

**Stisted Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Alan Routledge – Vice Chairman
Councillor Richard White
Councillor Howard Hollands
Councillor Bob Powers
Councillor Eleanor McMillan
Councillor Cheryl Hill-Cottingham

In attendance: Mrs. Ruth Jubb – Clerk
County Cllr Paul Thorogood
3 members of the public

107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Richard White declared an interest in the planning application with regards to the cutting of trees at his premises at 37 The Street

109 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- A member of the public raised concerns by email covering grass cutting of the village through the year – He felt that it was apparent grass was trimmed less regularly now – partly due to the CANS proposal for small areas of longer grass. Cllr Hughes acknowledged there were some issues in 2023 and stated that the tender details had been reviewed to address this, and were approved at a previous meeting. It will be reviewed again at the end of 2024. The grass cutting contract is later in the agenda. It was raised that the village green had looked untidy with missing bollards but these were replaced some months ago so no action required. Verges were mentioned but these are the responsibility of Essex County Council not the Parish Council.
- There was a brief discussion about the local rivers. A request was made for the council to follow up. The river has problems from as far as away as Heybridge – it was felt important to protect houses, land and crops. Cllr Hughes noted that there have been meetings with Essex Wildlife Trust and the area has been walked to develop plans
- Another person expressed support for keeping the village looking tidy as well as trying to support wildlife

109.1 County & District Councillors

Cllr Thorogood mention various points mentioned in his email

- Review of draft Essex Minerals Plan is underway, with briefings for affected parishes due approx. w/c 22 Jan
- The Proposed Braintree Eastern Boundary changes for the county council elections in May 2025 are still under consultation. For anyone who wishes to comment it can be done by email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk
- Cllr Cunningham is the new cabinet member for Highways at ECC and is having a highways surgery on 22 Jan - email Lois.whitrod at ECC for information
- ECC have rejected a motion on 12 December to implement 20 mph speed limits on residential roads
- Noted that BDC plan to stop collecting side waste from black bins from April and have stated Braintree have higher waste levels than some other councils. There is a need for more recycling. **Action** Clerk to share post on Parish Facebook.

109.2 Parish Paths

- Cllr Powers advised that footpaths are in poor condition due to the recent storms with trees down in several places and some flooding. Cllr Powers has made several reports to have the trees removed. Some photographs have been posted on the village Facebook site so that the village is aware where they are.

109.3 Village Hall Report inc. Stisted Archives

- No significant reports. There will be a Karaoke event shortly. Archives have a meeting next week to discuss the village hall presentation in spring, and to discuss the Stisted Garden and Horticultural Landscape Show. Some notes have been emailed to Cllrs by HH to review

109.4 Community Shop

- Nobody present to discuss the community shop, but assumed it will go forward. There has been another donation to the insurance costs. Volunteers still required.

110 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2023 were a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman. Approved by Cllrs HH and RP and unanimous vote.

111 MEETING ACTIONS REPORT

The meeting actions were reviewed.

- Village signs – the licensing application has been resubmitted with details for bench to follow.
- Dog Poo bin will be followed up in the coming weeks
- Cllr Hughes has chased BDC enforcement regarding Gladwish issues – to be added to next agenda.
- Cllr Routledge has contacted BDC regarding the enforcement for the Kings Coven planning and will update accordingly.

112 PLANNING MATTERS

112.1 Planning Applications

- i. Old Post Office - Removal of front walls and proposed side gate. Concern was expressed as the property is in a conservation area and the Flint Walls are important to the local area. Any development should be sympathetic even though the property is not listed. It was felt that if this had been requested in advance, it would not have been supported by the Parish Council as the changes are not in keeping with the area. The Parish Council Voted that the flint wall should be retained. Proposed by Cllr HH and 2nd by Cllr E Mc and unanimous vote, that we write a letter to BDC. ACTION: Cllr Routledge to draft an appropriate letter for the clerk to submit through the portal. It may be appropriate to include the details of the gate.
- ii. Tree works 37 the Street. This was approved by the Tree Officer and agreed unanimously by the Council. Action: Clerk to submit comment through the BDC Portal

113 FINANCE

113.1 Bank Reconciliation

- Bank details reconcile and were approved for signature by the chair

113.2 Payments

- Payment Schedule approved and the relevant invoices signed by Cllr Hughes

113.3 Budget & Precept

- Cllr Hughes signed the Precept form as approved at the previous meeting

113.4 Set Meeting Dates for coming year

- Agreed that Council meetings will remain as the 1st working Wednesday of every month (N.B. this makes January 2025 the 8th January)

113.5 Receipt of Annual Wayleave due Jan

- The Wayleave with UKPN used to be paid by cheque in December but is now set as a BACs payment due in January

114 COMMUNITY, RECREATION & MAINTENANCE

114.1 S137 Grants

- The updated Montefiore application for the £200 grant was received. This amount was approved for payment at the previous meeting. Action: Clerk to pay
- We await confirmation from the shop that they are ready to open and have enough volunteers before paying their grant

114.2 Working Group – Climate & Nature for Stisted (CANS)

- The CANS page is ready on the Website – Clerk to contact CANS to check if they have any information they would like on the website

114.3 Playing Field and Fencing by Swing

- Cllr Powers has found a company called “Adventure Play Company” who have the identical multigym and is trying to contact the local representative re the repairs
- Cllr Hughes also provided the details of another repair company to Cllr Powers
- We may need to use a different contractor than the original installer if necessary
- We await quotes for the repairs
- The comment to the Parish Website regarding the swing was discussed. One of the swings was felt to be too close to the frame edge. Cllr Powers agreed to follow up on the issue and investigate the situation. So far, receipt has been acknowledged but no comment made

114.4 Football Foundation

- Cllr Routledge is reading the report he has received and noted that he may need to take a qualification regarding the grass surface – details to be provided

114.5 Affordable Housing

- No update other than to say a pre-application is being submitted by Hastoe to BDC and there will be a response later

114.6 Grass Cutting Contract

- Two quotes have been received and a further one declined to comment. One has not responded – it was agreed that we do not need to wait for the 3rd quote as it is overdue. Priors Green will not be cut as we do not own (but not in the price). The two quotes are similar and both include the hedge. Action: Clerk to confirm details and circulate for an email vote.

114.7 Rural England Prosperity Funding

- Cllr Hughes is awaiting responses on the provision of utilities so that an application for grant can be prepared

114.8 Glebe Barns

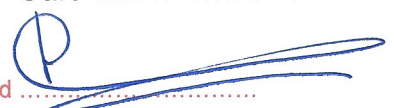
- The barn was knocked down and rebuilt. It has been built to different dimensions than the original building so BDC are awaiting resubmission of an application with the updated details before progress can be made

114.9 Progress on Updated Emergency Plan

- Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Hughes and Cllr Powers to complete the Emergency Plan

114.10 Street Clean & Dust Cart

- Dust cart dates and prices were discussed. The Dust Cart will be for 2 hours, on a Saturday morning in February. Cllr White proposed 10 February and 2nd By Cllr Hughes. Clerk to check 10 Feb is still available and book.
- The Parish Council will need to monitor the event for the correct waste being deposited in the vehicle. Cllr Hughes and Routledge have a full list of what is acceptable (noting that the contents go to landfill) This will then need to be published so that potential users of the Dust Cart know what is acceptable.



- A lot of garden waste has previously gone in the Dust Cart. There was debate over hiring a Garden Shredder for this. To consider in the future after we assess what goes in the Dust Cart next month
- Potential litter pick dates were discussed bearing in mind two per year are needed – one before the grass starts growing and one towards the end of the year. Cllr HH to look for suitable dates around end March and late October. This will should cover the whole Parish, not just the village

114.11 Training Update

- Cllr McMillan is applying for online Zoom Councillor Training. Cllr HH and RP are attending their Councillor Training in January. Cllr Hughes signed the bursary application for EmCm for Clerk to submit

114.12 Discuss Q1 Newsletter and Allocate Responsibilities

- The last Newsletter was just over a year ago. Clerk to circulate copies of the two most recent. It was noted that the Parish Magazine does not replace the Newsletter as the magazine does not go to all households. We need to ask the previous clerks about costs and where the last one was printed.
- We need some topics, photographs etc. for the next Newsletter Action: Everyone to contribute ideas on email for the next Newsletter

115 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2

The following items were raised:

- Hastoe housing was raised – it is with Braintree District Council to review and feedback. Response awaited regarding sites
- There are several blocked Gully Pots in the village. Action – Cllrs and public to send details of any blocked gully pots to the clerk with Photos and What Three Words for identification. Member of the public noted that two years ago in a survey about 2/3rds oof the gully pots were blocked and these were reported but seemingly no action taken. There is apparently one Gully Pot near Sarcel with a sapling growing out of it.
- The Gully outside Horseshoes has been reported again

116 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Suggestions for Speed Control in the Village for 20 mph v 30 mph
- Autumn Exhibition
- Cllr Hughes will be attending the Minerals meeting 30 January at BDC. No further Cllrs were available to attended
- Gladwish to go on next agenda

117 ANY CLOSED ITEMS REQUIRED

None

118 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Montefiore Institute**.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20:40.

