

GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2011

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th April 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr James Nott
Present: Parish Cllrs R Payne, A Cooper, HWW Teverson, S. Bolter, T Flower, N M Prior
District Cllrs, Wendy Scattergood, Joanne Beavis, Hylton Johnson
County Cllr David Finch
Mr Leslie Crumpton-Taylor – School Governor
Jayne Laken – Village Agent
Sylvia Delaroche – Neighbourhood Watch
Mr Cannell - member of the public
Parish Clerk

Apologies for absence: None

1. **Richard Parmee, Tree & Landscape Officer - BDC**
Cllr Bolter read out a letter from Mr Sharp about his concerns for the trees along Church Street where EDF wanted to cut them back because of electricity cables.
Mr Parmee advised that EDF has a programme and that legally they can cut trees as they are a statutory undertaker and are exempt from TPO's. However, landowners can negotiate with them. He advised everyone to monitor the quality of the contractors work and let him know if there were any problems. He was aware of the recent TPO at Clicketts Farm and advised that building development takes precedence over trees being too close to a property.
Mr Parmee said that BDC are keen to monitor the tree disease known as 'sudden oak death'. He asked that if anyone has concerns to notify the forestry commission who are interested in this. He was thanked for attending and left the meeting.
2. **Minutes**
The minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed.
3. **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman's report had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting.
4. **Accounts for year 2010-11**
The Parish Council's annual accounts were considered. There were no questions arising.
5. **Report from Governor of Bulmer St. Andrew's School**
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor spoke about the late information from ECC regarding money they would receive for the coming year, which had not helped their planning for the year. The number of children in rural area continues to decrease and all neighbouring schools are in the same position as Bulmer. The governors have reviewed and restructured, resulting in them keeping three classes. Over the past year they had sought and received funding from various sources and he thanked everyone for their generosity. Leslie was thanked for his report.
CCllr David Finch said he would take back comments to County regarding the late information. He advised of the various financial problems encountered by the Bramble Hedge Nursery, which had recently closed.
Ashley Cooper gave tribute to Leslie for his work on the board of governors.
6. **Reports from village organisations & village agent**
Village Agent
Jayne Laken advised that she will be around for another year and asked to be informed of any resident needing help. She is also able to help residents with the forthcoming digital switch over.

Educational Foundation

Ashley Cooper reported that the Charity gave grants of £1,120 during the year, for various educational activities, including driving lessons, school trips and books. He reported that Mark Prior had left the field in good condition for the new tenant, who had met with the Trustees in October. They are awaiting a successor for the Reverend Donaldson on the Trustees committee. Ashley gave thanks to Jane Winmill and Wilfred Teverson for their work with the administration and accounts. The report, annual accounts and grants book were passed around. Ashley was thanked for his report.

Village Hall

Terry Flower reported that James Donoghue had replaced Barbara Baggott as chairman and that Amanda Martin and himself had joined the committee. Future events are: the Royal Tea Party on 30th April and the village barbeque on 11th June.

Neighbourhood Watch

Sylvia Delaroche reported that things had been very quiet over the last 12 months. There had been 3 problems – oil tank theft and 2 accidents. The NW are closely linked with Farm Watch. Details of discounted home insurance can be found on the police website. Sylvia asked whether NW notices could be displayed on the notice board. It was agreed to put an item on the PC agenda as to how information could be got round the village. Wilfred Teverson mentioned the hare coursing that took place last November and the swift police response. Sylvia was thanked for her report.

Village Design Statement

Hugh Cannell reported on the progress of the VDS draft; the final draft is waiting for photo selections. He felt the draft came over as a fresh look and that the whole document would be very well received. The draft will be sent to BDC for approval. DCllr Joanne Beavis will report this information back to Gt Maplestead to give them encouragement for their VDS.

7. District & County Councillors Reports

DCllr Wendy Scattergood

Cllr Scattergood reported a very small decrease in applications and no large developments. There have been a lot of extensions and more people reapplying to renew their plans, due to the change from a 5 year to a 3 year lapse in timescale. She reported on the new legal agreement with regard to S106 money which will all be ring fenced for villages. She is also involved in work on the Core Strategy. She is involved in the Mid Essex Historic Buildings Trust and is trying to save Edey's Farm.

A question was raised that VDS's were ignored by BDC. There was disappointment expressed that BDC planning department do not have to take into account VDS's and Cllr Scattergood reported that she is hoping to change this so that in future they will be included.

DCllr Joanne Beavis

Cllr Beavis reported on the Localism Bill which will give villages more choice. It will be consulted on. She spoke of her work on the Corporate Strategy; £5million savings to be found; no increase in tax rate; protecting front line services; protecting community transport; the 'enterprise in communities fund' and was thanked for her report.

CCllr David Finch spoke about the theft of oil and advised that Libby Lawrence from Great Maplestead is the contact for alarm systems for oil tanks. Cllr Finch asked Leslie Crumpton-Taylor to contact St Andrew's school, Gt Yeldham, for information on their school numbers, as they were oversubscribed.

8. Any Other Business

Questions from the floor:

Fire Service – Hugh Cannell asked whether there was any quality measure on our rural fire services. Cllr Finch said he would find out this information.

Pylons - Hugh Cannell asked whether there was any progress on pylons. Cllr Finch said that ECC and BDC had objected and argued that they should go underground. They were working closely with the Stour Valley Underground group.

James Nott then thanked Wilfred Teverson for his long service on the Parish Council which spanned around 50 years. Wilfred was given a round of applause.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed Chairman

Date