

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held in the Village Hall On Thursday, 31st January, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Parish Cllrs J Nott (Chair), A Cooper, P Collett, D Smith
Mr Crumpton-Taylor - Footpath representative
Parish Clerk
1 member of public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted for Cllr T Flower (attending funeral) and Cllr S Bolter (prior engagement)

Apologies were received from District Cllr Wendy Scattergood and County Cllr David Finch

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in any discussions on the cricket pavilion, being a Vice-President of Gestingthorpe Cricket Club.

3. **Public Speaking**

Mr Sharp commented on discussions held at the Extraordinary meeting held on 22nd January. He suggested that the village engage in developing a Sustainability Statement for Gestingthorpe, for the future of the village and its assets and asked that the PC decide whether or not they would support it. Mr Harman was named as a possible candidate to take this idea forward. There was a suggestion to add this to the agenda of the Annual Village Meeting (AVM) in April and to ask someone to come and talk about Neighbourhood Plans and to gauge residents' thoughts. Mr Sharp questioned the discussion on the planning application held at the Extraordinary meeting and why there was a majority approval when it was not in Policy. Cllrs discussed their reasons for and against supporting and Cllr Smith advised that if the application went to committee BDC would expect a representative from the PC to attend the meeting. Mr Sharp was thanked for his comments before leaving the meeting.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the November meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Nott, seconded Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed.

The minutes of the Extraordinary January meeting were amended; Minute 4, Councillors comments:

Cllr Smith raised a concern over the size of the extension being a 75% increase of the original floor area and concerns over the aesthetic look of the property.

The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllrs decided not to add an appendix giving details of Oates Cottages; the notes will be taken to the AVM as useful information for attendees.

5. **Clerks Report**

The Clerks report was noted.

6. **Reports from Representatives**

County Cllr David Finch

Cllr Finch's reports will be forwarded to all Parish Cllrs for their information.

District Cllr Wendy Scattergood

The Chairman read out Cllr Scattergood's reports which included information on Oates Cottages. Cllrs felt that the PC should have been informed of the vacancy and consulted by Colne Housing and BDC. Details of all applicants will be forwarded to Jane Ball, Colne Housing, and Tim Lucas, BDC Housing Manager.

Village Hall

Leslie Crumpton-Taylor reported that 2 grants had been applied for, one for fitments and the other for the toilets; the grant funding body has requested a self-certification receipt for the work. The Trustees have now applied for a grant to repair the windows.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Tree Warden

Graham Nicholls had sent a list of trees surrounding the playing field with recommendations and will send a quote for any work needing to be carried out. Cllr Cooper reported he had cleared a dangerous branch from a tree away in December.

Broadband

The Chairman had spoken to James Salmon at County Broadband, who had advised that they are still in the planning phase. They will organise a public meeting once their plans are finalised.

Passenger Transport

As Cllr Bolter was not at the meeting there were no updates.

7. Oates Cottages vacancy

Three applicants with local connections to Gestingthorpe had come forward since the PC advertised. These will be forwarded to Jane Ball at Colne Housing and Tim Lucas at BDC.

8. Highways

Pot holes

There are still many pot holes around the village some of which have been marked but not filled. The Clerk will write to David Finch re the update received from Cllr Kevin Bentley on the number of pot holes filled in the District, stating that none had been filled in Gestingthorpe.

Highways Devolution Pilot

Cllrs agreed that they did not want to pursue taking part in this scheme; the Clerk will notify EALC of this decision.

9 Planning

All planning applications made and decisions received were itemised on Appendix B. There were no new applications for consideration.

10. Playing Field

Trees on playing field – comments already discussed at agenda item 6.

To consider the cost of replacing the Pavilion roof

An amount for the pavilion roof work has been included in the budget forecast for 2019/20.

11. Speeding traffic at Audley End

Cllr Collett reported that the request for a SID socket is in the validation process; an engineer will have to visit the site to establish a suitable location.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr Collett is liaising with the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator who will provide equipment and training if sufficient volunteers come forward. He has advertised in the parish magazine for volunteers and will be delivering leaflets to residents. 2 volunteers have come forward but 5 are needed.

SID sign, Sudbury Road

Cllr Cooper volunteered to re-angle the SID pole along Sudbury Road, as it is still not working. A new battery may be needed if this doesn't remedy the problem. Cllr Cooper suggested fund raising for and additional SID at Audley End so that both ends of the village are covered.

12. Emergency Plan

Amendments had been made to update the plan. Cllrs were happy with the updates.

13. Annual review of Financial Regulations

No new regulations had been received since adopting last January. Cllr Nott proposed the PC re-adopt the document, seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed.

14. Annual review of contracts

Strimming/mowing

Cllrs discussed capping the amount allocated for this work to £1,200.00. Cllr Nott will speak to Mr Layzell about the cost and the work.

Main playing field cut

A verbal increase had been advised by BDC of around £35, Cllr Nott proposed the PC remain with BDC for the contract, seconded by Cllr Smith and all agreed.

Flameskill

All agreed to remain with Flameskill for servicing the pavilion fire extinguishers.

Verge cutting

Mr Hutchinson's costs will increase by 2 ½ - 3% this year – all agreed to keep with him.

15. Annual review of Clerk's contract/salary

NALC had sent details of the new pay scales for 2019/20, to be implemented from April 1st 2019. As a new Clerk will be employed this year, a new contract will be needed.

16. Parish Council Finance

Details of all receipts and payments (Appendix C) had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved. Proposed Cllr Nott, seconded Cllr Cooper and all agreed.

Direct Debit for Wave

Cllrs agreed that a direct debit be set up to pay future water bills.

S106 monies

Sarah Burdah had verbally advised that there was £980.65 S106 money left which needed to be used by May 2023.

17. Grants 2019/20

Cllr Nott declared an interest, his wife being Treasurer of the PCC.

There was discussion on the Oates Churchyard Charity and the village hall having different amounts donated to them. Cllr Smith proposed £200 be donated to each, there was no seconder. Cllr Cooper proposed that the PC leave the donations as usual - £300 to Oates Churchyard Charity and £200 to the village hall, for this year, and to find out more information on why there is a difference for next year, seconded by Cllr Collett.

18. Budget Forecast & Precept 2019/20

Draft figures were considered.

Cllr Nott proposed that the cricket club's pavilion rent be increased to £200, Cllr Smith seconded and all agreed. A letter will be sent to John Butcher to advise of the increase.

Cllrs discussed the cost of repairing/replacing the pavilion roof. Cllr Nott proposed that quotes be obtained from Adrian Page, Spencer's, Scillitoe's and Mr Firth, with approval going to the least amount quoted providing the scope and quality are best value, seconded by Cllr Cooper and all agreed. Onduline roofing sheets are to be used and the work must be carried out before the cricket season begins. Cllr Scattergood will be contacted to see whether she has any funds available.

The Precept was then set at £7,500.00. Proposed Cllr Nott, unanimously agreed.

19. Correspondence and Matters to Report

Donations

Thanks had been received from Gestingthorpe PCC for the donation to Oates Churchyard Charity and from Herts & Essex Air Ambulance for the S137 donation.

Elections

Information on the May local elections had been sent to all Cllrs.

Village fete, 14th September

Chris Harman and Helen Skerratt are organising the Gestup Fest, to be held in September; they have been advised that they need their own public liability insurance and that they should have a risk assessment in place and provide a copy to the PC.

Complaints Procedure

The Clerk recommended that the PC should have a complaints procedure as per NALC Legal Topic Note 9E. This will be a future agenda item.

Litter picking

This will be raised at the AVM.

Clerks vacancy

Prospective applicants' CV's will be sent to all PCllrs for their information and decision..

20. Items for the next agenda

AVM – Mr Sharp will be asked to speak re his idea of a Sustainability Statement.

21. Date of Next Meetings

AVM April 11th; PC AGM May 16th

The meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Date: 16th. May 2019

Chairman.....