

**Stisted Parish Council  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Dave Burge – Chairman  
Councillor Neil Denley – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Philip Fisher  
Councillor Mark Hughes  
Councillor Hayley Waine

**In attendance:** Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Clerk  
County Councillor Paul Thorogood  
District Councillor Nick Unsworth  
Mr. Bob Powers – Footpaths Representative  
Mr. Mark Waine – Tree Warden  
Two members of the public

**21/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Guy and Willingham.

**21/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**21/49 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Dumping of Grass Cuttings on Priors Green – this is becoming a regular occurrence and unsightly. It was noted this issue is on the agenda for further discussion.
- Neighbourhood Plan Public Event – A resident wished to record his thanks to Cllr Willingham for organizing the recent public event. Adding that it may be worth the Parish Council and Village Hall purchasing some lightweight display boards.
- White Gates – A resident expressed concern that these have yet to be painted. Cllr Denley explained that the Parish Council had been let down by two contractors and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Item 49.2 was brought forward as Mr. Powers needed to leave the meeting early.

**49.2 Parish Paths / P3**

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers reported that a broken post on FP44 has been logged for repair with ECC Highways. Following a number of reports on social media that no action is being taken, he stated that ECC have a schedule of works on their website which takes time to action and that a Working Party is not really suitable for this type of work due to the high level of training volunteers would need to undertake.

**49.1 County & District Councillor Reports**

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Thorogood to his first meeting.

- i. County Councillor Thorogood stated that he has now been in post for two months. He is happy to support the Parish Council on current issues he has been made aware of – Safer Walking Route to the A120 / Speeding / School Safety (20's Plenty). He also agreed to liaise with Cllr Waine regarding large lorries coming through the village using SatNav's.
- ii. District Councillor Walsh gave a verbal report on the following issues:
  - BDC Local Plan – Consultation now open.
  - Grants – Each District Councillor has a small amount of funding available for local projects.

**49.3 Village Hall Report**

No new information to report.

**49.4 Eastlight**

Nothing to report in Mr. Tandy's absence.

**21/50 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June were a correct record and these were subsequently signed by the Chairman.

**21/51 CLERK'S REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE**

The Clerk's report and Projects List were noted.

**21/52 PLANNING MATTERS**

**52.1 Planning Applications**

- i. 20/01581/HH – 50 Sarcel – Erection of front and rear dormer roof extensions in connection with the conversion of loft – No comment.
- ii. Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation – Comments to Clerk by 16 July.
- iii. Horizon 120 Local Development Order – Consultation – Comments by 15 July.
- iv. Longfield Solar Farm Statutory Consultation – Comments by 13 July.

**52.2 Planning Results**

- i. 21/00352/TPOCON – Greenside, The Street – Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell T1 Cherry located at rear boundary, Prune T2 Prunus located at rear left corner by reducing height and spread by 1.5-2m, thin by 20% remove deadwood and Ivy, Prune T3 Cedar located at left boundary by reducing crown height and spread by 2-2.5m thin by 15% and remove large diameter deadwood and ivy. Granted.
- ii. 21/00316/HH – Orchard House, The Street - Siting of Swimming Pool and minor associated ancillary equipment. Granted.

**21/53 LAND OPP. BROOKS FARM (GLADWISH LAND)**

The Clerk reported there has been no recent update from BDC. Members wished to record their thanks to the owners of Brooks Farm for supplying posts and additional signage.

**21/54 SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS UPDATE**

**54.1 Communication**

- i. Website – No further update at this time.

**54.2 Community Safety & Engagement**

- i. Affordable Housing – The Clerk reported there had been no response to the Call for Sites which had been published on the website and in the June parish magazine (deadline of 30 June).

**54.3 Parking**

Cllr Waine reported there is no further update at this time and will arrange another Working Group meeting shortly.

**54.4 Recreational Activities**

- i. Village Event – No further update at this time.
- ii. Playing Field – It was noted that there are three remedial actions classed as Amber on the ROSPA annual inspection report:
  - Posts – deterioration caused by strimmer – Weed killer will be put down to stop the grass growing at the bottom of the posts. [ND]
  - Assault Course – Splinters – these will be planed and smoothed. [ND/PF]
  - Swings – Safety Mat – Quote to be obtained for repair/replacement. [Clerk]
 The following issues were also noted:
  - Ramp to Bridge – A number of boards will be replaced. [PF]
  - Vehicular Access – It was suggested that a swing gate could be added to stop motorbikes accessing the field.
  - Pavilion – Broken window to be replaced. [DB]
  - Football Pitch – Top Soil – The Football Club have stated that their pre-season friendly matches will begin on 25<sup>th</sup> July. This does not allow enough

time for laying the topsoil and grass seed to repair the goal mouths. Clerk to contact the club to discuss options available.

- iii. Playing Equipment Fencing – Following discussion, it was agreed that the cost of fencing to enclose the play equipment, plus ongoing maintenance, is too prohibitive.

The Chairman invited the Tree Warden to participate in the next item:

- iv. Trees – There are currently two tree initiatives available:
- Queen’s Green Canopy – a tree planting initiative as part of the Queen’s Jubilee – however it looks like Parish Councils are unable to apply, it would need to be a community group. Funding would also be required.
  - ECC – Project to plant over 300,000 trees in the next 5 years – again, this would need funding, volunteers and suitable locations.

A number of different scenarios were discussed and it was AGREED to look for suitable locations for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### 54.5 Neighbourhood Plan

- i. Steering Group – the public event had gone well with 25 attendees, a good portion of those (circa 25%) were newcomers to the parish in the last 12 months. The feedback from the public in general was positive. The Steering Group are still in the process of collating the feedback received via the website and will have further information available at the next meeting.

#### 54.6 Street Maintenance

- i. School Safety Crossing Zone – Size and location of planters discussed, together with wording required. It was AGREED to contact ECC Highways regarding necessary permissions required or suggestions for alternative solutions.
- ii. 20MPH Speed Limit – PC Elliott had undertaken a speed check along Back Lane – four cars had been stopped (averaging 38mph coming into the village), however the majority were obeying the speed limit. It was AGREED to contact Highways requesting painted 30mph signs on the road surface.
- iii. Road Signs – Survey of current signage around the village is ongoing.
- iv. Cutting of Visibility Splays – The move to one verge cut per year is causing a safety concern, especially where pedestrians have to walk in the road because there is no footpath.
- v. Rewilding Project – There has been an overwhelming positive response to the trial at Tumblers Green. It was AGREED to discuss other possible sites at the next meeting.
- vi. Grass Cutting Contract – Concerns have been raised at the drop in standards of the recent cutting. It was AGREED to pass this on to the contractor and ask for a full schedule of cutting dates for the next three months.
- vii. Dumping of Grass Cuttings on Priors Green – This is now becoming a regular occurrence and could be classed as fly tipping. It was AGREED to write to the residents concerned asking that this practice be stopped.
- viii. Street Lights – Feasibility Study – Cllrs Denley and Hughes to liaise on this project.
- ix. Village Green Bollards – Members were pleased to note that the sleeves have now been made and it is hoped they can be installed shortly.
- x. White Gates – Painting – Cllr Denley reported that, unfortunately, the council have been let down by a second contractor. However, he has secured a quote from another company who will be able to start work this week. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £1,250 for labour and materials.

## 21/55 FINANCE

### 55.1 Bank Reconciliation

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

### 55.2 Payments

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

**55.3 Effectiveness of Audit Review**

Members reviewed and approved the Effectiveness of Audit Review document.

**55.4 Budget Review**

Members received and noted the 2021/22 budget review for Apr-Jun, together with the end of year figures for 2020/21.

**21/56 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2**

- Visibility Splays – A resident added that this also causes problems for cyclists.

**21/57 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- Willow Plantation - Communication received from J.S.Wright & Sons Ltd reiterating that there is no public Right of Way through Willow Plantation and signs stating as such are being removed by the general public. Clerk to publish this information in the newsletter.

**21/58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall. *Please note that due to Covid19 restrictions there will be a maximum of 20 people allowed inside the hall.*

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

***Please note there is no August meeting of the Parish Council.***

**21/59 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 21:10p.m.

DRAFT