

GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2017

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Parish Cllrs James Nott (Chair) Ashley Cooper, Steve Bolter, Terry Flower, Richard Payne, Jane Halls
District Cllr Wendy Scattergood
County Cllr David Finch
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor – School Governor
Wendy Jones
Jayne Laken – Community Agent
1 member of the public
Parish Clerk

Apologies: None

- 1. Wendy Jones – Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Project**
Wendy gave an update on the progress of the project; a consultation period is now taking place following which delivery and installation will take place and training sessions set up. The phone will be set up for 999 calls only. Wendy gave thanks for everyone's generous response to her project. Wendy was thanked for her update and left the meeting.
- 2. Minutes**
The minutes of the 2016 Annual Village Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Chairman's Report**
James reported on Parish Council activities over the past year; subjects included the defibrillator project, the new bus shelter, County Broadband, Parish Precept and finances and improvements to play equipment. He concluded by thanking the Councillors and Clerk for their support.
- 4. Accounts for year 2016-17**
The Parish Clerk went through the figures, explaining the differences between the previous and current financial years.
- 5. Report from Governor of Bulmer St. Andrew's School**
Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported on the changes of the school and the joining of resources, staff and Governors with St Giles, Great Maplestead. He advised of his decision to step down in his role as a Governor of the school; Ashley praised Leslie for his hard work for the school over many years and Leslie was given a round of applause in recognition of his service to the school.
- 6. Reports from village organisations & Community Agent**
Jayne reported on her work in the area, supporting vulnerable older people with their many needs. Jayne was thanked for her report.

Educational Foundation

Ashley Cooper reported that this charity had begun in 1970. The annual inspection of the field had taken place in December, the rent had increased to £1200, although income may fall after 2020. The total income for the year was £1,559. There had not been enough applicants for grants in the last year, leaving a surplus to carry forward. A donation of £100 to both the football club and cricket club had been given. Ashley thanked Peter Collett for his work as treasurer and Andy Craig for auditing the accounts. The accounts and annual report were passed around. Ashley was thanked for his report.

Village Hall

Terry reported that the main business was to continue with work to the fabric of the hall. Funds are needed to refurbish the toilets and there are various events taking place, £30,000.00 is needed for the work.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch**

There was no report.

8. **Report from Rev. Gay Ellis**

There was no report.

9. **District & County Councillors Reports**

District Councillor Wendy Scattergood gave advice on S106 monies which are to be used in connection with open spaces. Wendy reported on waste collections services, reduced litter, recycling from businesses, Braintree energy switch, the Local Plan, a loan to Colne Valley Preservation Society, a grant of £400 she had given to Gestingthorpe Cricket Club, funding from Government ceasing in 2020, an increase in planning applications.

County Cllr David Finch advised that the ECC Community Initiatives Fund could be applied for for the village hall toilet refurbishment and the cricket pavilion and to email him directly with details. Cllr Finch reported on budget planning, social care funding, educational facilities, improved "good schools", an increasing older population, the launch of an Essex lottery, a match funding scheme and a fund for the voluntary sector/small groups. ECC are working closely with EALC.

Cllr Scattergood advised that the Essex Community Foundation Fund could help with village hall improvements and will give the information to Terry Flower.

Cllr Finch was thanked for his report.

Steve Bolter asked whether any decisions had been made following the bus route consultation's. Cllr Finch advised that they are rolling out DaRT and that an app had been designed for younger persons to help them with transport.

Cllr Finch advised that ECC had discussed the Sudbury bypass scheme but although Suffolk CC are keen there is no agreement from ECC.

Cllr Scattergood said that the bypass has been included in their Local Plan.

Terry Flower asked whether there were any radical plans to ease the road traffic, such as re-opening railways. Cllr Finch said this would be down to Government strategy but there had been work to the A12 and A120.

8. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8:38pm

Signed Chairman Date