

**Stisted Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 7th December 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
District Councillor Tom Walsh
District Councillor Dennis Abram
Footpaths Officer Bob Powers
Two members of the public

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman wished to record his thanks to the following:

- Peter Bash for the production of the village calendar and cards.
- Angela Adams and volunteers for delivering the newsletter with the parish magazine.
- Mark Hughes (Big Bear Cider) and his team for undertaking another aid trip to Ukraine, and the generosity once again shown by parishioners.

91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Denley.

92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 98.4 – Grant Applications

- Cllr Waine – items (i) and (ii) as Minute Secretary to the PCC
- Cllr Hughes – item (iv) as a member of the Village Hall Committee
- Cllr Burge – item (iv) as a paid contractor

Agenda item 97.1 – Planning Applications

- Cllr Hughes – item (ii) – as he knows the applicant.

93 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Missing Kerbstones – Councillors confirmed this had been reported to ECC Highways but no update had been received.
- Village Shop – Is experiencing difficulties – they are grateful to the Trustees of the Montefiore who provide the room and electricity/heating free of charge.

93.1 County & District Councillor Reports

- i. County Councillor Thorogood was absent from the meeting.
- ii. District Councillor Walsh reported on the following:
 - Cllr Walsh introduced Dennis Abram as the newly elected District Councillor for the area.
 - Planning update on recent housing development applications within the Braintree district.
 - BDC Budget Setting proposals.
 - Warm spaces throughout the district.
 - Councillor Funding – Cllr Walsh is taking advice whether an application for wildflower seeds meets criteria. Cllr Abram also has some funding available for local projects.

93.2 Parish Paths / P3

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers reported on the upcoming closure of Byway 41.

93.3 Village Hall Report inc. Stisted Archives

Village Hall – Unfortunately the Music Night has had to be cancelled but it is hoped this can be rescheduled in January.

Stisted Archives – Update given – report attached.

94 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2022 be signed by the Chairman.

95 MEETING ACTIONS REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE

The updated Actions Report and Projects List were noted.

- Village Green Bollards – Cllr Hughes reported delivery is imminent.
- Rewilding – Cllr Remfry reported on a recent meeting with the Essex Wildlife Trust.
- Streetlights – The Clerk gave an update on progress. A discussion took place on the lamps – the Clerk confirmed that the purchase of the brighter 16L_870mA LEDs had previously been agreed. Clerk, in liaison with Cllr Hughes, to obtain quotes for both the 16 and 8 LEDs. It was agreed to discuss further at the January meeting with a final decision being agreed at the February meeting.

96 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAY 2023

Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday, 4th May 2023. Further details, including timeframe will be received from BDC in the New Year and these can then be published to encourage new applications.

97 PLANNING MATTERS**97.1 Planning Applications**

- i. 22/03141/OUT – OS 6335 Greenstead Green Road - Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access, for the erection of 1No. self-build dwelling. It was agreed to object on the grounds that this is outside of the village envelope.
- ii. 22/03190/FUL - Boultwoods Farm Rayne Hatch Lane - Application for conversion of two redundant barns to residential accommodation, ancillary annexe, office/workshop and cart lodge. No objections raised.

97.2 Planning Results

- i. 22/02667/DAC – Baines Farm House Priors Green - Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 4 of approved application 20/00640/LBC – Part Granted (windows only) / Part Refused.

98 FINANCE**98.1 Bank Reconciliation**

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

98.2 Payments

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as per the schedule, with one additional invoice received from Bounce Bound for the repair to the safety surface.

98.3 2023/2024 Budget

Draft budget options presented – Councillors are requested to forward any questions or comments to the Clerk prior to formal approval at the next meeting.

- Grass Cutting Contact – Current specification to be considered at next meeting.

98.4 Grant Applications

Councillors discussed the four applications received at a total of £900. With a budget of only £750 it was agreed to award the following:

- i. Church – Provision of a Wheelchair - £125
- ii. Parish Magazine – Printing Costs - £125
- iii. Montefiore Institute – Running Costs - £200
- iv. Village Hall – Maintenance/Upkeep of External Grounds - £300

99 COMMUNITY

99.1 Neighbourhood Plan

The skeleton draft has been received from the Planning Consultant and the grant application has been started.

99.2 Emergency Plan

Updates/amendments agreed.

99.3 Parking

No update at this time.

99.4 Climate Change

ACTION: The Climate and Nature for Stisted (CANS) group is adopted as a formal Working Party of the Parish Council with Cllr Remfry as the Lead Councillor.

Cllr Remfry presented a written report on work undertaken by the group (attached).

99.5 Request to use the Playing Field

The applicant is unsure if using the field is an option due to issues such as car parking.

100 RECREATION & MAINTENANCE

100.1 Playing Field

Monthly inspection for November noted.

Play Equipment Refurbishment – Completed.

101 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2

- Village Shop & Post Office – Now only open Mondays 2-4p.m.
- Archives – Thanks recorded to the Village Hall for sponsoring the Archives.

102 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Next Agenda – Volume of Traffic through the Village (HW).

103 MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the public from the meeting to allow Councillors to discuss matters related to employment.

104 EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Councillors accepted the resignation of the Clerk and agreed to start the recruitment process.

105 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 4th January 2023 at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

106 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 21:35.

Stisted Archive: update PC December 2022

- Visit to Archive by Mike Bardell, Braintree and Bocking local historian – he met with Howard, Helen and Derek and we look forward to some joint work in the New Year.
- Collection of Archive material held by John Snowdon
This includes the minute books of the Mothers Union. The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner. She wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together rich and poor to build a network that would support mothers of all kinds as they brought up their children in the Christian faith. The Mothers Union was quite different from the Womens Institute for which we also have the minute books. The Mothers Union in Stisted appears to have come to a halt in early 2000's.
There is also some material on Witchcraft in Stisted, a range of new photographs to add to our growing collection and the preparatory material for Bruce Ballard's booklet on Stisted Hall.
There are also notes from Alan Sale about the Stisted Working Men's Club and the Montefiore Institute. One note states that the minutes of the Working Men's Club are in the same cupboard in the Montefiore as the Parish Council Minute books but have not as yet come to light.
We wonder if there are any Minute books for The Oddfellows, who also met at the Institute?
- There will be two week display in January of the ceramic work of Colin Saunders, this initiative grew out of Colin's contribution to the oral history programme.
- The funding application to Essex Heritage Trust for the oral history programme will be submitted in January by Howard Hollands and Helen Remfry

Thanks to Ian Barnard and Richard Hughes for the new shelves and further shelving donated by Helen and Richard Hughes and to the sub group who call themselves 'The Organisers' (Helen Hughes, Sue Buffey, Jane Barnard, Howard Hollands) for their marathon filing efforts.

Stisted Archive wishes the Parish Council good cheer for Christmas and the New Year.

The Archive Group

CLIMATE and NATURE for STISTED - CANS Update for Parish Council December 7th 2022.

Aim – To build a, thriving, sustainability focused community with a reduced carbon footprint.

National Charity Involve – To provide the public with balanced, objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternative and/or solutions

How will we achieve this? - Goals and action list for major challenges and high carbon producing factors - ideas to reduce carbon in six categories

- Transport
- Heat loss/Oil Dependency
- Increase in natural habitats
- Waste
- Challenging perceptions/building community & education
- Planning & Legislation

Activities this month

- Involve – Helen Remfry and Kathryn Hughes met with Jon Meehan Head of Sustainability Essex County Council, Thomas Yiangou. Communications Officer, Aleksandar Bogdanov - Environment Project Officer. Discussed Essex Climate Focus Area, strategy for carbon reduction, CANS, eligibility for investing in parish of Stisted with involve. ECC keen to include all Parish Councillors.
- Due to meet with ECC and National charity Involve week beginning 19th December
All Parish Councillors welcome.
- Updating comments to Responses to Problems and Solutions document in preparation with involve. Working with Liam Ashford – New EEC Programme Communications Officer,
- Cans-stisted google working platform set up and supported by Dave Willingham.
Brilliant co-ordination of emails and docs online.
- Kathryn and Mark Hughes - Essex Farm Cluster group.
- 2nd meeting of CANS 21st Nov. Progressing with goals and actions list
- Monday 1st Essex Wildlife Trust Wilder Towns, Wilder Villages Initiative– met with Danielle, and members of with Village Hall, wildlife area, allotments, orchard, Stisted Archive and ECO Church .
We walked around the village including the orchard, wildlife area, playing field and church.
Positive advice and discussions on rewilding opportunities, collaborating with PC and community.
Will support us through involve project. Will send a summary of everything discussed. Eg 1000 different insect species with indigenous wildflower and grass mixes.
- Online Training with CFA (Climate Focus Area) Knowledge hub booked for 15th December
- Meeting Eco church Friday 16th December
- Helen attended presentation and met with **Manningtree PACE (Practical Actions for Climate and Environment)**. See achievements of www.pacemanningtree.co.uk
- Mapping areas suitable for wildflower planting and species PC & Essex Wildlife
- Sustainable Fair for Stisted planned for April
- Updates for Parish Mag and Newsletter to be produced for February/March issues.

Thank you to the members of CANS, for bringing individual expertise, skills and commitment to build a thriving, sustainable community with reduced carbon footprint.

Kathryn Hughes, PC Dave Willingham, Dina Catchpole, PC Mark Hughes, Lynn McCulloch, Tony McGrath, PC Helen Remfry