

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th. March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

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

019/2023 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

020/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr P. Bagby and G. Carey

021/2023 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 relating to the Cricket Club and item 024/2023 (b)

022/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 12th. January 2023. **All Agreed**

023/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Not a lot to report since the last meeting which is not covered by this agenda

024/2023 Public Participation Session

Jordan Knott from Heddingham United FC updated the meeting with how the football club is doing. No issues except for water at the pavilion. Support has been growing. Residents are happy with the arrangements and only good reports have been received. There are 2 more home games but the one on the 23rd. April with the cricket season starting on 8th. May 2023. Jordan to see if his team are good at cricket. If so, to contact the cricket club. For the 2023/2024 season it was suggested to change the football club to "Gestingthorpe United". Jordan to enquire about this.

a) King's Coronation event

Proposed events for King's Coronation. The History Group to set up exhibition in the village hall to be open over the 3 days. Light refreshments on sale. Opening time to be decided - will depend on number of volunteers available. Also displays set up in the church. Possible Church Tower tours. Day/time to be confirmed.

Saturday – King's Coronation. Ring for the king a bell or bells will be rung. Time to be confirmed. Beacon lighting evening. Village Hall open serving alcoholic/soft drinks. Formal opening of History group exhibition. Sunday Church: Regular service of Morning prayer 9.30. Coronation Big Lunch - Playing field: Sunday daytime. Village BYO picnic. Traditional sports events as per Jubilee. Chris Harman has reserved 4 games. Volunteers needed to man these. Village Hall to serve Tea/coffee, etc. This will encourage people into exhibition. Serve alcoholic/soft drinks from pavilion.

Monday is designated as the 'Big Help Out'. Aimed at bringing communities together through volunteering activities. Ask Nic Smith to run a fitness event on the playing field and/or organise a village clean up, bus shelter, road signs, etc or garden clearance for some of the villagers as was done for Jean Norbury.

b) Spraying in the village – Cllr P. Collett

Will the PC back a letter to local farmers asking them to communicate with residents about spraying in the village. The Clerk to seek advice with NFU & DEFRA guidance on spraying.
 This item to be deferred to the next meeting

c) Resident email regarding security concerns by positioning LED lights.

The Parish Council is supportive of the residents' concerns after it was discussed and a common sense approach was decided to take place

025/2023 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

All information which has been sent out have been forwarded onto Councillors

ECC have confirmed the 2023/2024 budget

An extra £5m has been found for road repairs

1600 gullies have been cleared and over 1000 streetlights have been repaired

£2 cap fare for buses has been welcomed

Tucklands gully has had more earth deposited due to water slippage from the field

Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

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026/2023 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was supplied

026/2023 Planning Applications**23/00196/HH** - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW

Single storey side extension

Response sent to BDC before the 23rd. February 2023 deadline

Gestingthorpe Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

23/00225/HH - Tudor Lodge Farm Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AS

Erection of double garage and 3 bay cart lodge.

Response sent to BDC before the 7th. March 2023 deadline

Gestingthorpe Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

23/00245/FUL - Hill Farm Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BL

Erection of timber agricultural post mill.

Response sent to BDC before the 7th. March 2023 deadline

Gestingthorpe Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

However, after discussion at this Parish Council meeting GPC now

Supports this application subject to a planning condition removing any development rights

23/00516/LBC - Ashley Cottage Church Street Gestingthorpe CO9 3BB

Replace cracked render on house south facing Gable wall. Complete any necessary repair or replace lathes as required to support new render.

RESOLVED: Support this application

NOTIFICATION ONLY**23/00218/AGR** - Land At Hall Farm Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - Provision of steel portal lean to building for the purposes of storing straw and machinery

027/2023 Planning Appeal/s No appeals have been made affecting Gestingthorpe village

028/2023 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

22/00722/HH - 23 Oates Cottages Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BG

Retention of garden shed **Application REFUSED**

029/2023 Representative reports

- Highways – Cllr P. Collett

SID Sudbury Road - I understand that ECC have discovered that the device is obsolete and that they cannot source replacement parts. They have informed me that they have now asked a company called Telent to provide a quote for a completely new unit. I will continue to press ECC for a resolution to this matter.

- Transport (Special Projects) – Cllr S. Bolter

F 315 bus. Since the last meeting there has again been no progress on getting a meeting between reps from the Parishes, responsible Essex Officers and the Operator to try and get a more user-friendly timetable. I did get one invitation from Essex for a general meeting on rural bus publicity, but it arrived to me after one afternoon option had finished and too late for me to gather the details for the evening one. As a consolation, I was invited to a consultation with a different focus. It was so poorly attended that I could make many of my general points. However, it was only a chat shop, with no intention of doing anything practical to produce a solution. No one has expressed an interest in trying to involve children in doing a project on getting people to use buses. Bus numbers are still very low. Use it or lose it.

Note Any journey, paid or on a bus pass, on the F315 contributes to the route viability statistics.

As it is a flat fare route, the ticket machine only records the point of boarding the bus. If Essex starts looking for bits of the route to cut, a lack of people boarding between the bus leaving Wickham St Paul and arriving at Bulmer Tye, or the equivalent for the other direction, would suggest the bus could miss out Gestingthorpe and Bulmer Street part of the route, or it could become another “book 2h in advance only” stretch (which it is now for the last bus in each direction).

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22/02955/T56 The installation of a 25m Lattice mast complete with 6 antennas, 2 300mm dishes and 1 GPS module, 3 radio equipment cabinets, a meter cabinet within a fenced compound and ancillary development works thereto. Land Adjacent To Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex

Delegated Report

Officer Recommendation: Prior Approval Required and Not Given

The advice given by San Trafford quoted below is misleading and invites the opposite conclusion to what the

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countryside assessment recommends. It appears he has not read the policy and is simply passing on some resident misinformation, which will not help the Developer find a more suitable site.

“The proposed location of the mast is within the countryside, specifically an area defined as being in the Yeldham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area. The Landscape Character Assessment sets out that ‘the open nature of the skyline of the higher parts of this plateau is visually sensitive to new development, which may be visible within panoramic views across the plateau and also from adjacent character areas.’ The Yeldham Farmland Plateau has a moderate sensitivity to change. The surrounding countryside is relatively flat with subsequent views for some distance. The proposed mast, at 25 metres in height, would be highly visible from the village of Gestingthorpe and across the landscape. The mast would also be highly visible from the adjacent byway (PROW 81_13) and also from the public highway at Church Street. Although the submitted statement sets out that the use of a lattice mast would be permeable and allow views through it, it would remain a significant addition to the landscape. “It is understood that the proposal followed a sequential approach, with mast sharing with existing masts being preferred, then siting masts atop existing buildings, and then the erection of new freestanding masts. The need for an additional mast in Gestingthorpe has been justified. A list of alternative sites has been provided, including reasons for them not being pursued as appropriate alternatives. Officers are aware that local residents have put forward alternative sites, for example at the sewage pumping station and atop the Church. It is not clear whether these sites have formed part of the applicant’s consideration. Notwithstanding the concerns identified with the proposed site, officers have no reason to dispute that the alternative sites have been assessed and discounted. Given the sensitive countryside setting and the visibility of the 25-metre mast and associated antenna, cabinets and a compound area in the landscape, from the public highway, the public right of way, it is considered that the resultant appearance of the mast would result in detrimental harm to the character of countryside. The cumulative impacts of the mast in terms of its siting and appearance would be such that it is considered that prior approval should not be given. It is evident from the submitted information that a mast is required to serve this location and that mobile phone users would benefit from it. Officers are open to considering a suitably located mast of appropriate design, which respects the surrounding environment.” The most valuable Landscape area is that in the nearby part or the Stour Valley and its Side Valleys, with the specially mentioned nearby tranquil unspoilt valley of the Belchamp Brook, which is jointly managed with the Dedham Vale AONB. Hence siting the antenna on the church tower or in the bottom of the valley near the pumping station would BE WORSE than somewhere to the west of Church Street. Planning guidance suggest that infrastructure on Farmland Plateau areas should not be prominent on the skyline of the views FROM adjacent Stour Valley and Side Valley landscape area, or across the valley. While we can be satisfied that Planning Permission was refused, it is unsatisfactory that the guidance given for finding a new site is not optimum for leading to a better site. I suggest that we ask Wendy Scattergood to read this case recommendation and advise us on it, and that the Parish ask to meet with Sam Trafford. I also suggest that members read the report from me that precedes the report from me. I had to put it in as a private submission as I received new information from the applicant on the closing day

- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper

I visited the Playing Field on Sunday. As many councillors will be aware, there have been repeated problems with the showers in the pavilion. It is hoped these are now resolved. The Chairman may now be better placed to comment on this, together with other remedial work being undertaken on the pavilion.

A small amount of soil has been benevolently deposited along the verge by the main entrance.

As mentioned before, branches continue to ingress along the northern and eastern side of the Playing Field. The football pitch is being well used. Our thanks to Peter Nice for marking it out

- a) Grounds maintenance Service level agreement from BDC for 2023-2024 of £1620.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed to Not accept this quotation at this moment and to use Chris Moulton for 2023/2024.

Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

- Recreation Ground

- a) Pavilion report – Cllr D. Smith

Both showers have had to be replaced and a cost to the Council is £502.86p

External decorations will be done in April and May

Chris Moulton is taking over the cutting of the recreation grass at a cost of £1400.00p

- b) Trees report - The condition of all the trees are in hand

- Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby

Bridge on footpath 5 (between Edeys & Parkgate farms) need repair/replacement. Reported to Essex Highways issue no. 2827811. Followed up with EH on bridge on footpath 22 Defect Number: 3520458. One plank (length of bridge) has rotted away. Raised again by David Nott. They report that it is one of many waiting to be repaired. EH may inspect again soon.

- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

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The first Saturday coffee morning & book sale of the year was held on 28 January as part of Village Halls Week celebrations. Attendance was steady with the amount raised comparable to last year. The regular fortnightly Friday coffee mornings continue to be well attended with both regular and new attendees. Chris & Rose Harman are offering lifts to residents who can't walk or drive to the hall themselves. A Tuesday talk by 'The Detectorists' was held in February and was very well attended including several new faces. £200 was raised for VH funds. The grant of £175 from the Parish Council has been gratefully received and will be spent on the new fridge before the end of March. Just under £600 has been spent on repairs being the replacement of the emergency lighting and to clear the blocked drain to the septic tank. We have been advised that the drain where it connects to the Septic tank is in very poor repair and will soon need replacing. The management committee undertook a spring clean of the hall in February fortified by bacon butties cooked on the BBQ. The garden has also been tidied with assistance from Peter Nice and planted up with plants donated by residents. Future events planned are a (sold out) Quiz on 17 March, a Tuesday Talk on 25 April by Tim from Ten Sheds Bakery in Sible Hedingham, A Spring Craft & Plant Fayre with Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 20 May and a Summer party in June. The next committee meeting is 20 April.

030/2023 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2023
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2023
- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2022/23
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2022/23
- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for February and March 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11th. May 2023 at 7pm
The AVM to be held on Thursday 27th. April 2023 at 7pm in the village hall

031/2023 Councillors to note 2023 meeting dates - 13.07.23: 14.09.23: 09.11.23

032/2023 Items for Next Agenda

033/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

D. Smith

11th. May 2023

**Chairman
D. Smith**