

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Village Hall

On Thursday, 15th May 2014, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: PCllrs J Nott (Chairman) A Cooper, R K Payne, S Bolter, T Flower, M Cullen
Parish Clerk
Footpaths representative Leslie Crumpton-Taylor
Member of public – Mr Cannell

Apologies: District Cllrs' Hylton Johnson, Joanne Beavis & Wendy Scattergood
Neighbourhood Watch representative John Sinclair

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Nott opened the meeting and stood down as chairman; he asked for nominations for a Chairman for 2014/15.

Cllr Cooper proposed Cllr Nott be elected as chairman for 2014/15, seconded by Cllr Payne and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations.

It was resolved that James Nott was elected as chairman for 2014/15. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Nott proposed Cllr Flower be elected as vice chairman for 2014/15, seconded by Cllr Cullen and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations.

It was resolved that Terence Flower was elected as vice-chairman for 2014/15.

3. Declarations of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in any discussions relating to Ellis Farm, being a close neighbour.

4. Public Speaking

Mr Cannell spoke about speeding near the seven sister's junction. He asked that the PC formally consider research into 20mph for the whole village and for other traffic calming measures to be put in place; 20mph was not felt appropriate for the whole village. Mr Cannell was advised that a request for another speed indicator display socket has been placed and a speed survey is to take place beforehand. It was suggested having a 20mph sign on the section of road where it narrows. Cllrs felt it would be a good idea to invite a representative from Highways to our next meeting to find out what the possibilities were for speed signs in the village. The Clerk will organise this.

5. Appointment of Representatives & Responsible Members

The following representatives were appointed; it was agreed that an additional Cllr should be appointed to the planning committee; Cllr Prior agreed to take on this role.

Playing Field	Cllr M Cullen
Planning Committee	Cllrs J Nott, T Flower, S Bolter, D Prior
Rents Fields Charity	Cllr S Bolter
Village Hall	Cllr T Flower
Tree Warden	Cllr T Flower
Footpaths	Leslie Crumpton-Taylor
Transport	Cllr M Cullen
Emergency Contacts	Chairman & Clerk
Neighbourhood Watch	John Sinclair

Highways	Cllr A Cooper
Finance	Cllr R Payne
Internal Auditor	Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

Mr Crumpton-Taylor was thanked for carrying out the recent internal audit for us.

6. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January PC meeting were approved and signed.

7. Clerks Report

The Clerks report, updating on matters arising from the January meeting, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Cullen will order the mirror as per his previous information. The moving of the litter bin is still to be organised. The Clerk will update the welcome pack letter to include the village website and details of the village email list available to join.

8. Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting

Footpath issues

The Chairman had contacted the landowner to rectify the lack of spraying of a footpath and had looked into the blocked ditch problem. Highways will be asked to put way marker signs at the junction of footpaths 8 and 63, also 19 and 24.

Village Hall committee

The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the committee for their hard work in making the hall in a much better condition.

9. Reports from Representatives

Village Hall

Cllr Flower reported that the recent Lasagne Evening had raised between £600 and £800.

Footpaths

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor had received no complaints and no matters had arisen other than those raised at the annual village meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Sinclair had no items to report. It was mentioned that there were thefts being carried out on farms.

Tree Warden

Cllr Flower reported that the TPO application for Delvyn's Farm seemed very reasonable.

Playing Field

Cllr Prior reported on the condition of the man hole cover near the pavilion and it was agreed that the PC would buy a new cover and that any work involved in replacing the cover could be done by the cricket club. Cllr Prior will organise the purchase. The stolen mower from the playing field shed was mentioned.

10. Highways/Public Rights of Way

Pot Holes

Six pot holes along Nether Hill will be reported to Highways.

Highways web reporting

Cllrs discussed that Highways have listed the Sudbury Road as Bulmer Street which was confusing, as the Castle Hedingham road is also known as Sudbury Road. A letter will be sent to advise them.

Verge cutting

The Chairman will speak to Ken Hutchinson about verge cutting costs this year and ask for particular attention to the bus stop area near Oates Cottages.

Weight limit, Nether Hill

It was noted that the weight limit at the bottom of Nether Hill has not been lifted.

Delvyn's Lane

Cllrs discussed the lack of funds to repair the track and the scheme for closing Byways. It was agreed that the PC write to Cllr Rodney Bass asking that the Lane be considered for closure during winter months.

11. Planning

All planning applications made and decisions received were itemised on Appendix B, circulated prior to the meeting.

Ellis Farm

There had been correspondence from the owners solicitors, regarding a footpath diversion but no further information. Cllrs agreed that the PC's line is the same as given previously.

BDC Heritage List

Cllrs thought that the village hall should go on the list. Cllr Bolter proposed that the area where the AONB reached Gestingthorpe should be put forward but this was not agreed. Cllr Cooper advised that the History Group do not wish to be involved in this scheme. It was agreed to put forward the village hall but to remind BDC of the Village Design Statement in which all buildings of interest were included.

Mr Cannell left the meeting.

14. Street Cleaning Contract 2014/15

The contract was agreed and signed.

15. PC Insurance 2014/15

It was agreed to accept the alternative quote from Aon, which was considerably lower than our current insurers and had been based on a like for like quote.

16. Receipts & Payments

Details of all receipts and payments (Appendix C) had been circulated prior to the meeting and were authorised.

Proposed: Cllr J Nott

Seconded: Cllr R Payne

17. Approval of Annual Accounts 2013/14

The internal audit report had been circulated.

The bank reconciliation sheet, receipts & payments summary, supporting statement and fixed asset reports were agreed and signed.

Section 1 of the Annual Return, was agreed and signed.

Section 2, the Annual Governance Statement was considered, agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr J Nott

Seconded: Cllr R Payne

18. Register of Interests

Cllrs were reminded to update their register of interests where necessary; also to declare if any gifts had been received.

19. Correspondence and Matters to Report

Changes to banking rules

Parish Councils are now able to bank electronically, providing strict internal controls are put in place. It was agreed that this PC would continue with the current 2 signature cheque payment method.

20. Agenda items for the next meeting

There were no items raised.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date was agreed as 3rd July.

The meeting closed at 9:13pm.

Date..... Chairman.....