

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th. September 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

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

There were also 7 members of the public present.

074/2023 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

075/2023 Apologies for Absence. ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr P. Collett

076/2023 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 items relating to the Cricket Club

077/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 13th. July 2023. **All Agreed**

078/2023 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

After an unsettled Summer, the nights are drawing in and we can now look forward to the changing colours of Autumn.

Despite the weather, the Playing Field has looked splendid all summer and our thanks to Chris Moulton for his hard work.

Repair works to the Pavilion are continuing and thanks to Chris & Rose Harman for their hard work in levelling and sealing the floor to the kitchen/function area and relaying the carpets tiles which, bearing in mind their age and condition, have cleaned up well.

We were hoping to reuse the existing rainwater guttering following external redecorations, although on closer inspection it was in very poor condition and is now all being replaced with new 6" guttering which will make future maintenance easier.

Looking ahead, we now need to firm up on a schedule of improvements/upgrading works to ensure that the Pavilion is fit for purpose.

079/2023 Hedingham United FC – update from Jordan Knott

Last season the football club has a 12 game unbeaten run. The 1st home game is on 1st. October

Water facilities in the pavilion will be addressed this year. Pavilion needs to be used but the showers may not be used at each game. Could the stop cock be turned off after each game and the taps left open to drain residual water in the system. It was agreed by Councillors to keep the charge per game at £35 for the 2023/2024 season.

080/2023 Assets of Community Value (ACV) – BDC has decided on 29th. August 2023 that the Property is not land of community value. Therefore, the nomination is unsuccessful

081/2023 Proposed withdrawal of the F315 bus route. Councillors to decide upon a response

The Parish Council has looked at the consultation and it proposes that the F315 bus route be withdrawn with apparently nothing to replace it. This will impact badly on older people who have no means of travelling to Halstead or Sudbury to access health and other facilities. It was recommended that as the closing date for the consultation is 5th October then residents should make their views known to Essex County Passenger Transport at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023>

In instances where online submission is not feasible, ECC are pleased to offer hard copies of the consultation materials upon request. These can be obtained by contacting ECC via email

at passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk or by calling either 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631.

082/2023 Public Participation Session

Are the Parish Council able to work with The Pheasant PH to have a temporary covered area.

The Chair stated that a meeting had taken place in May '23 between the Parish Councillors and the owner of The Pheasant PH but no further meetings have taken place. The resident asked if a further meeting could be held. It was agreed that a meeting between at least 3 Councillors and the owners take place before the next GPC meeting. Any plans to be submitted to the Parish Clerk by 27th. October 2023 in readiness for the

meeting in November.

A serious accident has again occurred in Gestingthorpe. Recently there have been over 14 car accidents. Could the speed limit be reduced to 40mph? The Chair asked the resident to supply as much details to the Clerk, including pictures, so that he can pass this problem to the Essex County Council Councillor.

083/2023 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

No report was given but all emails from Cllr P. Schwier have been forwarded onto Councillors

084/2023 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland

- National Grid had its planning application approved. This is now a biggest project in the Country
- Butlers Wood project to be in place very soon
- Green bins discount applies to getting revenue in quickly and to get a high level of sign-up
- BDC has a deficit of £2m so far

085/2023 Planning Applications

23/01204/HH - Lanterns North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW

Proposed first floor rear extension

Response sent to BDC before the planning deadline

Gestingthorpe PC are not opposed to this application in principle but have been unable to open a number of documents associated with it on the BDC planning website. We also feel the drawings that we can open, are basic with a lack of detail. Both these points mean we feel unable to make more detailed comments at this time.

23/02021/FUL - Annexe Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Change of use of existing building to holiday let.

RESOLVED: Gestingthorpe Parish Council have no objection to this application and would concur with the Historic Buildings consultee that a condition is placed on any planning approval assuring that the annex remains in association with the Rectory Farm estate in perpetuity.

23/02039/HH & 23/02040/LBC - Annexe Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe CO9 3AU

Retention of alterations to curtilage listed building

RESOLVED: Gestingthorpe Parish Council have no objection to this application and would concur with the Historic Buildings consultee that a condition is placed on any planning approval assuring that the annex remains in association with the Rectory Farm estate in perpetuity.

23/02132/HH - Maple Down Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BA

Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration

RESOLVED: Gestingthorpe Parish Council Supports this planning application

086/2023 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

No planning decisions have been made affecting Gestingthorpe

087/2023 Representative reports

- **Highways – Cllr P. Collett**

Potholes - I have reported a number of potholes and damaged road signs on the ECC Highways website.

Speeding - Speeding persists in the village a dangerous level. I have again contacted Sergeant Ben Felton of the Rural Policing Unit to see if they could help with carrying out some speed checks. Sergeant Felton is very willing to help but he again pointed out that he only has a limited number of officers (his staff is 50% down) to cover a very large rural area. However, he has promised to do what he can and may be able to carry out a limited number of speed checks. I am also attempting to maintain some informal contacts with local PCSO's to see if they may be able to help us again.

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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement the Parish Council submitted its response the consultation during July 2023. In summary the response called for National Grid to increase the proposed percentage of "under grounding" and to ensure that all redundant lines and equipment are removed and suitable reinstatement carried out.

- **SID – Cllr P. Collett**

Highways SID Sudbury Road - Before a replacement SID can be installed it will be necessary to carry out a speed survey. The Parish Council have agreed to fund the speed survey.

- **Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper**

Play Equipment The annual ROSPA inspection has been carried out and some minor carpentry items noted.

The large Chestnut tree along Sudbury Road is looking infirm. Should we consider planting a sapling in that vicinity in the winter? Likewise, the overhanging branches along the southern and eastern side of the field will need discussing, as will the main support posts on the wooden palings by the Bus Shelter. (Both mentioned at

July's meeting). The rabbit fence along the eastern side of the field, erected by the Cricket Club years ago, is becoming fragmentary in places - and overgrown in others. Should partial removal be considered? Yes, from GPC.

Chris Moulton has offered to paint the two Cricket Club sheds. A secure area to keep the mowers behind the pavilion has been mooted and could be talked about.

A row of bricks on one side of the disability ramp up to the pavilion might be regarded as a trip hazard. Should they be removed? There is some guttering and 'down-pipe' to fix on the rear of the pavilion. The decision to upgrade to a six-inch-gutter width is absolutely superb. It will make it far easier to remove leaves etc in the autumn.

- **Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby**

Ref 2826844 - Defective bridge on PRow (Bridge collapsed).

Footpath 5 Gestingthorpe. Bridge replaced by Essex Highways

Ref 2694892 - Defective bridge on PRow (Missing plank).

Footpath 22 Gestingthorpe. Bridge repaired by EH/ Volunteer group Friends of the Fitch Way

Ref 2840497 - Defective bridge on PRow (Missing plank).

Footpath 23 Gestingthorpe. Bridge repaired by EH/ Volunteer group Friends of the Fitch Way

Ref 2854201 - Vegetation problem on PRow

Footpath 23 Gestingthorpe. Fallen tree blocking footpath. Tree has been removed.

Ref 2856099 - Obstruction of PRow

Footpath 4 Gestingthorpe. Gates placed across the footpath obstructing access.

Obstruction has been removed.

Overgrown path on Footpath 8. Path has been cut

New Reports

No new reports on Gestingthorpe paths.

Email from resident in relation to Wickham St Paul Footpath 1 SE of Wiggery Wood down to Oakley Wood.

The path has not been marked after 2nd cultivation. Will raise with Wickham PC as necessary.

- **Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby**

Fundraising income over the summer has been limited to the fortnightly coffee mornings and monthly Gestingthorpe Grill. The coffee mornings continue to be very successful with more new faces attending. The increased number has caused us to take on additional bakers to meet the cake demand. The Saturday Grills will continue until at least October.

Future planned events include a Tuesday Talk by Ashley Cooper on 28th. September, a cheese related supper & quiz night, 'Bluff my Cheese' in October and a Christmas Village Fun Day & Craft Fayre on 18th. November. This event will include local crafters selling their own made items a cake/fudge stall, Children's craft table, face painting, competitions & raffle, sausage sizzle and entertainment by the Belchamp Singers.

We will also be holding again this year both the Children's & Adults Christmas parties on the 9th & 15th December.

Recent improvements to the hall include the re-painting of the front rendered walls and the re-felting of the shed roof. Further planned expenditure is to replace the previously donated BBQ, which is now in very poor condition, the replacement/removal of the last two wall fan heaters and replacement of all the light shades in the hall which we hope will make it much brighter.

As at the last committee meeting on 24th. August the VH held a total of £4,839.71 in cash and in the bank account. The next committee meeting is on 12th. October.

- **Defibrillator Report – Cllr P. Bagby**

| Description | Amount | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Managed Support - Annual Provision | -126.00 | 4 years @ £504 next payable May 2026 |
| VETS Scheme | -100.00 | Due Oct 23 |
| Emergency Phone | -60.00 | Due Sep 23 |
| Total | -286.00 | |
| CHT | 236.00 | |
| Nat West | 257.55 | |
| Total | 493.55 | |
| Parish Council Grant Application | 150.00 | |
| Awareness training | -175.00 | |
| Net | 182.55 | |

NatWest mandate change request now completed. Application for Parish Council grant submitted.

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

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Training

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 October or November but will dependant on funding.

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.

088/2023 Grant Applications

- Oates Gestingthorpe Churchyard Charity requesting £150.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr C. Craig seconded to grant Gestingthorpe Churchyard Charity £150.00p

All Agreed

- Gestingthorpe Village Hall requesting £150.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr C. Carey seconded to grant Gestingthorpe Village Hall £150.00p

All Agreed

- The Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Fund requesting £150.00p

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr A. Cooper seconded to grant Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Fund £150.00p

All Agreed

- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Cllr G. Carey proposed and Cllr C. Craig seconded to grant Essex & Herts Air Ambulance £150.00p

All Agreed

These donations will be paid at the November meeting

089/2023 Finance

- To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2023

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 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 August and September 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds

to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

090/2023 Councillors to note provisional 2024 meeting dates

11.01.24: 14.03.24: 09.05.24 (Annual Village meeting & GPC AGM): 11.07.24:12.09.24:14.11.24

091/2023 Items for Next Agenda

Items for the November agenda to be supplied to the Clerk by 1st. November 2023 at the latest.

Order and plant a new tree to replace old tree – Cllr A. Cooper

Cost for new fencing bus shelter and Sudbury Road: Secure area for mower

Overhanging branches on the recreation ground: The Pheasant Public house proposal

Advertise a Councillor vacancy

092/2023 Date of next meeting is on Thursday 9th. November 2023 at 7pm**093/2023 Closure of the Meeting**

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

9th. November 2023

**Chairman
D. Smith**