January 31st 2019; AVM April 11th; PC AGM May 16th

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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