

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st. May 2025 at 7.50pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chair), P. Bagby, A. Cooper, D. Green, K. Brazier, G. Carey, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

037/2024 Apologies for Absence

a) Cllr D. Smith and Cllr P. Collett had submitted their resignation emails to the Clerk prior to this meeting

038/2024 Election of Chairman for the 2025/2026 year

Cllr A. Cooper proposed Cllr P. Bagby to act as Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr D. Green seconded.

All Agreed. Cllr P. Bagby then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office

039/2024 Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2025/2026 year

Cllr G. Carey proposed Cllr K. Brazier to act as Vice-Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr A. Cooper seconded.

All Agreed Cllr K. Brazier then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office

040/2024 Election of Appointments and Employment committee

2025/26 Appointments and committees can be found at <https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/councillors>

Cllr P. Bagby proposed the 2025/2026 appointments be deferred to the next meeting. **All Agreed**

041/2024 To re-adopt all Council 2025/2026 policies

Policies can be found at <https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>

Cllr P. Bagby proposed re-adopting the 2025/2026 Parish Council policies en-bloc. Cllr D. Green seconded.

All Agreed

042/2025 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

None Declared

043/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meeting held on 13th. March 2025 **All Agreed**

044/2025 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

As David Smith has resigned his report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes. There was no report from the new Chair

045/2025 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier. No report was given

046/2025 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland

BDC Cllr D. Hollands report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes

047/2025 Public Participation Session. No questions were asked

048/2025 VE Day – update Cllr P. Bagby

The recent VE80 celebrations organised in conjunction with the Parish Council was a huge success with more than 70 people packed into the village hall enjoying drinks, fish & chips and a rousing singalong led by local resident, Suzanne David. The History Group also put up an interesting display on Gestingthorpe at war

049/2025 Planning Applications

25/00362/FUL - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Conversion of store room within dwelling to shower room. Installation of two sash windows and one timber framed door. **Application GRANTED** see 050/2025

25/00624/LBC - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Conversion of store room within dwelling to shower room. Installation of two sash windows and one timber framed door. **Application GRANTED** see 050/2025

050/2025 Planning Decision/s

25/00624/LBC & 25/00362/FUL - Rectory Farm Audley End Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3AU

Conversion of store room within dwelling to shower room. Installation of two sash windows and one timber framed door. **Application GRANTED**

051/2025 Representative reports

- **Highways & SID** – This report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes

Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper – I visited the playing field on 20th. May and as previously mentioned it looked spectacularly beautiful. Overhanging branches make it difficult to mow the grass under the trees along the eastern boundary, so Michael Green is now only cutting what he can safely do.

- **Footpath** – Cllr P. Bagby - This report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes
- **Village Hall** – Cllr P. Bagby - This report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes
- **Defibrillator update** - Cllr P. Bagby - This report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes
- **ROSPA 2024 play inspection report** – This report can be found at the Annual Village meeting minutes
- **Wish list for the future** - Pavilion upgrading. SID. Relining posts at the access to the pavilion. New Defibrillator
- **Pavilion** – Cllr D. Green

The cricket club season has begun, and the players are making use of the pavilion for home matches, T20 games and Sudbury matches on a Saturday. Sudbury have played 3 matches so far and have another 2 games to play.

Gestingthorpe have a total of 12 home games, these include 5 T20 evening games and a charity match for Ponty in July.

I have recently spoken to Charles cricket club treasurer about the changeover of the electricity. He has assured me that he will speak to EDF energy to discuss changing over the account from the cricket club to the Parish Council. I should hope to get this resolved in the next few weeks. Charles stated that EDF energy are not the easiest company to deal with, and he told me that he had the same issues when they took over the account from the Priors.

The parish still have the offer to replace the kitchen cabinets. The kitchen cabinets are being given to the parish by Penny and Steve Bagby. I may have someone that can fit them free of charge; therefore, a new kitchen would cost the parish nothing. Having new cabinets would contribute the kitchen area being left tidy and there would be somewhere for the users to store items.

The soak away still needs to be looked at, as this could prove to become a health and safety matter if it is left as, it is.

The two lights in the showers, currently don't work and the electrician has visited to assess, it would appear the bulbs have gone. The electrician has recommended new lighting in both the showers as per what he has put into the main area, this would negate having to take the whole units out each time the bulbs need replacing. I have not yet had his quote for the work.

Spencer Hume of Sporting Heddingham has emailed Kevin regarding hiring the football pitch for some of their games this season. I have emailed Spencer, asking how many games etc.

Andy Craig has passed to me a telephone number of someone that wishes to hire the pavilion for a 10th birthday party. I have spoken to him today to get further details of date, numbers etc. I will contact him tomorrow to discuss further once I have checked the cricket fixture list.

- **Parish News** – Cllr P. Bagby

052/2025 2024/2025 Annual Return

- 1) To Receive the Internal Auditors report for 2024/2025

Councillors noted the Internal Auditors report for 2024/2025

- 2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2

Cllr P. Bagby proposed accepting and signing the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2.

Cllr K. Brazier seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/25 part 2

- 3) To Receive and sign Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

Cllr P. Bagby proposed accepting and signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025.

Cllr D. Green seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chair and Clerk then signed Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

- 4) To Receive and sign Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

Cllr P. Bagby proposed accepting and signing Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

Cllr G. Carey seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chair and RFO then signed Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

053/2025 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2025/2026

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for April & May 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the

Parish Councils financial requirements. **All Agreed**

054/2025 Items for Next Agenda

Election of Appointments and Employment committee

055/2025 Date of next meeting is on WEDNESDAY 16th. JULY 2025 at 7pm

056/2025 Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates: NEW MEETING DATES 17.09.25: 19.11.25

057/2025 Closure of the Meeting

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business.

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.35pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed



P. Bagby - Chair

16th. July 2025