

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th. July 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P. Bagby (Chair), K. Brazier (Vice-Chair), A. Cooper, D. Green and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

058/2024 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Cllr G. Carey

059/2025 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

060/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Gestingthorpe Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the GPC meetings held on 21st. May 2025 **All Agreed**

061/2025 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

The village is looking very brown & dusty due to the lack of rain and commencement of harvesting. Care must be taken when driving through the village and surrounds due to the increase in heavy farm traffic.

The verges were cut last week with the delay caused by missed communications with Ken Hutchinson's company which are hopefully now resolved. The cut has improved visibility at the turn into Moat St from the Hedingham Road however visibility remains poor due to the overgrown hedge.

A wasp nest was reported on the playing field near the play equipment. Nest killer was put down and the nest is now dead.

I now have publishing permission for the Parish Council Facebook page and would like to use this forum plus the Parish News magazine where applicable, to improve the communication of council's activities to the parish. An agenda item has been added to consider how this should be done as well as to update the information on the Parish Council website.

062/2025 Essex County Councillor report – ECC Cllr Peter Schwier No report was given

063/2025 District Councillor report – BDC Cllr David Holland No report was given

064/2025 Public Participation Session No questions were asked

065/2025 VJ Day – update Cllr P. Bagby

No meetings have been taken about organising VJ Day. This could be incorporated into a Coffee morning on the day

066/2025 Planning Applications

25/00997/HH - Hillcrest Nether Hill Gestingthorpe Essex CO9 3BD

Retrospective planning application for conversion of outbuilding to study, home gym, storage and bathroom.

RESOLVED: Gestingthorpe Parish Council has No Objection to this planning application

067/2025 Election of Appointments and Employment committee

For 2025-2026 responsibilities go to <https://gestingthorpepc.co.uk/councillors>

068/2025 Review of both the Website and the Facebook page

Cllr P. Bagby proposed to accept the quotation from Macintosh Electronics to move over to .gov.uk. with emails and website. Cllr K. Brazier seconded. **All Agreed**

069/2025 Representative reports

- Highways – No report was given
- Playing Field – Cllr A. Cooper

I visited the Playing Field yesterday evening. It looked immaculate, although the issue of overhanging branches remains.

The 'Cross roads' sign and 30 mph signs, on the same post, were obscured by hedge growth. This has been dealt with. The mirror on the corner appears to be beyond repair.

- Footpath – Cllr P. Bagby

Generally, footpaths in the parish are well maintained, clear of vegetation and passable.

Outstanding issue raised 15 May 2025

Reference Number 2975696 - **Issue:** defective bridge on prow - **Location:** footpath 23 Gestingthorpe Footbridge collapsed on one side.

Reported again on 18 June under ref 2981578 - **Issue:** defective bridge on prow - **Location:** footpath 23 Gestingthorpe Footbridge completely collapsed and is unsafe

- Village Hall – Cllr P. Bagby

The Village Hall AGM was held on 11th June and was attended by 5 members of the public. The Trustees presented their report for the year which showed a successful year both in fundraising and ongoing improvements made to the hall.

Damian Prior stood down as the Cricket club representative on the management committee. As yet this position has not been filled. All other elected & representative members agreed to continue. Dawn Green, Penny Bagby & Nic Smith continue as Chair, Treasurer & Secretary respectively. Roger Goldsmith replaced Damian Prior as Vice Chair.

The Trustee report and the annual accounts were adopted at the meeting.

On 5th July the village hall held a fundraising 'Cocktails & canapes' evening organised by Keith & Eileen Thoroughgood & Dan & Nic Smith. Keith & Dan donned their dicky bows serving up delicious cocktails whilst local singer Suzanne David sang throughout the evening. All profit from the evening has been donated to the Village Hall. The next fundraising event will be a late summer BBQ on 20th September.

The Village Hall currently holds a total of £9,868.94 in cash and in its bank account.

The next committee meeting is on Wednesday 10th September.

- Defibrillator update - Cllr K. Brazier

The current service agreement in place with Community Heartbeat runs to 1st May 2026. The Service agreement covers all costs except the annual cost of the VETS scheme & 999 service which totals £160. The 999 service was renewed on 23rd June, the annual fee being £100. The VETS scheme renews in September. CHT hold £416 on account for the Gestingthorpe defibrillator. A donation for £100 was received in the NatWest account increasing the balance to £375.22.

7 people currently on the Volunteer telephone system & defib checking rota.

We have requested an awareness training session in the village hall for a date in September and are waiting to hear back from CHT about trainer availability.

Phil from the Pheasant pub has advised that they will be installing a defibrillator on the front of the building and they will cover the cost of insurance, batteries, pads, etc. They have asked that we undertake the weekly check of the AED and advise any problems to them for rectification.

- ROSPA 2024 play inspection report – Cllr P. Bagby

The report was discussed in depth and Councillors agreed to contact Dan Smith to make the equipment inspection.

- Pavilion – Cllr D. Green

Nothing much to report since the last meeting. Items for note are as follows:

The soak away outside the pavilion has now been filled in and no longer poses a health and safety issue.

Thank you to Ashley for completing this.

I am still awaiting a quotation from the electrician regarding the lighting in both the home and away showers as they do not currently work.

A private hire for the pavilion on the 21st June 2025 for a child's birthday party was held.

The family were happy with the facilities and paid a fee of £40.00 for the day, which is in line with the rental for the cricket club.

The kitchen has been donated by Penny and Steve Bagby and the cricket club are storing it up at Hill farm until it is able to be fitted. I will get several quotes for costings for this.

I am still no further forward with having the electricity changed over into the Parishes name. The treasurer needs to contact the electricity company to make a request, which he assured me he would do. I will remain in contact with him to see if we can chase this up. As presently the cricket club are still responsible and paying for the electricity.

The flooring and tables and chairs still need replacing at some point as they are looking tired and worn.

Cleaner: Due to the new regime of the cricket club now paying a rental to use the pavilion, I feel that they should not be responsible for the cleaning of the building – showers and toilets etc. They do keep it as tidy as possible when they have used the building. What are the councillors' thoughts around this matter?

070/2025 Wish list for the future - Pavilion upgrading. SID. Relining posts at the access to the pavilion. New Defibrillator. Discussion took place and was agreed to defer this item to another meeting

071/2025 Verge cutting – update Cllr P. Bagby

The verge at Seven Sisters corner has been undertaken. Another cut maybe necessary later in the year

072/2025 Winter Salt Scheme – Does GPC wish to obtain 1tonne of 25kg salt bags?

Councillors agreed that enough salt is still stored at Hill Farm. So not required for 2025 winter

073/2025 Finance

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

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 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 June and July 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Councils financial requirements **All Agreed**

d) Cllr P. Bagby signed the Submission form to be added as a signatory.

074/2025 Items for Next Agenda

Village events committee generally: Defibrillator in PC hands:

075/2025 Date of next meeting is on Wednesday 17th. September 2025 at 7pm

076/2025 Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates: 19.11.25

077/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

PBagby

P. Bagby - Chair

17th. September 2025