



# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN  
Tel: 07810781509 – Email: [gestingthorpepc@gmail.com](mailto:gestingthorpepc@gmail.com)

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chairman), T. Flower (Vice-Chairman), S. Bolter, A. Cooper, C. Craig, BDC Cllr W. Scattergood, Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 4 members of the public present.

**063/2021 Chairman welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**064/2021 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr P. Collett

**065/2021 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 and History group

**066/2021 Co-Option**

### **Councillors are requested to receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt a candidate to fill the vacancy**

Cllr D. Smith outlined the process for co-opting a resident onto the Parish Council to fill the one vacancy. He then went through the voting process.

Eligible candidates were then invited to introduce themselves, give a resume of their background and experience, and explain why they wish to become a member of the Council. Following the candidates' submissions, the Councillors then proceeded to a vote.

Penelope Bagby was duly co-opted onto the Gestingthorpe Parish Council. Penelope Bagby then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and E Consent form. She was also given the "Register of Interest" form that must be with BDC within 28 days of taking office.

Cllr D. Smith congratulated and welcomed Penelope Bagby onto the Council.

Cllr P. Bagby then took her seat with the other Councillors.

**067/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup>. July 2021. **All Agreed**

**068/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last Planning meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC Planning meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup>. July 2021. **All Agreed**

**069/2021 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting**

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that he had walked around the Playing Field and Church Green last Sunday evening and thought how attractive they looked in the late summer sunshine.

As a Parish, we are extremely fortunate to have this facility and we need to ensure that they are maintained for the benefit of all, whether it's a child using the play equipment or a senior citizen watching cricket.

He thought that the Village picnic last month went well and it was good to see and meet a number of our newer residents. Thanks to Claire and Andy Craig for organising.

Flooding at Audley End - There have not any further developments.

Verge cutting - Additional verge cutting is necessary on the main road junctions within the village and I suggest we need to review our current policy.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to contact Ken Hutchinson. Just to confirm, the Parish Council would like you to go ahead with the verge cutting in 2022 to the same instructions as in previous years – 1 width cut in Spring and 2 width cut in Autumn

### **a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons**

EALC would like to encourage all member-councils to take part in the lighting of Beacons on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June next year to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in a similar way to how many parishes assisted with the Diamond Jubilee Beacons of 2011/12.

Councillors noted this celebration date and would think of a way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



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## b) Oates Cottages – Update from Cllr D. Smith

Cllr D. Smith was approached as to why the property was left empty. A house exchange has recently been completed. This exchange should not have happened as it contravenes S106 regulation.

**ACTION:** Cllr D. Smith will contact Tim Lucas at BDC.

## 070/2021 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

No questions from the public

## 071/2021 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

No report was given but the Clerk will post on the GPC website the reports throughout the month that Cllr P. Schwier has provided

## 072/2021 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

- Congratulate GPC on the number of candidates for co-option. Other Parishes are struggling to find suitable candidates
- Bottle bank is changing the rules. Any coloured bottle can go into every bin
- Local plan at BDC has been updated. With 2 new inspectors appointed
- Cllr Scattergood still has money left in her BDC Councillor allocation fund (£500)
- Oates Cottage saga is being kept on her agenda

## 073/2021 Representative reports

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

Cllr P. Collett in his absence had circulated his report which read:

The proposed SID for Audley End - I have spoken to Charlotte O'Connell (Officer in in charge) and she tells me that the project is with the design team and that she will notify me when she has a firm installation date. I will continue to liaise with Charlotte. SID Sudbury Road - This unit is now not working for the majority of the time. It would appear that repair or replacement is now required. I have contacted Traffic Technology (The manufacturer) and they inform me that for the unit to be repaired we would have to take it to their factory and that there would be a "pre-inspection charge" of £125. They would then be able to quote a cost for the repair. A new unit including installation would cost £3,055 + VAT. Community Speed Watch - I have received no further communication from Community Speed Watch. I will continue to press them for a response

- Playing Field/Recreation Ground – Cllr A. Cooper

Cllr A. Cooper had supplied a report to Councillors prior to the meeting. It read:

I visited the playing field on Saturday afternoon. A couple of pallets were propped up behind the pavilion. I have now removed them, to prevent them falling on children.

The hole in the practice strip has not yet been repaired.

A black refuse bin now stands by the pavilion, which I believe has been organised by Michael or Elaine Sharpe.

The branches on the eastern side of the field are quite low. As mentioned on previous reports they will need attention at some point. The area around the children's play equipment looked very neat and tidy. On the Church Street side of the playing field, two Walnut trees and a chestnut tree have very low, overhanging branches which prevents the tractor-mower from cutting the grass. It has however been mowed by a lawn mower.

The fungus on the other chestnut tree has already been noted by Terry Flower.

I am particularly grateful to Peter Collett for undertaking all the research and correspondence regarding the installation of new play equipment—and also for obtaining quotations for the recent bollards etc

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

Cllr P. Collett in his absence had circulated his report which read:

Play Equipment - The Parish Council have written to MCL clarifying the position between the parties and MCL have responded signifying their agreement.



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2) Quotation/s for the 2 Rockers for the recreation ground  
Cllr P. Collett in his absence had circulated his report which read:  
An order has been placed with Playscape for the supply and installation of two rocker units. Playscape intend to install the units in October.

3) Playing Field Security Posts – update from Cllr P. Collett  
Cllr P. Collett in his absence had circulated his report which read:  
Security Posts - The PC have obtained quotations for the supply and installation of security posts to the Church Street boundary of the playing field. These are to be considered by the Councillors. Grass Mesh - A quotation for grass mesh to the “parking” area of the playing field has been obtained and is being considered by Councillors. Fence Extension and Bench Relocation - Quotations to extend the fence to the rear of the play equipment and the relocation of the “plastic” bench have been obtained and are to be considered by Councillors.

Cllr D. Smith proposed buying 80 -90 posts to be erected around the playing field. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed.** A working party of Cllrs D. Smith, C. Craig, A. Cooper and T. Flower agreed to a meeting date of 25<sup>th</sup>. September on the recreation ground.

- Broadband update– Cllr S. Bolter & Cllr P. Collett  
Nothing to report as no problems have been reported

- Footpath – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor  
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor had supplied a report to Councillors prior to the meeting. It read:  
As would be expected, the use of our local Footpaths has increased in the last 6 to 8 weeks. More little groups have been noticed with many following the Bulmer to Castle Hedingham route through either Hill Farm or Bulmer Brickworks.  
I have talked with some of these Groups who follow a printed guide and have provided extra info. No complaints have been received locally even though the fully distributed Parish Magazine carries email contact details and, as harvesting is generally over, the lack of "crops blocking paths moans" this year was noticeable.

- Tree Warden – Cllr T. Flower  
Cllr T. Flower to chase Graham Nichols to undertake works on the trees

- Village Hall – Cllr C. Craig  
Cllr C. Craig had supplied a report to Councillors prior to the meeting. It read:  
The Village Hall AGM took place, in person, in the village hall last Thursday, with the current representatives and positions voted on and remaining for the next year.  
A committee meeting followed, where discussions took place around future fundraising, maintenance and upgrades were discussed.  
The fortnightly coffee mornings have recommenced and are proving popular with old and new faces attending. A busy calendar of events is proposed for the coming year, including a quiz night, book club, craft fairs, bowling, wine tasting and more coffee mornings. These are all to be publicised in the Parish magazine, and on the village Facebook site.  
The awarding substantial grants during the various lockdowns of 2020/21 have enabled the village hall committee to progress replacing the roof, which is now having repairs done on repairs. Up to date quotes are being sourced, and options for the flat roof element of the building being investigated.

## 074/2021 Planning Applications

**21/02397/HH** - Ellis Farm Church Street Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AX

Convert existing 3 bay garage to habitable annex.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council has no objection to this application but request a condition that this annexe is not as a separate property

Cllr D. Smith informed the meeting that Pot Kiln Lodge still continues. It is a sensitive application. GPC to keep monitoring the application.



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## 075/2021 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

No decisions have been made by BDC affecting Gestingthorpe

## 076/2021 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2021  
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2021

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2021/22  
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2021/22

c) Grants and Donations - To consider any requests received by the Parish Clerk  
Councillors considered a Grant Application from Gestingthorpe History Group for £200.00p  
Councillors considered a Grant Application from Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Management Team for £300.00p  
Councillors considered a Grant Application from Oates Gestingthorpe Churchyard Charity for £300.00p  
Councillors considered a Grant Application from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for £200.00p

d) To approve the payment of Accounts for August and September 2021 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements  
Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr A. Cooper seconded that the August and September 2021 payments be authorised. **All Agreed**

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

**To agree the 2022 meeting dates (subject to the Village Hall being available)**

13.01.22: 10.03.22: 12.05.22: 14.07.22: 08.09.22: 10.11.22:

## 077/2021 Items for Next Agenda

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Oates Cottage – update Cllr D. Smith  
Recreation Ground bollards

## 078/2021 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.  
The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

**D. Smith – Chairman GPC**

11<sup>th</sup>. November 2021