



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 8th. July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), S. Bolter, P. Collett, A. Cooper, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).
There were no members of the public present.

048/2021 Chairman welcome

a) To accept the resignation of Cllr James Nott from GPC with immediate effect.
The Councillors accepted, reluctantly, the resignation of Cllr James Nott.

049/2021 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllrs C. Craig and T. Flower

050/2021 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

051/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 20th. May 2021. **All Agreed**

052/2021 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

I am sorry that James Nott has resigned from the Parish Council, although following his move to Ovington I fully appreciate his position. James has been a Parish Councillor for over 20 years and over 12 years as Parish Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his service to the Parish over the years.

053/2021 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.
No questions from the public

054/2021 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

See his report at <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/21debe88-bce5-46d2-bef6-90e16f3bbbd9/downloads/07.%20%20Peter%20Schwier%20report%20for%2008.07.21.pdf?ver=1625821049720>

Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

055/2021 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was given

056/2021 Representative reports

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

Cllr D. Smith reported that on Highways, improvement works to Sudbury Road have at last been completed. Hopefully, there won't be any further flooding problems to this area. The working area currently looks untidy with weed growth and it will probably be a year or so before the banks and verge have regenerated. However, what a great shame that the Highway surface was patched and not completely resurfaced as part of the works.

Flooding at Audley End – there has not been any further developments.

Verge Cutting – you will recall that we submitted an objection on Highway safety grounds to the change in policy to only cut roadside verges once a year. As a result of recent weather conditions, the verges are generally becoming overgrown and there are increasing Highway Safety issues. I suggest we need to identify verges within the Parish where additional cutting is required and liaise with our District Councillor and County Councillor to ensure that this additional verge cutting work is undertaken.

Cllr P. Collett informed the meeting of the proposed **SID for Audley End** - Rissa Long is not now the officer covering the Braintree Panel and has been replaced by Charlotte O'Connell. However, the



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funding for the VAS was agreed at the recent Highways Panel meeting and we understand that the scheme will be programmed as a priority. We have been promised that once there is a specific time scale Charlotte will keep us in the loop.

SID Sudbury Road - This unit continues to work but smile inappropriately. The unit will twist around in high winds and stop working completely, as it is then not correctly aligned. It has been discovered that the unit's support pole is twisting in the ground socket. Any suggestions regarding methods of fixing the unit in the correct position would be appreciated.

Community Speed Watch - Janet Wiley the Community Speedwatch Coordinator has recently asked us to complete a "Community Speed Watch New Group Register". This has now been completed and submitted. Janet has promised to get in touch with us shortly to advise us of the "process and proposed timescales going forward". Hopefully this is positive news.

- **Playing Field/Recreation Ground** – Cllr A. Cooper

Cllr A. Cooper has walked around the Playing Field.

As mentioned previously there is a need for more rubbish bins. The bin on the tree beside the road was overflowing again. Perhaps we could consider putting another one there?

The entrance was quite muddy; a sudden storm had occurred on Sunday. I wonder whether the option of putting 'gridded, traffic-bearing matting' there, should be considered, if more ambitious plans do not go ahead.

Part of the weatherboard on the pavilion will need staining at some point in the future. Weed growth had been effectively controlled around the foundations.

There is a hole in the matting of the practice net.

Several of the trees along the eastern boundary have low- hanging branches which could impede mowers etc in future years.

There is no sign on the post which holds the Basketball net. Have we decided it doesn't need one? The Play equipment looked in good order.

- 1) Update on Play Equipment repair – Cllr P. Collett

Play Equipment - As we have received no response from MCL to our communications, it is proposed that the Parish Council write to MCL reserving their right to employ others to complete the works to recover any legitimate additional cost. The final format of the letter to be discussed and agreed by the PC. Further quotations for the supply and installation of the "rocker" units have been sought.

- **Broadband update**– Cllr S. Bolter & Cllr P. Collett

If residents have not got their broadband connected yet, please contact Cllr Steve Bolter.

- **Footpath** – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

Nothing to report except for footpath 8 has become very narrow

- **Tree Warden** – Cllr T. Flower

No report was given

- **Village Hall** – Cllr C. Craig

Following the delays to the relaxation of Covid-19 lockdown rules, the return of the village hall coffee morning has been postponed, with a date to be confirmed, pending the Government easing of restrictions. The in-person AGM has been postponed too, date to be rearranged.

A Book Club is being set up to run from the village hall, information to follow when restrictions allow.

We also postponed the Village Picnic event when restrictions were kept in place, which may have been a blessing, considering the weather on 27th June wasn't the greatest. I have pencilled in the event for 24th July, when hopefully restrictions are eased as planned. I'm hoping this means more families will be able to attend before leaving for their summer holiday getaways, and the weather will be kind. The new date has been advertised on the Parish and Village Facebook pages, the July Parish News, and flyers will go round the village in early July, so we can make as many people as possible aware of the event. I have double checked the cricket schedule this time too, which is clear!

The village hall committee are happy for the village hall toilets to be used, and we hope to serve



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tea/coffee/soft drinks outside the cricket pavilion.

The Village Hall Committee have been very fortunate to have been awarded a number of grants throughout the pandemic. It was agreed at the last committee meeting that the money would be used to replace the village hall roof, which has been patched and repaired for many years. We hope this means that the village hall will be able to remain a valuable community asset for many years to come

057/2021 Planning Applications

Planning – Pot Kiln Lodge – Cllr D. Smith said that he is sorry to report the saga continues. He has “chased” Braintree District Council for an update and hope to be in a position to update at our meeting.

21/00911/HH & 21/00912/LBC - Byroad Cottage Pot Kiln Chase Gestingthorpe CO9 3BH

Proposed single storey rear extension and cartlodge with home office.

Councillors discussed this revised application at the Full Council meeting on 20th. May 2021.

The comments from GPC were

RESOLVED: No objection to proposed extension.

Objection to proposed Cartlodge on grounds of over development and out of keeping with the overall scale of property. The current application, as was application [15/00114/FUL](#), is silent on the use/occupation of the existing double garage with office/accommodation over.

Question 2 on the Biodiversity Validation Checklist has not been completed. The property is pre 1914 and within 400m of woodland.

21/01861/HH - By Blacksmiths Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AZ

Erection of two storey rear extension and erection of first floor rear extension.

RESOLVED: SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21/01934/AGR - Hall Farm Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BA

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

BDC are writing to inform the Council that an application for a Prior Approval under the General Permitted Development Order 1995 (as amended) has been submitted. Details of the application are displayed on the BDC Council's website. Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application BDC do not seek GPC comments

058/2021 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

21/00911/HH & 21/00912/LBC - Byroad Cottage Potkiln Chase Gestingthorpe CO9 3BH

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APPLICATION GRANTED

059/2021 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 2021

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted to June 2021

Councillors noted the Actual against Budget report

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for June and July 2021 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements

Cllr A. Cooper proposed and Cllr S. Bolter seconded that the June and July payments be authorised.

All Agreed

- d) To appoint Cllr David Smith and Cllr Claire Craig as GPC Internet Banking Signatory in place of Cllr James Nott. **All Agreed**

- e) Grants and Donations - To consider any requests received by the Parish Clerk

No Grants or Donation requests have been received by the Clerk. However, the Clerk requested bank details from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance which he has now received. The Clerk asked that Councillors consider a donation amount from GPC funds at the September meeting. **All Agreed**



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060/2021 Items for Next Agenda

Donations, Unity Trust Bank – GPC Signatories, Playing Field waste bin/s, Co-Option

Date of next meetings are to be held in the Village Hall: 09.09.21: 11.11.21

061/2021 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.

- a) Confidential item - The Clerk wishes to bring a confidential item to the Council

062/2021 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

9th. September 2021

D. Smith – Chairman GPC