

# GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2018

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

- Present:** Parish Cllrs James Nott (Chair) Ashley Cooper, Steve Bolter, Terry Flower,  
Jane Halls, David Smith  
County Cllr David Finch  
Helen Padgett – School Governor  
Helen Skerratt – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator  
7 members of the public  
Parish Clerk
- Apologies:** Chris Harman

James Nott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Helen Skerratt – Neighbourhood Watch**

Helen gave an update on her work as NW co-ordinator. Newsletters, window stickers etc., had been delivered to all households and new NW signs have been put up. There have been very few reports of crime since she joined as NW co-ordinator; the official Facebook page is updated with any reports. Helen asked how residents would like the NW to run and asked for anything to be reported to her. Clive Stewart attends the Braintree NW meetings and reports back to Helen with any information, Helen also liaises with the NW representatives from other nearby villages. She will ask whether there are any window stickers that are free of advertising which was considered confusing and will speak to Clive Stewart about the possibility of holding a NW meeting in Gestingthorpe and whether the Community Policing Team would also attend. She will find out whether there is a direct line to the police through the NW. Helen was thanked for her report.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Village Meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Chairman's Report**

James reported on village activities over the past year, including the success of the defibrillator project, vandalism of the cricket pavilion, improvements to play equipment, the proposed purchase of a cross trainer, provision of high speed fibre optic broadband by the end of the year, Parish Precept increase and finances. He concluded by thanking the Councillors and Clerk for their support.

4. **Accounts for year 2017/18**

The Parish Clerk went through the figures, explaining the differences between the previous and current financial years.

The question of extra support for the village hall was raised but explained that finance was very tight and the PC could not donate any more than it already gives.

5. **Report from Governor of St. Andrew's Bulmer School**

Helen Padgett reported on the good progress made by the school and the joining of resources, staff and Governors with St Giles, Great Maplestead. The school is now known as St. Andrew's Bulmer and is part of a Federation with St Giles. New staff have been appointed and a refurbishment of furniture and equipment. The latest Ofsted report was 'good'. There are currently 49 pupils. Fibre optic broadband is now installed at the school. Helen was thanked for her report. <http://www.bulmerschool.co.uk/>

## 6. Reports from village organisations

### ***Educational Foundation***

Ashley Cooper gave his annual report on the history of the charity; the annual inspection of the field had taken place; the rental income of £1,200 and investment income of £396 made a total annual income of £1596. £842 had been given in donations for various educational items including a grant to each of the football and cricket clubs. Ashley thanked Peter Collett for his work as treasurer. The accounts and annual report were passed around. Due to the new General Data Protection Regulations this will be the last year that the accounts will be able to be passed around. Ashley was thanked for his report.

### ***Village Hall***

Terry Flower read out a report from village hall Chairman, Chris Harman; the AGM is due to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Repairs have been carried out to the roof and side wall and the committee are keen to continue with improvements. The new toilets are due to be installed over the winter months. Grants have been awarded from Essex CC Community Initiative Fund and Essex Community Foundations. Future works include roof repairs, exterior painting and heat and sound insulation.

## 7. County Councillors Report

County Cllr David Finch reported on budget cuts, schools, new schools being built and extended, apprenticeships, £5 million being spent on roads, Local Services Fund for village grants for maintenance and the Essex Crowd Funding scheme.

Terry asked whether council houses were still being built and whether they are still being sold off. Cllr Finch said that this was not the remit of Essex CC but is a District matter.

In answer to the question about the bus timetable, Cllr Finch said that the provider is not in compliance with the official timetable.

Cllr Finch was asked about crime year on year figures. He said that this was not the remit of Essex CC but if a meeting was wanted, as suggested for NW, he would ask Roger Hirst, Crime and Fire Commissioner, to attend. He suggested it would be better to have 2 villages to attend a meeting.

Ashley Cooper mentioned the difficulty in reporting a problem occurring on a farm and the time taken to make a report.

Cllr Finch answered a query on economic growth measurement and the link to unemployment.

Cllr Finch was thanked for his report.

## 8. Any Other Business

Questions from the floor:

Can the speed sign be moved? James said this can be done. He was concerned about moving it to North End road due to the narrow area and the possibility of it being hit. An Audley End resident said it was a nuisance outside houses as the light reflected inside every time it lit up.

Footpaths - dog mess is a problem especially by the side of the Church. Braintree Council will be asked whether they can provide more bins.

Some footpaths are not being reinstated. It was thought that the footpaths not being reinstated are outside Gestingthorpe's boundary and relate to nearby landowners.

Byway 13 closure – it was thought that the gates are not closed over winter due to cost factors.

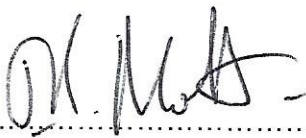
Signs at Moat Farm corner are not clear. This is being dealt with via the Local Highways Panel.

Overgrown hedges are also a problem.

Pound Farm corner is an eyesore. It was thought to be a difficult problem to solve.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed .....  ..... Chairman

Date 11/04/19 .....