**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Clare Boggia, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Lisa Stiffell (Clerk), Cllr Teresa Bowles, Cllr Tom King and Cllr Tim Valentine (SBC)

Public: 1

**156. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC) and Cllr Alastair Gould.

**157. Declaration of Interests**

No declarations were made.

**158. Election of Chair.**

Cllr Alastair Gould sent the Parish Council an email with a suggestion of standing forward for Chair if no other interest received. Cllr Alan Stewart highlighted the conferences that are offered by KALC in regard to Chairmanship as believes the Parish Council could be better prepared for Chairmanship. Cllr Catherine Wilkinson stated that the commitment of time and perhaps the workload is spread between Councillors to reduce the demand and workload of the Chairman which could then in turn make the role of Chair more appealing. Cllr Tim Valentine informed the Parish Council that most Councillors have a specific role within their Parishes to assist the Chair. Cllr Clare Boggia presented the Parish Council with a graph that showed the proposed process for delegating tasks within the Parish Council. Cllr Clare Boggia has volunteered to stand as Chair until May to enable to Parish Council to continue with normal business, finance, and processes. Cllr Alan Stewart proposed the Election of Cllr Clare Boggia as Chair which was seconded by Cllr Lesley Lound and unanimously agreed by all members of the Parish Council.

**159. Election of Vice Chair.**The Chairman asked the Parish Council if there was any desire to take the role of Vice Chair however, no interest was placed on this occasion.

**160. NA**

**161. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2021 and 13th December 2021.**

The November 2021 minutes were approved and signed. Some amendments were required for the December 2021 minutes to be completed by the Clerk and printed for signing at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action 161. Clerk to make amendments to December 2021 Minutes and add to next Parish Meeting Agenda for signing.**

**162. Matters arising (for information only)**

Action 142a – Completed, Action 142b Cllr Alan Stewart stated he will monitor and make further comment speaking to Gary Gibb who is the Highways officer if required.

**163. Cleve Hill Solar Park.**Cleve Hill sent a community letter on 10th November 2021 introducing Quinbrooks. There are no further updates at present.

**164. Coronavirus.**

Cllr Alan Stewart gave the latest figures reported to 5th January 2022.   
Kent had 1533 cases per 100k

England 1821 cases showing an increase by 300

Swale 1766 cases showing an increase by 437

Boughton and Selling 1517 cases and stable

Seasalter 1399 cases and stable

**165. Crime Report.**The Chairman read the current figures from December 2021 to the Parish Council. Thefts per 1000 consisted of 5 for Boughton and Courtenay and 1 in Graveney. Dunkirk have a higher rate of issues and the Community Support Officers have been attending monthly meetings however, reported there is no attendance. The Chairman will advertise on social media to raise awareness.

**166. Streetlights.**

Cllr Alan Stewart highlighted that we have a 3-year contract which ends 31st March 2022. We are subject to review and are currently awaiting details. £1,925 has been budgeted for 2021/2022 however, work was not completed to replace 2 lamps. Cllr Alan Stewart suggests lights required at either side of the Railway Bridge be replaced specifically light numbers 4 & 5 to update from Sodium to SL7 lights, this work was approved and we are currently awaiting pricing from Streetlights. Chairman asked if we could switch our Streetlights off at midnight however, it was suggested that should any crimes be committed after midnight and the lights have been switched off the Parish Council could be blamed for the decision. Chairman read an email received from a Parishioner requesting that the lights were switched off at midnight as there are known links to Cancer and obesity with light pollution. A Scientific paper was also included with the email. Currently the Parish lights are run by 2,700 lumens which are the lowest we can go to. Cllr Tim Valentine informed the Parish Council that streetlighting has been switched off as requested previously however, there were complaints received.

**Action 166a. Cllr Alan Stewart to draft a letter to respond to the lighting enquiry and then sent to the Chairman for completion and distribution.**

**Action 166b. Clerk to contact Streetlights regarding next Contract and request the running cost of a typical led light and the cost associated with running a timer.**

**167. Highways Improvement Plan.**

No updates at present, update should be available in the next Parish Meeting to be held March 2022.

**168. Correspondence.**

Correspondence shared with Parish Council and Item 13 for the Village Hall was highlighted as the invoice for Hall Hire and confirmed.

**169. Finance**.

A, Financial statement, and bank reconciliation approved and signed.

B, Budget/Precept 2022/2023 – Summary reported by Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and the Clerk. Total suggested budget total was £11,822.16 which consists of an increase of £300 to previous year. Cllr Alan Stewart offered an explanation on all items.   
Office Expenses and Travel are minimal.

Lighting costs – expecting to cost just over £600 and have included a slight estimated increase to £700 due to price increases.

Lighting Repairs - £1,000 to cover light opposite 2 Bridge Cottages or driveway just before Denley Hall.

Newsletter – No budget proposed but we do have funds should start up be required.

Subscriptions – 4 Subscriptions in total for CPRE, KALC, Action within Communities in Rural Kent and information commissioner’s office.

Training – Very little spent this year, however, have put through £350 for the budget to offer more training for Parish Councillors with KALC.

Audit – Small inflation increase.

Insurance – Inflationary increase.

Website – Small uplift to £225.

Village Hall Hire – Based on 10 meetings per year at £10 per hour.

Section 137 – Expenditure sum of £120.

Chairmans Allowance - £100 in budget.

Repairs and renewals – Defibrillator, Jubilee Celebrations and Footpath may require expenditure.   
Misc – Covers donations, kept at £100.

Election Expenses – No expenses for next year.

Cleve Hill Solar Park – Not expecting expenditure next year.

Highway Improvement Plan – Budget of £2,000 applied to offer a generous value to allocate for works warranted.

Cllr Alan Stewart proposed the confirmed budget of £11,822.16 which was seconded by Cllr Tom King. The Precept was agreed at £11,200 and will be sent to Swale Borough Council.

C, Finance working group members volunteered are Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Lesley Lound.

D, Payments:

1. SSE Footway Lighting for January (for info only – paid by D/D)
2. Clerk Salary payment (for info only – paid by D/D)
3. Hall Hire Charge - £180

All signed and approved.

**Action 169a. Cllr Alan Stewart to email Parish Clerk proposed final budget figures for Precept**.

**170. Planning – Cleve Hill Solar Park REF 21/506832/SUB**

Cllr Alan Stewart suggested that there needs to be a degree of harmony between fencing and wildlife species. Deer fencing is to be erected however; concerns have been raised regarding the effect on water voles.

**Action 170. Clerk to email Kent Wildlife Trust and Vicky at CPRE for input regarding the application.**

Weekly Lists. Cllr Alan Stewart highlighted an application from Lady Dane Farm for full 84 Residential Dwellings and 3 Commercial Buildings to comprise of Enterprise land, care home and land reserved for 2 primary schools. Cllr Tim Valentine confirmed that this site is already in the adopted plan. The Parish Council have concerns surrounding the migration towards Graveney and Goodnestone.

**171. Graveney & Goodnestone Trust.**

The Parish Council received an update from Roger Mitchell via email informing the Parish Council that there were several grants approved in the November meeting. The funding is now available to pay the grants. At the December Parish Council meeting there were two expressions of interest in joining the Trust. Roger Mitchell is still awaiting input and without these it is likely that the Trust will proceed with the winding up proposal. Roger Mitchell will continue to provide support to the Trust as Treasurer unless other arrangements are made. The Chairman requested that the Defibrillator quote be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Trust Meeting.

**Action 171. Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Teresa Bowles to obtain an update from Roger Mitchell to ascertain if contact has been made.**

**172. Reports from Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Teresa Bowles is concerned about the skips travelling between Monkshill Road and Brickfield Lane as there are now many from Cleve Hill which is causing difficulty for cars and agricultural machinery.

Cllr Lesley Lound has monitored the traffic movement and noticed that at 5.45am to 6am a large Veolia lorry also commutes which is outside the hours agreed for transportation. Cllr Teresa Bowles will assess how many people have had issues and Cllr Valentine suggested a weight limit be placed. Cllr’s Teresa Bowles and Lesley Lound to do some further monitoring.

**Action 172a. Clerk to email decision letter with hours of operation from website KCC Planning.**

**Action 172b. Clerk to email Swale Borough Council regarding lorry park, Chairman will provide details.**

**Action 172c. Clerk to contact Clerk at Hernhill to confirm if any complaints have been made to them regarding lorries and Cleve Hill.**

**Action 172d. Clerk to upload a heading on Website for Queens Jubilee – News to Follow.**

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

Cllr Tim Valentine informed the Parish Council that Swale Borough Council are moving back to remote meetings. It is anticipated that the Chief Executive will give a decision regarding meetings shortly. Will also be consulting on EV Charging points. Reported homelessness pre pandemic had reduced however, has increased again as landlords are now able to evict again. Budget – Money will be taken from reserves in March and in May will be moving to a Committee system instead of Cabinet. Each Committee will be politically balanced. Advantage as more Councillors will be involved with decision making. The change cannot be altered for 5 years.

**174. Footpath Update.**

Footpath Warden informed the Parish Council that the Links and General information on the Website was incorrect. The Activities are listed as 2021 and should be 2022. All Website Links are in working order however, the date needs to be changed to show checked January 2022. The cycle running between Sandbanks Lane and Nagden has been disregarded by KCC as state not their responsibility. An ordnance map will be sent to the Parish Clerk to forward to Cllr Teresa Bowles.

**Action 174a. Clerk to correct Parish Website to show Activities as 2022 and change the last checked date to January 2022**.

**175. Any other business (for information only)**

No other business to report.

**176. Date of next meeting.**

**Next meeting to be held on Monday 14th March 2022.**

**177. Close of Meeting.**

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed……………………………………………………..

Date………………………………………………………..