

## **Good Easter Parish Council**

**Correspondence Address: 7 Piercing Hill, Theydon Bois, Essex, CM16 7JN  
Locum Clerk to the Council: Mrs Caroline Carroll**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held via Zoom Conferencing at 7.00 pm on  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Guy Pitt (Acting Chair); Cllr Graham Seeley; Cllr Chris Wood, Cllr Paul West, Cllr Marie Stephenson, Cllr Ian Watkins  
Cllr. Cllr John Aldridge Broomfield & Writtle,

**Apologies:** Cllr. Nicolette Chambers, Chelmsford Rural West

**Officers Present:** Caroline Carroll (Locum Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** The Meeting was attended by 1 member of the public and Leila Balin who is to be co-opted onto the Council this evening

### **1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Pitt opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Cllr Stephenson nominated Cllr Seeley, and this was seconded by Cllr Wood. Cllr Seeley's appointment was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council and gratefully accepted the office of Chairman of the Parish Council and gave thanks to Cllr Pitt for stepping in over the last few months. Clerk to send Cllr Seeley the Declaration of Acceptance which was agreed by the Council to be signed at a later date.

### **2. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Seeley proposed Guy Pitt for the position of Vice-Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Watkins.

### **3. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Nicolette Chambers (Chelmsford Rural West)**

### **4. Disclosure of Interests with regard to specific items on the Agenda (existence of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or existence and nature of Other Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest). The Council has adopted the Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct.**

Cllr West declared he was Chair of the Village Hall Committee and Cllr Watkins declared he was chair of the sports field committee. Cllr Stephenson is secretary of the sports field association and a member of the village hall committee

### **5. Public Participation session with regard to Specific Items on the Agenda**

Cllr Seeley noted that the public would have the opportunity to speak at the Democratic 15 minutes later in the meeting.

### **6 To approve the appointment of the Locum Clerk**

Cllr Seeley proposed Caroline Carroll for the role of Locum Clerk and Cllr Pitt seconded this.

### **7. Co-option of a new Parish Councillor**

The Council have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, and it was proposed by Cllr Seeley that the Council intend to Co-op Leila Balin. This was unanimously agreed, and Leila was welcomed onto the Council.

**8. To Approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

**APPROVED**

**9/10. Feedback from Chelmsford City Council & Essex County Council**

Cllr Aldridge updated the Councillors on the current budget and how the County is managing the COVID-19 crisis particularly in terms of social care and support. The Government have allocated the County £60 million and due to high expenditure during the crisis of around £107million there is now a deficit of around £50million which could be met from the reserve funds. The City is also under pressure with reduced income from car parks and leisure facilities. There also needs to be a reconciliation as to how money is allocated to Local Authorities and how they can make ends meet during this time. Much of the County and City income is from Council Tax and due to the COVID crisis some households may not be in a position to pay Council Tax so whilst we aren't seeing that at the moment it could be something to watch in the next few months.

More locally there is an issue with drainage between Farmbridge End Road and Chalk End due to the ditch not being cleared. There are also signs that need replacing around the villages.

Furthermore, During February meeting the County leader was to give all large Councils £75K to spend on community initiatives.

**11. Democratic 15 mins**

One member of the public queried the large increase of 12% on the precept this year. Cllr Seeley explained that the precept was raised due the insurance for the Village Hall being paid in future by the PC and in this way each parishioner will contribute by way of Council Tax. The 12% rise equates to £7.00 per household per year. There is also an allowance for maintaining Horses Pond, additional electricity costs for the sports pavilion and a small increase in the Parish Clerk's fees. It was agreed that the Parish Council will look more at their reserves for smaller projects so the precept should not be increase for a few more years.

The member of the public thanked the Council for their response and left the meeting. Cllr Aldridge also left the meeting at this point but before he left wanted to thank Lorraine Green for all her hard work during her 15 years on the Council.

**12. Financial Matters**

Cheques for signing: -

Lorraine Green – £280.92

Caroline Carroll - £223.02

EALC Affiliation Fee - £115.93

Cllr Pitt updated the Council on the status of the application for online banking. Due to the lockdown the Council will now have to complete the forms again as we have missed the deadline. It was agreed Cllr Seeley, Cllr Pitt and Cllr Watkins would be the signatories. It was also proposed by Cllr Seeley that Caroline Carroll would be the temporary RFO which was seconded by Cllr Pitt.

**13. Planning Matters and Applications**

One planning application had been received and circulated – Cumbers Cottage Application Number: 20/00724/LBC

No Comments from the Parish other than due to this being a conservation project the Councillors felt this was best for the conservation officer to comment but the Parish had no objections.

**14. To approve final Terms of Reference for Village Hall Committee becoming a Standing Committee of the Parish Council**  
**APPROVED**

**15. To discuss Insurances**

Cllr Pitt confirmed that the Zurich Insurance has been paid.

**16. To discuss and approve the Data Protection policy**  
**APPROVED**

**17. To note the Village Hall report and approval of questionnaire to be issued to GE residents relating to New Village Hall/Sports Pavilion**

Questionnaire to residents was agreed at the January meeting but given the time lapse Cllr West will circulate again to all Councillors. A report on the Village Hall has been sent to Councillors.

**18. To receive the sports field report**

Cllr Watkins - It has been another busy year for GESFA with 13 events since May last year, including the Fete; which was very popular last year, a number of pop up pubs and social events and a run on news year day and much more. All put on for the benefit and wellbeing of the parishioners of Good Easter.

We have also secured another year of football with Dunmow Rhodes (although they are not currently playing) and secured a grant of £3000 from Stansted Airport. Altogether raising a total income for the last year of £8407.97.

As well as raising money, we have also been busy improving the facilities in the pavilion, decorating, and purchasing new equipment. We made a donation to St Andrews Church of £200, raised from events put on in conjunction with the church; our total out-going for last year was £2900.71.

Giving a total net income of £5507.26

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel all our events since March and we do not yet know when we will once again be able to put on activities for people to come together, exercise or socialise. However, we will, and they will be great!

**19. To receive an update on the clearance of the pond**

Tasked to Cllr Seeley at the last meeting and on inspection didn't look like it needed too much maintenance, so it was suggested that the Council monitors this and Cllr Balin agreed to take this forward.

**20. To receive an update on the VE Day celebrations**

Many residents celebrated VE Day from their front gardens which included picnics, war time music and the ringing of the church bells 75 times.

**21. Any Other Urgent Business for report (without decision)**

Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item. The Local Government Act 1972 section 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision:

Asbestos management survey to be added to the next Agenda for the July meeting

Cllr Pitt raised the issued of fly tipping in the village and surrounding roads. Cllr Seeley to raise with Cllr Chambers and report at the next meeting.

Cllr Seeley closed the meeting at 19.58

Signed: ..... Caroline Carroll  
28/05/2020

Dated: