

Stisted Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Dave Burge – Chairman
Councillor Philip Fisher
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Helen Remfry
Councillor Hayley Waine
Councillor Dave Willingham

In attendance: Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Clerk
County Councillor Paul Thorogood
District Councillor Tom Walsh
Footpaths Officer Bob Powers
Four members of the public

21/136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Denley.

21/137 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/138 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Lorries – There has been an increase of lorries coming through the village towards Greenstead Green.

138.1 County & District Councillor Reports

- i. County Councillor Thorogood reported on the following:
 - Kings Lane – Have requested repairs to verge be undertaken. A request for a Safety Audit has also been requested in relation to speeding and current weight limit. Cllr Thorogood stated that the deadline for 2022/23 schemes has already passed so it may be worth looking into putting a petition together to present to ECC Highways.
 - Incinerator – Developers have been told they must stick to original application.
 - Minerals Local Plan 2014 – A Call for Sand and Gravel Extraction Sites has been opened, with a deadline of 25 March.
- ii. District Councillors Walsh reported on the following:
 - BDC Local Plan (Section 2) – Completed plan will go before BDC Committee and will then be open to a 6 week consultation period.
 - Solar Farm at Perry Green – All options are being looked at.
 - Wethersfield Air Base – Ministry of Defence are consulting with BDC regarding an application for two prisons on this site.

138.2 Parish Paths / P3

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers urged residents to be aware of dangers on footpaths following the recent storms.

138.3 Village Hall Report

Mr. Hughes reported all restrictions have now been removed.

21/139 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2022 were a correct record and these were subsequently signed by the Chairman.

21/140 CLERK'S REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE

The Clerk's Report and Projects List were noted.

21/141 PLANNING MATTERS

141.1 Planning Applications

- i. For Information Only – ECC Focused Engagement on Policy S6 of the Minerals Local Plan 2014 – Call for Sand and Gravel Extraction Sites.

141.2 Planning Results

- i. 21/03466/VAR – North Lodge Kings Lane- Variation of Condition 4 (Usage Restrictions) of approved application 21/01695/HH granted 18/11/2021 for Conversion of existing double garage into a 1 bedroomed annexe. Variation would allow for: Use of annexe as a holiday let - GRANTED.

21/142 SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

142.1 Communication

- i. Newsletter – It was agreed to return to a hard copy newsletter distributed by Councillors to all households in the parish. Items for inclusion were discussed and a deadline of 18 March was agreed for publication at the beginning of April.
- ii. Climate Conference – Cllr Remfry gave a report on a recent training course. [Attached to minutes]

142.2 Community Safety & Engagement

- i. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend (2-5 June 2022) – Cllr Waine reported back following a productive first meeting. A village event will be held on Sunday 5 June on the Playing Field from 12-9pm.
Toilet Facilities – Quotation received for £155.00 (exc VAT). Clerk to check if this is for one or two units prior to confirming booking.
Insurance – Information relating to event cover has been received.
- ii. Litter Pick – Approximately 40-50 bags of rubbish had been collected at the litter pick on Saturday. Cllr Remfry had spoken with BDC regarding the processing of the rubbish following collection.
April Agenda – Fix dates for the year / purchase of new warning signs / litter bin on Village Green.

142.3 Parking

- i. School parking – Cllr Willingham presented the completed survey report, recommending applying for a Traffic Regulation Order as the next step, however this will need 75% approval from residents. It was agreed for Cllr Willingham to proceed.

142.4 Recreational Activities

- i. Playing Field – Monthly inspection reported noted.

142.5 Street Maintenance

- i. Street Lighting - The two trial LED lamps will be delivered and installed shortly.
- ii. Village Green Bollards – Cllr Hughes stated this is ongoing.
- iii. Grass Cutting Contract/Tender – Map of cutting areas confirmed for inclusion in the tender document.
- iv. Weight Limit on Roads – Currently there are no weight limits on roads and therefore no way of stopping heavy lorries coming through the village. District Cllr Thorogood agreed to put an application in to the Local Highways Panel.
- v. Damaged signposts and Gigaclear works – Both have been reported and it was agreed the Clerk will make contact for any update on works being undertaken.

21/143 FINANCE

143.1 Bank Reconciliation

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

143.2 Payments

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

143.3 Council Tax Surplus Funds

The Clerk reported that BDC are proposing that this payment is not made to Parish Councils in the 2022/23 financial year.

143.4 Grant Application – Stisted Village Hall

Councillors discussed the application received for funding towards grass and hedge cutting and unanimously agreed to approve the request for £300.

21/144 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2

- Dog Bins – A resident offered a location on her land for the installation of a new bin.
- Mobile Library – Is this scheduled to return to the village? *[It was stated that this was removed prior to any Covid restrictions due to lack of use but Clerk to check].*

21/145 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

21/146 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th April 2022 at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

21/147 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20:50.

**Agenda Item 142.1 ii – Climate Conference
Report by Cllr Remfry**

Essex Climate Crisis Conference

Recently I represented Stisted Parish Council at the Climate Crisis Conference hosted online by Essex Association of Local Councils. A wide range of topics were presented including climate research, minimising waste, transport, land use, green energy and some impressive youth climate activity.

Professor Jules Pretty, Chair of the Essex Climate Action Commission explained even if all the goals of COP26 are met; the world remains on track for a dangerous global temperature rise of at least 2.4°C this century. Agreements on methane and electric cars were made, but none on fossil fuels, coal and gas.

He warned that rising temperatures would cause global economic shocks. At a critical point millions of people will lose free drinking water with 70-90% of glaciers melting. Among other things, a 62% increase in areas scorched by wildfires, the loss of habitat of a third of the mammals and more frequent 4 to 10 month-long droughts as well as rising sea levels. A climate catastrophe is already being felt to a deadly degree in the most vulnerable parts of the world like sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh not forgetting the fire storms in Australia and America. Millions of people are already being displaced and killed by disasters exacerbated by climate change.

Professor Pretty stressed that if we act now; we can put the breaks on reaching a critical point of no return. For example, in 1990 we were in a safe place of emissions 300 units, in 2020 it has risen to 416 units and in 2050 will be a terrible 470+ units if we continue as we are.

Next time we will explore steps to reduce our carbon footprint to stem the climate crisis.

Helen Remfry