

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th. November 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chair), P. Bagby, G. Carey, P. Collett, A. Cooper, D. Green, ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

089/2024 Chairman welcome and spoke about the sad loss of Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

090/2024 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received

091/2024 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda
None declared

092/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 5th. September 2024. **All Agreed**

093/2024 Co-Option

Councillors are requested to receive written application for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opt candidate to fill the vacancy. The Candidate having completed a short application form and confirmed her eligibility for the position of Councillor within the statutory rules (Local Government Act 1972 section 79). Forms have been returned to the Parish Clerk by the prescribed deadline

Cllr D. Smith proposed Karen Brazier be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr A. Cooper seconded.

All Agreed Karen Brazier then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, E Consent form and was given the Register of Interest forms to be returned to the Clerk with 28 days.

Cllr K. Brazier then took her seat as a Parish Councillor

094/2024 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

I was so sorry to learn of the sad passing of Leslie Crumpton – Taylor. Leslie was a Parish Councillor for many years, he was our Footpath Representative and our Internal Auditor. He served the Parish for the last thirty years or so and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with Jane and her family.

Football has resumed on the Playing Field and its pleasing to see the Field being used all year round.

I was extremely pleased to see such a good attendance at our wreath laying ceremony at the Village War Memorial on the 11th November. Perhaps this is an event to build on for the future. Village litter pick place in October and was well attended. Remembrance service went well.

095/2024 Public Participation Session. No questions from the public

096/2024 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 8th. May afternoon teas in Village Hall.

A unique VE flag can be purchased. Bells to be rung. Official proclamation. Beacon lighting at 9.30pm

On Saturday 9th. May there will be a BBQ and drinks whilst the beacon is lit. Events committee to be formed.

Regular coffee morning on 9th. May.

097/2024 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier

- Increase in compost recycling.
- ECC Household Support Fund Allocation
- ECC Essex Highway User survey 2024/25
- Safer Essex Roads Partnership raises awareness of drink driving in local pubs
- Essex Highways - near completion of LED streetlight upgrade project
- ECC - 3 New schools open +40 temp buildings replaced with permanent
- White lining and resurfacing in Gestingthorpe has been addressed
- The ditches have been cleared
- ECC - Reporting issues to Essex Highways online -now even easier
- ECC - Public invited to shape upcoming transport strategy for Essex

Can potholes be looked at in the village? As they have been reported on numerous occasions.

098/2024 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland. No report was given

099/2024 Mobile Phone mast update – Cllr D. Smith

Galliford Tye was ready to sign lease then withdrew without any explanation. The Council to write to GT asking why the refusal to sign the lease and why it has disrupted the village so much.

100/2024 s106 monies – update from the Clerk

The Clerk, with the assistance of Cllr D. Smith, has forwarded all the necessary documentation to Sarah Burder BDC on the 28th. October and her response on the same day was “*Thank you for resubmitting the application form with supporting information. I will look over this when I get an opportunity to do so later this week.*” No further response has been received from Sarah Burder.

101/2024 Planning Applications**24/01912/HH - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW**

Erection of a recreational room, a pool house and plant room. Installation of swimming pool and extension to existing garage. Installation of gates.

The response from GPC was submitted to BDC on 30th. September 2024 and can be found at

<https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SJ8X9MBFL0N00>

This application has been granted. See item 102/2024

24/02050/ELD - Farm Buildings Opposite Parkgate Farm Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex

Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing development - Confirmation of the implementation of planning permission 20/02053/FUL

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO RESPONSE TO BDC IS REQUIRED**24/02229/HHPA - Laurel Cottage Sudbury Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BL**

Erection of single storey rear extension. Extension will extend beyond rear wall of the original house by 6.0m, with a maximum height of 3.2m and 2.5m to the eaves of the extension.

In respect to the above application, BDC write to inform you that they have received an application for a Prior Approval for a Larger Home Extension at the above address. Details of the application are displayed on the BDC Council's website. Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application BDC don't seek your comments

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

Erection of 2 No. buildings for holiday let purposes.

Gestingthorpe Parish has responded and their response can be found at

https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/files/F4BDF8659A60CB6C4F7D1EC1E99644A3/pdf/24_01662_FUL-GESTINGTHORPE_PARISH_COUNCIL-2557704.pdf

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

102/2024 Planning Decision/s**24/01912/HH - Tucklands North End Road Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BW**

Erection of a recreational room, a pool house and plant room. Installation of swimming pool and extension to existing garage. Installation of gates. **Application Granted**

24/02059/HH - White Clouds Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Single storey rear extension **Application Granted**

103/2024 Representative reports

- Highways & SID – Cllr P. Collett

Highways SID Sudbury Road - The speed survey has taken place and the results have been sent to the Parish Council. It would appear from the data received that there has been insufficient speeding for ECC to consider funding a replacement Speed Indicator Device. The Parish Council will now investigate the possibility of finding a funding stream to finance the installation of a SID.

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. A possible site meeting with Cllr Schwier remains to be arranged.

Speeding - Speeding persists within the village at dangerous levels. I will attempt to reestablish contact with the police to see if they are able to provide further assistance.

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. ECC 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. Unfortunately, the Parish Council do not have funds to carry out a survey. The Parish Council have however put forward a proposal to Cllr Schwier that the existing speed limits within the

village could be expanded and harmonised so the limits on Northend and Sudbury Roads could be extended and brought in line with those on Moat Street/Audley End. Cllr Schwier has promised to put our proposal to the Highways Engineers for their comments.

Litter Pick - The Litter Pick took place in good weather on Saturday 5th October at 10am to coincide with village "Sizzle". It was very well attended and a large number of bags of litter (plus some gas cylinders and other large items) were collected. The PC would like to thank all of the residents who turned out for giving their time to clean up our lovely village. Thanks, should also give to Braintree District Council for providing the equipment needed and disposing of the rubbish collected.

- **Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper**

The recreation ground is looking impeccable and thanks to Chris and Michael all for keeping in good condition. Also, to Peter Nice for marking out the football pitch when required. These comments were reciprocated by a parishioner who I met on my perambulation.

A few mole hills are by the pavilion. The lower branches of the trees on the western boundary have been lifted by Michael Sharpe to allow the grass cutting tractor and lawnmower to undertake their work. The children's plastic goals may in time need replacing. A post and plaque to mark the tree planted in memory of Lauren Hammond has been donated by Valerie Duncombe and installed on Tuesday.

- **Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby**

No New Reports - Most paths clear although several cross-field paths still unmarked after cultivation

- **Defibrillator – Cllr P. Bagby**

Pads replaced in September by CHT under Service agreement.

£500 transferred from the NatWest account to CHT on 27 August. This will provide sufficient funds to cover the annual cost of the VETS service and emergency telephone line and training in 2025. Current balance at CHT **£516.00** and **£275.22** at NatWest. Accounts below.

7 people currently on the Volunteer telephone system & defib checking rota.

An article about the defibrillator was included in the Parish News in October. The same information will be distributed to villagers along with information provided by CHT. This will be delivered within the next month. A defibrillator email address has been set up on Gmail which can be shared with others as necessary.

GestingthorpeAED@gmail.com. No further action on 2nd defibrillator at Audley End.

| CHT GES001 | Ref | Details | Amount | 516.00 | |
|------------|---------|---|---------|---------|--|
| Date | | | | Balance | |
| 20/08/2023 | Balance | As advised by CHT | 236.00 | 236.00 | |
| 04/09/2023 | 10499 | VETS annual charge | -60.00 | 176.00 | |
| 03/06/2024 | 11290 | Emergency telephone line | -100.00 | 76.00 | |
| 02/09/2024 | | Donation Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Fund | 500.00 | 576.00 | Receipt & Balance confirmed by CHT Via email |
| 05/09/2024 | 11539 | VETS annual charge | -60.00 | 516.00 | |

| Natwest SC 602103 A/C 48685046 | Ref | Details | Amount | 275.22 | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Date | | | | Balance | |
| 30/08/2023 | Balance | As advised by NatWest Sudbury | 257.55 | 257.55 | |
| Oct-23 | | Donation Gestingthorpe Parish Council | 150.00 | 407.55 | |
| 16/02/2024 | | Jumble Sale Distribution | 367.67 | 775.22 | Confirmed bank statement 28/3/24 |
| 23/08/2024 | Chq 010 | CHT | (500.00) | 275.22 | Confirmed bank statement 1/10/24 |

- **Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby**

The main hall and hallway have been repainted looking much improved as a result. The small hall will be painted early next year.

The next planned expenditure is a larger metal shed. This will replace the current wooden shed which too small and not in good condition and will provide the necessary storage space for the tables & chairs currently stored in the small hall.

The coffee mornings continues to be well attended with takings going towards the maintenance of the Village Hall. The last coffee morning of the year is Dec 13th. and will re-commence in 2025 on 17th. January and fortnightly thereafter.

The Macmillan Coffee morning organised by Chris & Rose Harman raised a total of £326 including Gift Aid. Ashley's talk on the mysteries of the Roman Villa was well attended very entertaining. Over £400 raised for the Village Hall.

The litter pick on 5th. October coincided with the last Gestingthorpe Grill of the year. The litter pickers were rewarded with tea & coffee and BBQ provided by the Village Hall.

We are currently planning both the Children's & Adults' Christmas Parties on 7th. & 13th. December. We have a local singer booked for entertainment and 40 tickets have been reserved/purchased to date.

As at the last committee meeting on 7th November, the Treasurer reported total funds held in cash and in the bank of £7,366.39p. The next Management Committee meeting is 13th February 2025.

- Update on Parish News - Cllr P. Bagby. Nothing to report
- ROSPA 2024 play inspection report – Cllr P. Collett

Play Equipment. As previously reported 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. Quotes are to be sought for the repairs indicated in the report

- Speed watch update. No update given
- Wish list for the future

Pavilion upgrading. SID. Relining posts at the access to the pavilion. New Defibrillator

- Horse matting at Church and/or playing field. To be deferred until funds become available.
- Pavilion – Cllr D. Green

The cricket club are still the main users for the pavilion and playing field. I have recently had a meeting with Chris Moulton with regards to the parishes plans to move forward for next year.

Currently the cricket club pay an annual donation to the parish of £200.00. last season they played nine home matches. Sudbury cricket club also use the facilities, last year playing six of their games at Gestingthorpe. Gestingthorpe Cricket club receive a fee from Sudbury and the charity matches that are played.

The cricket club currently pay for the electricity. It is proposed that the Parish take on this responsibility and look to hire out the pavilion to the cricket club for a fee of £40.00 per home game. A question remains with regards to the cricket club taking a fee from Sudbury- should the Parish ask for a £40.00 hire in line with what they propose to charge Gestingthorpe?

Cleaning: If the parish are to hire out the hall, we cannot expect the hirers to clean the toilets etc. The hirer would only be responsible for keeping the areas used clean and tidy. Do we need to employ a cleaner for the season?

The pavilion looks a little tired inside, flooring is not suitable and looks worn and dirty. The old vacuum cleaners have been disposed of. David and Lindsay Smith have lent an old vacuum which hopefully will do a better job on the flooring. The flooring does need replacing with something more hard wearing and easier to clean.

Some of the kitchen cupboards do not have doors and this makes the area look untidy. There is little storage at present. Which proves a problem when the cricket club is using the pavilion, as they have nowhere to store their items.

Shower in the home game changing area still needs to be tiled. Chris Moulton was supposed to arrange for someone in the village to complete this work, this has been over a year now and nothing has been done. I have therefore arranged for Dan Smith to look at the job and quote for the work. The tiles have been donated by Sue and Keith AITKEN. Dan will let us know if they are suitable.

There is also still a large hole to the front of the pavilion which needs to be completed for the soak away. Is there a time scale for this? As this could prove to be a health and safety matter for next year.

Still awaiting the S106 monies to complete the electrical work.

The cricket club is due to elect a new chairperson, and I propose to attend their next AGM to discuss the fees and any other business.

Nic Smith still uses the playing field on a regular basis and donates money to the parish for this usage.

104/2024 Increased traffic and speed limit on Northend Road – Cllr P. Collett

As discussed in item 103/2024

105/2024 Further tree planting within the village – Cllr P. Collett

Further tree to be planted to replace the tree the fell down. Cllr D. Smith to contact Michael Sharp.

106/2024 Finance

- To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October 2024

- 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 October 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

- To appoint a new Internal Auditor, Mr. M. Lawson, for 2024-2025 year. **All Agreed**

107/2024 Budget 2025/2026. Councillors to discuss the budget for 2025-2026

Councillors discussed the draft 2025-2026 budget. This will be finalised at the 9th. January 2025 meeting

108/2024 Items for Next Agenda

VE Day events

Wish list for the future - Pavilion upgrading. SID. Relining posts at the access to the pavilion. New Defibrillator

109/2024 **Date of next meeting is on Thursday 9th. January 2025 at 7pm**

110/2024 **Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates: 13.03.25: 01.05.25: 10.07.25: 11.09.25:**
13.11.25

111/2024 **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

9th. January 2025