

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th. March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P. Collett (Vice-Chair), P. Bagby, A. Cooper, D. Green, K. Brazier, G. Carey and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were 1 member of the public present.

020/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Cllr D. Smith

021/2025 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda
 Cllr D. Green declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 25/00163/HH
 Cllr A. Cooper declared an interest in anything relating to the Cricket Club

022/2025 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. January 2025 **All Agreed**

023/2025 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

In the absence of Cllr D. Smith, Cllr P. Collett read out the following report. It read

We have advised BDC that we broadly support their proposed changes to waste collection, subject to some caveats and it being cost neutral for Council Tax payers. We have also suggested that it may be beneficial to delay until the proposed Local Authority reorganisation is completed and the new Unitary Authority is in place. We have recently 'walked' the Playing Field with Mr Sharp to discuss works to the trees and additional tree planting. This will be followed up over the next few months. During our meeting, Mr Sharp raised the matter of the boundary with Ashley Cottage and this needs to be further investigated with a view to resolution.

024/2025 Public Participation Session

Planning application for Tucklands has been refused. The application below Cllr G. Garey has spoken to BDC Planning Officer and in BDC Officer view it is not under Certificate of Lawfulness.

025/2025 VE Day - 8th May 2025 is the 80th anniversary – Councillors to discuss any events for the day
 Thursday 8th May Fish & Chip Supper & drinks in Village Hall from 6pm Ticketed event.

6.30pm Ringing of Bells

9pm VE day proclamation

9.30pm Beacon lighting & reading of VE day tribute

Friday 9th May VE day themed coffee morning 10am to Noon

Sunday 11th May Themed Treasure Hunt from Noon Church Tower open BBQ in Village Hall Posters to be put up in Village & leaflet drop.

Advertise in Parish News April & May Post on Village Facebook page.

026/2025 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier. No report was given

027/2025 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland. No report was given

028/2025 s106 monies – update from the Clerk

An amount of £980.65p has been received from BDC in March '25

029/2025 Planning Applications

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

25/00175/PLD - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW

Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed use - Erection of outbuilding.

BDC write to inform you, for information only, that we have received an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a Proposed Use or Development

As discussed above at item 024/2025

Cllr D. Green left the meeting

25/00163/HH - Laurel Cottage Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BL

Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: Gestingthorpe Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

Cllr D. Green re-joined the meeting

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

25/00299/PLD - Hillcrest Nether Hill Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BD

Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development - Conversion of outbuilding

Please note this application is for information only and due to the type of application, BDC are unable to accept third party comments.

030/2025 Planning Appeal

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Site Address: Newhouse Farm Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AS

Description of Development: Proposed detached single storey outbuilding.

Planning Application Ref: 24/00597/FUL - Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/25/3360138

Appeal Start Date: 5 March 2025

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State following Braintree District Council's refusal of the above application/s. The appeal will be determined at written representations. The procedure to be followed is set out in Part 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) (England) Regulations 2009, as amended.

031/2025 Representative reports

- Highways & SID – Cllr P. Collett

SID Sudbury Road -To date the Parish Council have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding for a replacement SID. However, the PC will continue to seek funding and are looking at less costly devices than the ones previously quoted.

Potholes etc. - The Parish Council have continued to report potholes, damaged road signs and missing finger signs on the ECC Highways website. Although some resurfacing work has been undertaken the majority of potholes and other issues have not been addressed.

Drainage Works - ECC have cleared some drains within the village however the drain adjacent to the Hall Pond in Church Street remains blocked, leaving the road liable to flood. The Parish Council will continue to press ECC on this matter.

Speeding - Speeding persists within the village at dangerous levels. PC Thorne has indicated that he could help with some speed checks and has visited the village. The Parish Council has suggested that PCSO's could visit regularly during coffee mornings or at the time of the "breakfast grills" to discuss speeding and other matters of concern

- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper

As the Chairman has mentioned we had an exceptionally useful meeting with Michael Sharp. I visited the playing field this morning. Chris Moulton has rolled the entire area played on by the football and cricket clubs together with mowing everything else a tractor mower can reach. Michael Green has mowed the remainder and the playing field looks superb.

There was nothing else to note that has not been previously mentioned

- Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby. No update on the Footpaths
- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

Village Hall Report The fortnightly Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall recommenced on 17th. January and have been very busy. The quiz last Friday was very enjoyable with quizzers tucking into lovely cheese platters beautifully prepared by our volunteer helpers. Takings on the night exceeded £1,150 with net receipts expected to be around £800. The next event in the hall is the Village Hall Open Day on Saturday 22nd. March. We will be running a sausage sizzle as well as selling tea, coffee & cake. We will also have a seed swap, Children's craft table and a book sale. From 10am to 1pm. As at 12th. March total funds held in cash and in the bank was £9,301.84 The next Management Committee meeting is 22nd. April 2025.

- Defibrillator update - Cllr P. Bagby. No further update on the defibrillator
- ROSPA 2024 play inspection report – Cllr P. Collett

As previously reported the annual ROSPA inspection of the play equipment has been carried out. A few minor items were noted as needing attention, but generally the equipment is safe. Quotes are being sought for the repairs indicated in the report.

- Wish list for the future - Pavilion upgrading. SID. Relining posts at the access to the pavilion. New Defibrillator. Matting for the Church car park.
- Pavilion – Cllr D. Green

Electrical works have now been carried out on the pavilion, including new lighting in the main area and toilets, outside downlighters on the entrance to the porch and outside double socket and a new consumer board. The electrician also replaced the broken fluorescent light in the home changing rooms. The away changing rooms needs the same as the fluorescent bulbs are no longer available to buy, so the whole unit will need to be

replaced.

The showers are not currently working, I have asked the electrician to attend to have a look, but as of yet have not had a reply. David has also asked him to provide a quotation to the away changing room lighting as far I know we have not received this either. I will chase the electrician up.

Home shower has now been tiled.

The cricket club and football club are still the main users for the pavilion. As discussed in previous meetings, the parish is proposing to charge the cricket club a fee for each home game they play. I propose we put something in writing to the chair/treasurer and secretary with the new proposal and costs. The parish will take on the payment for the electricity. I have made contact with them, take a meter reading and get the account changed over to the parish.

The football club still wish to use the football pitch and pavilion for next season.

It doesn't look like anyone is forthcoming in taking over either so this will probably be our last season as a team. We may decide to reform in the future but for next season at least we won't have a team. We've got our last home fixture come through which will be on Sunday 16th March, which is also our last league fixture of the season. With our cup final looking likely be at end of April or beginning of May, we may decide to schedule in one or two friendlies in the meantime, but I'll let you know if they are at home

Kitchen area: We may come into some kitchen cabinets from one of the parishioners when they have their new kitchen fitted. The units will need fitting and replace the old broken cabinets that are currently in there. I propose that we ask Dan Smith to quote for this work as he did such a good job for the tiling in the changing area.

The flooring still is an issue, as I do not think carpet tiles are appropriate, as they get very dirty and generally look untidy most of the time- any suggestions for an alternative floor covering, that has to be hard wearing and easy to clean.

- Parish News – Cllr P. Bagby. Nothing to report on the Parish News

032/2025 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2025

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/25

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for February & March 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to

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

033/2025 Items for Next Agenda

034/2025 Date of next meeting is on 21st. MAY 2025 at 7pm in the village hall

035/2025 Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates: TBC but will take place on a Wednesday

036/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Vice-Chair then closed the meeting at 7.55pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

PBagby

Penny Bagby - Chair

21st. May 2025