



GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN
Tel: 07810781509 – Email: gestingthorpepc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th. January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), P. Bagby, S. Bolter, P. Collett, A. Cooper, C. Craig, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 1 member of the public present.

001/2022 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a happy New Year

As we enter the New Year, Covid is still 'hanging' over all of us and may I remind everyone of the need to stay safe and follow the scientific advice.

I was sorry that Terry Flower stood down as a Parish Councillor due to other commitments. Terry had been an active member of the Parish Council for a number of years and we will miss his knowledge and experience. I would like to thank Terry for his service to Gestingthorpe.

I would like to thank Cllr Claire Craig for organising the tree planting in memory of Lauren Hammond. It was pleasing to see a good turnout of Parishioners which would have been comforting for the family. Sadly, we do not seem to be any further forward in resolving the outstanding planning issue at Pot Kiln Lodge.

002/2022 Apologies for Absence. No apologies were received

003/2022 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr A. Cooper declared an interest in any discussion relating to the Cricket Club and History Group

004/2022 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 11th. November 2021. **All Agreed**

005/2022 Co-Option

Councillors are requested to receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt a candidate to fill the vacancy

Cllr D. Smith outlined the process for co-opting a resident onto the Parish Council to fill the one vacancy. He then went through the voting process.

Eligible candidate was then invited introduce himself, give a resume of his background and experience, and explain why he wishes to become a member of the Council. Following the candidate submission, the Councillors then proceeded to a vote.

Gordon Carey was duly co-opted onto the Gestingthorpe Parish Council. Gordon Carey then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and E Consent form. He was also given the "Register of Interest" form that must be returned to BDC within 28 days of taking office.

Cllr D. Smith congratulated and welcomed Gordon Carey onto the Council.

Cllr G. Carey then took his seat with the other Councillors. He was informed that he can take part in any discussions but, until his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest form has been received and accepted by BDC then he cannot vote on any item.

006/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

a) To appoint a new Vice-Chairman

Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr C. Craig as Vice-Chairman. Cllr A. Cooper seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr C. Craig then signed the Vice-Chairman Declaration of Acceptance of Office

b) To appoint a Tree Warden

Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr C. Craig to act as Tree Warden. Cllr S. Bolter seconded. **All Agreed**

c) To appoint a Councillor for the Planning Committee

Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr G. Carey to the Planning Committee. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

d) To appoint a Councillor for the Employment Committee

Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr C. Craig to the Employment Committee. Cllr P. Collett seconded.

All Agreed



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- e) To appoint a Councillor for the Playing Field
Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr G. Carey or the Playing Field. Cllr P. Bagby seconded. **All Agreed**
- f) To appoint a Councillor for the Footpaths
Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr S. Bolter for the Footpaths. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

007/2022 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

No questions from the public

a) **Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement** – statutory consultation. The statutory consultation will start on 25 January 2022 and will run until 21 March 2022. Document supplied to Councillors prior to the meeting

b) National Grid's A131 Located Substation Proposal

National Grid are about to submit a planning application in January 2022 for a new substation on the A131 at Butlers Wood across the Wickham St Paul / Twinstead parish boundary.

Councillors to discuss a formal response, in readiness, for when the application has been submitted and GPC have been informed by BDC for a response.

The Clerk to contact David Holland and ask for planning application information. Contact National Grid for plans.

c) Village Green Trees and Queen's jubilee – Cllr C. Craig

Cllr C. Craig informed the meeting of the arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

Village Green Trees

Following some advice not to replant horse chestnuts where we have honey fungus, I've done a little research into which species of tree are more resistant to honey fungus, so we can replace lost trees on the playing field and church green, as well as potentially look to plant a tree for the Queen's jubilee this summer. In terms of native species, we have the option of oak, yew or walnut. Please let me know if there are any preferences, and I'll look to source a couple.

Councillors went with Oak trees. With the planting being kept to the village gate area.

Queen's Jubilee

In terms of the jubilee, I think it has been mentioned in the past about a beacon to light to join the beacon lighting across the country. If this is something we're interested in, or could 'crowdsource' in the village, the 2 estimates I have had are:

- Billy Moulton Day (Rusty Creations) £1,000 for a Gestup oriented design, much like the village sign.
- Richard Nice about £200, made in Gestingthorpe Forge.

I envisage it being located on church green or in front of the village hall.

Cllr C. Craig proposed asking for local businesses to donate money towards the cost. Cllr D. Smith seconded. **All Agreed**

I would also like to propose a BBQ and craft fair on the village green over the weekend of the jubilee. I might be able to wrangle the History Group/Andy into some displays/pottery demo. Sadly, I don't think I would have time to help organise much more, given our building works starting this year, and my work. Happy for any other ideas and assistance though!

Cllr P. Bagby volunteered to assist Cllr C. Craig.

008/2022 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

All ECC Cllr Peter Schwier's reports have been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and can be found at

<https://websites.godaddy.com/en-GB/editor/21debe88-bce5-46d2-bef6-90e16f3bbbd9/163b4d68-8f01-4c81-8378-0e4c549438b6/edit/937fe664-b01f-4657-a71a-3bf6e6429f72>

Send 3 pictures to Cllr P. Schwier on the Gestingthorpe roadworks

Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting



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009/2022 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was submitted

010/2022 Representative reports

- **Highway's maintenance** – Cllr D. Smith & Cllr P. Collett

Cllr P. Collett informed the meeting that the SID for Audley End unit needs some adjustment as it only operates if a vehicle is travelling above 40 mph. I have contacted Charlotte O'Connell (Essex Highways) re this matter but have received no response. The SID Sudbury Road unit is now not working at all. I have contacted Councillor Schwier and he has responded by saying that he will pass this matter to the relevant people. To date I have received no further response.

Community Speed Watch - On line training for volunteers has been provisionally scheduled for 12th January 2022.

- **Passenger Transport** – Cllr S. Bolter

Public Transport - Use it or lose it.

ECC is attempting to improve public transport, including investigating how best to support rural bus services. Our F135 bus is generally lumped in with very infrequent book only services. Our service has 2 hourly buses departing Sudbury for Halstead and Halstead for Sudbury, always via Little Maplestead, Wickham St Paul, Gestingthorpe and Bulmer. However, by advanced booking, buses may also call at Great Maplestead and/or Pebmarsh, making it later along the rest of its route. Booking is only required for the last bus for other origins or destinations.

The biggest problem is that information on the service, especially that released for online services. is not fit for purpose. Firstly, their information does not show that most buses are hail and ride without booking, and more important they give either a nominal average time or a latest arrival time. What someone wanting to catch the bus needs is the earliest departure time.

Younger people using apps frequently miss buses and then rubbish the service, reducing the usage and endangering it future.

I have managed to get the F315 put onto the electronic information at Halstead, but have been unsuccessful at getting ECC to give earliest departure times in their guides or to Google and bus finder.

In the latest consultation, I have said that Gestingthorpe users value the F315, and hope to avoid the service being made less frequent and book only style of service.

- I have frequently sent the correct timetable to Parish News, but it keeps reverting to the ECC misinformation. Please spread it around that the timetable on the Gestingthorpe PC webpage is more practical than those in Parish News, Google Maps, or Busfinder etc.
- The 4 months of work on Sudbury Road, plus closures for broadband, plus Covid has severely reduced the number of bus passengers. When things return to normal, it is likely to be a "Use it or Lose it" situation, so we really need to press County for better information and encourage residents to use it.
- We badly need a better bus service from Halstead to Braintree, to help reduce the congestion caused by thousands of new residents using their cars on unimproved roads.
- Historical. Newer PC members may not know that the minor change in timetable to allow the last London to Braintree train connection to be half an hour later was in response to a representation from Gestingthorpe. The PC also supports the call for a pair of lifts at Marks Tey station. The Parish secured the commitment that those unable to use the steep steps at Marks Tey, may travel free to Colchester to cross to the up line by lift.

- **Playing Field/Recreation Ground** – Cllr A. Cooper

1) Update on the 2 Rockers for the recreation ground – update from Cllr P. Collett

Play Equipment - The two 'springers' have now been installed. Payment of Playscape's reduced invoice to be discussed by the PC and considered for payment.

Grass Mesh to Playing Field - I understand that this matter will not be moved forward for the present.

Fence Extension and Bench Relocation - I understand that this matter will not be moved forward for the present.



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present. Section 31 Highways Act Notice - I have taken no further action in this matter as I understand that other members of the PC wish to resolve this matter informally with the landowner.

Cllr A. Cooper informed the meeting that he has walked around the Playing Field. It was very pleasing to see how nicely trimmed back the trees where along the roadside edge adjoining Church Street. There is a certain amount of mole activity near to the practice nets, which we should perhaps discuss at the meeting.

Lauren's tree looks very nice; over the next year we will need to loosen the plastic ties around it, but at the moment they are making an excellent job of helping the tree become stable.

Cllr A. Cooper also wanted to add his thanks to Peter Collett for everything he has done in reporting on and organising the new play equipment

2) **Playing Field Security Posts** – update from Cllr P. Collett

Security Posts - I have nothing further to report on the security posts.

Cllr D. Smith is seeing the landowner, M. Sharp, this week to get the posts purchased and installed

- **Footpath** – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor. Nothing to add from the email Cllr P. Bagby sent to Councillors
- **Tree Warden** – No further update
- **Village Hall** – Cllr C. Craig

Fortnightly coffee mornings are recommencing on 21st January in the village hall and will hopefully be well attended. The well supported book club also meets monthly. There are many other upcoming events to look forward to in the village hall.

Preparations are underway to replace the roof on the village hall. Border Roofing have been appointed to do the work, which we are hoping will start early this year. Options are also being considered to improve ventilation and heating in the hall, in line with Covid regulations.

011/2022 **Planning Applications**

21/03239/LBC - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Erection of two-storey rear extension.

RESOLVED: On the basis that is an application for what would appear to be a virtually identical scheme to that approved in 2008 and subsequently renewed in 2010 - **No objection**

21/03303/HH & 21/03304/LBC - Old Rectory Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BB

Proposed Installation of an air source heat pump

RESOLVED: No objection

21/03259/HH - The Great Barn Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AS

Retention of garden shed and shelter

RESOLVED: No objection

21/03451/HH - Burrow Down Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AZ

Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: No objection

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21/03613/AGR - Land on The Right-Hand Side North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - Erection of crop store

Please note that this notification is for information only and due to the type of application BDC does not seek any comments from GPC. **On 06.01.22 BDC confirmed Planning permission is required**

012/2022 **Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications**

Councillors noted the planning decisions made by BDC affecting Gestingthorpe

21/02680/FUL - Hill Farm Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3BL

Erection of lean-to to side elevation to store wood in. **Application GRANTED**



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21/03077/FUL - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW
Proposed stables, sand school and turnout area. Change of use of land to keep privately owned horses. **Application GRANTED**

21/03259/HH - The Great Barn Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3AS
Retention of garden shed and shelter. **Application GRANTED**

21/03099/FUL - Land North of Osier Way Sible Hedingham Essex - **Decision pending**

21/03239/LBC - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe CO9 3AU - **Decision pending**

21/03303/HH & 21/03304/LBC - Old Rectory Church Street Gestingthorpe CO9 3BB - **Decision pending**

21/03451/HH - Burrow Down Church Street Gestingthorpe CO9 3AZ - **Decision pending**

013/2022 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2021
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2021

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2021/22
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2021/22

c) To approve the payment of Accounts for December 2021 and January 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements
Cllr C. Craig proposed to approve the December 2021 and January 2022 payments. Cllr A. Cooper seconded. **All Agreed**

014/2022 Budget 2022/23

1) To approve and finalise the Parish Council budget for the 2022/23 financial year
Cllr D. Smith proposed a budget for 2022/23 of £11213.00p. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

015/2022 Precept 2022/23

1) To approve and finalise the Precept for 2022/23
Cllr D. Smith proposed a Precept for 2022/23 of £9668.00p. Which, using the BDC Tax Base of 177.01 equates to a Band D of £54.62p. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

2) To Authorise the RFO to complete the appropriate Precept demand on Braintree District Council

Cllr D. Smith proposed that the RFO submit the appropriate Precept demand on Braintree District Council. Cllr A. Cooper seconded. **All Agreed**

Date of the next GPC meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10.03.22

Further 2022 meeting dates: 28.04.22 AVM: 12.05.22 GPC AGM: 14.07.22: 08.09.22: 10.11.22:

016/2022 Items for Next Agenda

Queens Jubilee update – Cllr C. Craig

017/2022 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

10th. March 2022

D. Smith – Chairman GPC