**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of**

**Ordinary meeting held at Graveney Village Hall, Sandbanks Lane, Graveney**

**on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7:30pm.**

Seven members of the public in attendance

Present:

Cllr Clare Boggia, Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllrs Teresa Bowles, Cllr Mike Newman, Cllr Tom King and Borough Councillor Tim Valentine.

1. **Apologies for Absence –** Received from Councillor Alistair Gould and County Councillor Rich Lehmann
2. **Declarations of Interests. Nil**
3. **Cleve Hill Solar Park development update.**

GREAT are continuing to liaise with the Solar Alliance Group. Scientific papers have been prepared and exchanged. GREAT are planning to meet with Kent Fire Rescue Services to highlight any issues GREAT foresee with the Battery storage.

The next Traffic Management Group meeting will be held on 11th January 2023. The last meeting was useful and addressed any issues, a Highway condition survey has been requested which also includes verges. Vibration affecting the properties was mentioned and discussions have taken place to monitor further. There continue to be concerns for mental wellbeing. The meetings will continue to be held fortnightly.

Planning permission has been sought by CHSP to have a lorry park at the top of head hill, no notification of this from SBC as yet

1. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 and Monday 12th December 2022.**

The November minutes were proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Mike Newman. The December minutes were proposed by Cllr Teresa Bowles and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.

1. **Matters arising –** Nil
2. **Highway Improvement Plan**

A meeting should have been held at the end of December with regards to average speed limits. Cllr Clare Boggia has been in contact with Jenny Watson at KCC as speed is now taken from Satellite Navigation and has requested more detail and date for a further meeting

Kevin Fraser at Doddington Parish Council will be meeting with the Parish Council on 11th February 2023 at 11am in the Village Hall in order to discuss Speedwatch. A minimum of 6 Volunteers is required. The Speedwatch kit costs approximately £2,500. Kevin Fraser should be able to inform the Parish Council of any funding that may be available to us to purchase the Speedwatch equipment. Sheldwich Badlesmere and Leaveland Parish Council own a Speedwatch Kit that they may be happy to loan.

KCC are reluctant to have the speed limit written on roads due to maintenance however, more should be known at the end of February.

Homestall Lane – Cllr Mike Newman informed the Parish Council that the parking went down to zero since the leaflets were distributed however, now that the leafleting has stopped parking has increased again. County Councillor Rich Lehmann reported that aerial photography had been used to show that the parking is causing damage to footpath. A Scheme is now being raised with the Highways Manager to potentially place double yellow lines.

**Action 129: Clerk to chase Asbestos dumping at Homestall Lane to Swale Borough Council.**

1. **Email Accounts for Councillors – Update.**

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged between Cllr Clare Boggia, Cllr Mike Newman and the Parish Clerk to discuss emails and update the Parish Council Website.

**Action 130: Clerk to inform Cllr Mike Newman who the Parish Council Website is provided by.**

1. **Crime Report/NHW Update.**

Cllr Clare Boggia tried to obtain further information from the Police as to where specific crimes are within the village however Police confirmed they are not able to share this information.

Zero crimes in December. Criminal damage and arson reported in November. Boughton and Courtenay figures are significantly lower than August and September.

**Neighbourhood Watch.**

Police are not placing any finances into the Neighbourhood Watch plan. It was suggested a list could be collated of who has CCTV in the Village which can be held if you have permission to hold the data which would then be kept by the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Cllr Teresa Bowles informed by Village Hall that they contacted Swale Borough Council who informed them that any fly tipping on their property would need to be removed themselves.

1. **Update from Community Enhancement Group.**

Sally Edge, Sarah Jefferys and Charlotte Grand presented to the Parish Council.

The drop in was well attended after distributing fliers to every house and Facebook advertising. A document is being collated and will be sent to the Parish Council to place on the Parish Website. Topics covered include improved and safer travel, restored biodiversity, solar panels, car charging and enhancing the Village Hall. Going forward they would like to create a working group to assist with reaching more people. Kent Wildlife Trust will also be contacted. It was suggested that a regular update is provided to the Parish Council and agreed that this will be put on the agenda each month

1. **Correspondence.**

No comments from list previously distributed

1. **Finance.**
2. Feedback was given from the Financial Subcommittee meeting re budget 2023/2024. Meeting was held on 8th January 2023 at 3.15pm between Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and the Parish Clerk.
\* Clerks Salary – increase by 5% of expenditure in 2022/2023 in line with KALC from £3192.16 to £4125.
\* Office Rental – Agreed to remain the same at £300.
\* Office Expenses – Reduced to £100 as agreed cost from £200 over past few years has been around the £100 mark.
\* Travel Expenses – Reduced to £75 from £100 due to previous expenditure.
\* Lighting Energy – To remain at £700 for the year as current costing patterns are below that figure.
\* Lighting Maintenance – Increased to £600 from £500 due to current cost patterns.
\* Lighting Repairs – Budget was £1,000 however. Lamps 4 & 5 and 3 & 7 need replacing. Parish Clerk to discuss further with streetlights.
\* Newsletter – A budget of £1,000 suggested due to cost of printing etc.
\* Subscriptions – To remain at £350 as there are changes to subscriptions.
\* Training – Agreed that training is important, and we have a new Councillor. Agreed a budget of £350.
\* Audit – Increase from £325 to £375 to allow for increase in cost.
\* Insurance – 5% increase to be applied to £700 to allow for increase of costs at 3 year agreement renewal.
\* Website – Increase from £225 to £400 for extra support for website.
\* Village Hall Hire – Currently set at £300 for 2022/2023 and increased to £360 to prepare for increased costs and extra meetings.
\* S137 – Budget of £120 to remain as no expected changes.
\* Chairmans Allowance – To remain at £100.
\* Repairs and Renewals – Budget of £500 to remain to allow for noticeboards and Bus shelter.
\* Miscellaneous – Increase from £100 to £750 to allow for Coronation Celebrations.
\* Election Expenses – Clerk to call Swale to ask if Election takes place in 2023 what the likely charges would be. Agreed to increase to £700.
\* Highway Improvement Plan - £2,000 budget was set in 2022/2023. Believed to be appropriate to reduce to £1,000 as funds have not been spent as of yet.
Total of £13,640 set with a Precept of £13,300, Band D of 71.478.
Budget was proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
3. Consideration of request to give donation to the Village Hall via PC Grants in the year 2023/2024 has been agreed at a rate of £50. Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles.
4. Village Improvements.
**Odin Path Noticeboard.**Details to be submitted to insurance company. A replacement suggestion was shared with the Parish Council and it was agreed to replace with a metal noticeboard in black metal in 8 x A4 Size.
 **Village Hall Noticeboard.**
Landowner now happy for noticeboard to be placed. Cllr Clare Boggia shared suggestions with the Parish Council, it was agreed that a metal noticeboard should be purchased.

**Board at Bus Stop Murton Place.**
Colin Relf suggested a board to be placed inside Bus stop. Cllr Tom King confirmed he has some documentation displaying boards. A 4 page should be ordered in portrait design.

**Action 134: Clerk to send signs of the times email to Cllr Tom King – resend original email.**

**Defibrillator.**
Defibrillator is on order. An information sheet will be placed with details showing location at the pub. The Publican requested that an agreement be put into place. Cllr Clare Boggia shared proposed agreement with the Parish Council which was agreed. North Electrics will install. Defibrillator pads are now £361.15 as quoted by AED Donate, clerk to purchase.

**Grant for Area in front of School Car Park.**A grant application dating back to 2020 was approved at a grant of £2,217. Cllr Stewart reported that the Trust chairman did not have, therefore Chairman completed a new grant application, however the original one was found. Bench to be ordered, Lest We forget and bin. Clerk to double check SBC still happy to empty (previously agreed three years ago) and to purchase some shrubs and trees.

1. Financial statement and bank reconciliation. Signed and approved.
2. Payments:
3. SSE Footway Lighting January (for info only – paid by D/D)
4. Clerk Salary payment (for info only – paid by D/D)
5. **Planning - Nil**
6. **Graveney & Goodnestone Trust.**

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th March 2023. There have been new applications received from the Village Hall Committee for a new footpath and car park repair with extra fencing to assist with the deterrent of fly tipping.

1. **Reports from Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Alan Stewart informed the Parish Council that the Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee meeting was held and Adrian Oliver updated all on the Active Travel fund and is keen to encourage cycling. The Town to Parishes project report is to be published soon. Adrian Berendt suggested further discussions should take place.

Kent County Council are developing the Countrywide plan. Sustrans are keen for a cycle network to be off road. Oare, Boughton, Teynham and Graveney all support a 40mpg restriction on Rural Lanes.

Discussions took place regarding flooding and Southern Water have confirmed that additional groundworks are taking place.

Cllr Catherine Wilkinson informed the Parish Council that a Newsletter will be created with an initial quarterly publication which will be printed by Abbey Print. Volunteers will be required for distribution. The first newsletter will be done in Spring with an 18th March 2023 deadline.

1. **Reports for Borough and District Councillors**

Borough Councillor Tim Valentine confirmed that the Waste Contract had been extended to March 2024. The new contract will be for 8 years. Provisions to improve street cleaning have been put in place and a decision was made at the meeting held on Wednesday to fund trucks which will be cost saving. Lifting equipment will also be electric instead of diesel going forward.

1. **Footpath Warden** Maintenance to footpaths have now been completed. The footpath warden will be making contact with the farm manager due to an obstruction prior to speaking with Kent County Council.
2. **Any other business** Nil
3. **Date of next meeting – Monday 13th March 2023.**
4. **Close of meeting.**

Meeting was closed by Cllr Clare Boggia at 10.20pm.

Signed:……………………………………………….Date……………………