**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

 Public: 4

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC), Cllr Tom King and Cllr Lesley Lound.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

No declarations were made.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held December 2021, January 2022 and March 2022**

The December minutes were proposed by the Chair and seconded for approval by Cllr Alan Stewart.

The January minutes were proposed by Cllr Teresa Bowles and seconded for approval by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.

The March minutes proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded for approval by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.

**4. To approve Budget and Finance Minutes from meeting held January 2022**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded for approval by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.

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

Action 169 complete and removed. Action 170 complete and removed. Action 174b to remain and clerk to follow up.

**Action 5: Clerk to contact KALC for guidance relating to the Councillor position. All options have been exhausted to advertise by way of Social Media, word of mouth and the Parish Website however, no interest has been shown. Formal Elections are to be held in May 2023.**

**6. Cleve Hill Solar Park update**

Cllr Alan Stewart noted that the consent that had been granted was not a full consent. Further permissions are required regarding any permanent fencing. Still currently ongoing. Cllr Alan Stewart is disappointed that the Parish Council had not been consulted further. Cllr Alan Stewart has requested a meeting with developers to try and gather more clarity on the current situation. A response has not to date been received from Helen Whately as to why Section 106 apply to works which requires planning consent under normal provisions compared to those that require consent for National infrastructure projects.

**Action 6: Cllr Alan Stewart to send letter to Clerk for Helen Whately. Clerk to send to Helen Whately.**

**7. Highways Improvement Plan update**

Discussions took place regarding plans going forward. Cllr Alan Stewart stated that Sarah whom was the KCC Officer has confirmed that the best process would be to populate the spreadsheet received as a wish list and then hold another meeting with Kent Highways to go through the spreadsheet and discuss to determine with items are realistic and then use this as a basis to go forward with. Cllr Alan Stewart confirmed there may also be some partial funding available through Kent Highways. The Chairman highlighted that the form that was sent through by Cllr Rich Lehmann was very basic and did not ask for many details. It was agreed that as so many areas of the Village are affected it would be wise to create a map to highlight areas in need of attention.

The Chairman will complete the spreadsheet ahead of the next meeting. The form supplied by Cllr Rich Lehmann needs to detail 3 priorities, showing location, the problem and suggested solutions. The priority column must detail those that are the most important. KCC are unable to guarantee that our requests will be deliverable. It was agreed by all members of the Parish Council that the top priorities are as follows:

1, 20mph from Poplar Hall to Denley Village Sign. Reinstatement of the red markings on roads and flashing speed signs. 30mph limit along Graveney Road to Homestall.

2, Footpaths – Suggested to place a Footpath from Merton Place to All Saints View and from Poplar Hall to Head Hill Road.

3, Bridge – Chevrons both sides, rumble strip both sides to slow traffic approaching. Mirror on the exit of Sandbanks Lane and Goodnestone Lane and Monks Hill.

**8. Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Teresa Bowles confirmed that the Jubilee Celebrations will take place on 4th June 2022 and parking will be available at the Church. There will be a raffle, tombola, races for children plus more. It is hoped to be able to arrange a Bouncy Castle and a Beacon depending on costs. Cllr Teresa Bowles is going to approach the Trust for a contribution for the Beacon. Competitions will be held in the form of the best decorated houses in red, white and blue colours and a design a crown or hat competition for the children. The suggested times for Celebration on the 4th June are between 2pm and 6pm. The Women’s Institute will be supplying cream teas. Disabled parking will be placed to the right hand side of the Village Hall. All Beacons are being lit on the Thursday prior and Cllr Teresa Bowles will aim to light the same day if able to obtain a Beacon. Posters will be placed outside the School, and 12 smaller posters will be used to advertise in Churches and on Noticeboards etc.

**9. Crime Report**

The Local PCSO had attended an earlier meeting at the Village Hall reporting that there were no crimes to report in Graveney and Goodnestone for March 2022. The PCSO stated that if any land rovers or similar vehicles are seen locally at odd times and in suspicious circumstances to please record details of registrations and call the Police directly on 999.

**10. Training**

Advanced planning, New Councillor, Precept, Dynamic Councillor are all among training courses being offered by KALC in bitesize courses. The Parish Council were advised to inform the Parish Clerk of any courses that they would like to attend.

**11. Charity Donations**

At the previous Parish Meeting a donation was agreed to the International Red Cross. An email was subsequently received following this from Colin Relph as it was felt that the donation should be given elsewhere due to salaries and turnovers of staff at the Red Cross. This email was discussed further by the Parish Council. The Chair had done some research prior to this meeting and reported that the donations are split where by 10% goes to Crisis UK, 10% is sent to First Aid and Crisis Education, 12% to refugees and migration, 30% to hospitals and home and 38% to international funds. The CEO earns a substantial salary however, it is thought that certain expertise are required for this role. It was agreed that whilst the Village Hall is extremely important to the Parish Council and community, the donation to the Red Cross stands as per previous meeting minutes.

**Action 11: Parish Clerk to write to Colin Relf and thank for observations however, agreed that the Parish Council will continue to offer the Red Cross their donations.**

**12. Correspondence**

The Brenley Corner Event will be virtual and is being held between 1pm and 2pm. National Highways will be giving an update as to what will be happening with Brenley Corner which Cllr Alan Stewart believes will be useful. Cllr Alan Stewart will attend. KCC are planning a trial of free removal of hedges that are encroaching onto roads and sending the costings back to the hedge owner if it can be proved that they are repeat offenders. On 4th May 2022 a Green Grid Meeting is to be held at Elmley and will be attended by Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Teresa Bowles and Cllr Tom King.

**Action 12a: Clerk to send actions list to Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.**

**Action 12b: Clerk to place KCC Hedge removal trial on the Parish Website.**

**Action 12c: Clerk to circulate Hedge Removal email to all Councillors.**

**13. Finance**

1. Financial statement and bank reconciliation – was approved and signed.
2. Payments:
3. SSE Footway Lighting April paid by D/D
4. Clerk Salary payment paid by D/D
5. Clerk backdated Salary increase and annual leave - £361.78 – Proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart. Approved and signed.

**14. Planning**

No Applications received

Langdon Court Planning came in after the agenda had been circulated. Comment to be given by 27th April 2022. The Parish Council will meet for an extraordinary public meeting to discuss planning ahead of the 27th April deadline.

Cllr Alan Stewart spoke with Laura Boozer regarding the Four Horseshoes Pub. Confirmed that Laura Boozer is still awaiting response from Simon Algar as needs feedback from him regarding the rear extension that has not been approved as of yet.

Cllr Alan Stewart informed the Parish Council of the Static Caravan on Brenley Corner and confirmed that Laura Boozer has been in contact with the Land Owners who were unaware of the caravan being on site and are taking action to ensure removal. The Caravan was previous reported to be at Silver Sands.

**Action 14: Cllr Teresa Bowles to contact Elaine Cooper to enquire regarding Village Hall availability for the Extraordinary Planning meeting.**

**15. Graveney & Goodnestone Trust**

Roger Mitchell informed the Parish Council that one application is currently pending.

**16. Reports from Parish Councillors**

Cllr Catherine Wilkinson noted that the traffic in the village was severe. Cllr Alan Stewart attended the Swale Borough Council area committee meeting on 22nd March 2022. A survey and testing is to be completed in relation to the Whitstable Road flooding in Faversham. Agencies are being gathered together to hopefully create a solution to the fouled and standing water.

A defibrillator location map was discussed. A letter will be sent to Town and Parish Councils in order to enable us to add our locations. Cllr Catherine Wilkinson reported that the High Street Road over the Railway line is becoming flooded. The road is narrow as there are road works and there is a British Telecom line that you can touch as it has been down for months present. The Chairman read a letter received from a 10 year old girl from the village. The letter informed all that there are currently no Bus services available for this pupil to arrive at School on time. The Bus service does not currently meet the needs of School Children.

**Action 16: Clerk to report flooding across the whole part of the road and a British Telecom pole down to KCC, Kent Highways and Openreach.**

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

There were not any Borough or District Councillors present.

**18. Footpath Update**

Concerns raised regarding a parked car on Culmers Terrace.

The footpath warden shared his response from Michael as follows.

Strict letter of the law the vehicle could be considered to be an obstruction regardless of how much width is available for the public to pass. The reality is that it would be such a low priority to resolve that I would not be able to advise when there would be any resources to deal with such an issue.

There is no legally recorded width for this section of the footpath so it could be considered at Common Law that the whole width could be the public footpath.

The land is unregistered, quite possibly a hangover from when the houses were built.

If the damage to the path surface becomes such that it is not possible to walk along the path that would increase the priority for KCC but it would need to be more than a path that is muddy/slippery in wet conditions because that could be the situation regardless of whether it is used by a vehicle.

**Action 18: Clerk to contact Gary Gibbs at Kent Highways to report the parked car at Culmer’s Terrace.**

**19. Any other business**

None.

**20. Date of next meeting**

Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

**21. Close of meeting**

 Meeting closed at 10.09pm by the Chair of the meeting.

Signed……………………………………………………..

Date………………………………………………………..