

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th. May 2022 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), C. Craig (Vice-Chairman), P. Bagby, S. Bolter, P. Collett, A. Cooper and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

043/2022 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

044/2022 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr W. Scattergood, Cllr G. Carey and Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor).

045/2022 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 relating to the Cricket Club

046/2022 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 10th. March 2022. **All Agreed**

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

047/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Nothing further to add from the Annual Village meeting report

048/2022 Public Participation Session

No questions from the public

049/2022 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

No report was given but all ECC reports supplied by Cllr P. Schwier can be found at

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

050/2022 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was given but all BDC reports supplied by BDC can be found at

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

051/2022 Bramford/Twinstead Reinforcement – Update from Cllr P. Collett & Cllr S. Bolter

The PC has submitted its response to National Grid's consultation. In summary, the PC's response reluctantly accepts the need for a substation but stresses the need for adequate and effective screening of the completed installation and draws attention for the need for consideration of residents during the construction phase. A planning application in respect of the proposed substation has now been submitted to BDC. PC to consider, discuss and provide their comments to BDC.

The main issue is the planting of the trees on the west side of the development

052/2022 Planning Applications

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

Retention of garden shed

RESOLVED: No objection, however, the PC make the following comments:

The PC question why the application was validated in its current form - the drawings do not appear totally accurate, and there is no scale bar, so it is difficult to ascertain the likely impact on neighbouring properties.

The building subject to the application appears to be a very large shed/workshop, within a relatively small external residential space. This is likely to impact on neighbours. The PC suggests the impact of the structure could be reduced by redesigning the roof to be flat, thus reducing the bulk of the building.

The drainage strategy needs to be confirmed and should not impact on neighbouring properties.

Does the proposed building require building control approval given its size and its nature of being more than a 'garden shed'?

22/00932/HH & 22/00834/LBC - The Thatched Cottage Church Street Gestingthorpe CO9 3AZ

Installation of solar panels to garage roof.

RESOLVED: Support this application

22/00972/HH - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Removal of existing caravan and replacement with grooms' quarters.

RESOLVED: No objection to this application, subject to a condition that the grooms quarters are not to be used as accommodation.

22/00971/HH - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Proposed stable block within the tennis court boundary and replacement of the existing barns and cartlodge doors.

RESOLVED:

- a) Replacement of existing barns and cartlodge doors – **Support this part of the application**
- b) Proposed stable block within the tennis court boundary - **the Parish Council object to this part of the application**, on the grounds of scale, bulk and design. The scale of the development seems large for a householder application. If BDC sees fit to approve the application, the Parish Council suggests a condition restricting development to use by the applicant only, and not for commercial use.

22/00969/LBC - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Removal of existing modern timber doors on Barn 1, Barn 2 and cartlodge and replacement with traditional timber doors. Proposed stable block located on the existing tennis court. Removal of the existing caravan and replacement with grooms' quarters.

RESOLVED:

- a) Replacement of existing barns and cartlodge doors - **Support this part of the application**
- b) Proposed stable block within the tennis court boundary - **the Parish Council object to this part of the application**, on the grounds of scale, bulk and design. The scale of the development seems large for a householder application. If BDC see fit to approve the application, the PC suggest a condition restricting development to use by the applicant only, and not for commercial use.
- c) Removal of existing caravan and replacement with grooms quarters – **The Parish Council has No objection to this part of the application**, subject to a condition that the grooms quarters are not to be used as accommodation.

22/01147/FUL - Land Adjacent Butlers Wood and Waldergrave Wood West of A131 (In The Parishes Of Bulmer And Twinstead) Sudbury Road Bulmer Essex

A new 400/132 kilovolt (kV) Grid Supply Point (GSP) substation including two super grid transformers, associated buildings, equipment and switchgear, a single circuit cable sealing end compound, a new permanent vehicular access to the public highway, associated landscaping (including boundary fencing, an area for Biodiversity Net Gain, and landscape mounding) and drainage

RESOLVED: GPC response can be found at https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/files/3F175D0FD05811257CB61A623C3AD89F/pdf/22_01147_FUL-PARISH_COUNCIL-1995118.pdf

053/2022 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

21/03099/FUL - Land North Of, Osier Way, Sible Hedingham, Essex
Application withdrawn – 18.03.22

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

22/00565/FUL - Beacon Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex. **Application GRANTED**

22/00732/FUL - Land North Of Osier Way Sible Hedingham Essex
Erection of a two-storey medical centre with allocated parking. **Application GRANTED 05.04.22**

22/00722/HH - 23 Oates Cottages Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BG
Retention of garden shed **Status Decision pending**

22/00356/FUL - The Pheasant PH Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU
Addition of sheltered outdoor-seating area adjoining existing pub building **Status Decision pending**

22/00610/HH - 1 Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU
Erection of two-storey side extension **Status Decision pending**

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
Prior Approval Required and Given – 21.03.22

22/00972/HH - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Removal of existing caravan and replacement with grooms quarters. **Status Decision pending**

22/00971/HH - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Proposed stable block within the tennis court boundary and replacement of the existing barns and cartlodge doors. **Status Decision pending**

22/00969/LBC - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Removal of existing modern timber doors on Barn 1, Barn 2 and cartlodge and replacement with traditional timber doors. Proposed stable block located on the existing tennis court. Removal of the existing caravan and replacement with grooms' quarters. **Status Decision pending**

054/2022 Representative reports

- **Highways** – Cllr D. Smith & Cllr P. Collett

SID Audley End - The unit still needs some adjustment as it only operates if a vehicle is travelling above 40 mph. The PC will continue to attempt to make contact with ECC Highways to resolve this matter. SID Sudbury Road - The PC has made an application to ECC for a new sign. The PC will contact Cllr Schwier in an effort to secure funding for the new installation.

Community Speed Watch - We are awaiting to be informed of the dates for further training and a "live" Speedwatch.

Cllr A. Cooper reported that residents have raised the issue of remedial road repairs being necessary at the Audley End area of the village. The Clerk to write to ECC Cllr P. Schwier (Peter Collett to supply details)

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

F 315 bus

The bus service was severely disrupted by broadband works, the remedial works to stop Sudbury Road falling into the Wickham Brook, and Covid19.

We are returning to normal in other ways, the service is still very underused. **USE IT OR LOOSE IT.**

If you do not support it when you can now, it may not be there if you need it in the future. Having a coffee while you wait for the next bus home is cheaper than using petrol or diesel to go by car.

The last bus into Sudbury is 6:49pm, returning at 7:15pm. The last bus each way has to be booked. All others are hail and ride. The timetable on the Gestingthorpe PC Website gives earliest departure times, that is the time you should be at the stop not to miss the next bus. Buses towards Sudbury can be 15 minutes later than that if they have had to call at both Pebmarsh and Great Maplestead on their way from Halstead.

Do not use the ECC website or phone apps that take their information from it. You are likely to miss the bus if you do not look at all, the small print. ECC ignore information sent to them by me and the operator. It is as if ECC want the route to fail.

The Parish News information was useful, but the latest version seems to be a trimmed down version of a very old ECC timetable. I repeat, use the Parish Council website.

Stansted Airspace

Last year I attended a preliminary meeting aimed to ascertain what local people wanted, with discussion followed by questionnaires. Results indicated that number of people overflown was an important parameter, making it preferable to concentrate large numbers of flights over narrow corridors over the countryside, rather than spreading them over larger areas. even though my written response tried to counter this by re-emphasizing that overflying is more intrusive over otherwise quiet rural areas than over busy urban areas, It seemed pretty hopeless, but I had missed one factor, which came to our rescue. In our areas planes are relatively low a long way from the airport.

The proposed new routes through the airspace will avoid Gestingthorpe. We must hope that the latest proposals are accepted when the overall airspace for the main "London" airports is finalised.

No new Rail news

- **Playing Field** – Cllr A. Cooper

I walked the Playing Field yesterday morning. It looked spectacularly beautiful, with the new boundary posts looking superb. Thank you to David for organising such a capable firm to do the work.

N.B Four posts remain at Hill Farm. While I am happy to store them, it would be far better to use them for their intended purpose before they get lost or forgotten.

The Cricket Club had mowed around the huts and pavilion and under the trees along the Sudbury Road, where the tractor mower cannot pass.

Branches from trees droop over the Playing Field along the eastern boundary.

One chestnut tree along the Sudbury Road has dead twigs in its uppermost branches—which is a matter for long term concern. The tree planted to commemorate Lauren Hammond looks well.

Joshua Layzell was cutting the children's area. He raised the issue of the best way to keep the area around the new posts tidy was to spray a small amount of weed killer.

a) Councillors to discuss the 2022-2023 quotation on Verge Mowing contract of £929.89p +VAT
Cllr D. Smith proposed accepting the quotation of £929.89p +VAT for the 2022-2023 verge cutting. Cllr A. Cooper seconded. **All Agreed**

- **Recreation Ground** – Cllr P. Collett

Play Equipment - A ROSPA inspection will take place during May.

- **Playing Field Security Posts** - update from Cllr D. Smith

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that the security posts have been installed

- **Footpath** – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

No issues have been reported to Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

Cllr P. Bagby to take over responsibility of Footpaths in Gestingthorpe

- **Village Hall** – Cllr C. Craig

Following on from my update at the Annual Village Meeting last month, I can confirm that work has now begun to replace the slate roof on the village hall. Scaffolding will be up for the duration, and Border roofing are stripping the roof, keeping the slates that are reusable to put on the front of the roof, and replacing where needed elsewhere with Spanish slates. We hope this will mean the village hall roof will remain in good working order for another 100 years plus.

The village hall committee continue to plan future events, including a summer party, race night and community ventures with the Parish Council and Church, in particular the Jubilee celebrations in early June.

Penny Bagby, Steph Prior and myself have started a village hall garden spruce up, removing the old weed membrane and adding compost, cutting back shrubs and sweeping the paving. We plan to plant up the garden with suitable plants to make the space brighter and more welcoming. We would welcome the donation of garden compost and red, white and blue flowers! We would like to also thank Peter Nice for the loan of wheelbarrows and other equipment as well as taking away the pruning's for us.

As noted previously, as a committee, we would like to see the village hall become more of a community hub than a 'space for hire'. The coffee mornings are being well supported, and it's great to see Nic Smith's exercise classes in the hall continue to be so popular. However, we need more events like this! With more children in the village, we would like to see a parent and toddler group, plus other informal community groups use the village hall. If you know of anyone looking for a space, would like to set something up, or can help get the word out, please let us know!

055/2022 Queens Jubilee update – update from Cllr C. Craig

Getting close to the event. Beacon is being erected for £380.00p w/e 23.05.22. Beacon lighting at 9.45pm on 02.06.22.

Various events are being arranged in the village hall and on the recreation ground.

056/2022 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2022

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 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 April and May 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr C. Craig seconded to authorise the April and May 2022 payments. **All Agreed**

057/2022 2021/22 Annual Return

1) To receive the 2021/22 signed Internal Audit Report

Councillors noted the 2021/22 signed Internal Audit Report and thanked Leslie Crumpton-Taylor, in his absence, for all his work in undertaking the Internal Audit.

2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 part 2

Cllr D. Smith proposed signing the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 part 2. Cllr C. Craig seconded.

All Agreed. The Chairman and RFO then signed the Certificate of Exemption.

3) To receive and sign the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

Cllr D. Smith proposed signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22. Cllr C. Craig seconded.

All Agreed. The Chairman and Parish Clerk then signed Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

4) To receive and sign the Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/22

Cllr D. Smith proposed signing Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/22. Cllr C. Craig seconded.

All Agreed. The Chairman and RFO then signed Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/22

Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14.07.22: 08.09.22: 10.11.22

058/2022 **Items for Next Agenda**

059/2022 **Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

14th. July 2022

D. Smith – Chairman GPC

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