



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 10th. March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), C. Craig (Vice-Chairman), P. Bagby, G. Carey, P. Collett, A. Cooper, Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

018/2022 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

019/2022 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr W. Scattergood and Cllr S. Bolter.

020/2022 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 item regarding the Cricket Club

021/2022 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 13th. January 2022. **All Agreed**

022/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that we will all have been pleased to see the Covid restrictions eased, enabling a sense of normality to return to our daily lives. However, I am mindful that we all still need to be cautious in order to reduce the possibilities of a new major outbreak occurring.

On 27th January last, I participated in a Zoom meeting of Braintree Association of Local Councils. The guest speaker was Essex County Councillor Chris Siddall who is Chair of our Local Highways Panel (LHP). Cllr Siddall outlined the work of the LHP and from his comments he would like to see the Parishes become more active in supporting each other with Highway related matters. I feel that we should become more actively involved.

We were all taken aback by the severity of the storm on Friday 18th February last. Most of the Village was without power until Saturday evening with some of the outlying properties not being reconnected until Monday 20th. I am not aware of any major damage to property and from comments I have received it was apparent that neighbours rallied and helped each other. Unfortunately, Bulmer was not as fortunate and their power was not restored until mid-week. This has highlighted that as a Parish Council we need to review our Emergency Plan.

Unfortunately, we do not seem to be any further forward in resolving the outstanding planning issue at Pot Kiln Lodge.

a) Letter of thanks to Michael Smith about the moles on the Playing Field.

Cllr D. Smith proposed sending a letter of thanks to Mr. M. Smith. Cllr A. Cooper seconded.

All Agreed

023/2022 Public Participation Session

No questions from the public

024/2022 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

Cllr P. Schwier has sent reports throughout February and March which have been sent to Councillors and can be found at

<https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/agendas-%26-minutes#dc26d110-b367-4f12-bdb9-38d5d75017d0>

025/2022 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was given

BDC information can be found at

<https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/agendas-%26-minutes#dc26d110-b367-4f12-bdb9-38d5d75017d0>



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026/2022 Bramford/Twinstead Reinforcement – Update from Cllr P. Collett

a) Councillors to agree a response from the Parish Council to National Grid
Cllr P. Collett informed the meeting of the progress so far
Action Taken so Far - Two notices placed on the village Facebook page - Advising residents on where and when they can respond to the consultation. A similar notice was placed in the March edition of the Parish Magazine
Contact made with Braintree DC and Essex CC to obtain their views in National Grid's proposals. We await their views.
Steve Bolter has liaised with David Holland (Middleton and Twinstead PC) with a view to coordinating a response to the consultation.
Informal discussions have been held and it is now proposed that the PC's approach will be to work to limit the impact of any substation that may be built.
Steve Bolter has agreed to draft and submit the PC's formal response. Steve has issued a draft of the first section.
Leaflets advising residents on where and when they can respond to the consultation were distributed throughout the village on 4th March.
Members of the PC attended the National Grid exhibition held in Sudbury Masonic Hall on 5th March. From this it would appear that National Grid are aware of the sensitivity of the Butlers Wood site, however the information gained at the exhibition needs to be considered closely.
A planning application could be submitted within the next couple of months.

027/2022 Planning Applications

22/00193/FUL & 22/00194/LBC - Parkgate Farm Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AE
Conversion and extension of former stables/granary building to holiday-letting accommodation.
Documents can be found at
<https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=R6BDA5BFIEX00>
Response sent 11.02.22
The Parish Council has No objection to this application but would like to see the use of renewable energy and high standards of insulation to reduce the carbon footprint of the building

Retrospective Application

22/00356/FUL - The Pheasant PH Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU
Addition of sheltered outdoor-seating area adjoining existing pub building
RESOLVED: The Pheasant Public House is one of the few amenities in the Village and the Parish Council acknowledges that due to the Covid Pandemic the last couple of years have been difficult for hospitality businesses of this nature. However, we are aware that during the pandemic other Public Houses have provided additional outdoor seating areas with the erection of temporary structures such as small marquees/party tents. This is a substantial building and not a temporary structure. We would have expected an application of this nature to be supported by a Design & Access Statement outlining the rationale for the building and its construction. Had a planning application been submitted prior to construction, then the Parish Council would have probably recommended refusal on the grounds that it was not in keeping with the existing building and did not conform to our 2011 Village Design Statement which has the following Design Guidelines – "Alterations and extensions to existing buildings should blend in style and materials with the existing building and Village appearance."
However, we are now faced with what appears to be a "fait accompli".
Looking at the application form and drawing, we make the following comments: -
1. Construction – very brief details and there is no reference to the flat roof covering which would appear to be felt.
2. Vehicle parking – the application states that there were 25 car parking spaces before the extension was constructed and there are still 25. Referring to the planning application granted for the bedroom accommodation (Ref 09/01647/FUL) and the details submitted to discharge Conditions, reference was



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made to 21 car parking spaces being available. It appears that 6 parking spaces have been lost as a result of this extension which leaves 15 spaces available. Where are the 25 spaces referred to in the application? The loss of parking has resulted in an increase in the number of customer's cars and vans being parked on the opposite roadside verge which has destroyed the verge and is causing Highway visibility/safety issues.

3. Assessment of flood risk – the application states that the rainwater drainage discharges to soakaways. There is a single downpipe on the front corner of the extension which discharges onto the gravel car parking area. During periods of heavy rain, the car park is subject to ponding.

4. Existing employees – the application states that there are currently 10 full time employees. Where do they all park? The addition of a sheltered outdoor seating area is potentially more noisy than a few outside table and chairs would have been. This is confirmed by the comments submitted by the immediate neighbours and we are aware that at least one neighbour has raised this issue with your Councils Environmental Department and the Police. How do we move forward? Clearly the extension is not in keeping, it has resulted in a significant reduction in car parking spaces and noise/unsocial behaviour issues for the neighbours.

Could the solution be a "Temporary Approval" for a period of 2 years. This would allow the business to work through the repercussions of the Covid pandemic and return to normal trading conditions without the need for this sheltered outdoor seating area.

22/00610/HH - 1 Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Erection of two-storey side extension.

RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

22/00556/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 is for information only and due to the type of application BDC do not seek the Councils comments.

The Councillors noted this application

028/2022 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

Councillors noted the decisions made by BDC affecting Gestingthorpe

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

Demolition of orangery and adjoining terrace and construction of two-storey rear extension as previously approved under 10/01037/LBC. **Application REFUSED**

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

Proposed Installation of an air source heat pump. **Application Granted**

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

Retention of garden shed and shelter. **Application Granted**

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

Single storey rear extension. **Application Granted**

21/03099/FUL - Land North Of, Osier Way, Sible Hedingham, Essex

Status Decision pending

22/00193/FUL & 22/00194/LBC - Parkgate Farm Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AE

Status Decision pending

029/2022 Representative reports

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

Cllr P. Collett informed the meeting that **SID Audley End** - The unit needs some adjustment as it only operates if a vehicle is travelling above 40 mph. Although from my observations it is effective in



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reducing the speed of some motorists. I have contacted Charlotte O'Connell (Essex Highways) re this matter but still not received a response. I will continue to attempt to make contact.

SID Sudbury Road - This unit is now not working at all. I have contacted Councillor Schwier and he has responded by sending details of how the Parish Council can make application for a replacement sign. If the PC is in agreement, I will progress the application. All Councillors agreed.

Community Speed Watch - On line training for volunteers was carried out by "Teams" on 12th January 2022. We are awaiting to be informed of the next steps in setting up the group.

- Passenger Transport – Cllr S. Bolter

Bus Consultation response sent to EEC. Said we value the 2 hourly 6 day service, with all but last service hail and ride.

Noted recent under-use because of 4 months of almost total closure of Sudbury Road for work on the side of the brook, plus the broadband and water work plus Covid precaution.

Also noted the misleading timetable released to Google, Bus line etc, by DEC, which results in people using mobile phone info arriving at bus stops 10 or 5 minutes AFTER the Sudbury bus has departed. (ECC gives latest arrival times, rather than earliest departures, which is not suitable for a flexible service. Advise about need to book also misleading. Almost as if ECC wants the service to fail.

Emphasis given to the need to improve the I T, with due regard that parts of the route have no mobile phone signal and have to check by internet before leaving for the bus stop.

Bus Consultation. Essex CC are still accepting representations from the public

- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper

How wonderful to see the improvements beside the stream near Barracks Corner. At long last the job seems to be properly finished—the 'pothole drainage grates' levelled and the debris on the ditch bank clears away. Thank you to Kevin and other councillors for pressing on this. I wonder if we should also thank Peter Schwier?

I walked around the Playing Field on Monday afternoon. Michael Smith has made an excellent job in controlling the moles. Other matters have been very well covered in Clare and Peter's reports—Thank you. I noticed that the mirror on the crossroads had been blown over in the gales— we re-posted and re-erected it again yesterday.

- 1) BDC Grounds Maintenance Service Level Agreement 2022-23 £1410.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed accepting the BDC quotation of £1410.00p. Cllr A. Cooper seconded.

All Agreed

- 2) BDC Playing field additional cutting around the trees and play area

This cut is once a month from April 2022 until October 2022, then one cut in March 2023.

- Recreation Ground – Cllr P. Collett

- 1) Playing Field Security Posts as the ECC locality Funding expires on 31st. March 2022 – update from Cllr D. Smith

Play Equipment - A defect in the newly installed "Digger Springer" was reported by a resident. This was quickly rectified and made safe by Playscape. 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. However, I would ask that the PC reconsider and perhaps allocate some funds to this item as I consider that it could be a safety matter.

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that a revised price for 80 bollards each 5" square.

Clarkes of Walsham - Supplying bollards for recreation ground quote of £3045 +VAT (£3654.00p) totalling £3454.00p. Installation will cost £3210.00p. Making a full total of £6864.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed.**

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.



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- **Footpath – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor**

Nothing has been reported to Leslie. The footpaths are generally in good conditions. Some horses are being ridden along some footpaths leaving divots in the ground

- **Tree Warden – Cllr C. Craig**

Following storm Eunice, David and I had a walk round the playing field to check for damage. Other than some small branches and twigs coming down, we seem to have gotten off lightly. We need to review the health of the 2 horse chestnuts with honey fungus, which may be better off coming down now, before they become a hazard. If they are removed, they will be replaced with trees not susceptible to the fungus, such as oak.

I propose we do some further crown lifting this year to allow the tractor mower to get further under the tree canopies, and thus reduce our additional cutting costs.

I am looking into purchasing an oak to plant for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. I will also purchase a second to plant on church green, where we had to have a chestnut removed a few years ago. The tree planted in memory of Lauren should also have been staked by the time of this meeting, but seems to have settled in well so far and is coming into bud.

- **Village Hall – Cllr C. Craig**

Fortnightly coffee mornings are continuing in the village hall. The well supported book club also meets monthly. There are many other upcoming events to look forward to in the village hall, including Wine Man's Bluff on 25th March.

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 in April.

The village hall committee and church wardens are joining forces with the parish council to organise events for the Queen's Jubilee, which will be reported on elsewhere in this meeting.

030/2022 Queens Jubilee update – update from Cllr C. Craig

Good progress is being made on building the beacon. A Chestnut post and beacon basket are being produced. A further amount of money is required due to the cost of planning application, post, painting etc. Crowdfunding is being re-opened to pay for these additional costs.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Gestingthorpe, June 2022

Please join us over the June bank holiday weekend for a series of events hosted by Gestingthorpe Parish Council, Gestingthorpe Village Hall, and St Mary the Virgin Church. All events and times TBC.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 2nd June

- Lighting of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon, Church Green, 9:45pm

- The village hall will be open for refreshments before the lighting of the beacon. The church will also be open with a photo display from Gestingthorpe History Group, and tower tours - get a great view of our village!

Friday 3rd June

- Village hall open day with traditional tea. Join us for sausage rolls, cake, tea, coffee and more.

Saturday 4th June

- Fitness through the Decades with Nic (FunFitFab).

Sunday 5th June

- The Big Jubilee Lunch - join us on the village green for food, drink and fun games for all the family.

- Church family service.

- Village photo - some of you may have been in our millennium village photo, and we would love to see as many residents as possible for a new group photo to mark this occasion.

Also.... tree planting for the Queen's Green Canopy, Gestingthorpe History Group mementos and more to be confirmed!

If you have any questions, or want to help with organising these events, please contact Claire Craig, Penny Bagby or Nicola Coppen.



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031/2022 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2022
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2022
- 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 February & March 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements
Cllr D. Smith proposed authorising the February and March 2022 payments. Cllr P. Collett seconded.

All Agreed

- d) To agree that Mr. Leslie-Crumpton Taylor acts as Internal Auditor for 2022-23 year
Cllr D. Smith proposed Mr. Leslie Crumpton-Taylor to act as Internal Auditor for 2022-23 year. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**
- e) To discuss the letter from Councillor Graham Butland BDC regarding the Collection Fund surplus being cancelled for the 2022/23 year and to decide the appropriate response from GPC
Councillors discussed the decision made by BDC to cancel the Collection Fund payment for 2022-23.
Cllr D. Smith proposed sending the agreed letter to Cllr Graham Butland. Cllr S. Bolter seconded.

All Agreed

Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 28.04.22 AVM

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

032/2022 Items for Next Agenda

Update Emergency Plan

033/2022 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

034/2022 Staffing Matters

To receive an update from the Parish Clerk. Councillors to pass any resolutions as necessary.
Cllr C. Craig proposed and Cllr G. Carey seconded to the increase in the Clerks salary from 1st. April 2022. **All Agreed**

Cllr C. Craig proposed and Cllr G. Carey seconded to the backdated pay to April 2021 in the Clerks salary from 1st. April 2022. **All Agreed**

035/2022 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

12th. May 2022

D. Smith – Chairman GPC