

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council AGM followed by the Full Council meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 18th. July 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Nott (Chair), A Cooper, P Collett, D Smith, S. Bolter, T. Flower, BDC Cllr W. Scattergood and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). Also present was 1 member of the public

041/2019 Chairman Welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

042/2019 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr D. Finch

043/2019 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda

Cllr A. Cooper declared a NPI in the Cricket pavilion and any discussion about the Road near Barratts Corner

044/2019 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of Annual Village meeting held on 11th. April 2019

Cllr S. Bolter proposed and Cllr J. Nott seconded. **All Agreed**

To receive and agree the minutes of the last PC meeting held on 16th. May 2019

Cllr S. Bolter proposed and Cllr J. Nott seconded. **All Agreed**

To receive and agree the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 13th. June 2019

Cllr S. Bolter proposed and Cllr J. Nott seconded. **All Agreed**

045/2019 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

Nothing was discussed

The Clerk to write to Colne housing asking for an update regarding Oates Cottages.

046/2019 Clerks Report

a) To appoint a Broadband Champion for 2019/20

Cllr T. Flower proposed Cllr S. Bolter as "Broadband Representative". Cllr D. Smith seconded.

All Agreed

b) Salt bag scheme 2019/20 – Does GPC wish to participate in the scheme for 2019/20?

GPC decided to have the salt for 2019/20. Cllr A. Cooper was nominated to be the point of contact. **All Agreed**

c) Closure of essexinfo.net website from March 2020

The Clerk informed the meeting of the closure of "essexinfo.net".

047/2019 Essex County Councillors report – Cllr D. Finch

In ECC Cllr D. Finch absence the Clerk read out his supplied report

Key Messages: 2019/20 – Summer Edition

1. Balanced Budget for 2018/19

As you know, delivering a balanced budget has always been the number one priority for Essex County Council under my Leadership. I'm pleased to be able to say that last year's budget was indeed balanced, thanks to the excellent work of the Cabinet Members and Council staff.

2. Savings in the budget for 19/20

Looking ahead to next year, we are on track to make the £72m of savings required to deliver another balanced budget. The declining financial support from central government means this budgetary pressure has increased year-on-year. We are strongly lobbying Essex MPs and Government Ministers to make sure the next Government Spending Review has a long term, fully funded settlement for Local Government so we can deliver the public services our residents need.

3. New Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

We made a few changes to our Cabinet in May of this year, and in particular I'd like to highlight the appointment of Tony Ball as the Cabinet Member for Economic Development. Tony brings a

wealth of experience to the role and has a vision to transform the economic potential of the county – attracting inward investment and great jobs for our citizens.

4. Reports of potholes decreased by 45% in Essex between 2015-2017

National figures released by the RAC in December 2018 showed Essex bucking national trends, where reports have been increasing. The figure reflects our hard work in tackling potholes, with extra funding/resources deployed to clear the backlog particularly following the “Beast from the East” cold snap at the beginning of 2018.

5. Reducing Air Pollution

We’re working hard to improve air quality in the county – we have set up a working group led by Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

6. Reducing Plastic Use

In December last year the government launched its new resources and waste strategy which aims to eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050.

ECC is doing its own part – we have established a specialist team in the county for just this issue, who have started by removing as much single-use plastic from County Hall and replacing them with more environmentally friendly alternatives. This work should be completed by September of this year.

We are also working closely with the city of Chelmsford, to do the same in the Business Improvement District (covering the city centre) which is home to more than 400 local and national businesses. We hope to roll out the programme across the county once we have successfully set up in the area.

7. Healthy Living

ECC is exploring ways it can help people make healthier choices around the food they eat, exercise they do, and other things that contribute to better health.

8. Footways

Administration is investing additional money in footway repair, recognising the concerns of residents in this area. £700k of additional funding and using £1m from the DfT grant we received in November.

9. Essex 2020

Next year the Council will be launching a programme of events to celebrate Essex’s history as a home to arts and sciences of all kinds – there will be things for all the family up and down the county, throughout the year, and I look forward to be able to provide more information as we get closer to 2020 itself.

10. Housing Infrastructure Bids

We have submitted more than £500m of infrastructure funding bids to support infrastructure improvements in Essex linked to our growth aspirations. We strive through this process to win funding for key infrastructure upgrades ahead of new housing developments being built across the county.

11. Essex County Council is the most efficient/effective Council of its size in the country and ranks seventh overall

Consultancy iMPower surveyed 150 upper-tier councils, with ECC 7th for spending money effectively and getting the best results for residents.

- a) The results are drawn from an analysis of performance in six key areas: children’s social care, older people, disability, health and social care, housing and homelessness, waste and recycling
- b) The council is passionate about delivering value for money and its performance has been nationally recognised through the iMPower report. But the council doesn’t sit back on its laurels, and is doing further work to develop ways of monitoring its productivity levels across all services to ensure it remains one of the best authorities in the country
- c) ECC have only increased Council tax in 4 out of the last 9 years (including 2019/20)

12. Devolved funding to Parish Councils

Parishes have been invited to take part in a pilot where they would undertake devolved highways functions, including grass cutting and special verge maintenance, weed control, tree and hedge cutting, minor footway repairs, installing/maintaining signs, winter salt bags, maintaining bus stops/shelters and maintaining Public Rights of Way

15 Parish Councils have expressed an interest in taking part in the pilot

13. Reducing unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments

Working with the Police and Crime Commissioner, we have seen a 40% reduction in unauthorised Gypsy and traveller encampments

14. Essex Local Delivery Pilot funding

ECC being awarded over £10m by Sport England (with Tendring, Colchester and Basildon) for piloting ideas to increase sport and physical activity

- The Essex Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) which is tackling population levels of physical inactivity across the county secured the maximum grant of £10.68m from the funder Sport England.
- The LDP is governed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and one of the seven priority projects for the Essex Partners and Essex Assembly.
- The LDP is using whole system change to hardwire the value of physical activity into key agendas including health, planning, transport, social care, and the built environment.
- Initial testing will mainly take place in Basildon, Colchester and Tendring, and the learning from the pilot will be shared across Essex through replication and scaling.
- The LDP lifespan is currently until 2025.

15. Gang related crime prevention

An additional £500k has been allocated to the Police and Crime Commissioner to support multi-agency work on gang related crime prevention in this year's budget. Discussions are ongoing between ECC and the Police as to how this fund is to be used.

16. Mental Health

An additional £1m has been allocated to mental health in this year's budget. Cabinet Members are currently in conversation on how best to use this additional funding

17. Digital Community Engagement

ECC is working with community leaders in social media to bring together Facebook Administrators of Community Pages from across Essex. We are supporting locally devised and delivered projects led by local community-based Facebook groups with small grants of a few hundred pounds that can be very quickly accessed. We are working with the Essex Association of Local Councils to help them to also work in this way.

While we are keen to help to address issues locally identified by Facebook groups, we have been delighted that most of the projects align well with our own priorities including around mental health, loneliness, physical activity and domestic violence.

A lot of work has been done but we see this as the start of a journey and want to expand this approach across the whole of the county. We are very keen to work with all local communities in this way and would be keen to see groups led by Facebook administrators or similar social media leads covering all of Essex.

18. Essex Housing update

Essex Housing has undertaken an ambitious programme to build affordable housing that supports the provision of specialist accommodation for people with learning difficulties across the county. The team also works on projects to construct public buildings such as schools, and have achieved recognition from industry experts; winning the 'Community Benefit' award for the eastern region from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

19. Homelessness

As a sign of ECC's commitment to tackling homelessness and its causes across the county, an additional £250,000 has been allocated to pay for mentors to help support up to 50 people at risk of rough sleeping and 150 people at risk of losing their homes.

This will allow us to build additional capacity into the existing programmes working with targeted groups in clearly identified areas of need, with the flexibility built in to respond dynamically to changes in demand. The programmes are:

- Horizon who work with some of the county's most chaotic individuals providing a highly intensive and focused intervention services. It works with the customer to support them in making the life changes needed to break negative cycles of: rough sleeping, poor mental wellness, substance use dependency, offending behaviour and unemployment. This has been shown to be extremely successful in turning around the lives of the most entrenched individuals.
- Essex Floating Support which is a county wide homeless prevention service working with families and individuals assisting them to live independently and to prevent episodes of homelessness.

048/2019 District Councillors report – Cllr W. Scattergood

BDC - nothing to report as no meetings have taken place.

The next meeting will be discussing "Garden Villages"

Oates Cottages – It has NOT been sold. The existing company has asked another company to help them to rent it out.

The planning application for the mast has been Refused.

049/2019 Representative reports

- Highways maintenance - Update on the Local Highways Panel request

All potholes have been reported

ECC was made aware of the recent collapse and instructed their Maintenance Team to install the new barriers as a temporary measure, I will inform them again to check on the state of the barriers and reposition if required.

Since our last correspondence we have decided on a way forward and this is currently going through the design process. The view is that we can start construction in this financial year, however this is heavily dependent on the land resolution which we are also currently undertaking. The proposal is to widen the carriageway at the location, due to the current safety issues with the barriers. Consequently, this requires land from the adjacent landowner. We have our land team corresponding with the landowner, however due to the nature of such consultations we cannot clearly identify a timeframe for this to be resolved.

I will keep you updated on any progress with regards to the scheme, or if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Hedges in the village needs cutting back. The Chairman said that it is the landowner's responsibility to cut the hedge.

SID device at Audley End. It will be put in place by the end of the financial year 2019/20

Community Speedwatch has a backlog of applications.

Speed indicator on Sudbury Road has been adjusted incorrectly.

Councillors thanked Peter Collet for getting the device in place.

- Playing Field - Update on the cricket pavilion work & confirm contractor for plumbing work

The roof needs further inspection by two Parish Councillors. Cllrs D. Smith and P. Collet to re-inspect the works at the pavilion.

Cllr J. Nott proposed that Cllrs D. Smith and P. Collet inspect the pavilion and to suspend the

payment of the invoice until such repairs are carried to the satisfaction of the Council. **All Agreed**

Electrical test needs to be organised at some time. Cllr J. Nott to organise.

- Broadband update following meeting on 02.07.19 – Cllr S. Bolter

CBB will be doing almost all connections underground.

In the village, only Nether Hill will be on poles (existing ones).

If no soft verge outside property, the connection pot will be just inside it.

Those not wanting a connection now are advised to allow a pot to be installed (free) for benefit of future occupiers (It adds to value of house). Very-very expensive to have one put in later.

Groups of villages will go online together.

Expect road closures in Church Street October / November.

Service starts soon after that provided other villages ready too.

Can withdraw if still not operational more than 2 years after you signed up, or you were offered free connection and the cost of your connection unexpectedly more than the free limit.

Remember if you have signed up in advance, once it goes live, you have 12 months to start taking the service - hence if using a reduced rate sub with another supplier, it is worth taking out another 12 months, perhaps 18 months agreement - check with CBB for 18 months.

Preparation for meeting was very last minute. What was shown on the second map did not match what had been explained on the other, which was not confidence boosting.

When it was suggested that there could be delays getting approval for the works, I reminded them that the Chair of Essex CC of our local County Councillor and that our District Councillor is Chair of Planning, and that both are supportive of rural Broadband.

One resident had already asked CBB to produce minutes and Actions Plans.

If we do not receive something confirming or updating what we were told within 10 days, I will ask for it.

Gestingthorpe Properties in North End Road will be done with Little Yeldham (in the following batch of villages).

Green map showed Underground to The Homestead Nursery and Hill Farm and/or Hill Farm Cottages (? map difficult to see) but it was intended to go to have gone to New The Crescent, Pot Kiln Chase, and New Cottages too

Some Gestingthorpe properties in Great Maplestead Road, and one off Little Maplestead Road would be done with the Maplesteads.

James Salmon and Barry Jones contradicted each other about Little Maplestead Road and could not work out which of them was correct.

050/2019 Planning Applications

19/01219/VAR – Land adjacent Boulders Nether Hill Gestingthorpe

Application for variation of Condition 2 of approved application 16/00382/FUL – showing minor design amendments and adjusted site positioning.

GPC decision: No Objection to this Variation of Condition 2

051/2019 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

19/00933/T56 - Hall Farm Church Street Gestingthorpe CO9 3BA

Installation of an 18m lattice mast with three antennas, two dish antennas, two radio equipment cabinets, an associated electricity meter cabinet within a fenced compound and development works.

Approval Required and Not Given

19/00914/HH - Forge Cottage Gestingthorpe Road Belchamp Walter Essex CO10 7AU

Erection of single storey rear extension (amendment to approved single storey extension 12/01251/FUL) - **Application GRANTED**

052/2019 Finance

- 1) Bank balances as at 30th. June 2019 and 2019/20 budget account (previously circulated to Councillors)

Councillors noted the Bank balances and budget figures

- 2) Councillors to agree payment of July 2019 finances (previously circulated to Councillors)

Cllr J. Nott proposed and Cllr T. Flower seconded to authorise the July '19 payments. **All Agreed**

053/2019 Items for Next Agenda

RoSPA report

Pavilion electrical test – Cllr J. Nott

Graham Nichols to undertake a tree surgeon – safety report on trees in the village.

Bench and planning: Cricket Club – Detail of proposal for next meeting.

Parish Council noticeboard needs some TLC – Cllr J. Nott

Colne Housing invite to September Parish Council meeting

Date of next meetings: 19.09.19: 21.11.19: 20.02.20

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed.....19th. September 2019

James Nott