

**Stisted Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Clerk  
District Councillor Tom Walsh  
Footpaths Officer Bob Powers  
Nine members of the public

**66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Denley and Waine.

**67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hughes declared a business interest in Planning Application 22/02229/HH (North Lodge) and agenda item 73.3 – Signage to Entrance Gates.

Cllr Fisher awarded the trophies and certificates to the winners of the 2022 Best Kept Garden competition as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mr. & Mrs. Prentice – 39 Sarcel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Mr. & Mrs. Parker – 42 Sarcel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mrs. Harrington – Sandycroft, The Street

**68 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

All members of the public were in attendance in response to the article in the recent Parish Magazine written by Cllr Remfry disagreeing with the use of chemicals on the playing field (as had been agreed at the previous meeting). In summary:

- The Parish Council are the custodian of the largest green in the village and, as such, should set an example by using organic methods and materials.
- Financial and environmental decisions should be based on biodiversity and climate.
- Residents are willing to get involved and help with this work.

The Chairman gave some background information – this is overdue work that is required to the football pitch as no work has been undertaken for many years; the work will only be done on the pitch area; and the work was authorised at the previous meeting.

The Parish Council do appreciate the strength of feeling from residents and it was agreed that if the contractor has yet to start the work then it will be placed on hold for further discussion at the next meeting.

District Cllr Walsh offered to investigate what is used by Braintree District Council.

The following items were also raised:

- Book of Condolence – Will the Parish Council get a copy of the signed sheets? Clerk to check.
- Apple Pressing – Will take place in the Village Hall car park this Saturday.
- Ukraine – Cllr Hughes is starting to organise another visit and is looking for donations of medicines, warm clothing, sleeping bags, blankets etc.

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the following:

- The Archives Team for the current exhibition – Stisted Artists: then and now.
- The Church for organising the opening of the Church so that residents could sign the Book of Condolence.
- Linda Barnes for organising the Best Kept Garden competition.
- Big Bear Cider for the community apple picking day.

### 68.1 County & District Councillor Reports

- i. County Councillor Thorogood had sent his apologies.
- ii. District Councillor Walsh gave an update on the following: A12 widening; A120 route preference; flood alleviation; Local Plan and the Rivenhall incinerator.

### 68.2 Parish Paths / P3

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers reported that Byway 33 (green lane to Bocking) has been levelled and work is due to start this month on the footpath over China Bridge.

### 68.3 Village Hall Report inc. Stisted Archives

Village Hall - Cllr Hughes reported tickets are available for the Music Night being held on 10 December and that a new Book Club will be starting shortly.  
Stisted Archives – Update given – report attached.

## 69 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Cllr Remfry questioned the accuracy of Minute 60.4iii – Playing Field Aeration/Feed/Roll – and asked that the following be recorded: Cllr Remfry requested that the £779.25 + VAT spend on weed and feed chemicals on the playing field be cancelled as it will destroy soil biodiversity and increases carbon footprint.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 be signed by the Chairman.

## 70 MEETING ACTIONS REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE

The updated Actions Report and Projects List were noted.

- Eco Church – Cllr Remfry has met with the Church – will report under Item 72.1i.
- Section 106 Funding – Awaiting response from BDC.
- Dog Bins – New one installed by Church.
- £300 budget for playing field – This was for grass seed and top soil.

## 71 PLANNING MATTERS

### 71.1 Planning Applications

- i. 22/02229/HH – North Lodge Kings Lane – Single-storey detached log cabin – No objections.
- ii. 22/02055/FUL - 133 Coggeshall Road - Conversion of existing annexe, garage and cart lodge to a 1 x 3-bedroom dwelling – No objections.

### 71.2 Planning Results

- i. 22/01318/HH – Stone Cottage Rayne Hatch Lane – Erection of detached single-storey 2 bedroomed annexe, and erection of a two-storey rear extension to existing dwelling – WITHDRAWN.

## 72 SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

### 72.1 Communication

- i. Climate Change – Cllr Remfry reported that she has met with the Eco Church to discuss possible collaboration and there is a willingness to work together. Cllr Waine will join the group for their next meeting.  
Cllr Remfry has been approached by ECC to be involved with a project with public engagement helping Stisted Parish Council to develop an action plan on biodiversity. It was agreed to advertise for interested residents to set up a Working Party.
- iii. Eco Church – covered above.

### 72.2 Community Safety & Engagement

- i. Neighbourhood Plan – Quotations are being reviewed to ensure no duplicate work is included.

- ii. Litter Picks – The verge cutting has now taken place and a new date of 5 November was agreed.

## **72.3 Parking**

- i. Parking – No update at present.

## **72.4 Recreational Activities**

- i. Playing Field – Monthly inspection for September noted. Painting of the play equipment will start shortly.
- ii. Playing Field & Verges Protocol – COSHH Information – There are no records of what has been used previously but details will be obtained going forward.

## **72.5 Street Maintenance**

- i. Village Green Bollards – Delivery expected shortly. It was agreed to organise a working party with help from residents for installation once received.
- ii. 30mph Signage – With the development of three new houses on Rectory Road, it was agreed to submit an application to the Local Highways Panel to relocate the 30mph limit to the junction of Madgements Road / Rectory Road. Speed Checks – The Chairman reported that PC Eliot has contacted Colchester Police to request a speed check on Back Lane.
- iii. Dog Fouling Signage – Clerk to ask BDC if they are responsible for replacement of broken/faded signs.

# **73 FINANCE**

## **73.1 Bank Reconciliation**

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

## **73.2 Payments**

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

## **73.3 Signage to Entrance Gates**

Quotation received from Forrester Hughes Ltd which includes traffic management, associated permits, supply and installation of signs at £1,782.23 (exc. VAT). The Clerk confirmed that this work must be undertaken by an ECC approved contractor which is why only one quote has been received. It was agreed to seek clarification that this was for four signs (one for each set of gates).

## **73.4 Village Hall**

Cllr Remfry raised the question whether the Parish Council should be contributing to the cost of hall hire for the meetings. Cllr Hughes responded that it had been agreed by the Committee that the Parish Council could use the hall for the monthly meetings free of charge.

# **74 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2**

- Vehicle Activated Sign – The Clerk responded to a question raised that the application process is ongoing.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Following a query on sites for development, Cllr Willingham reported that none had been put forward.
- Litter Pick – A resident reported there is an increasing amount of contractor debris such as signs and sand bags left along verges. It was noted that this can be reported directly via the BDC website who will arrange removal.
- Road Closures – The Clerk reported that any closures notified are reported on the Parish Council Facebook page.

# **75 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- None

# **76 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

# **77 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 21:00.

## **Stisted Historic Archive Report October 2022**

The Archive team has five members, each with different areas to lead on, but we all contribute to each project. Given the increase in personnel and subsequent increase in the number of projects, we have had to formalise things a little more... but with a determination not to become bureaucratic... and to retain the fun.

Current projects:

### *Stisted Artists: then and now*

This exhibition is our Autumn display and shows work and background information about 18 artists or designers.

There have been two open days so far with 62 people visiting. The feedback has been very positive and heartening. There is a further open day on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The show will come down at the end of November,

### *Oral Histories*

This is led by team member Helen Remfry assisted by Howard Hollands, Derek Pryke (photographer) and supporter, Liane McGrath.

We have so far completed 7 interviews, Terry Earle x2, Brenda Easter, Liz and Roy Vince, Janette Cackette, Peggy Pease and Colin Saunders.

We are currently unravelling the legislation in relation to data protection to ensure compliance. A useful meeting at Braintree Museum has helped us in the development of Oral Histories.

### *Stisted Businesses: then and now*

This is led by Sue Buffey and we aim to produce a document outlining trades and businesses past and present in Stisted with an associated visual display for early 2023.

### *The Archive: how, what and why?*

Helen Hughes and Sue Buffey have taken on the daunting task of organising the physical archive and Derek Pryke records material for the digital archive held on the Parish Council website. Howard Hollands tends to deal with communications, fund raising and anything else not mentioned above!

The team are due to give an illustrated presentation to the WI on 12<sup>th</sup> October and are mindful of what the WI did to Tony Blair in June 2000!

Thanks as ever to the Village Hall for hosting the Archive and supporting the work we are doing.

HH Oct 22