



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 11th. November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

079/2021 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
The Clerk read out an email, which he had received at 3pm today from Cllr T. Flower. It stated that Cllr Terry Flower is formally resigning from Gestingthorpe Parish Council following this meeting.
Cllr D. Smith thanked Cllr T. Flower for all his service and dedication over the number of years as a Councillor.

080/2021 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received

081/2021 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, Gestingthorpe History Group Grant application and Planning application number 21/02680/FUL

Cllr P. Bagby & Cllr C. Craig declared an interest in the Village Hall Grant application

Cllr C. Craig declared an interest in Gestingthorpe History Group Grant application

082/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 9th. September 2021. **All Agreed**

083/2021 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

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

I would like to welcome our new Parish Councillor, Penny Bagby and I am certain that she will be a valuable asset to our Council.

On the 7th. October last, I attended a meeting of Braintree Association of Local Councils, which was held in the Lecture Hall in Steeple Bumpstead. The Association is now up and running and will, hopefully, give Parish Councils a unified voice with our District and County Councils. The guest speaker was Neil Jones, a senior planner at BDC, who spoke about Section 106 Planning Agreements. Sadly, the saga with the unauthorised residential occupation at Pot Kiln Lodge continues. I am becoming increasingly concerned at the continuing delays on the part of BDC to resolve this matter. We will all have been pleased to see the new Speed Sign Indicator in place at Audley End. I would like to thank Cllr Peter Collett for his hard work and perseverance in dealing with ECC Highways over the last 2 years to bring this to fruition.

Contact David Smith for a letter to Wendy Scattergood over the enforcements in the village

Cllr D. Smith proposed a £25 donation to RBL. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

084/2021 Public Participation Session

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

085/2021 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

All ECC reports can be found at

<https://websites.godaddy.com/en-GB/editor/21debe88-bce5-46d2-bef6-90e16f3bbbd9/163b4d68-8f01-4c81-8378-0e4c549438b6/edit>

086/2021 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Wendy Scattergood

No report was given



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087/2021 Representative reports

- Highway's maintenance – Cllr D. Smith & Cllr P. Collett
SID for Audley End - The Unit is now in place and is accordance with the PC's requirements. It may need some adjustment as it only operates if a vehicle is travelling above 40 mph. I will contact Charlotte O'Connell re this matter.

SID Sudbury Road - This unit is not working for the great majority of the time. I would ask the PC to consider allocation funds for its replacement as it has been quite effective in the past at reducing traffic speeds on Sudbury Road.

Community Speed Watch - I have received no further communication from Community Speed Watch. I will continue to press them for a response.

- The Delvyns Highway Notice – update from Cllr P. Collett
Cllr D. Smith had a meeting with the landowner and walked around the farm and would get the 2 cross fields re-instated and cut back the opening at Audley End.

Cllr P. Collett said that regarding Section 31 Highways Act Notice, if Councillors wish to add some public paths that have been established, but are not shown on the Definitive Map, he is happy to carry this matter forward.

- Special Verge cut: Delvyns Lane
Councillors discussed the future cutting along Delvyns Lane. It was agreed to assist Castle Hedingham PC to preserve the Delvyns Lane verge. The cost being about £260pa. A contribution of £130 was agreed. Cllr C. Craig proposing to pay £130 towards the cost of cutting the verge. Cllr S. Bolter seconded. **All Agreed**

- Playing Field/Recreation Ground – Cllr A. Cooper
Cllr A. Cooper supplied a report prior to the meeting. It read I walked around the playing field yesterday morning. As previously noted, there are an increasing number of over-hanging branches along the eastern and southern boundaries, (beside the agricultural field and Ashley Cottage), in addition to the trees beside the road. The gutters on the rear of the pavilion needed cleaning out. I returned this morning, cleaned out the gutters and looked at the over-hanging branches with Graeme Martin. We felt that the farm could help with the lower branches and with cutting the roadside hedge but need to discuss with councillors first.
Cllr D. Smith proposed replacing the horse chestnut tree that has been removed on the recreation ground with 2 pink horse chestnut trees. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

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

- 2) Quotation/s for the 2 Rockers for the recreation ground
Play Equipment - The two 'springers' will be installed by Playscape on Friday the 12th. November. They will be positioned close to the site of the original "springers"

- 3) Playing Field Security Posts – update from Cllr P. Collett
Security Posts - I have nothing further to report on the security posts. Mr Sharp has given permission for the posts to be installed

- Broadband update– Cllr S. Bolter & Cllr P. Collett
Nothing to report since the last meeting



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- **Footpath – Leslie Crumpton-Taylor**

Since the previous Meeting the only significant Footpath items have concerned those on land formerly owned by Mr Gardiner and the one near Wiggery Wood which has now been established as being outside that land. After action by Chairman D Smith agreement has been reached with the new owners of the ex-Gardiner land and a watch will be kept on progress.

Likewise, the problem near Wiggery Wood has been highlighted and improvements are awaited.

- **Tree Warden report. No report was given**

- **Village Hall – Cllr C. Craig**

Cllr C. Craig supplied a report prior to the meeting. It read

Fortnightly coffee mornings are continuing to take place at the village hall, which are being well attended. The well supported book club also meets monthly, and skittles recommenced in October, and will continue on the last Wednesday of every month. There are many other upcoming events to look forward to in the village hall.

The popular quiz night is sold out, with 9 tables of eager quizzers competing for the winners glory this year. A raffle will also be held on the night (19th November), so if anyone is able to offer up a prize for the raffle, it is much appreciated.

Preparations are underway to replace the roof on the village hall. Border Roofing have been appointed to do the work, which we are hoping will start next year. The committee are also looking into improving ventilation in the village hall, and it is likely some new electric heaters will also be needed to replace those that are failing.

088/2021 Planning Applications

21/03099/FUL - Land North Of, Osier Way, Sible Hedingham, Essex

Erection of a two-storey medical centre with allocated parking.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted this application as being a neighbouring Parish GPC. Support this application providing there is sufficient parking at the Medical Centre for patients and staff

21/02680/FUL - Hill Farm Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3BL

Erection of lean-to to side elevation to store wood in

RESOLVED: Support this planning application

21/03077/FUL - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW

Proposed stables, sand school and turnout area. Change of use of land to keep privately owned horses.

RESOLVED: No objection in principle subject to a Condition that there is no floodlighting and commercial use. GPC support the BDC Environmental Health Officer's recommendation that this is reinforced by a formal planning condition.

Recommendations

1 There is a condition that there is no external lighting.

2 There is a condition restricting it to use ancillary to residence at Tucklands.

3 There is a condition to minimise the impact on the skyline seen from the valley (such as that the ground level is as low as practical to minimise the impact on the skyline from the valley and that nearby trees and hedges are retained).

089/2021 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

No planning decisions have been made affecting Gestingthorpe

090/2021 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2021

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2021

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

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2021/22

Minutes of the Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Thursday 11th. November 2021

NEW PC WEBSITE: <https://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk>



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c) Grant Application 2022/23. To consider requests received below by the Parish Clerk

- To consider a Grant Application from Gestingthorpe History Group for £200.00p

RESOLVED: Grant of **£200** was Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

- To consider a Grant Application from Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Management Team for £300.00p

RESOLVED: Grant of **£200** was Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

- To consider a Grant Application from Oates Gestingthorpe Churchyard Charity for £300.00p

RESOLVED: Grant of **£200** was Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

- To consider a Grant Application from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for £200.00p

RESOLVED: Grant of **£200** was Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

- To consider a Grant Application from Gestingthorpe Village Hall for £207.00p

RESOLVED: Grant of **£207** was Cllr D. Smith proposed Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

d) To approve the payment of Accounts for October and November 2021 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements

Cllr D. Smith proposed and Cllr A. Cooper seconded to authorise the November 2021 payments.

All Agreed

091/2021 Budget 2022/23

- To approve the Parish Council budget for the 2022/23 financial year

Councillors discussed the Budget for 2022/23. Cllr D. Smith proposed accepting the Gestingthorpe Parish Council Budget for 2022/23 of £11213.00p. Cllr C. Craig seconded. **All Agreed**

092/2021 Precept 2022/23

- To approve the Precept for 2022/23

Councillors discussed the Precept for 2022/23 of £9668.00p. Cllr D. Smith proposed accepting the Gestingthorpe Parish Council Precept for 2022/23. Cllr T. Flower seconded. **All Agreed**

- To Authorise the RFO to complete the appropriate Precept demand on Braintree District Council

Cllr D. Smith proposed to authorise the RFO to complete the appropriate Precept demand on Braintree District Council. Cllr P. Collett seconded. **All Agreed**

Date of next meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13.01.22:

Further 2022 meeting dates: 10.03.22: 28.04.22 AVM: 12.05.22 GPC AGM: 14.07.22: 08.09.22: 10.11.22:

093/2021 Items for Next Agenda

Co-option : Vacancy on positions in the Council : Vice-Chairman / Tree Warden / Planning / Employment / Playing Field / Footpaths

RBL Donation £25 : Public Transport as an item at each meeting : Jubilee event – Cllr C. Craig
Budget / Precept

094/2021 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

13th. January 2022

D. Smith – Chairman GPC