

# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>. September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chair), P. Bagby, P. Collett, A. Cooper, D. Green, BDC Cllr D. Holland, Mr. Leslie Crumpton-Taylor (Internal Auditor) and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).  
 There were 4 members of the public present.

### 067/2024 Chairman welcome

068/2024 **Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr G. Carey

### 069/2024 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda  
 Cllr A. Cooper declared an interest in the Cricket Club  
 Cllr P. Bagby declared an interest in planning application 24/01662/FUL

### 070/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup>. May 2024. **All Agreed**  
 To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup>. May 2024. **All Agreed**

### 071/2024 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Church Street looks splendid following resurfacing works and white lining. Unfortunately, the drainage issues were not attended to by Highways before works were carried out. Jetting works have now been carried out, although the road gully at the centre of the flooding problems in Church Street does not appear to have been cleared.

Many thanks to everyone involved with the Summer Solstice weekend. Good to see the Parish Council and Village Hall working together for the benefit of the Village. Hopefully, we will continue building on this.  
 On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we were challenged by Gt Maplestead to a game of Boule on their pitch in Gt Maplestead. Gestingthorpe were represented by the Bagbys and the Smith's and I am delighted to report that we won - probably beginners' luck! We are now the proud holders of the Boule trophy and we need to arrange a rematch.

a) Update on Councillor vacancy. A candidate has shown interest in becoming a Parish Councillor

b) Trees on recreation ground - Nothing further to report

c) Use of Playing field for Pilates classes. Classes using the recreation ground has stopped as a donation to the Parish Council for using the recreation ground and pavilion was too high (£10 per session)

### 072/2024 Election of Appointments and Employment Committee for 2024/2025

Employment Committee: Planning: Playing field: Village Hall: Footpaths: Highways: Play Equipment: Education Charity: Pavilion: Trees:

The 2024-2025 responsibilities for Councillors can be found at <https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/councillors>

### 073/2024 Public Participation Session

Jordan Hedingham United FC – Last season they won Division 2 cup. This may be the last season as Jordan is stepping down. The cost per game as 2024/2025

074/2024 **VE Day** - 8th May 2025 is the 80th anniversary – Councillors to discuss any events for the day  
 Cllr P. Bagby informed the meeting that on the Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. May afternoon teas in Village Hall.  
 On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>. BBQ and drinks whilst beacon is lit. Events committee to be formed.

### 075/2024 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

No report was given

### 076/2024 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland

Development issue on Pot Kiln Lodge which is moving forward  
 New policies are coming forward to deal with Vegetation and wild habitat.  
 Large scale of National Grid battery site will be in the location of Gestingthorpe. Biodiversity nett gain.  
 Land designated as wild life. ECC has just opened the Essex Local Recovery Strategy.  
 BDC Full Council meeting proposed that the District Council asked for support of farmers and to have balanced policies especially within the Local Plan.

Refreshing the local plan as a call for sites. The process has slowed down due to the new Government giving Councils more time to respond to their consultation until December 2025.

## **077/2024 Planning Applications**

**24/01662/FUL** - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Erection of 2 No. buildings for holiday let purposes.

Simon Patten from Patten Homes spoke, in great depth, about the above planning application

**RESOLVED:** A number of concerns regarding the application were raised by the councillors, namely:

- The height of the proposed holiday let units is greater than that of the adjacent existing barn and they are also set forward beyond the front line of the barn. This makes the units visible from the road (Audley End).
- It is proposed that the new units are to be positioned close to the existing barn which is designated for agricultural use. This could expose any occupants of the units to disturbance from noise and unwanted light from farming operations.

- The application involves the removal of some semi-mature trees.

- The application does not specify how it is intended to provide hot water, heating and electricity.

Having discussed the application and put the matter to a vote the Parish Council agreed that they would not object to the application but to request that the following be considered by Braintree District Council:

- The Parish Council considers that a realignment of the proposed buildings to provide a more "farmyard" theme to the development would be desirable in improving the appearance of the development and mitigating its appearance from Audley End. (The Parish Council is willing to enter into future discussions to clarify this statement if required).

- Priority should be given to preserving the existing trees. If this is not possible the trees should be moved or replaced in a suitable location on the site.

- Hot water and heating should be provided by heat pumps and electricity by roof mounted solar panels. In compliance with the requirements of the "National Planning Policy Framework".

- The completed scheme should comply fully with the Historic Buildings and Conservation Area Advisor's summary.

- Restrictions to be placed on the use of the adjacent barn to avoid any disturbance to holiday makers occupying the new units.
- Installation of nesting boxes for migratory birds together with planting to attract pollinators and butterflies

- The plans be revised to include the correct road name i.e. Audley End.

- As the completed scheme will benefit from the efforts of the Parish Council maintaining the village in good condition (Grass cutting, tree planting, litter removal and maintenance of play equipment etc.), thus making it more attractive to prospective visitors, the Parish Council request that consideration be given to them receiving some Section 106 monies in respect of the proposed development.

In summary the Parish Council have voted not to object to the application but request that Braintree District Council give serious consideration to the conditions and suggestions detailed above.

Simon Patten left the meeting

## **078/2024 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications**

**24/01223/LBC** - Foundry House North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BN

Replacement of existing roof tiles and lead box gutter including associated timber repairs.

**Application GRANTED**

**24/01388/FUL** - The Great Barn Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3AS

Installation of solar panels on the roof of an existing agricultural barn that was previously approved under application 23/01225/FUL. **Application GRANTED**

**24/00597/FUL** - Newhouse Farm Little Maplestead Road Gestingthorpe CO9 3AS

Proposed detached single storey outbuilding. **Application REFUSED**

**24/01619/FUL** - Land On The Right Hand Side North End Road Gestingthorpe

Retention of farm access and farmyard to existing crop storage building.

**Application pending Consideration**

## **079/2024 Representative reports**

- Highways & SID – Cllr P. Collett

**Highways SID Sudbury Road** - ECC have agreed to fund a further speed survey. I met Daniel Maclean of ECC Highways on 8th July to agree a position for the survey and it was agreed that the sensors should be positioned outside number 10 Sudbury Road. Mr Maclean informed me that ECC have revised their criteria and that the average of the detected speeds would need to be 10 mph above the speed limit before ECC would take any action. Speed survey to be carried out in September.

**Potholes etc.** - I have continued to report potholes, damaged road signs and missing finger signs on the ECC Highways website. Very little action has generally been taken by ECC, however Cllr Peter Schwier kindly assisted in ensuring that a dangerous pothole on the Sudbury Road at Lower Houses was repaired. Further

information including What Three Words location have been submitted to Cllr Schwier. A possible site meeting with Cllr Schwier to be arranged.

**Speeding** - Speeding persists within the village at dangerous levels. I have been contacted by Sergeant Grant Snow of Essex Police who has promised to carry out some speed checks within the village over the coming weeks. Nothing noted as taking place I will chase.

**Speed Limit Reduction Northend Road** - The Parish Council have supported an application by a resident to obtain a reduction in the speed limit on Northend Road to 40 mph. From the feedback received from ECC it would appear that they have no budget to carry out a speed reduction at present. However Cllr Peter Schwier has suggested that, as a first step, the Parish Council could pay for a speed survey to be carried out.

**Litter Pick** - Arranged for Saturday 5th October at 10 am to coincide with village "Sizzle". I have alerted BDC who need some numbers of people attending. Poster to be approved and posted on notice boards, telegraph poles and Facebook. Notice has already been placed in the Parish Magazine.

**Play Equipment** The annual ROSPA inspection of the play equipment has been carried out. A few minor items were noted as needing attention, but generally the equipment is safe. Action to be taken to be discussed and agreed at the meeting. Bases to the swings to be checked. Rubber buffer on see saw to be fixed. Price to be obtained for a notice to the basket ball post. Price to be obtained for replacing the light weight goal posts.

- **Playing Field** – Cllr A. Cooper

I walked round the Playing Field this morning. It looks in superb condition. Michael is making a truly superb job. The issue of overhanging branches is becoming more crucial—as he is finding it difficult to mow the grass etc beneath them.

The Cricket Club have re-roofed one of their store sheds, which now looks much more presentable.

**ENTRANCE** - I have been asked to mention, that when the lockable post is removed, at the corner nearest the Village Hall, it still only leaves a narrow width for a car to enter. A number of vehicles have now suffered damage to their body work. I wonder if one of the non- moveable posts beside it, could now be moved slightly further away - to allow easier access.

- **Footpath** – Cllr P. Bagby

Summer cutting of footpaths by Essex Highways: Completed on 25 July.

Ref 2892801 – Update: Defective bridge on PRoW

Footpath 1 Wickham St Paul: Work Completed

No New Reports

- **Village Hall** – Cllr P. Bagby

There have been no fundraising events over the summer period other than the fortnightly coffee mornings which continue to be well attended. The amount raised so far this financial year is over £1100 which goes towards repair & maintenance of the hall. The Coffee morning on 4 October will be given over to Chris & Rose Harman who will be raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

The next Gestingthorpe Grill is on this Saturday from 9.45. The last grill of the year on October 5 will coincide with the village litter pick with the running time of the grill extended to 12.30 to provide sustenance to the pickers.

Our September fundraising event is a late summer BBQ on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Entry is £10 which provides a banger or a burger in a roll, salad, 1 free drink and a quiz entry. Funds raised go to the Village Hall fabric fund.

The main hall & hallway is being painted at the beginning of next month. We are also looking to purchase a new, larger shed to replace the one on the rear courtyard. This will be large enough to permanently store the table & chairs currently in the small hall. Once this is done the small hall can also be repainted. The long term plan is to turn this room in to a warm, community space with books shelves, sofas, storage and a community information board.

As at the last committee meeting on 08 August, the Treasurer reported total cash balance of £6,297.84

The next Management Committee meeting is 7 November 2024

- **Update on Parish News** - Cllr P. Bagby. No further update
- **ROSPA 2024 play inspection report** – Cllr P. Collett

**Play Equipment** The annual ROSPA inspection of the play equipment has been carried out. A few minor items were noted as needing attention, but generally the equipment is safe. Action to be taken to be discussed and agreed at the meeting.

- **Speed watch update** No further update
- **Wish list for the future** Item deferred to the next meeting
- **Pavilion** – Cllr D. Green

### **Pavilion & Playing Field usage.**

Gestingthorpe cricket club are the main users of the pavilion and playing field. This season they have nine home games and Sudbury are using the facilities for six games.

Gestingthorpe also plan to play a number of 20/20 matches on Friday evenings. The cricket club are holding BBQs after the matches, to assist with raising of funds.

The cricket club currently pay £200.00 per annum to the parish for the use of the pavilion and playing field and are currently responsible for the electricity and maintenance around the pavilion, sheds, and nets.

There is now storage inside the home changing room to facilitate players equipment and a small cupboard for

storage of spare bats, bails etc. The shower is still to be tiled. Chris has acquired the tiles.

A partition wall has been erected which blocks off the toilets from the main seating area.

Nic Smith utilises the playing field on Saturday's for keep fit classes and occasionally for other classes which are usually held inside the Village Hall. Nic Smith donates to the Parish for the use of the field. Last year she donated £350.00 to the parish.

The football club also use the pavilion and playing field in the football season, in the 2023/24 season they played 11 games on the field. They have recently donated £420.00 to the parish.

#### **Wooden Sheds adjacent to the Pavilion**

Gestingthorpe Cricket club own the sheds which are independent of the pavilion. Recently the sheds have come into disrepair. Chris, Michael, Steve and Chas from the village have recently repaired and painted the sheds, which will enable them to store their items in them instead of inside the pavilion.

#### **Future**

The Parish would like to see the Pavilion and playing field being used more widely by others within the community as with the Village Hall. Improvements to the pavilion will need to be made over the coming years, enabling the parish to offer the facility to other clubs and the wider community, The proposed improvements would include:

- New electrics, to include an outside socket and outside light.
- Wi-Fi.
- An improved kitchen facility.
- New tables and chairs and more appropriate floor covering in the main area.

To enable the Parish to move forward with the improvements, I would like to see a more structured agreement between all that use the facilities.

Therefore, I propose the following for consideration:

- The cricket club to cease paying for the electricity and maintenance around the pavilion.
- The hire fee for the use of any pitch and/or pavilion to be £40.00 per use. (A meeting is to be held with the cricket club to discuss the implementation of this proposal for the next season).
- Payment required from anyone wishing to use the playing field to hold classes to be a minimum of £10.00 per use.

**080/2024 Increased traffic and speed limit on Northend Road – Cllr P. Collett.** As discussed above

**081/2024 Further tree planting within the village – Cllr P. Collett**

Another tree planted on the playing field which replaces the tree that fell down should be considered

**082/2024 Proposed date for the next Litter Pick in the village**

The next litter pick is scheduled on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. October 2024 at 10am at the village hall.

**083/2024 Finance**

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2024

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/25

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for August & September 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

**084/2024 Budget 2025/2026 – Councillors to discuss draft budget**

Councillors discussed the draft budget for 2025-2026

**085/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

Wish list for the future: Pavilion car parking: Play equipment and fencing: Provision of car parking

Update on Parish News from Editor of the magazine: Defibrillator update – Cllr P. Bagby

**086/2024 Date of next meeting is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. November 2024 at 7pm**

**087/2024 Councillors to agree 2025 meeting dates**

**09.01.25: 13.03.25: 01.05.25: 10.07.25: 11.09.25: 13.11.25**

**088/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*D. Smith*

**D. Smith - Chair**

14<sup>th</sup>. November 2024