

Minutes of the Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at Greenstead Green Village Hall after the AGM. These are draft minutes and yet to be agreed by the Parish Council.

Present.

Cllr. Paul Foster. Chairman.

Cllr. Derek Hambling

Cllr. Ian Pleasance

Cllr. Derek Mason. Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Jeremy Siggers

Cllr. Gemma Todd.

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council.

4 Members of the public

50/24 Declarations of interest. To declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct. None were declared.

51/24 Item 1: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting held in March 2024 were duly approved. Proposed Cllr. Foster, seconded Cllr. Mason. Approved

Item 2: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. 26/24 Highways. Item 1: White Ash Green- regarding water flowing down drive at Whitehouse Business Park and issues on the Halstead Loop. Cllr. Pleasance had not observed this issue regarding the water but will keep an eye on it. He had been unable to walk the Halstead Loop due to the weather but was hoping to walk it in the next week. **Gosfield School hedges.** Clerk will speak to them.

52/24 Public comment. Part 1. This first public comment of the meeting was to allow the public to discuss the recent issues regarding Greenstead Hall. This item was discussed in some detail. It was noted that there had been a recent post on Facebook from the owner of the Hall apologising for the noise. Cllr. Mason expressed his thanks to Braintree District Council (BDC) Noise team who had received many complaints from residents and had been very proactive in keeping him updated on the nights in question (13th and 20th April 2024). He felt they had managed it very well. The Clerk had also received a letter of complaint from a resident regarding the noise. Residents expressed concerns regarding the noise, highways issues and future events at the Hall. Residents were told that the benchmark for complaints was if the noise is disturbing you they should complain.

The Chair, Cllr. Foster brought forward Item 58/24 (see below) and it was unanimously agreed to approach BDC Planning Enforcement and BDC Environmental Health for a meeting regarding this matter. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

53/24 County Councillor's report. In the absence of County Cllr. Siddall there was no update.

54/24 District Councillor's report. In the absence of District Cllr. Schwier there was no update.

55/24 Finance: Item 1. To agree the accounts for payment. These were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. The accounts for payment were duly approved.

BACS	Payee	Amount	Reason
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	April salary pd 15/4/24
BACS	Cllr. Pleasance for IONOS 2020-2024	£24.28	webhosting for website
SO	Mrs A J Degnan	£362.00	May Salary pd 15/5/23
BACS	Village Hall	£40.00	hall rental
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£74.67	APM expenses
BACS	Mrs A J Degnan	£26.20	Expenses
BACS	Clear Councils	£728.94	insurance
BACS	Richard Edwards	£420.00	Audit
BACS	BALC	£48.00	membership
BACS	EALC	£214.83	membership
BACS	Notice Board Company	£1,539.60	noticeboard paid 30th April
BACS	HMRC	£26.00	Income tax
	Total payments for May 2024	£3,866.52	

Item 2. To agree to the Clerk reclaiming VAT of just over £1014.22. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved.

56/24 To receive and approve the Annual Governance Return. (AGAR) Item 1: The Annual Internal Audit Report is received and noted. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. Received and noted. **Item 2: The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) is approved.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved. **Item 3: The Accounting Statements (Section 2) are approved.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved. **Item 4: The Certificate of Exemption is approved.** Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed. Approved.

57/24 Planning and Braintree District Council (BDC) Planning applications.

Item 1: Planning Applications. There were no planning applications.

Item 2: Update on previous Planning applications. For information only.

24/00334/HH Holly House. 1m extension to garage. Granted. 24/00339/FUL Stanstead Hall. side extension to existing barn. Granted. 24/00501/HH Catnap. Garage conversion. Granted. 24/00181/FUL Ayletts Farm. Change of use from agricultural land to equestrian. Pending.

58/24 Greenstead Hall: To consider approaching BDC Planning Enforcement and BDC Environmental Health with regards to the recent noise complaints received regarding an event held at the hall and residents' concerns about future events. See Item 52/24 above.

59/24 Playing Field: Update on Playing Field. Cllr. Mason. Cllr. Mason was still waiting for the welder to repair the slide. The playing field is due to be inspected by

RoSPA in May. Fences and gates have been repaired. The Pétanque Club were given permission to place 'Please keep off' signs on the pétanque pitch.

60/24 Highways: Item1: Parish Councillors Highway issues. Raven Hall Road- Some repairs have taken place, but the road surface continues to be bad in places and there is still water at the top and bottom of the road. Grange Road - The potholes have been repaired but Essex County Council (ECC) Highways are yet to unblock the drain or fix the rattling drain cover.

Cllr. Siggers raised the issue of the rise in mobile homes camping in laybys and asked if any other areas in the parish were observing the same thing.

Item 2: Update on approaching ECC Highways and request that Burtons Green Road be considered for 'Quiet Lane' status. Cllr. Todd. Cllr. Todd had canvassed opinion in Burtons Green and off the 15 responses 8 were in favour and 7 against. The one caveat from those in favour was that it should not be a 20mph road. The Parish Council agreed that she should continue to progress with the change of status for the area. **Action:** Cllr Todd to find out what is needed to become a 'Quiet Lane.' To be placed on the July agenda.

Item 3: Update on Plaistow Green accident. On 2nd May 2024, a car ploughed into the sign and new tree on Plaistow Green knocking both down. ECC Highways had put the sign back up. The Clerk was instructed to contact the council's insurers to pursue a claim against the driver of the vehicle for a new tree. **Action:** Clerk. July agenda.

61/24 Burtons Green: Update on ownership of Burtons Green green. Cllr. Todd and Clerk. Deferred to the July agenda.

62/24 Item 1: To consider purchasing a storage shed. Cllr. Hambling had raised this due to the number of items in his care that are for the parish. There was a discussion, and it was decided to defer the item until the July meeting. **Item 2: To consider where to locate it. Cllr. Hambling.** It was suggested asking Cllr. Butler if he had room on his land for a shed. **Action:** Deferred to the July agenda.

63/24 To consider submitting a representation on Stisted Parish Council's Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14) on the Stisted Neighbourhood Plan. There was a detailed discussion on this, and Councillors were encouraged to send their comments in.

64/24 Phone Number: Item 1: To confirm the new phone number for the Parish Council is 07782209224. Noted. **Item 2: To agree to the Clerk adding £5.00 to the new phone account.** Clerk. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Hambling. Agreed.

65/24 Local Plan call for sites: To consider and discuss any open space, community areas to be put forward. It was noted that any sites put forward would be subject to consultation. No sites were suggested.

66/24 Public Comment Part 2: .A resident asked if it was possible for a permanent speed camera to be placed in the village. Previous traffic surveys had shown that

there was not enough traffic to warrant one but since the last survey the amount of traffic going through the village had increased. The Maldon speed gun scheme which was going to be launched across the rest of Essex seems to have disappeared. It was suggested the figures collected by Greenwatch could be sent off with a covering letter to the recently re-elected Police Commissioner asking for a speed camera. It was noted that another SID was being funded by a resident in the village.

67/24 To receive reports from outside bodies, training courses, Village Representatives, Parish Council Committees and Advisory Groups. Jean Hastings reported that the recent Neighbourhood Watch (NW) AGM had gone well. Posters have been distributed encouraging people to join NW, particularly in Halstead. New NW signs have gone up in the village.

Cllr. Hambling reported that Greenways Chair Peter Kohn had met with Chris Butler about the track near Halstead. They were now in discussions with Chris about the feasibility of using it as a cycleway.

68/23 Future agenda items. Financial Regulations 2024, RoSPA report, VE Day 2025, Salt, Code of Conduct, Items deferred from this meeting.

69/24 To exclude the press and public. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 ‘That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 70/24 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the public bodies admission to meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2.n Resolution to exclude members of the press and public. Proposed Cllr. Foster, Seconded Cllr. Mason. All agreed.

70/24 Outdoor Gym equipment: Item 1: To discuss and consider quotes for the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment. Item 2: To discuss who to approach for a grant for the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment and how much for. These 2 items were taken together. The Clerk had received only 2 quotes from the 4 companies she had approached. Sovereign and Sunshine Gym with both being under £10,000 for 6 pieces of equipment. Not including VAT. It was decided to use the quotes to approach Enovert for a grant, and BDC for Section106 monies. **Action:** Clerk to investigate and apply for grant.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 8.54pm

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 10th July 2024. 7.15pm Village Hall.

Signed.....

Chairman – Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural Parish Council.

Date.....

Amanda Degnan

Amanda Degnan – Clerk to the Parish Council, C/O Greenstead Green Post Office, Greenstead Green Farm, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY. 07782209224 . parishclerk@greensteadgreenpc.org.uk. WWW. greensteadgreenpc.org.uk

