

Stisted Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

(as permitted in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) due to the COVID19 Coronavirus crisis)

Present: Councillor Dave Burge – Chairman
Councillor Neil Denley – Vice Chairman
Councillor Marc Guy
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Hayley Waine

In attendance: Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Robert Mitchell
District Councillor Nick Unsworth
Footpaths Officer Robert Powers
Three members of the public

20/063 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Willingham and District Councillor Walsh.

20/064 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/065 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

White Lines on Pavements – A resident queried the white lines that have appeared on pavements in the village recently. Councillors reported it is believed these are part of the faster broadband installation.

Planning Application 20/01401/HH – Neighbouring residents wished to raise their objections to this application.

065.1 County & District Councillor Reports

i. County Councillor Report

- The Greener, Healthier Scheme encourages walking and cycling to help improve health and air quality in major towns in the district. Councillors again raised the issue of there being no safe route from the village to Bradwell (a route used by school children to access the buses).
- The Essex Climate Action Commission, of which Cllr Mitchell is a member, is focusing on transport, power and waste.

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at 7:55p.m.

ii. District Councillor Report

- Safe Route to A120 – Cllr Unsworth reported that whilst he did not get an opportunity to raise this at district level, he will continue to pursue this issue to look at any options available to improve safety. One option could be to join the group looking at the new cycle route between Earls Colne and Kelvedon.
- Land opp. Brooks Farm – The issue had been raised at BDC and Cllr Unsworth is expecting a response from Wendy Smitt on this matter.

065.2 Parishes Against Incinerator (PAIN)

- The Environment Agency (EA) have reversed the decision on the stack height to bring it in line with the planning permission – allowing a 35m stack.
- PAIN have launched a bid against the EA regarding this decision and a preliminary hearing has been set for 18 October. They would welcome any donations to assist with this process.

Cllr Unsworth left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

065.3 Parish Paths / P3

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers reported:

- i. Autumn maintenance has been ongoing. The footpath opposite Jenkins Farm to A120 Marks Farm is now fully walkable and Bridleway 3 has been cleared. Mr Powers wished to record his thanks to Mr & Mrs Rowe and Mr & Mrs Clark for keeping the footpath by their properties immaculately maintained. This was reiterated by the Council and it was agreed to write a formal letter of thanks.
- ii. Outstanding issues – the bridge at Tumblers Green is still broken and the signpost at Bridge Hall Road has been damaged.
- iii. Following discussion above regarding a safe route to the A120 there is a footpath that leads from the Church to the Dolphin (and there is a bus stop at this point).
- iv. An area of Protected Lanes has been mapped out and there is an option to look at these as Quiet Lanes. Mr Powers is in touch with County Councillor Mitchell on how this may be achieved.

065.4 Village Hall Report

Cllr. Hughes reported that the reopening of the hall was delayed slightly but the hall is now open with a limited number of hirers using it (maximum limit of 20 persons). The refurbishment of the main hall and bar is now complete.

The AGM was recently held with Usha Hollands taking on the role of Secretary with Cllr Hughes now in the role of Chairman.

20/066 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September (virtual) were a correct record and it was **AGREED** these would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

20/067 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr Poulton, formal notice was given by BDC for an election. Following confirmation that insufficient valid requests had been received by BDC by the closing date the vacancy can now be filled by co-option. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy with a closing date of 23 October to co-opt at the November meeting.

20/068 PLANNING MATTERS

068.1 Planning White Paper Consultation

It was **AGREED** to advertise the consultation on the Parish Council Facebook page to seek views from residents prior to any response by the deadline of 29 October.

068.2 North Essex Section 1 Plan

It was **AGREED** that Councillors would review the plan and send any comments to the Clerk by Friday 9 October.

068.3 Planning Applications

- i. 20/01401/HH – Orchard Bungalow, Priors Green – Retention of 14m high amateur radio antenna mast carrying three beam type and one vertical antennas for transmitting and receiving of amateur radio communication signals. Following discussion, and having listed to views of neighbouring properties, it was **AGREED** to object to this application on the grounds that structure is not in keeping with the surrounding countryside or aesthetically pleasing in an area which is predominantly a conservation area. The structure can be seen from neighbouring properties, being above the tree line, and is believed to be higher than the 14m stated on the application.
- ii. 20/01134/OUT – Horse Shoes, Rectory Road – Outline Planning permission with some matters reserved (appearance and landscape) for the erection of 1 No. detached dwelling (re-consultation).

Further information received relating to trees/hedges on the site – it was **AGREED** to request confirmation from BDC that there are no Tree Preservation Orders on any of the trees listed for removal in the Arboriculture Report dated 28 September 2020.

20/069 LAND OPP. BROOKS FARM (GLADWISH LAND)

The Chairman reported:

- There has been no response yet from James Cleverly, MP, following the site meeting and it was **AGREED** to chase this up with his office.
- The site has yet to be cleared by Gladwish as previously agreed. The Chairman **AGREED** to liaise with BDC on how to ensure this is done.
- A joint meeting has been held with representatives from Greenstead Green Parish Council. This had been a very useful meeting and a number of ideas were discussed.

20/070 SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP UPDATES

070.1 Communication

- i. Website – The Clerk reported on the limitations and difficulties in terms of ensuring the website is accessibility compliant. It was **AGREED** to present a further report at the next meeting for discussion of options available.

070.2 Community Safety & Engagement

- i. Parking – Due to illness the meeting with the Greenfields representative had not gone ahead, however a site visit had been made where they spoke to residents. The Chairman will liaise with Greenfields to discuss the issues being faced and possible options available. It was also **AGREED** to draft a flyer on the issue of parking in the village to inform residents of actions.
- ii. Dust Cart – Booked for Saturday, 10 October.
- iii. Portable Speed Signs – This is an issue that had been discussed many times over previous years and it was **AGREED** to again look at options available. The Chairman to liaise with Greenstead Green Parish Council who have successfully installed signs on private land. Clerk to check the legality of this with ECC Highways. The possibility of grant funding was also discussed.
- iv. Church – Following correspondence received from the Church, the Chairman wished to clarify that discussions had been personal and he had not been speaking on behalf of the Parish Council. In relation to the CCTV quotation received, the Clerk reported that there is conflicting advice on whether a Parish Council can give funds to a Church and is seeking legal clarification from the EALC.
Trees along Church Walk – it was **AGREED** to ask the Tree Warden to inspect these trees.

070.3 Neighbourhood Plan

- i. Steering Group – The group have received advice from RCCE regarding the next steps of the plan.
- ii. Affordable Housing – It was **AGREED** to discuss this further at the next meeting as a separate item.

070.4 Recreational Activities

- i. Fencing along the Playing Field – It was **AGREED** to undertake an inspection of the fencing to see if any remedial work is required.

070.5 Street Maintenance

- i. Highways Signage – It was reported that there are a number of signs around the village that need replacing etc. Cllr Denley **AGREED** to take pictures of the signs so that they can be reported to ECC Highways.

20/071 FINANCE

071.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank reconciliation report to the end of September.

071.2 Payments

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as per the schedule attached.

070.3 Budget Review

The budget review to end September was noted which included the current status of the accounts. Additional matters relating to specific budget headings were discussed and virements as proposed on the review were approved as follows:

In accordance with Financial Regulation 4.2 it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to undertake virements of £100 from budget group Election Costs to budget group Subscriptions and £100 from Hall Hire, £500 from Training Courses and £100 from Newsletter to budget group Village Maintenance.

070.4 Tree Works Quotation

Quotation received relating to works required to two trees on the village green at a cost of £325 per tree. It was **AGREED** to accept this quotation and not to seek further quotations as this work is specialist and undertaken by the Council's preferred tree surgeon who has the necessary insurance, liability and specialised equipment.

071.5 Asset Register

Cllrs Burge and Denley **AGREED** to meet to undertake a review of the Asset Register – to confirm that all items listed are still in the possession of the Parish Council.

20/072 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2

- Resident asked that the parking flyer emphasises that parking should not block the pavements.

20/073 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Stisted Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020. Items for inclusion on the Agenda should be sent to the Clerk by noon on Friday, 24 October 2020.

Please note all meetings will be virtual until such time as legislation allows face to face meetings.

20/074 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9:50p.m.