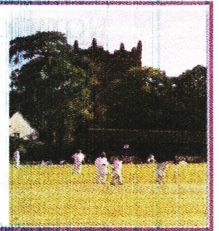


# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN  
Tel: 07810781509 – Email: [gestingthorpepc@gmail.com](mailto:gestingthorpepc@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk>



Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the forthcoming meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council to be held on

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. MARCH 2023 at 7pm in the village hall**

for the purpose of transacting the business ONLY shown on the agenda

*KBMoney* Kevin B. Money - Clerk to the Council – 2<sup>nd</sup>. March 2023

## **FULL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

019/2023 Chairman welcome

020/2023 Apologies for Absence

021/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

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 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2023

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

024/2023 Public Participation Session

a) King's Coronation event

b) Spraying in the village – Cllr P. Collett

c) Resident email regarding security concerns by positioning LED lights

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

026/2023 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. March 2023 deadline

**Gestingthorpe Parish Council has no objection to this planning application**

**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.

Documents can be found at

[https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-](https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RQS6X3BF0J900)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RQS6X3BF0J900](https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RQS6X3BF0J900)

**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**

**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
- Transport (Special Projects) – Cllr S. Bolter
- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper
- a) Grounds maintenance Service level agreement from BDC for 2023-2024 of £1620.00p
- Recreation Ground
  - a) Pavilion report – Cllr D. Smith
  - b) Trees report
- Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby
- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

**030/2023 Finance**

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28<sup>th</sup>. February 2023
- b) To receive 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

**Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. May 2023 at 7pm – AVM / GPC  
AGM / GPC Full Council**

**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.

# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
 7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN  
 Tel: 07810781509 – Email: gestingthorpepc@gmail.com  
 Website: <https://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk>



## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), P. Bagby, S. Bolter, G. Carey, P. Collett, A. Cooper, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, Mr. Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).

There were no members of the public present.

**001/2023 Chairman welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.

**002/2023 Apologies for Absence** were received from BDC Cllr W. Scattergood and Cllr C. Craig,

### **003/2023 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 the Cricket Club

### **004/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup>. November 2022. **All Agreed**

### **005/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

Best wishes for a peaceful and healthy New Year.

As we enter the New Year, sadly we are seeing rising cases of Covid and Flu and we all still need to be careful.

Looking back over 2022, as Covid restrictions eased 'normality' returned and in June we were able to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee with a weekend of events on the Playing Field, the highlight of which was the lighting of our Beacon on Church Green.

Sadly, the Queen passed away in September. Looking ahead we have the Coronation of King Charles in May. Could this be an opportunity to light the Village Beacon.

Keep fit sessions have continued on the Playing Field and in addition to summer cricket matches, we have the return of Sunday football. It's extremely pleasing to see the children's Play Equipment being used and the Playing Field being used all year round.

I would like to thank Ashley for cutting the hedge along Sudbury Road and for bringing up the pallet of salt to Church Green for residents to use during the recent spell of bad weather.

### **006/2023 Public Participation Session**

No questions from the public

### **007/2023 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier**

Council Tax is being raised by 3.5% to be ratified at Full Council meeting in February

The Council looked at raising it by 5% but to reduce it due to only placing 2% increase on Social Care

Inflation pressure is immense and the service costs are to be reduced

Cllr D. Smith asked if Highway maintenance is being increased? Cllr P. Schwier said that with new technology and new materials being trialled it will help reduce ECC Highways costs. With resources (what three words) now they are being made more efficiently.

Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

### **008/2023 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood**

No report was given

### **009/2023 Planning Applications**

**22/03214/VAR** - Parkgate Farm Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AE

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved application 22/00194/LBC granted 12.07.2022 for:

Conversion and extension of former stables/granary building to holiday letting accommodation.

Response sent to BDC before the 29<sup>th</sup>. December 2022 deadline

**GPC has no objection to this planning application**

**010/2023 Planning Appeal/s.** No appeals have been made affecting Gestingthorpe

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

**011/2023 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications****22/02955/T56** - Land Adjacent To Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe

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.

**Prior Approval Required and Not Given by BDC**

**Outstanding planning applications**

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

Retention of garden shed **Status Still Decision pending**

**012/2023 Representative reports**

- Highways – Cllr P. Collett

**SID Sudbury Road** - The unit has been removed from the post and I understand that it is currently undergoing repairs by ECC. I am pressing ECC for its return.

**Community Speed Watch** - Terry Straight has agreed to take over the role of co-ordinator of the Gestingthorpe Community Speed Watch. Cllr P. Collett to invite Terry Straight to the next GPC meeting.

**The Clerk to enquire 20mph in the village – 20's Plenty email - How to make whole village 30mph**

- Transport (Special Projects) – Cllr S. Bolter

**TRANSPORT EAST and its Rural Mobility Survey.**

Transport East is one of seven Sub-National Transport Bodies in England. It is working to deliver a collective vision for the future of transport in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. It brings together the local transport and planning authorities, and business leaders with Network Rail and National Highways, to enable the region to speak with one voice on the transport investment needed.

It decided to run its Rural Mobility Survey (TERMS) from the 7<sup>th</sup> November to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. Essex Association of Local Councils did not inform the Clerks about it until mid-day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. The Clerk promptly forwarded it to me. The form was unstable. Several answers vanished. Jo Hazell-Edwards of TE confirmed the answers had not gone to them. She sent an improved form, just in time for me to fill it in and send to Cllrs in the early hours of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. No Councillors made any formal comments on it during that meeting.

**a) The F315 bus.**

I have not yet had time to explore the possibility, mentioned at last month's meeting, of using funding for youth projects to improve access to public transport for youth (and other community members). The situation remains almost unchanged.

The information on the service, both direct to the public and to IT providers, is so poor that many who try the service miss the bus never try it again, and many others dare not try the service for fear of becoming stranded or because they have been falsely told they have to book the day before. Despite the case having been made by ECC Cllr Schwier to the Chair of ECC transport committee, ECC officers are still not addressing our concerns or contacting me directly. When "Integrated Passenger Transport Unit | Essex County Council" sought "support to engage bus users in a Co-Design process to support the development of a new Transport Information Website for Essex" on Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> of November, it sent the invitation to the Clerk on the afternoon or the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. He forwarded on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It was not marked urgent. I was still dealing with e-mails that were, when I had to go to Marks Tey by train to collect my car. When I went back to my desk, I found it was an invitation to a 2-option event, either one that had already finished or one that was already ¾ over. The debate was the very one which would be most useful to us. I complained about the lack of decent notice to Peter Schwier. He responded on Fri the 25<sup>th</sup>, with an apology and an invitation to one on Tues 29<sup>th</sup>. This one was specially concentrating on Car Commuters. I attended. There were few car commuters there, so I was able to put many of my points about earliest departure timetables, publicising flexible services and providing better connections, while admitting that our 2 hourly service connecting to hourly trains is not designed for commuters. There has been no feedback yet. Unless we could become a pilot, I doubt if the Transport Information Website will arrive in time to Save Our Service.

- Playing Field/Pavilion – Cllr D. Smith

Cllr D. Smith explained that the recreation ground is the biggest expense to the Council.

The pavilion repairs are to go ahead as planned.

Rental from the Cricket Club and Football Club. An additional business of keep fit club is being run on the field.

Cllr D. Smith suggested that the keep fit organiser gives a donation/fee to the Parish Council.

Cllr D. Smith to purchase the materials to repair the pavilion

- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper

Cllr P. Collett informed the meeting that the play equipment still has minor items identified by the ROSPA report remain to be addressed

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Cllr A. Cooper informed the meeting that there have been several issues with the Pavilion. Chris Moulton discovered a water leak following the cold snap of mid-December. He immediately turned off the water and reported it to me. I arranged to visit with David Smith, and then contacted Andrew Tarbin to effect a repair. Andrew undertook the work but was unable to gain access to one door. Richard Scillitoe was contacted to repair the broken lock.

Calling in at the Football Match on Sunday, I was told that there was a problem with one of the showers, (which Andrew hadn't been able to check due to the problem with locks), so have contacted him again. Andrew has also suggested that the pipe work could be reorganised and better lagging installed and will provide a quote for doing this work.

Great enthusiasm was manifest by all of the footballers - which was great to see. Especial thanks should be given to Peter Nice for marking the pitch out.

I walked round the Playing Field again yesterday. The usual concerns re. ingress of branches on the eastern and southern side remains. Happily, Lauren's tree appears to be thriving.

The short fence from the Bus Shelter towards the Church, (opposite Foundry House), will need bolstering up at some point.

- Recreation Ground – Cllr P. Collett
  - a) Pavilion report

A water leak occurred within the roof space causing damage. Cllr D. Smith spoke to the Football Club about turning off the electricity and water supply after each match.

- b) Trees report

Cllr D. Smith sent a letter to Michael Sharp and he said that the trees need to be tested. M. Sharp will pay to have them tested. The trees may need to be removed.

The Clerk to contact Essex Highways and UK Power Network to report this tree problem at the crossroads junction of North End Road with Nether Hill (Pound Farm) which are leaning and overhanging the Highway

- Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby

No defects have been reported since the last meeting. I have contacted Essex Highways regarding our participation in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme and waiting on a response.

- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

The Village Hall has had a very active Christmas period. The Children's Christmas party was held at the beginning of December and was attended by 16 children plus parents. We were lucky to receive a visit from Santa who handed out gifts to the children and the organisers. Nic Smith kept the children entertained with games and dancing. A big thank you to all who helped out particularly Gilly, Lauren & Nic. Feedback on the day and afterwards was very positive and we hope to make this party a regular event on the Village Hall calendar. The Adults' party was held the following Friday. The VH supplied a light supper and ran a cash bar. Games & dancing added to the fun. Although not put on as a fund raiser, we still raised over £200 for Village Hall funds. Nic Smith & Kate Abbott also ran a joint Christmas Fitness & Pilates session with a bit of dance & mince pies thrown in for good measure. Events planned so far for 2023: a Saturday Coffee morning & Book Sale on 28 January as part of Village Halls Week, A 'Detectorists' talk on Tuesday 7 Feb and a quiz night in March. The committee is also considering how we can further improve the warmth & comfort of the hall and reduce condensation. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting on 9 February.

#### 013/2023 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2022

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2022

- 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 December 2022 and January 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

#### 014/2023 Budget for 2023-2024

- Councillors to discuss and finalise the budget for 2023-2024

Cllr D. Smith proposed the budget for 2023-2024 at £12049. Cllr P. Bagby seconded. **All Agreed**

#### 015/2023 Precept 2023-2024

- 1) Councillors to discuss and finalise the Precept for 2023-2024

Councillors finalised the 2023-2024 Precept of £10304 which using the BDC Tax Base figure of 175.72 resulted in a Band D property cost of £58.64p

Cllr D. Smith proposed the Precept for 2023-2024 at £10304. Cllr P. Bagby seconded. **All Agreed**

- 2) Councillors to authorise the RFO to submit the Precept demand form to BDC deadline. **All Agreed**

**Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. March 2023 at 7pm**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

**016/2023 Councillors to note 2023 meeting dates**  
**11.05.23 AVM / GPC AGM / GPC Full Council: 13.07.23: 14.09.23: 09.11.23**

**017/2023 Items for Next Agenda**

Keep fit organiser donation/fee

King's Coronation

Notification to residents when agricultural spraying takes place

**018/2023 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

9<sup>th</sup>. March 2023

**D. Smith**  
**Chairman**

## **Proposed events for King's Coronation**

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.

Reps:

Church – Nicola Coppen

Village Hall – Chris Harman

History Group – Gill Webb

Parish Council – Penny Bagby

More volunteers needed

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**A message from your Gestingthorpe Parish Council contact form.**

1 message

**Gestingthorpe Parish Council** <notice@godaddy.com>

26 February 2023 at 11:52

Reply-To: h.cannell@btinternet.com

To: gestingthorpepc@gmail.com

## **Gestingthorpe Parish Council has received a new message.**

**Name**

Hugh Cannell

**Email**

h.cannell@btinternet.com

**How can we help you?**

The Chairman, Gestingthorpe PC.  
cc Sec GCC.

The Bright Lights of Gestingthorpe.

Our village proudly chose to remain a rural, friendly and dark village with no street lights (please see Village Design Statement). Unfortunately a few residents have reacted to security concerns by positioning LED lights. Some are visible in darkness for up to two miles, and in daylight for over a mile. For example by night workers, road users, game keepers and dog walkers. Turning towards the light source results in loss of night vision and to at least one minor incident recently to a wintertime dog walker.

A few such lights have not been shaded, or been placed low down so as to illuminate areas confined to the relevant property.

Would the PCC kindly take a view and consider making a request for some shading of the lights please?

Perhaps the local policy can be adjusted to include such a statement?

My suggestions are mainly made so as to defend the habitat for moths and insects, for nocturnal animals and even for some plants, each of whose local ecosystem almost certainly has been constrained and affected by the lights.

The definition of the 'light pollution' can be expressed as light trespass by over-illumination.

Ref. Gov UK. Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 31-003 to 05-20191101.

Finally, I remain convinced from scientific evidence, as to a range of unwanted effects to humans from the various forms of light pollution.

Hugh Cannell, Thorpe Barn, Church Street. 26/02/2023.

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## Report For Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2023

**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.

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).

(Will the Parish be represented at the Braintree Local Highways Panel 23. 03. 2023 at 14:00?)

## 028/2023 BDC decisions report from Steve Bolter

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

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
DECISION SHEET

#### Application Details

Application No: 22/02955/T56

Development Type: 27QT56

Date Valid: 1st November 2022

8/13 Week Date: 26th December 2022

Extension Of Time (If Applicable): N/A

#### Recommendation

Officer Recommendation: Prior Approval Required and Not Given

Case Officer: Sam Trafford

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

Our ref: CS/School Renewals  
Ask for: Mrs C Sargeant  
Tel ext: 3371  
E-mail: grounds.contracts@braintree.gov.uk  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Braintree**  
**District Council**

FAO Parish Clerk  
Gestingthorpe Parish Council  
c/o 7 Roach Vale  
Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN

**Operations**  
Causeway House  
Bocking End  
Braintree  
Essex  
CM7 9HB

Tel: 01376 552525

Dear Parish Clerk

**Grounds Maintenance Service Level Agreement 2023/24**

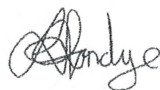
I am writing with regard to your School's Grounds Maintenance Service Level Agreement with the Council which is due to expire on 31 March 2023. I hope your school has been satisfied with the overall standard and quality of service our staff have delivered over the past year and that we can remain as your preferred service provider.

Our price to renew your agreement for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is £1,620. Unfortunately, this reflects the changing economic situation over the past year where we have all been impacted by steep increases in the cost of goods and services due to inflation. Nevertheless, we have kept our increase as low as possible albeit it is higher than you would have incurred last year.

If you would like to renew your agreement for a further 12 months at the new price, please let us know in writing by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and we will send out a renewal agreement for you to sign and return. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss the matter, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or e-mail, details of which are shown above.

Thank you for your past custom and we very much hope we can look forward to working with your School again in 2023/24.

Yours sincerely



Samir Pandya  
Strategic & Policy Manager

**Parish Council Meeting 09 March 2023**  
**Footpath Report**

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.

Penny Bagby  
5 March 2023

## **Gestingthorpe Parish Council Meeting 09 March 2023**

### **Village Hall Report**

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.

Penny Bagby  
05 March 2023

	<b>BANK RECONCILIATION</b>			
Financial year ending 31.03.23				
Bank Balance as at	30.04.22	31.05.22	30.06.22	31.07.22
Unity Trust Bank Current account	£ 12,927.41	£ 12,004.19	£ 11,986.19	£ 9,612.91
Unity Trust Bank EMR account	£ 4,220.64	£ 910.64	£ 912.32	£ 82.32
Lloyds Deposit Account	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	£ 0.04
<b>Total in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>£ 17,148.09</b>	<b>£ 12,914.87</b>	<b>£ 12,898.55</b>	<b>£ 9,695.27</b>
Less Unpresented cheques				
<b>Total of unpresented cheques</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Net Bank Balances as at</b>	<b>£ 17,148.09</b>	<b>£ 12,914.87</b>	<b>£ 12,898.55</b>	<b>£ 9,695.27</b>
<b>CASH BOOK</b>				
Balance as at 01.04.22	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70
Plus Receipts	£ 6,823.39	£ 7,571.28	£ 7,572.96	£ 7,572.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 17,148.09</b>	<b>£ 17,895.98</b>	<b>£ 17,897.66</b>	<b>£ 17,897.66</b>
Less Payments	£ -	£ 4,981.11	£ 4,999.11	£ 8,202.39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 17,148.09</b>	<b>£ 12,914.87</b>	<b>£ 12,898.55</b>	<b>£ 9,695.27</b>
Difference	£ -	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ -
Bank Balance as at	31.08.22	30.09.22	31.10.22	30.11.22
Unity Trust Bank Current account	£ 9,972.91	£ 13,590.73	£ 13,555.73	£ 11,855.04
Unity Trust Bank EMR account	£ 82.32	£ 82.58	£ 82.58	£ 82.58
Lloyds Deposit Account	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	£ 0.04
<b>Total in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>£ 10,055.27</b>	<b>£ 13,673.35</b>	<b>£ 13,638.35</b>	<b>£ 11,937.66</b>
Less Unpresented cheques				
<b>Total of unpresented cheques</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Net Bank Balances as at</b>	<b>£ 10,055.27</b>	<b>£ 13,673.35</b>	<b>£ 13,638.35</b>	<b>£ 11,937.66</b>
<b>CASH BOOK</b>				
Balance as at 01.04.22	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70
Plus Receipts	£ 7,932.96	£ 12,767.22	£ 12,767.22	£ 12,767.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 18,257.66</b>	<b>£ 23,091.92</b>	<b>£ 23,091.92</b>	<b>£ 23,091.92</b>
Less Payments	£ 8,202.39	£ 9,418.57	£ 9,453.57	£ 11,154.26
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 10,055.27</b>	<b>£ 13,673.35</b>	<b>£ 13,638.35</b>	<b>£ 11,937.66</b>
Difference	£ -	£ 0.00	-£ 0.00	£ -
Bank Balance as at	31.12.22	31.01.23	28.02.23	
Unity Trust Bank Current account	£ 11,837.04	£ 10,237.66	£ 10,437.66	
Unity Trust Bank EMR account	£ 82.85	£ 82.85	£ 82.85	
Lloyds Deposit Account	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	£ 0.04	
<b>Total in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>£ 11,919.93</b>	<b>£ 10,320.55</b>	<b>£ 10,520.55</b>	
Less Unpresented cheques				
<b>Total of unpresented cheques</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	
<b>Net Bank Balances as at</b>	<b>£ 11,919.93</b>	<b>£ 10,320.55</b>	<b>£ 10,520.55</b>	
<b>CASH BOOK</b>				
Balance as at 01.04.22	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	£ 10,324.70	
Plus Receipts	£ 12,767.49	£ 12,842.49	£ 13,042.49	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 23,092.19</b>	<b>£ 23,167.19</b>	<b>£ 23,367.19</b>	
Less Payments	£ 11,172.26	£ 12,846.64	£ 12,846.64	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 11,919.93</b>	<b>£ 10,320.55</b>	<b>£ 10,520.55</b>	
Difference	£ -	-£ 0.00	-£ 0.00	



<b>2021/2022</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>Balance</b>
01.04.21	R	Balance b/fwd	£ 100.00			£ 100.00
11.11.21	R	Transfer from Current account	£ 7,501.50			£ 7,601.50
31.12.21	R	Interest	£ 0.47			£ 7,601.97
11.03.22		Transfer to Current account		£ 4,384.80		£ 3,217.17
24.03.22	R	ECC Locality Fund	£ 1,000.00			£ 4,217.17
31.03.22	R	Bank Interest	£ 3.47			£ 4,220.64
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 1,003.94</b>			
<b>2022/2023</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>01.04.22</b>		<b>Balance b/fwd</b>				<b>£ 4,220.64</b>
04.05.22	R	T/f to current account (Paul Gill)		£ 3,310.00		£ 910.64
30.06.22	R	Bank interest	£ 1.68		£ 1.68	£ 912.32
13.07.22	R	T/f to current account (R.J. Alston)		£ 830.00		£ 82.32
30.09.22	R	Bank interest			£ 0.26	
31.12.22	R	Bank interest			£ 0.27	
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 1.68</b>	<b>£ 4,140.00</b>	<b>£ 2.21</b>	<b>£ 82.85</b>

**GESTINGTHORPE PC ACTUAL AGAINST BUDGET REPORT**

		Budget 2022/23	Total Income / Spend to Mar '23	Left in Budget as at Mar '23
<b>Income</b>	Precept	9668	£ 9,668.00	
	Other Income	0	£ 360.00	
	Bank Interest / VAT Refund	0	£ 1,355.02	
	Street Cleaning Grant	600	£ 636.58	
	Pavillion Hire	200	£ 200.00	
	Football Club use of recreation ground	0	£ 75.00	
	ECC for Verge cutting	745	£ 747.89	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11213</b>	<b>£ 13,042.49</b>	
<b>Exp.</b>				
<b>Staff</b>	Salary	3430	£ 3,424.32	£ 5.68
	Office Allowance	144	£ 144.00	£ -
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3574</b>	<b>£ 3,568.32</b>	<b>£ 5.68</b>
<b>Admin.</b>	Payroll	120	£ 120.00	£ -
	Office Expenses	120	£ 112.42	£ 7.58
	Computer / Printer Repair	0	£ -	£ -
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>£ 232.42</b>	<b>£ 7.58</b>
<b>General</b>	Verge Cutting	850	£ 1,287.85	-£ 437.85
	Street Cleaning (Skips)	0	£ -	£ -
	BDC Grass Cutting	1370	£ 1,057.50	£ 312.50
	Insurance	550	£ 585.02	-£ 35.02
	EALC/NALC/RCCE Subscriptions	220	£ 170.74	£ 49.26
	Training	160	£ 15.00	£ 145.00
	ICO Fee	35	£ 35.00	£ -
	Oates Churchyard Charity	200	£ 175.00	£ 25.00
	Village Hall Grant	200	£ 175.00	£ 25.00
	Playing Field	200	£ 4,140.00	-£ 3,940.00
	Election Expenses	0	£ -	£ -
	Play Equipment Safety Inspection	90	£ 91.00	-£ 1.00
	Anglian Water	0	£ -	£ -
	Pavillion Fire Inspection	72	£ 36.00	£ 36.00
	Mowing / Strimming/ Litter	1200	£ 1,200.00	£ -
	Repairs / Renewals to play equipment	500	£ -	£ 500.00
	Air Ambulance	200	£ 175.00	£ 25.00
	Cricket Pavillion repairs	500	£ 841.93	-£ 341.93
	Mole Control	0	£ -	£ -
	Website	160	£ 130.00	£ 30.00
	Defibrillator - Donation	200	£ -	£ 200.00
	Tree works in the Village	500	£ -	£ 500.00
	Village Handyman	120	£ 185.00	-£ 65.00
	Bank Charges	72	£ 54.00	£ 18.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7399</b>	<b>£ 10,354.04</b>	<b>-£ 2,955.04</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>11213</b>	<b>£ 14,154.78</b>	<b>-£ 2,941.78</b>
	<b>VAT Reclaim</b>	<b>£ 887.36</b>		
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 15,042.14</b>		

<b>FINANCE FEBRUARY &amp; MARCH PAYMENTS</b>							
<b>INCOME: Gestingthorpe Cricket Club £200.00p:</b>							
<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Invoice No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>GPC Ref. No.</b>	
BACS	Feb '23	Kevin B. Money - Clerk Salary	£ 236.59	£ -	£ 236.59	130	
BACS	Feb '23	HMRC - Tax on Salary	£ 56.00	£ -	£ 56.00	131	
BACS	Mar '23	Kevin B. Money - Clerk Salary	£ 236.39	£ -	£ 236.39	132	
BACS	Mar '23	HMRC - Tax on Salary	£ 56.20	£ -	£ 56.20	133	
BACS	5	J. Layzell - 2 quarters maintenance	£ 600.00	£ -	£ 600.00	134	
BACS		Brewers Decorators - Pavilion	£ 261.93	£ 52.39	£ 314.32	135	
BACS		Adrain Page - Pavilion repair	£ 580.00	£ 116.00	£ 696.00	136	
		<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b>£ 2,027.11</b>	<b>£ 168.39</b>	<b>£ 2,195.50</b>		