

**GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in the Village Hall**  
**On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: PCllrs J Nott (Chairman), S Bolter, A Cooper  
Parish Clerk  
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor, footpath representative  
John Butcher – Gestingthorpe Cricket Club  
District Cllr Wendy Scattergood

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs J Halls (family business) and T Flower (unwell).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 14, being <sup>A</sup> President of Gestingthorpe Cricket Club. <sub>^</sub>

**3. Report from Gestingthorpe Cricket Club**

John Butcher reported that the application for the main grant had been rejected by Sport England but it may be possible to obtain a grant for the roof which was estimated to cost approximately £2,000.00. He is looking into applying to the Community Initiative Fund. District Cllr Wendy Scattergood will look into and advise on other sources of funding.

Agenda item 14 was brought forward.

**4. Pavilion insurance claim**

Two quotes had been obtained, as requested by the PC's insurance company; they had given the go ahead to get the work done. Cllrs considered the quotes and opted for Smith & Scillitoe, being the best price. All Cllrs were in favour.

*Amendment – Cllr Bolter abstained from voting*

**5. To consider proposals for work to cricket pavilion**

The Chairman thanked John Butcher for attending and confirmed that the PC were supportive of him continuing in his attempts to obtain grant funding.

**Parish Council vacancies**

Two vacancies had arisen due to Damian Prior and Richard Payne's resignations. There had been one applicant for the vacancies. The Clerk will organise an advert to go on the website and in the parish magazine; Cllr Bolter will deal with the village Facebook page.

**7. To Co-opt to fill vacancies**

Cllr Bolter proposed that David Smith be co-opted onto the PC; unanimously agreed. As Mr Smith was unable to attend this meeting the Clerk will organise for the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests forms to be completed.

**8. Public Speaking**

None.

**9. Minutes**

Cllr Bolter proposed the minutes of the November meeting be approved, unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**10. Clerks Report (Appendix A)**

The Clerks report was noted.

**11. Reports from Representatives*****District Cllr Wendy Scattergood***

Cllr Scattergood reported that the public enquiry by the Planning Inspector had started this week; the Inspector is currently looking at Garden Communities. If sound, they will be examining the Local Plan in the summer.

General Data Protection regulations – Cllr Scattergood has been liaising with EALC over data protection information; Suffolk CC is suggesting 1 person to take on this role and she is trying to progress this. Wendy was thanked for her help with funding advice; she then left the meeting.

***Village Hall***

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported that grant applications for new toilets are proceeding; one meeting with the grant funding body has taken place and another is due; the committee are waiting for an official letter before the decision is disclosed. A leak in the roof has developed which will need to be repaired.

***Tree Warden***

No report.

***Neighbourhood Watch***

No report.

***Footpaths***

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported that farmers have sprayed more footpaths.

Mr and Mrs Harman were thankful for the letter from the PC and have now finished the job of putting posts in along Delvyn's Lane.

Cllr Bolter reported on a very muddy part of the footpath (Pot Kiln wood to the church) where it lays diagonally and whether the landowner could be asked not to plough that part. The Chairman advised that the landowner is complying with legislation and there is no power to enforce this request.

Footpath 41, Edey's Farm, the owner has been contacted by ECC to cut back the hedge.

***Passenger Transport***

Cllr Bolter will be reporting to the passenger transport meeting next month; issues he will raise are problems with the timetable not coinciding with trains and the buses not running due to ice/slush. The buses on a Saturday were reported to be popular and full.

**12. Highways**

Two road closures have been advertised on the website.

The Chairman had received a letter petitioning for better signage near Moat Farm corner where accidents were re-occurring due to vehicles colliding with the telegraph pole and causing loss of phone connections in nearby houses. Cllr Cooper proposed the PC support this petition, unanimously agreed. The Clerk will send a copy of the letter to County Cllr Finch.

**13. Planning (Appendix B)**

Update had been sent to all Councillors. There were no new planning applications to consider.

**14. Playing Field**

A request from btsGroup to trim the height of some trees along the boundary of the playing field had been passed on to Mr Sharp.

Swing seat repairs – quotes had been received from Fenland Leisure and Playground Management Ltd. Cllr Nott proposed Fenland Leisure be given the work, unanimously agreed. The order will be for parts only at a cost of £268.00. The contingency budget for play equipment repairs will be used to pay for this work.

Anchors for the football nets are planned to be put in place in the next week; safety signage is also to be positioned.



**15. To consider S106 expenditure**

Three quotes had been obtained for a cross trainer for the play area. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with Fenland Leisure. The quotes will be sent to Sarah Burdah at BDC for approval to use S106 monies for this work.

**16. Emergency Plan**

The emergency plan had been updated to take into account any changes.

**17. Financial Regulations**

After discussion on various points of the Financial Regulations, Cllr Nott proposed they be adopted, the majority were in favour, with one abstention.

**18. Annual Contracts 2018/19**

Cllrs agreed that BDC would remain as our grass cutting contractor, as we are still in a 3-year agreement.

Cllrs agreed to keep Flameskill for pavilion fire extinguisher service.

A new contractor will need to be found to replace Graeme Martin for strimming and mowing round trees and play equipment on the playing field. Litter picking may be a voluntary position, possibly a village event. An advert will be put in the parish magazine; the Clerk will contact a resident who it was thought may be interested and Cllrs will give some thought to others who may be suitable.

Three quotes had been obtained for verge cutting; Ken Hutchinson was the best quote and Cllrs agreed to continue with him. Cllrs discussed the possibility of reverting back to County/District in the future to save on costs. This will be considered next year.

**19. Clerks Contract/Salary 2018/19**

There were no changes proposed to the current contract. There is a proposed 2% increase in the salary pay scale as from April 1<sup>st</sup> subject to confirmation from EALC. The Clerk advised that there may be an increase in hours due to extra work envisaged when the new General Data Protection Regulations become law; hours will be recorded and Cllrs notified of any increase.

**20. Parish Council Finance*****Receipts & Payments*** (Appendix C)

Details of all receipts & payments had been circulated and were authorised.

The bank signatory form was signed, taking off Damian Prior and Richard Payne.

**21. Parish Council Budget & Precept 2018/19**

The budget forecast was discussed at length, as costs are increasing and the Localism Fund will reduce again next year. Subscriptions to RCCE, CPRE and Local Council Review will be cut from the budget. The Precept was then set at £6,400. Proposed, Cllr Nott, and unanimously agreed. The Precept form was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**22. Grants 2018/19**

Cllr Nott proposed the PC give the usual grants to Oates Churchyard Charity and Gestingthorpe village hall of £300 and £200 respectively; unanimously agreed.

**23. Correspondence & Matters for Report.*****General Data Protection Regulations***

Information had been sent to Cllrs; there is no clear information on who will be the Data Protection Officer or the cost, at present.

***ECC Local Service Fund***

There is a free training briefing at EALC Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Cllrs discussed possible activities that might be funded.


**24. Items for the next agenda**

Funding opportunities.  
Update from John Butcher.

**25. To fix future meeting dates**

Annual Village meeting - Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018  
Parish Council AGM - Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018

The meeting closed at 10:10p.m.

Date..... 3/5/18 ..... Chairman.....  .....