

2011

GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM, THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2011

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Richard Parmee, Tree & Landscape Officer from Braintree District Council
3. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Presentation of Accounts (Leslie Crumpton-Taylor)
6. Reports from village organisations and our village agent
 1. Village Agent, Jayne Laken
 2. Educational Foundation
 3. Village Hall & Amenities Group
 4. Neighbourhood Watch
 5. Village Design Statement
7. District & County Councillors Report
8. Any other business

Gestingthorpe Parish Council

Chairman's Report, 31st March 2011

Village Design Statement

The VDS has been drafted and village residents have been asked for their comments by 12th April 2011. Once any amendments have been made, the VDS document will be presented to Braintree District Council for approval.

Play Equipment

The play equipment on the playing fields has been repaired by John Hasler in accordance with the ROSPA report. Thank you to John for his work.

Bus Shelter

It is sad to report that the bus shelter was vandalised in February. If anyone has any knowledge on this incident, please can you contact the Chairman. Fortunately we were able to repair it quickly, thank you to John Hasler again for this

Byway 13 Disrepair

2011

The Parish Council are continuing to campaign for Byway 13 to be repaired. Sadly, Essex CC tell us that they have limited funds to repair byways. We will continue to pursue a solution to this.

Village Hall

Barbara Baggot has retired as Chairman after many successful years. The Parish Council thank her for all her hard work. She is succeeded by James Donoghue.

Cricket Pavillion

The pavilion will be decorated this summer.

Bulbs

Thank you to Peter Nice who planted the daffodil bulbs outside the church that were provided by Braintree District Council

2010

GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2010

MINUTES

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: **Mr J Nott**

Present: Parish Cllrs R Payne, A Cooper, HWW Teverson, S. Bolter, T Flower, N M Prior

District Cllrs, Mrs W Scattergood, Mrs Joanne Beavis, Mr Fred Swallow, County Councillor David Finch

Mr L Crumpton-Taylor – School Governor, Peter Darlington & Jayne Laken – Village Agents

10 members of the public Parish Clerk

Apologies for absence: None

1. **Minutes** The minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed.
2. **Peter Darlington & Jayne Laken – Village Agents**
3. **Chairman's Report** The Chairman's report had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting.
4. **Accounts for year 2009-10** The annual accounts had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting.
5. **Reports from village organisations**

Educational Foundation

Ashley Cooper gave a brief summary of the history of the Charity, whose income came from the rent from a field in the ancient parish of Gestingthorpe and provides for various educational activities, including driving lessons, school trips, tuition books and educational lessons and also the Over 60's Club. A new tenant farmer will be taking over from Mark Prior in September. Trustees of the Charity are Parish Council representative Steve Bolter, the Reverend Donaldson, Churchwardens Alice Nolda and Ben Hoogewerf, along with Debbie Nott and Corina Brown. Ashley thanked Jane Winmill for taking care of the accounts and various administration duties and Wilfred Teverson for auditing the accounts. The report, annual accounts and grants book were passed around. Ashley was thanked for his report.

Wiggery Wood

Ashley advised that for the last two years Wiggery Wood had been open for visits to the bluebells but this year Dutch Elm disease has returned and due to Health & Safety regulations it may not be possible to open this year. Those interested were asked to give contact details.

Amenities Group

Barbara Baggot gave an update of the Group, which had originally started up to provide play equipment. The Group have been dormant recently due to no suggestions for funding activities. They are happy to progress any ideas from residents.

Village Hall

Barbara updated on how grant monies and a donation from Mr Sharp had been spent – new tables and chairs, front wall rendered, new village hall sign. A bequest from Cecil Pannel had been spent on new blinds and a seat at the front of the hall. They are continually improving and upgrading and hope to carry out work to the floor this year. Barbara asked for more use to be made of the hall for new activities. She thanked the committee for their support in all the work. The chairman thanked Barbara for her sterling work in raising the standard of the hall.

Neighbourhood Watch

John Sinclair gave an update on various items – there is concern at doorstep selling of alarm systems and he asked that residents check the NW website to see whether items were of an approved standard; the danger of personal information on social websites; bag snatching from car parks; credit card scam; oil thefts in this area and a recent attempted theft from a shed at Audley End. He asked that residents report to the police if they see a suspicious car in the village. John was thanked for his report.

Village Design Statement

Chris Harman updated on the progress of the VDS. An exhibition is taking place this coming Saturday for residents to come and look at the progress made to date. The next stage is to produce a book but this is subject to funding for publication, which is becoming more difficult to obtain. One of the items identified from the questionnaire was that residents would like to see more events take place in the village hall and volunteers are needed to organise activities. Jayne Laken offered to help in any way.

7. District & County Councillors Reports

Cllr David Finch gave an update for Essex County Council over the past year on finance, adult care services, transport, the economy, crime, waste, Telecare, apprenticeships, opening of 10 post offices, banking initiative.

Two members of public made comments on the pot holes; one in praise of the roads being generally kept clear in the bad weather and one on the poor standard of repairs to pot holes. Cllr Finch assured that the pot hole repair works would last.

***D*Cllr Joanne Beavis**

Joanne gave an insight into her work at BDC. She had campaigned to keep the Parish Support Grant for villages, she reported on the 4 year plan supporting business, recycling, affordable housing, the refurbishment of Causeway House, and working towards tidying up the district. Joanne was thanked for her report.

DCllr Wendy Scattergood advised that she was Chairman of the Braintree District Council planning committee, she is also vice chairman of the Local Development Framework Panel. She had supported the parish by ensuring the S106 money from the affordable housing scheme had been ring fenced for play equipment. She had lobbied for the continuation of the Parish Support Grand and Landscape Services, both of which have been saved. Wendy was thanked for her report.

Cllr Fred Swallow advised of his involvement in the Audit, Licensing and Overview and Scrutiny committees. He spoke about the Sustainable Communities Act which gives more power to Parish Councils. Fred was thanked for his report.

8 Any Other Business

Members of the public voiced several comments and questions:

Meals on Wheels – this had given an excellent service during the bad weather.

Recycling – it was queried whether this was very ‘green’, as the slower vehicles hold up traffic and the cost of the bins when they need to be replaced. Cllr Swallow said that less bin men are needed to operate the system and it is cheaper to have two lorries in the street and that savings can be shown. It is no longer the case that green waste goes to landfill sites. Cllr Finch said that the new system forces people to think about the amount of waste they have.

Hare Coursing – there have been several recent incidents, along with deer poaching. Cllr Finch said he would do what he could to help but this was a police matter. It was suggested calling the rural crimes police representative.

Moss on cricket pavilion roof – this is in hand to be done.

Playing field – evidence of rabbits was reported, along with guinea fowl mess. A letter had been written to the owner of the guinea fowls, who had said he would do his best to keep them off and said the residents should shoo them away. The rabbits can be trapped if necessary.

Speed Indicator Device – it was felt that the sign should not flash until 25mph had been reached, to save on battery power. This will be looked into further. The PC had asked for a solar powered unit but Highways would only provide a battery powered unit.

Affordable Housing opening event – it had been disappointing that residents who had had input into the consultation did not get invited to the opening event. The event had been organised by the Housing Association.

Pylons - is there a co-ordinated policy at County regarding the pylons and if not when do we have one? Cllr Finch said there was not a policy but ECC and BDC had objected and argued that they should go underground. He will take back the comments to the cabinet member for environment.

Road Gritting – the roads were not very well gritted and it was noticeable when travelling in Suffolk that the roads were better gritted. Cllr Finch had received reports on gritting and he will take comments back to Highways for the future. Essex had had a large amount of grit taken from them for another area.

Speed recordings – do we know the top speed recorded? There had been a problem with the device and a lot of work had been done by Mr Atterton with the computer readings. We have 3 weeks of results now and are still collecting statistics. A volunteer is needed to take information once a week from the unit and download to the computer.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed Chairman

Date

GESTINGTHORPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2009 (Annual Village Meeting)

Minutes Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 23rd April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr R Payne

Present: Parish Cllrs J Nott, J Penn, A Cooper, HWW Teverson, S. Bolter, N M Prior

Mr L Crumpton-Taylor – School Governor, Olive Cowell – Senior Traffic Road Safety Officer, Essex County Council

Martin Buddery – Colne Housing

10 members of the public Parish Clerk

Apologies for absence: None

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting were approved, proposed by John Penn, seconded by Wilfred Teverson Olive Cowell – ECC Highways

2 Olive Cowell informed that future maintenance for Gestingthorpe will include railings and new chevrons to the Barracks area, a new weight limit sign and finger post at the crossroads, a new manhole cover by Pumpyard houses, patching of the road from Bulmer to Gestingthorpe, the North End road and the Hill Farm area, also the B1058 from The Moat to Castle Hedingham. A road closure is planned from 29th June to 3rd July to make repairs at Hixon Hill. Highways will take into account the current weight limit on Nether Hill to avoid rat runs. Olive confirmed that any patching will be done properly and not a temporary fill. The amount of pot holes this year have been due to salt on the roads after the spate of bad weather, not to previous workmanship, as all roads are regularly inspected. Gestingthorpe has been awarded funding for SID's; timescale will be 6 weeks from the release of money until work is completed. One socket will be sited near to the Pheasant Public House with two on the Sudbury road and North End road on either side of the cross roads. The sites will be marked nearer the time in consultation with PCllrs. The SID's will stay permanently in the village but will be moved around at approximately 3 monthly intervals. Olive was thanked for her report.

3 Martin Buddery – Colne Housing. Martin Buddery advised that they have been marketing the houses, which are due to be completed around late June, early July. They have not managed to complete a sale and have had 3 or 4 local applicants. It is proposed to offer the shared ownership houses on an intermediate rental scheme on a temporary basis for the time being. Any one interested in the houses should ensure they are registered with BDC. Colne Housing will provide the PC with advertising information for rental properties. Mr Harman offered to do an advertising leaflet drop around the village as it was felt that there was a lack of publicity. It was suggested putting an advertising board up at the site.

Mr Crumpton-Taylor queried reports he had heard from applicants about delayed responses, applications getting lost and general obstructions and asked why papers were getting lost. Mr Harman raised details of problems with adhering to the timescale required in the application process.

Martin offered to go back to individuals to try to help progress a sale and will look into the issues raised. The houses have been re-valued now – latest valuation is £150,000. He confirmed there would be no street lighting at this site. Martin was thanked for his report.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting.

5 Accounts for year 2008-09

The annual accounts had been circulated to all residents prior to the meeting.

6 Report from Governor of Bulmer St. Andrew's School

Mr CT reported that staff have attended training since the music teacher retired and there is a new scheme where 25 flutes and 25 half size violins have been given to children and 25 clarinets in the future, to enable each child to have 1 year learning each of these instruments.

The Government wants schools to introduce modern foreign languages and Bulmer will offer basic French and undertake training of basic German. Since taking on the supply of school lunches they are now running special events, proving to be popular. They are subsidising the meals and will do as long as possible; Lord Hanningfield has been written to for a subsidy. Leslie was thanked for his report.

7 Reports from village organisations

Educational Foundation

Ashley Cooper reported on the rents field, which provided the income for the education charity. During the year, 12 grants had been made totalling £1165, for various activities, including the youth club, school trips, tuition books and educational lessons and the Over

60's Club. A new tenant farmer will be taking over from Mark Prior later this year and Mark was thanked for helping with the transfer process. Jane Winmill was thanked for her work, along with fellow Trustees, the Rector, Alice Nolda, Ben Hoogewerf, Debbie Nott, Corina Brown and Parish Council representative Steve Bolter. The report, annual accounts and grants book were passed around. Mr Cooper was thanked for his report.

Amenities Group

Barbara Baggot gave an update of the Group, which had originally started up to provide play equipment, then funded the cricket nets. There are no ideas for other projects at present. There had been no-one interested in taking over from the present committee and there is currently £1000 of reserves and Barbara asked for any ideas on what the money might be spent on.

Village Hall

Barbara updated on the various activities – the decoration of the hall had been updated and it was fairly well used. Grants had been applied for to provide new tables and to replace the old chairs, also to replace rotting windows in the toilet block and the committee were awaiting to hear if successful. Cecil Pannell had left a bequest of £3,000 to provide seating outside the hall and a resident had offered a discount on these items. Barbara thanked Mr Sharp for his on-going donations for maintenance. The films shows had not been successful and will finish. Barbara was thanked for her report.

Neighbourhood Watch

John Penn advised there had been 2 incidents, both at the affordable housing site and both involving theft of generators. Although there is a problem with vandalism in the area there is not a problem in Gestingthorpe. The police contact is retiring but there is no replacement for him. John was thanked for his report.

Village Design Statement

Chris Harman updated on the progress of the VDS. Several meetings had taken place and a photographic day held. A booklet is being worked on and work has started on putting together a questionnaire to come out later this year. He gave assurance that the photo's are only being used by the VDS committee for ideas and residents will be consulted for permission on use of future photo's. They will be preparing an exhibition to be placed at village events and they would like more involvement and feed back from the residents. He reminded that the meetings are open to all. The timeline for the production of the booklet is summer 2011 and Mr Sharp is helping with the publishing costs. Chris was thanked for his report.

8. District & County Councillors Reports

DCllr Joanne Beavis advised of her involvement in the budget, problems with the Icelandic bank, the work being done with the Local Development Framework, Core Strategy and

Sustainable Community Strategy, employment problems and future regeneration in Sible Hedingham. A new people's panel has just been launched and can be accessed via BDC's website. Joanne was thanked for her report.

DCllr Wendy Scattergood advised that her work revolves around planning, she is also vice chairman of the Local Development Framework. She emphasised the need for more support from the public at the Halstead Local Committee and urged everyone to come and have their say. Wendy was thanked for her report.

Cllr Fred Swallow advised that the Leader of the Council wants more devolvement to local areas; of his involved in several committees and spoke about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. He endorsed the need for people to come to the Halstead Local Committee meetings. He was thanked for his report.

CCllr David Finch gave an update for Essex County Council over the past year, on finance, adult care services, transport, the economy, crime, waste, community leadership, sport and Trading Standards. The issue of recycling commercial waste was raised and CCllr Finch advised that the Federation of Small Businesses are involved in getting messages back to the Government. BDC are considering a planning application for trade waste at Rivenhall. CCllr Finch was reminded about the disposal of used paint tins and where to dispose of them locally.

Wilfred Teverson advised of the accident at the crossroads where the weight limit sign was knocked down and has been put back in the wrong position, and that there are a lot of lorries over 3 tonnes in the village. CCllr Finch can get the Trading Standards van out to monitor this.

CCllr Finch was thanked for taking up the issue of costs involved in moving the SID around, these costs are now being carried by ECC.

1. Any Other Business

Wheelie Bins

Wheelie bins are being rolled out to our village on 28th September and it was suggested that the PC may try to arrange a speaker for our next meeting to explain the details. A public meeting is being held in Bures village hall on 19th May to discuss the issue. District Cllrs confirmed that a small vehicle will be used for narrow lanes and help available for elderly/infirm residents to get bins to collection points. CCllr Finch has asked BDC to clarify what their recycling analysis and calculations are based on.

2009

County Broadband

This has been up and running for 6 months and anyone interested in joining the scheme should contact Steve Bolter.

Traffic Speeds, Audley End

Olive Cowell, if notified of a specific location and day, will arrange to undertake a 24 hour speed survey and depending on the outcome, if necessary, it would be passed to the police. SID's record speeds and have led to prosecutions

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed Chairman

Date