

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 13th. July 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: C. Craig (Vice-Chairman), P. Bagby, G. Carey, P. Collett, A. Cooper, BDC Cllr D. Holland, Mr. Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).

There were also 5 members of the public present.

058/2023 Chairman welcome. The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

059/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr D. Smith

060/2023 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

061/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meetings held on 11th. May 2023. **All Agreed**

To receive and agree the Planning minutes of the GPC meetings held on 19th. June 2023. **All Agreed**

062/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Cllr D. Smith supplied a report prior to the meeting that read:

The events over the Coronation Weekend were funded by the Village Hall Events Accounts and whilst it was not a fund-raising event, there was a surplus of £272. Chris Harman has advised that he is happy that the Village Hall Events Account has funds for a future Village Fete and we need, therefore, to decide what to do with the £272 surplus. The suggestion is that it is split equally between the Village Hall and the History Society. Looking ahead, Chris has suggested that we look at working with Gt Maplestead and have a combined Village Fete. The Fete would alternate between the two Parishes and with the Parishes working together, there would be scope for a bigger and better event.

The Playing Field is looking the best its looked for a considerable number of years and my thanks to Chris Moulton for the splendid job he is doing with grass cutting etc.

External repairs and redecorations to the Pavilion are nearing completion and my grateful thanks go to all the volunteers who gave up two Saturdays to carry out work.

Internal decorations have also been carried out, together with repair works to one of the shower cubicles and the floor in the kitchen/sitting area. I would like to thank the Parishioners who funded and carried out these works.

Whilst the building is now looking more presentable, it is clearly apparent that repairs and maintenance have neglected for a number of years. The Pavilion is an integral part of the Playing Field and is there for all the Village to use. Moving forward, we need to work with all potential users and instigate a rolling and funded programme of repair and maintenance.

I thought the planning application for the mobile phone mast in Delvyns Lane had a good airing at our extraordinary meeting on 19th June last. However, I am mindful that the consensus at the meeting was in favour of an improved mobile phone service in the Village and this has been confirmed by ongoing conversations I have had with residents, both young and old alike.

Cllr C. Craig proposed and Cllr G. Carey seconded that the funds be divided equally between the Village Hall and History Group. **All Agreed**

a) Assets of Community Value" (ACV) – update from the Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the Assets of Community Value Nomination form has been submitted to BDC for consideration

A resident spoke about having an ACV for the playing field, he would have an issue as it is being listed as an ACV. The playing field has always been part of the overall estate. A precedent has been set. The field is on a very long lease (99 years – 40 years + left on the lease) but there are issues with the lease. The owner is happy to work with the Council but would object to the ACV being attached to the estate. A meeting between the resident and the chair of the Council would be the way forward.

063/2023 Public Participation Session

1) Richard Scillitoe (GCC Captain) to give an update on how the Club is doing

The cricket club is struggling for members. Repairs of pavilion are underway. A better relationship between Cricket Club and GPC should be maintained. The pavilion will be tidied up and he circulated the proposals of the pavilion project to Councillors.

2) To discuss field spraying – Cllr P. Collett

Would the PC send a polite letter to farmers to ask them about when any spraying / harvesting takes place local residents are informed. Cllr Cooper said that it could be done for harvesting but would be very difficult for spraying because of unpredictable weather conditions. It was agreed by Councillors that Cllr P. Collett should draft out a suitable letter for the approval of the PC

064/2023 National Grid – Bramford – Twinstead proposal

The up-to-date project is a call for interested parties. Cllr C. Craig proposed and Cllr G. Carey seconded that Cllr P. Collett registers GPC interest to National Grid inspectorate. **All Agreed**

065/2023 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

No report was given but the Clerk did refer Councillors to all emails Cllr P. Schwier had sent since the last meeting.

066/2023 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland

Cllr D. Holland informed the meeting that having been appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, he must be very careful as to what he says on any planning issues ahead of any resolution through the courts. However, what he is happy to commit to, is to work to ensure an appropriate resolution is reached as soon as is possible. He mentioned that

- Green bins waste service – Filling in the finances of BDC new revenues schemes needed to be found. Collection costs was £2/3m per year. 70% of Councils charge. BDC charging £27.50p for 1st. year thereafter £55 per year. Collections will be every 2 weeks.
- 2 planning enforcement issues are ongoing. 1 is heading into the courts. A lot of funding is being put into defending this case. 2nd on a non-consented addition to a building.

067/2023 Planning Applications

23/01172/HH - Thorpe Barn Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AX

Front porch

Response sent to BDC before the planning deadline

No objection in principle. We note that no materials and finishes have been noted, which would be useful to provide relevant comment. **This application was granted on 26th. June 2023**

23/01181/FUL - Annexe Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Change of use of existing annexe to holiday let.

Response sent to BDC before the planning deadline

No objection. However, we note that no permission was sought or granted for change of use to an annex by the previous owner. We also question the description as an annex as it has its own access and postal address.

This application was withdrawn on 4th. July 2023

23/01225/FUL - The Great Barn Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AS

Erection of barn and creation of equestrian arena with the occasional use by mares for artificial insemination.

Response sent to BDC before the planning deadline

No objection in principle, based on the barn and equestrian arena being subject to personal residential use only.

We note that the applicant states "There are a number of public footpaths and bridleways within close proximity to the site and capable of accommodating horse riders", and comment as such:

- The nearest bridleway to the site is No. 34 leaving Little Maplestead in a SE direction. No other bridleway in Gestingthorpe is close to the site. **This application is still outstanding**

23/01469/T56 - Land Adjacent To Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex

The installation of a 25m Cypress Tree 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

This application was discussed at an extraordinary meeting on 19th. June 2023

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

This application is still outstanding

068/2023 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

No planning decision/s have been made by BDC affecting Gestingthorpe

069/2023 Representative reports

- **Highways** – Cllr P. Collett

Highways SID Sudbury Road - I understand from ECC that before a replacement SID can be installed it will be necessary to carry out a speed survey. ECC have also stated that the Local Highways Panel are unable to

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th. July 2023 at 7pm

fund the survey and they have suggested that the Parish Council could fund it themselves. The PC will discuss this matter to establish if they are willing to fund the survey and to establish if there is a source of funding that they can utilise. Potholes - I have reported a number of potholes and damaged road signs on the ECC Highways website. It was also discussed and agreed that the PC would fund the ATC speed survey and that a purchase order in the sum of £368.20 would be raised by the PC.

Community Speed Watch. Currently there is no Community Speed Watch taking place in the village. I have contacted Sergeant Ben Felton of the Rural Policing Unit to see if they could help with carrying out some speed checks. Sergeant Felton was very willing to help but he pointed out that he only has a limited number of officers to cover a very large rural area and he suggested that I contact The Braintree District Community Policing Team. I emailed the team on 30th May but I have not had a direct reply. However, PCSO's have attended the last two village coffee mornings and on 7th July one of the officers carried some speed checks on Sudbury Road. I will attempt to maintain contact to see if some checks can be carried out on a more regular basis.

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. The current proposals by National Grid do not appear to directly effect Gestingthorpe's immediate area to any great degree (Other than the substation at Butlers Wood with has been commented on by the PC under a separate planning application). However, if the PC wish to make a representation on the current proposals we have until midnight on 18th July to do so.

- **Playing Field** – Cllr P. Collett

Play Equipment. The Annual ROSPA inspection has been carried out and some minor carpentry items noted. Chris Moulton has agreed to deal with them. The Inspection report has again stated that we need a sign on the basketball post. The Parish Council to discuss and agree if this should be installed or not.

- **Recreation Ground** – Cllr A. Cooper

I visited the Playing Field this morning. The immediate impression one has-shared by several parishioners I have spoken to--is of how spectacularly attractive it looks this year-and how well the new system of mowing is working.

The narrow entrance between the newly erected posts beside the roadside footpath has caused problems to a number of cars attempting to gain access to the field. Possibly we could consider making the next one to it, moveable as well.

The Chairman has mentioned the redecorations to the pavilion-and thanked all those involved. It is very rewarding to see such progress.

A few weeks ago, Chris Moulton and myself met with David Smith to discuss the possibility of making a secure area behind the pavilion to keep the mowers etc. Perhaps we could discuss this further at our next meeting.

The most easterly bench between the pavilion and the nets, has been removed, as it was deemed unsafe-and irreparable. This leaves a concrete base where another seat could be installed.

One of the practice goal posts, was made of metal-and could have caused a nasty accident if it fell onto a child. This has now been removed-leaving a single-much safer plastic goal post.

Overhanging branches remain a concern on the southern and eastern boundaries.

The chestnut tree opposite the houses on Sudbury Road has a number of branches which are looking bare at the ends.

There would be space to plant another tree between it and the tree planted to commemorate Lauren Hammond-so that when the chestnut does die, there will already be something else in vicinity.

Happily Lauren's tree appears to be growing well.

The posts holding up the picket fence to the south of the bus shelter have rotted through at the base. They will need attention, to ensure that the fence remains vertical. Could we put this on the agenda for a future meeting please.

- **Footpath** – Cllr P. Bagby

Updates - Ref 2826844 - Defective bridge on PRoW (Bridge collapsed). Footpath 5 Gestingthorpe.

Investigated by EH. Work to replace bridge being scheduled.

Ref 2694892 - Defective bridge on PRoW (Missing plank). Footpath 22 Gestingthorpe.

Investigated by EH. Work to repair being scheduled.

New Reports

Ref 2854201 - Vegetation problem on PRoW. Footpath 23 Gestingthorpe. Fallen tree blocking footpath

Ref 2856099 - Obstruction of PRoW. Footpath 4 Gestingthorpe. Gates placed across the footpath obstructing

access. - Overgrown path on Footpath 8. Under discussion with Essex Highways

- **Defibrillator** – Update from Cllr P. Bagby

CH hold £306 on account for the Gestingthorpe defibrillator and there is a further £250 in the bank account held at NatWest. A request to update the Bank signatories at NatWest has been submitted.

7 people currently on the Volunteer telephone system & defib checking rota.

Training

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th. July 2023 at 7pm

Training is run as a Defibrillator 'Awareness' Session. Each session runs for 2 hours and costs £175. The session gives an overview of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), 999 – What questions to expect and a practical demonstration of CPR, using the AED, handover to paramedics.

Propose arrange training session in the Village Hall in September or October

2nd Defibrillator Costs

Purchase of Defibrillator - To powered site: £1900 - Installation: Estimate £250 - To unpowered site: £2340
Thermal Bag: £55.00 - Pricing exclusive of 20% VAT. VAT is not payable if purchased under a Managed Solution.

Additional costs If under Managed Solution

One off fee for Public Liability & Damage cover: £100 - Optional one off fee for theft & malicious damage cover: £250 - No further/ongoing insurance costs

Webnos Governance System (RRP £150) - Post event counselling (RRP £300) - AED signage/personal safety kit - 1st year VETS

For a Managed Solution a weekly equipment check required as per current defib.

Cost would have to be met by fundraising and/or donations.

Location for 2nd defibrillator to be determined.

- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

The first Gestingthorpe Grill was held on Saturday June 17. Bacon sandwiches, tea & coffee were prepared and sold at the front of the village Hall. Bacon sandwiches were provided free of charge to the Cricket pavilion painting volunteers. The next grill is this Saturday 15 July.

Other fundraising events included the fortnightly coffee mornings, A Tuesday Talk by Tim Nash from Ten sheds Bakery in Sible Hedingham and a combined Craft Fayre, Plant Sale & Sausage Sizzle. In all over £1000 was raised April to June.

The village Hall was the centre of activities for the Coronation weekend hosting the exhibition organised by the History Group. Tea, coffee and cakes were on sale throughout the weekend and a drinks party held on the Saturday night before and after the lighting of the beacon. Although not run as a fundraising event, the events generated a net profit of £272.00 currently held in the Gestingthorpe Events account. We are proposing this amount be split equally and paid to the Village hall and History Group.

Two new panel heaters have been purchased and installed replacing two of the remaining fan heaters.

The AGM was held on 8 June 2023. Chris Harman stood down as Chairman and from the Management Committee. Damian Prior & Nic Smith were elected on to the committee. At the subsequent Committee meeting, Roger Goldsmith was voted in as Chair with Steph Prior & Penny Bagby continuing as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The position of Vice Chairman remains vacant for the moment.

As at 30th. June the Village held a total of £4,319.69 in cash and in the bank account.

The next committee meeting is 24 August.

070/2023 Finance

- To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2023

- To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2023/24

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2023/24

- To approve the payment of Accounts for June and July 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

071/2023 Date of next meeting is on Thursday 14th. September 2023 at 7pm Councillors to note 2023 meeting dates - 09.11.23 (Budget meeting)

072/2023 Items for Next Agenda

ACV - Pavilion update – Secure area behind Pavilion to keep mowers etc

SID Speed survey update and costing – Entrance posts to recreation ground – New seat in field – Practice goal posts – Fence around bus stop

073/2023 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Vice-Chair then closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

D Smith

Chairman
D. Smith

14th. September 2023