**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at The Village Hall, Graveney,**

**on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chairman Clare Boggia, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Cllr Teresa Bowles and Cllr Tom King.

Public: 4

**178. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Lisa Stiffell (PC), Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC), Cllr Tim Valentine (SBC) and Cllr Alastair Gould.

**179. Declaration of Interests**

No declarations were made.

**180. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 and 10th January 2022.**

Due to absence of the Parish Clerk, no hard copy of December meeting minutes present. Cllr Alan Stewart said that some alterations were still required. It was agreed to hold over signing off the minutes to the April meeting. Cllr Alan Stewart noted minutes still required for the financial budget meeting held in December.

**Action 180: Clerk to send out minutes for financial budget meeting to Cllrs Alan Stewart, Catherine Wilkinson and Cllr Clare Boggia.**

**181. Matters arising**

Action 166a: Still awaiting response from Ken at Streetlights re timer/LED output and costings. Clerk requested to chase again. These details are required for Cllr Alan Stewart to reply to action 166b. Action 169. Cllr Alan Stewart noted need for copy of amended budget/precept. Cllr Alan Stewart requested copy of minutes of the financial budget meeting held in December

Action 172. Cllrs noted that there were still lorries parked with no lights on the slip road, and lots of mud on the road. Agreed Clerk write to Hernhill Parish Council with our concerns

Action 174b. Cllr Teresa Bowles has names and will forward to clerk to write to landowner re required land maintenance on cycle and footpaths

**182. Cleve Hill Solar Park update**

Cllr Alan Stewart updated the council: GREAT are now part of the Solar Campaign Alliance – A group that supports solar energy but not on an industrial size, nor on agricultural land, close to residents, or harmful to nature.

All members have been updated in respect to the ongoing communication regarding the transfer of the DCO – the contention is that the requirements have not been fulfilled! Despite Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd continuing as a company all the previous Directors have now been replaced by Directors from Quinbrook.

Matt Hancock wrote a very well-informed article in the Daily Mail about the Sunnica proposals in Suffolk (a group GREAT have collaborated with).

A march to voice objection to the Sunnica proposals will take place on Sunday 20th March at Mildenhall in Suffolk and Helen W has been invited to this. She has also been asked to lend her voice to this campaign and support us in ensuring that batteries will not be part of the Cleve Hill development

Dominic Raab has stopped solar panels from China being used as they are made with slave labour by Uighur Muslims.

GREAT have now established through The Telegragh that when wholesale electricity prices are high, renewable producers pay money back to the Government but this refund then goes to the energy suppliers rather than households. In the first 6 months of this year the predicted saving would have amounted to £40 per household.

The Solar Campaign Alliance has prompted a Parliamentary debate on large scale solar parks and battery storage facilities.

GREAT are not aware of any further progress regarding the DCO requirements between the developers and SBC

**183. Coronavirus**

Cllr Alan Stewart updated the council on latest figures and it was noted Seasalter was a particularly high area within our region. Swale had seen a significant 70% increase in infection rates with the Deltacron variant threatening in Europe.

**Action 183: Clerk to seek guidance from KALC if this needs to remain on agenda**

**184. Crime Report**

Cllr Clare Boggia reported the latest figures for February as listed on the Kent Police website for Boughton and Courtenay area. This showed a total 17 crimes for the area, but none within Graveney and

Goodnestone. Area average was 6:1000 population with Swale area as a whole reporting 8:1000.

**185. Highways Improvement Plan update**

Cllr Clare Boggia reported a lot of work had been put into this with a subgroup working hard to put a questionnaire together. This had been printed and delivered to every household in the villages and was now being collected. Although not all responses in, it appears that the response rate so far was good with lots of helpful engagement on the questionnaire. Cllr Clare Boggia thanked those who had volunteered to help with this, Beth Kendall, Richard Filipczak, Graham Reynolds, Sally Edge and Teresa Bowles. It is proposed to present in full at the April annual meeting.

**Action 185: Agenda this item for the Annual Meeting as presentation.**

**186. Correspondence**

Due to absence of clerk, nil further discussed.

**Action 186: Cllrs asked to be sent full details of listing 1 – PSV Validation and 27 – Lights**

**187. Finance**

1. Financial statement and bank reconciliation. This was noted but as clerk unable to attend and no bank statements available to check, not signed
2. Payments:
3. SSE Footway Lighting March paid by D/D
4. Clerk Salary payment paid by D/D
5. Clerk backdated Salary increase and annual leave - £290.40. To put on agenda for April.

**Action 187a:** Cllrs Alan Stewart and Clare Boggia to meet to review prior to next meeting with clerk.

1. Gallagher Insurance - £699.40. This was proposed by Cllr Clare Boggia and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart and all agreed to be paid immediately.

**Action 187b**: to ensure that Insurance is put onto the agenda for November meeting for review

v. Streetlights Invoice 12690 Payment 4 of 4 - £145.86 Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles and all agreed to payment

1. Rural Kent Membership Renewal - £60 . Proposed by Cllr Lesley Lound and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart and all agreed to payment
2. Abbey Print (Highways Questionnaire) - £45. Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Tom King, all agreed to payment
3. KALC Planning Conference - £60. Proposed by Cllr Clare Boggia and seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles, all agreed It was noted that the course booked for Cllr Teresa Bowles was not attended due to lack of information from KALC.

**Action 187c: Clerk to check no payment made and to seek date for further course**

**188. Planning**

No Applications received

Cllr Alan Stewart reported he had spoken with Laura Boozer at SBC regarding siting of a static caravan at the Brenley Mast, this is being investigated. Cllr Alan Stewart had also asked for feedback regarding the extension at FHS public house and is awaiting response about this. It was noted that the BP filling station had applied to put in several electric recharge points.

**189. Graveney & Goodnestone Trust**

Cllr Alan Stewart reported had meeting on 16/02/22. There had been interest from people to help on the trust. Some applications had been made and grants given. It was noted that the grant allocated to the community payback works had not been taken up. Cllr Clare Boggia noted that despite various emails after lockdown there had been no response. Village Hall representative, Elaine Cooper also noted they had had no response for the village hall work either. Cllr Clare Boggia to try one further time regarding this

**Action 189: Cllr Clare Boggia to contact Alan Wooley at Community Payback**

**190. Village Hall Field Complaint**

Regrettably letter unavailable due to sudden absence of clerk. Village hall representative at the meeting noted this was about dog fouling on the hall field and fence that was pulled down over the years due to people taking a short cut via the hall field. After discussion it was agreed that council write to support Village Hall trustees.

**Action 190a: Clerk to write to the landowner regarding the fence once VH had sent photographs and location details to the clerk**

**Action 190b: Clerk to contact SBC regarding how far from road, SBC would send operatives to empty a dog waste bin. Looking at having a dog waste bin at end of field at village hall**

**191. Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Teresa Bowles reported Church were trying to co-ordinate something for the village. It was noted that it was now getting rather near, so it was agreed to propose date of Saturday 4 June for village celebration. Cllr Teresa Bowles reported WI ladies had volunteered to do strawberry teas. Cllr Lesley Lound will be parish council representative with Cllr Teresa Bowles. Cllr Teresa Bowles said she was getting the beacon which would be a gas portable one. It was agreed that parish council co-ordinate a best decorated house/garden for the village. Cllr TB/LL/CB will look at this and report back to April meeting

**Action 192: Clerk to seek funding for the event through local grants**

**192. Picnic Bench funding**

A letter had been received from Village Hall Trustees regarding this and suggested they apply to the

Trust for funding, which had been done and grant given.

**193. Reports from Parish Councillors**

It was noted we still have a vacancy for a parish councillor.

**Action 193: Clerk to advertise PC Cllr vacancy in Faversham newspaper (usually free under Public notices). To liaise with Chair re closing date and Chair to add advert to village FB page.**

Cllr Lesley Lound reported she had been monitoring skip lorries and although some going out of permitted hours of operation, there seemed to be no pattern. There was also concern over location of salt bins and how they are filled up. Cllr Alan Stewart noted he had reported one in Broom Street via KC portal and this was filled up quickly.

**Action 193a: Cllrs to note any salt bins in their area, general state of repair and if empty and let clerk know so she can keep a record.**

Cllr Teresa Bowles reported she had attended a meeting with Cllr Alan Stewart with the lead consultant who is advising

Faversham Town Council on their Parishes to Town Initiative which is looking at securing funding from

SBC to develop a network of cycling and walking routes between Faversham and the surrounding

communities , which would include Graveney/Goodnestone. The Parish Council will continue to liaise on this project so that any proposals will offer some benefits to our villages.

**Action 193b: Clerk to contact Headmistress Alison Blackwell to see if they have a School Travel plan to share with Parish to Town Initiative consultant**

Cllr Catherine Wilkinson noted cars being damaged in Homestall lane due to overgrown hedges. She will report this on the KCC portal

Cllr Alan Stewart reported on his KALC planning day which had been extremely informative , especially regarding the Planning for the Future government document. Cllr Alan Stewart had also attended the Swale South East Area Committee on 3 February where there was helpful discussion about local flooding and ways to take forward. There was also discussion there about defibrillator funding. Next area meeting 22/3/22 where Cllr Alan Stewart will attend.

**Action 193c : Clerk to contact SBC regarding possible funding.**

**194. Reports for Borough and District Councillors (if present)** Nil present

**195. Footpath Update**

The footpath warden reported that the bridge over dyke behind the school had been replaced. He also reported that in his role a fire hydrant representative, the annual report had been done and sent to the fire service. He will also send this report to clerk for file. Thanks given to RF for his volunteer work in doing this for the villages.

**196. Any other business**

Next meeting is Annual Parish meeting and agenda to start at 19:00.

Action: Clerk to write to village representatives to come and present their annual report (WI, School, footpath warden, Church, GREAT, PCSO, Village Hall trustees, Graveney and Goodnestone Trust) as well as road safety group and Jubilee celebrations group.

**197. Date of next meeting**

Monday 11th April 2022 - starts 19:00

**198. Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 21:16

Signed……………………………………………………..

Date………………………………………………………..