

**Stisted Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Mark Hughes  
Councillor Alan Routledge – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Howard Hollands  
Councillor Bob Powers  
Councillor Eleanor McMillan

**In attendance:** Mrs Ruth Jubb  
County Cllr Paul Thorogood  
Cllr Dennis Abram - BDC  
About 11 – members of the public

**67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Richard White  
Councillor Cheryl Hill-Cottingham

**68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Street lighting and lamp posts were discussed. It was noted that these were discussed in the last meeting and were in the September minutes. They are not Heritage items and it was stated that the existing lights would remain.
- The planning application for 5 houses near Jenkins farm was raised –it is on the agenda to discuss under 72.1 These houses would replace the existing agricultural buildings. All the adjacent neighbours support this application and are looking for support from the parish council. This was deferred until later in the meeting.
- Solar Farm. Details of some minor amendments to the Solar Farm were sent to Cllr Routledge recently. Many Solar Farms make a contribution to their local community, and it was felt that SPC should approach the company to discuss some funding / subsidy (note that the farm may not be in Stisted, but the entrance is)
- Broadband. It was noted that some areas of Kings Lane do not have the Fibre Broadband as the village does, and this includes the Golf Course but not Stisted Hall. It was felt that the developer would not need to provide Fibre Broadband for any new development that may go ahead near Jenkins Farm. County Broadband do provide satellite broadband in the area but would need a lot of houses to sign up to improve their offering. Add to agenda for next meeting.
- Mowing of grass banks – discussed briefly. The grass was due to be cut in August but was not. Cllr Hughes has tried to contact the contractor but received no response. It will be put to tender next year and is on the agenda later
- Dust Cart – This is on the agenda later. There are concerns that it will not be used correctly and that all items will be going to landfill rather than being sorted. Cllr Hughes is awaiting a call back from BDC and will establish is water goes to a transfer station for sorting or directly to landfill. An appropriate date will be agreed and a method of collecting items from elderly villagers agreed
- Litter Pick – see agenda item
- CANS – see agenda item
- Minutes of the last meeting were not published in the Parish Magazine – MH stated that this was because they were not yet agreed. But The July ones are in the Parish Magazine and no meeting was held in August.





**69.1 Braintree District Councillor**

i) County Cllr Dennis Abram Coggeshall Ward – Noted that he needs to sign a form regarding flowers / rewilding that is with the village hall. He offered his input with the Aural History project as he has some expertise in this area. Noted issues with Honeywood School where 22 classes are affected with the Raac. Some \$106 money has been found – perhaps as much as £150k and this will be allocated to the surgery to benefit local residents. There are a lot of potential developments in the area with the A120 work and there is concern that any landscaping and development is done correctly.

**69.2 Parish Paths**

Cllr Powers reported that Highways plan to review and repair path 38 opposite Jenkins. Path at the back of Bains Farm has been cut but there are thorns on the path. Path 19 at the back of Sarcel is overgrown again but will be handled locally

**69.3 Village Hall Report inc. Stisted Archives**

- A Christmas Quiz night with food and drink is being held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- CANS will be holding a Pub Pizza and Nature evening on 11 November
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, the archives are holding a presentation at Stisted Village Hall for residents.
- For 2024 there are plans to digitise the older parish records including those from the WI, the Montefiore and the Shop, some going back as far as 1889. This may require some funding as well as resource and a dedicated laptop
- There is also new material from Stisted Mill to transfer to the laptop
- The Brenda Toys presentation will be soon after Christmas and it would be good to have some form of display about it
- The Aural History programme led by Helen will continue after Christmas and any help would be welcome. Note there may be Data protection issues to manage.
- Jane is searching and referencing parish magazine records
- This year there will be no Pick and Press of apples from the community orchard as the crop was poor.

**69.4 Community Shop**

- There was a meeting the previous week as the current partners retire at the end of October. There are some new people to take this on so there should be a smooth transition. The shop has been there approx. 20 years. The Trustees of the Montefiore only allow certain activities for the shop.

**70 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The Street lights were mentioned. The old globe was not a heritage item and it was not possible to use LED in the fitting as it would have been harmful to wildlife. The work was needed to be carried out to reduce maintenance and electricity costs and the only way to have LED was the current solution in place. Proposed by Cllr Powers and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Routledge that we were happy with the details  
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

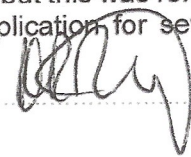
**71 MEETING ACTIONS REPORT**

This item was carried to the next meeting as there is a lot to discuss on planning.

**72 PLANNING MATTERS**

**72.1 Planning Applications**

- Jenkins Farm 23/02202/FUL. This is proposing luxury housing rather than any affordable housing. However, too many houses may cause a Highways issue. Previously there had been an application for commercial usage but this was refused by the LPA. Cllr Powers and Routledge are against this application for several reason including





- a. Gated community not appropriate to the village
- b. Outside village envelope
- c. Road is an accident blackspot and there is no footpath on Kings Lane
- d. These are old agricultural buildings

One of the local residents had spoken to the land agent who feels that any other type of development may not work. Concern expressed over the future for the site if planning not approved Three of the five Councillors are against the application so need to draft a letter concerning this. Once the PC has made a decision it cannot be changed

- ii. 48 Sarcel 23/02264/HH. Small extension. The parish have no objections to this.
- iii. Land Opposite Jenkins Cllr Routledge will attend the appeal on 31 October
- iv. Gladwish Land Enforcement – the issue (caravan and polytent of rubbish) has been reported and BDC are dealing with it and are aware of the owner. They were on site a few days previously. Need to use the plot map from the Perfect plot website, plus land registry to confirm owner. The owner has been staying there at weekends. MH will try to contact the LPA Enforcement Officer to discuss

**72.2 Planning Results**

- i. None.

**73 FINANCE**

**73.1 Bank Reconciliation**

- Leave for this month pending new clerk appointment

**73.2 Payments**

- No payments schedule was presented for approval

**73.3 Section 106 Funding**

- Need to check if claim put in for S106 funding for the benches by previous clerk.
- Cllr Holland will follow up on the Solar Farm funding

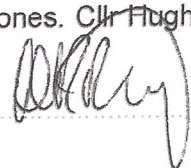
**74 COMMUNITY, RECREATION & MAINTENANCE**

**74.1 Working Group - Neighbourhood Plan**

- Cllr Routledge to attend a meeting next week and will provide an email update

**74.2 Working Group – Climate & Nature for Stisted (CANS)**

- In progress for 1 year
- Pub and Pizza evening 11 November
- There has been a rewilding project in Wakes Colner and a presentation on this will be arranged
- Hoping to obtain a grant of circa £250 to help renovate the Village Hall pond as it has steep sides. Await EssexCC response from Evolve to obtain a grant. This land is part of the Village Hall.
- The Stisted Plan for Nature will provide a framework for what the village hope to achieve for e.g. transport, emissions, biodiversity – this is a plan for everyone and aims to address village concerns
- There was a stall at the Church Fayre on 16 September for publicity and resulting in a 2 acre rewilding at Bradwell and some hedgehog highway mapping and other items. An event has been attended recently at RHS Hyde Hall for the various biodiversity groups where the group meet the Wivenhoe biodiversity group
- It is important to obtain as many grants as possible to help with “greening”
- A river clean up and butterfly count are planned. The signage of wildlife has been designed but is waiting to be printed.
- Feedback welcome – perhaps at the Pizza eve on 11 November
- There will be a river walk on 24 October
- CANS to send a proposal to the council including designs for the signage they want to see if they can get formal signs rather than laminated ones. Cllr Hughes will obtain some costs and then can set budget





**74.3 Playing Field**

- Cllr Powers reported that there has been an inspection of the equipment but there is some confusion as it is not clear who installed the equipment or when (it is about 20 years old. Cllr Hollands may be able to find publicity for the date of installation) There is a need to upgrade some of the equipment as it is in poor condition and ROSPA have stated it may soon deteriorate Wickstead were thought to be the manufacturers and installers but they are denying knowledge
- Cllr Routledge still has to record a video of the football pitch

**74.4 Sub-Committees**

- Hold until next meeting

**74.5 Parish Council Website**

- Cllr Hollands will try to obtain some quotes for updated website and to consider new suppliers

**74.6 Dog Bins**

- Cllr Hughes confirmed that we must consult and obtain resident approval to siting of Dog Bins because if there is a complaint they must be removed.
- The village green and the green on Sarcel may make good locations, as well as the footpath next to Waterlea cottage. This gives 3 areas to investigate
- Maybe publicise on social media

**74.7 Street Lighting**

- We need to know who our energy suppliers are and obtain a code from the manufacturer so that we can reduce electricity charge. Hold until next meeting

**74.8 Affordable Housing**

- There is a meeting Friday 27 October to walk the area. Cllr Hughes to confirm details

**74.9 BDC Map**

- This marks up details of verges for grass cut. Cllr Hughes has been discussing with Cllr Tom Walsh as people want 2 cuts of verges not just one – particularly on blind spots. The 1 cut only is a trial – it is good for wildlife but presents safety issues. Villagers may not cut the grass themselves due to the liability position

**74.10 Street Signs**

- Cllr Powers has discussed the street board names for The Street to Kings Lane and agreed with Richard Bass to walk the village.

**74.11 Parish Newsletter**

- No action

**74.12 Grass Cutting Contract**

- Playing field and village green have areas of permanent rewilding rather than just “no mow May” areas. Some changes to exact areas need to be made and new spec produced before it can be sent out for quotes for new contract

**74.13 Heating Oil alternatives**

- New Boilers will be banned by 2026. Emails have been sent to various MPs etc. on this topic but only Priti Patel replied. Request for Parish Council to add their support [redacted] to send details of email address to use to Cllr Hughes

**74.14 Tree Guards**

- Cllr Hollands offered to remove the tree guards to the trees on the verges on Kings Lane and Water Lane as the trees are established and no longer require the guards which will become a nuisance. It should be at the same time as the litter pick – perhaps a Saturday in November. All Parish Councillors should support it. Litter could all be collected in one bag and brought back centrally to be sorted for recycling

**74.15 Street Signs**

- Details will be submitted to Essex County Highways for approval before the next meeting

**74.16 Dustcart**

- Cllr Hughes will speak to DC on Thursday to agree the way forward



**75 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2**

The following items were raised:

- Work on the Glebe Barns is on hold after a barn was taken down and rebuilt during Covid as it was dangerous. BDC put a stop to the work as planning permission was needed for the demolition. Cllr Hughes will speak to BDC to review the situation to see if work can go ahead again

**76 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- From the minutes
  - Fibre Broadband
  - Meeting Actions report carry forward
  - Bank Reconciliation carry forward
  - Sub Committees carry forward

Ongoing items will be added to the agenda

**77 MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING**

At 9.05 All members of public were asked to leave the room to discuss employment matters.

**78 EMPLOYMENT MATTERS – CLERK RECRUITMENT**

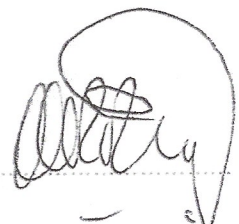
Two people interviewed. New Clerk – Ruth Jubb was appointed to start immediately

**79 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7:30p.m. at the **Montefiore Institute**.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 21:15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Hughes', written over a dotted line.