

# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

There was also 1 member of the public present.

**075/2022 Chairman welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**076/2022 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr W. Scattergood

**077/2022 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

Cllr C. Craig declared an interest in item 083/2022 22/02092/PLD planning application

**078/2022 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup>. July 2022. **All Agreed**

**079/2022 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

As we move into Autumn and the evenings start drawing in, time to reflect on what a glorious summer we have had. After the drought, pleasing to see the green sward returning to the Playing Field and Church Green. It has been a quiet two months and I have nothing to add that will not be covered in the various reports.

a) How to respond to a Woodland Creation Project Consultation approach from William Higgins  
 Cllr D. Smith proposed supporting the tree planting. Cllr P. Collett seconded. **All Agreed.** Cllr D. Smith to respond to William Higgins

b) Mobile phone mast in the village.

Cllr C. Craig informed the meeting that representatives from Galliford Try (GT) visited the proposed site, alongside Mark and Damian Prior on 06.09.2022. The proposed site is halfway down Delvyns Lane (known to some locally as Dumble Lane). A drone was used to take images at various heights, up to 30m. During the visit GT noted that the mast will need a fibre broadband connection and power. It is unknown whether the power would be via underground or overhead cables, or if the fibre would be from County Broadband's network or BT's lines (note the exchange is in Sible Hedingham and always deemed too far by BT to be financially viable to extend fibre to the village). Obviously overhead cables will mean an even greater visual impact, plus an added hazard for farm machinery.

GT suggested that they will potentially be erecting a 25-30m mast on the site, which is 3 times the height of the nearest trees. GT stated they will send their report findings to the Prior's and the Parish Council, and we can expect this any time from 2 weeks to 2 months. Once their report is complete, they will submit a planning application, from which we will have 56 days to comment (it is noted that this is likely to be permitted development, so will not be subject to the usual consultation process). I would hope that a coverage map is included within the report, as the areas most affected by poor signal are unlikely to be in line of site of the mast.

The only likely way of the mast not going ahead now will be if Braintree District Council turn down the planning application, or it proves too expensive for Telefonica to pursue. If this application is unsuccessful/deemed too expensive, it's likely that GT would continue to investigate alternative sites in the area, it will not go away. From the initial comments on the village Facebook page, it seems many are in favour of improved signal. Mark Prior has asked for the Parish Council to communicate its views, and to let him know if there is anyone else who should be sent GT's report (e.g., Wendy Scattergood). Understandably this has been a very stressful process for the Prior's, and they should have our support whatever the outcome.

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that there needs more information from GT. Internet and power supply must go underground. D. Smith met with GT last year and Mark Prior asking for suitable sites. Mark Prior suggested a site in Delvyns Lane near access to Simon Cooks' wood which was passed onto GT. A tubular mast would be the preferred to the village.

Councillor Claire Craig to contact Galliford Try to ask why we had not been sent the details of their proposals that had been given to Mark Pryor and to request that we have a meeting with GT to discuss coverage within

the village, the proposed route and delivery method of power supplies and broadband, the type of any proposed mast and other matters

Pot Kiln lodge no further information from BDC has been received.

#### **080/2022 Public Participation Session**

A resident spoke about County Broadband are providing a battery backup for the telephone line. Should Utility companies speak to each other to save costs. In these days companies will not share existing equipment for other companies to use.

#### **081/2022 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier**

No report was given

#### **082/2022 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood**

No report was given

#### **083/2022 Planning Applications**

- a) Planning Application 22/01147/FUL Proposed Substation – Deferred by BDC – Councillors to discuss the way forward

Cllr P. Collett and Cllr S. Bolter informed the meeting that Planning Application 22/01147/FUL Proposed Substation - BDC planners have deferred a decision on National Grid's planning application pending the resolution of three issues. NG have supplied further information to BDC and a new consultation has been launched. Responses in respect of the consultation are to be submitted to BDC by 6<sup>th</sup>. October 2022

**Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement** – Due to some design changes NG have instigated an additional consultation and invited the PC to respond. Responses are required to be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup>. October 2022. Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr P. Collett seconded that the limited information supplied by NG to BDC then GPC suggest **REFUSE** this application and that this response to be at BDC ASAP. **Agreed with one abstention**

#### **22/01971/HH - Beverley House Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU**

Erection of first-floor and single-storey front extensions, and two storey and single-storey rear extensions. Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.

Response sent to BDC on 17.08.22 before the planning deadline for comments of 25.08.22

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

#### **22/02176/HH - Seven Sisters Cottage Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT**

Erection of cartlodge

Response sent to BDC on 12.09.22 before the planning deadline for comments

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

#### **22/02387/HH & 22/02388/LBC - Moat House Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT**

Provision of walled orchard and mucking area. Installation of red brick wall along northern and eastern boundaries, and southern entrance boundary. Installation of timber gates to all entrances to site.

**RESOLVED: GPC Objects to this planning application** - The Parish Council does not feel the proposals to create a wall around the site is suitable for the setting, being a traditional rustic farmhouse, which has always had a visually permeable boundary. It is felt that a brick wall around the site would damage the rustic character of the farmhouse and wider area, making it instead feel like a large formal country house. There are also concerns about having a solid structure along a very narrow piece of road, where traffic often fights for right of way - it is likely the wall could end up being regularly damaged by vehicles.

In terms of the mucking-out area, this in principle is acceptable, but we would suggest a different material is used. Should the scheme be approved, we would like to see more details about the materials and finishes proposed.

#### **22/02431/HH - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW**

Single storey side extension

**RESOLVED: GPC has No objection to this planning application** subject to landscaping and tree planting to soften the impact of the scheme. The PC note the previous application granted for the property (21/03077/FUL), which has not been sited on the drawings for the wider context of the scheme, which should be taken into consideration regarding the general impact of the proposals.

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

Retention of garden shed

**RESOLVED: GPC has No objection to this planning application.**

However, the Parish Council make the following comments:

The addition of a new block plan, although welcome, does not answer questions previously posed. The

drawings do not appear totally accurate, and there is no scale bar on all of them, so it is difficult to ascertain the likely impact on neighbouring properties. The building appears large for the size of the garden. The building subject to the application is likely to impact on neighbours, although the drawings are not accurate enough to ascertain detail. Elevations showing the surrounding setting (existing fences, other buildings etc) would be useful to understand the impact on neighbours. The drainage strategy needs to be confirmed and should not impact on neighbouring properties.

### **FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO RESPONSE IS REQUIRED FROM GPC**

**22/02092/PLD** - By Blacksmiths Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AZ

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development - Installation of solar panels to roof. Councillors noted this planning application. **Application GRANTED 06.09.22**

#### **084/2022 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications**

Councillors noted the decisions made by BDC affecting Gestingthorpe

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

**Application GRANTED – 13.07.22**

**22/01290/HH & 22/01291/LBC** - Odewells Farm Great Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3AB

Installation of 350mm high ground-mounted solar panel array in existing walled garden.

**Application GRANTED – 10.08.22**

**22/01709/HH** - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW

Single storey side extension. **Application WITHDRAWN 18.08.22**

#### **Outstanding planning applications**

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

Retention of garden shed **Status Decision pending**

**As at 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 BDC are having to re-consult for the below reasons and we would like to know if you have any further views. Reasons: Received Revised Plans Additional Information: Going back to plans as submitted, additional block plan. Timescales for response If GPC wishes to make any comments on this application it should be submitted no later than 13th October 2022 to BDC**

**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**

**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. **Status Decision pending**

**22/01971/HH** - Beverley House Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Erection of first-floor and single-storey front extensions, and two storey and single-storey rear extensions.

Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation. **Status Decision pending**

**22/02176/HH** - Seven Sisters Cottage Moat Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AT

Erection of cartlodge. **Status Decision pending**

#### **085/2022 Representative reports**

- **Highways** – Cllr P. Collett

Prior to the meeting Cllr P. Collett circulated the report below. It read:

SID Audley End -The unit has been recalibrated by the manufacturer and now seems to operate satisfactory.

SID Sudbury Road – I have been informed by Essex Highways liaison officer, Kandice Louis, that she has arranged for a company called Telent to inspect the unit and repair if possible

- **Community Speed Watch.** The Gestingthorpe Community Speed Watch Group successfully carried out its first two speed watches on 30<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The locations were Sudbury Road and Audley End. It was noted that traffic speeds were considerably reduced during the watches. A further speed watch is scheduled for October.

To maintain the effectiveness of the speed watches more volunteers will be required. Interest in becoming volunteers has now been expressed by 3 additional residents.

- **Transport (Special Projects)** – Cllr S. Bolter

Prior to the meeting Cllr S. Bolter circulated the report below. It read:

Our Councillor ECC Cllr Peter Schwier, forwarded our request for a meeting with ECC officers and Arrow Taxis (the operator) on the need for a better and IT friendly timetable, showing earliest departure times, plus a campaign to increase the use of the F315 bus, especially emphasising that it simpler to use and more flexible than the other flexile services it is lumped together with in ECC information; to the Chair of the appropriate ECC Committee. His unhelpful response was to forward it back to us telling us that Peter is our County Councillor.

- **Playing Field** – Cllr A. Cooper

Prior to the meeting Cllr A. Cooper circulated the report below. It read:

I walked around the Playing Field yesterday afternoon. It is lovely to see it looking green again!

There are no real new issues to report. At some point timber work on the pavilion and outbuildings might benefit from some wood preservative and the trees along the eastern (field) side boundary are increasingly hanging over, resulting in small arcs of grass not being cut.

The trees along the Sudbury roadside of the field seem to have especially suffered from the drought, with dead twigs at the end of the branches, together with shrivelled leaves caused by the Horse Chestnut leaf miner moth. The tree at the north-eastern corner looked particularly sad.

I was very pleased to see however, that Lauren's tree is still alive and well, which is quite remarkable, given the extremely dry weather we have experienced.

Cllr D. Smith to chase up the locksmith to place a padlock on the bollards.

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

- a) Pavilion report

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that the Pavilion is in a sorry state. A repair has been done to the wooden wall. Councillors agreed that it would be good practice to have obtained permission before undertaking the works.

The Play Equipment - Minor items identified by the ROSPA report remain to be addressed

- b) Trees report – Cllr C. Craig asked if an Oak tree be planted in memory of the Queen. All Agreed

- **Footpath** – Cllr P. Bagby

Prior to the meeting Cllr P. Bagby circulated the report below. It read:

I have been in contact with Jason Botelho from Essex Highways regarding the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme. P3 is a funded scheme managed by the ECC Public Rights of Way (PROW) team to support local volunteers play a more active role in maintaining and improving their local rights of way. It has been running across Essex for over 15 years. It is aimed at being coordinated via parish councils with participation ranging from a single individual to larger working groups. Activities include annual inspections of footpaths, replacing old or missing way marker posts, cutting vegetation, surfacing, replacing short ditch crossings or bridges, helping to replace stiles with gates, etc. The level of participation is determined by the group but at a minimum it must undertake to walk the footpaths once a year and submit a work proposal to the PROW team. They will assess the work needed, check location, determine training, tools and materials and allocate budget. Where work is undertaken with someone from PROW team in attendance, we may be covered by their insurance however in most instances work would be done by just the local team therefore insurance cover will be under the Parish Council's own insurance policy. With the council's agreement I will have further discussion with Jason with a view to forming a village P3 group to walk footpaths, undertake light vegetation clearance and possibly installing/replacing way marker posts. The level of involvement will depend on the number and interest of volunteers. In addition, I will use the Village Facebook page and Parish Magazine asking for volunteers to form a working group. I also discussed with Jason the state of the footbridge over Footpath 8. This was raised to me indirectly by a villager concerned that the bridge only had a single rail and is over a big drop. Also, that it was 'wobbly'. A defect had been raised by Essex highways in 2018 stating that the bank was unstable but had not been progressed. There is no comment regarding the handrail.

I have provided details and photos to Jason so that he can investigate and determine action, if any. I have also reported missing footpath 20 where it crosses the field to Rectory Farm. It has been noted for inspection within 28 days of report.

- **Village Hall** – Cllr P. Bagby

Prior to the meeting Cllr P. Bagby circulated the report below. It read:

The work on the village hall roof has been completed and all the scaffolding removed. The final bill was £36,355.20 of which £25,000 was paid from provisioned funds, £3,562.50 from donations and Gift Aid and £7,792.70 from the Village Hall bank account. The Village Hall committee thanks everyone who has

generously donated to help fund the unexpected shortfall as well as everyone who regularly attend functions and supports the village hall in its fundraising activities. The next fundraiser is on 30 September and is a 'Raise the Roof' party to celebrate the new roof. Interest in the event has been good with a few villagers buying tickets for a VH event for the first time. There are still tickets available so please spread the word to your friends and neighbours and see me to buy tickets if you've not already done so. The funds raised will be used to build up funds again in the account to ensure running costs can be met and allow us to continue to improve the facilities of the hall. The coffee mornings continue fortnightly on Fridays and are well supported, and we now have some regulars making good use of the book exchange. A craft fayre on 29 October is being organised by Helen Skerratt. This will be run in conjunction with one of our quarterly Saturday Coffee mornings. Christmas parties for both children and adults are planned for December and hopefully we can squeeze in another event in November, suggestions include a Race night, Curry Supper or Quiz night Finally, we will start work again on the outside space hoping for some rain to allow us to do some autumn planting. Steve Bagby has made some new planters to replace the old ones at the front of the building however these won't go out until they can be filled up and planted so that they are too heavy to move. The next committee meeting is 15 September.

#### **086/2022 Finance**

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2022  
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 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 August and September 2022 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- d) To confirm and update Internet Banking signatories  
Cllr D. Smith and Cllr C. Craig signed the UTB application to be added to the GPC signatories at Unity Trust Bank. This application was counter-signed by Cllrs A. Cooper and P. Collett. The application form will be sent to UTB by the Clerk.

**Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. November 2022 at 7pm**

#### **087/2022 Councillors to agree 2023 meeting dates as: -**

Thursday 12.01.23: 09.03.23: 11.05.23: 13.07.23: 14.09.23: 09.11.23 starting time is 7pm

#### **088/2022 Items for Next Agenda**

#### **089/2022 Closure of the Meeting**

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*D Smith*

10<sup>th</sup>. November 2022

**D. Smith – Chairman GPC**