**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of**

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

**on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7:30pm.**

Two members of the public in attendance

Present:

Cllr Mike Newman, Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllrs Teresa Bowles, Cllr Clare Boggia, Cllr Tom King, Parish Clerk and The Footpath Warden.

1. **Apologies for Absence –** Received from Councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) and Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC and SBC).
2. **Declarations of Interests. Nil**

**Cleve Hill Solar Park Development update**.
The Chairman attended a meeting with David Fisher , Reece Monk and Jackie Hall on 21st June and was joined by Cllrs Alan Stewart and Lesley Lound. They were advised that condition surveys were being arranged and these would take place within the next four properties for those houses and structures likely to be affected by the vibration from passing HGVs. Discussions were held with regards to the hammer style vs hydraulic screw piling techniques- 85% of the site will be driven hydraulically and the remainder will need to be hammered due to the ground conditions. Cllr Alan Stewart has asked for a Parish Council site visit to look further into noise management.

The safety of the battery storage compound is of paramount importance due to potential fire risks. David Fisher has stated that due to the insurer’s requirements they will have to undertake due diligence with any planning and the Parish Council will be able to scrutinize the Battery Safety Management Plan once this is published. It was also confirmed that the site would be manned for some years following completion.

A meeting has been requested with Quinbrook and David Fisher has confirmed that at his planned meeting with the Quinbrook Board next week when he will mention this. A list of 20 ranked Community Benefit items has been produced by the Parish Council and discussed with David Fisher and he will prepare a report for Quinbrook. The HGV holding area will be completed in July and once operational it will allow better control of vehicles. HGVs will then no longer need to be escorted as they will all carry trackers supplying real time data thus allowing any infringements to be recorded.

Cllr Alan Stewart informed the Parish Council that he attended a meeting with Kent Fire & Rescue on 14th June with representatives from GREAT and the Faversham Society. The meeting focused on our safety concerns relating to the proposed battery storage compound and there was a discussion regarding the newly published guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council which looked at the design and spacing of battery containers , multiple access/egress routes for emergency services to the site , and an onsite water storage facility. It was estimated that some 228,000 litres of water would be needed to provide cooling during the first 2 hour period of a fire developing. This total was challenged as it was deemed insufficient in the event of multiple fires developing. We do have the benefit of a rapid flow pump at Whitstable Fire Station. Environmental protection would be considered alongside emergency planning to contain any fire within the confines of the battery compound bund. Kent Fire & Rescue have visited the site but are still awaiting further dialogue with Cleve Hill Solar Park.

1. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023.**The minutes for June were discussed and a typing error was highlighted by Cllr Alan Stewart – Item 50 working times should be 6.30pm, on the basis of this change the minutes were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.
2. **Matters arising (for information only).**Action 8: Replacement of streetlights 4, 5 , 3 & 7. The Parish Clerk informed the Parish Council that these replacements should commence at the end of July.

**Action 71: Chairman to contact planning consultants for discussion re Skylark.**
3. **Highway Improvement Plan - update.**Cllr Clare Boggia confirmed that a message was left from Alan Watson regarding Speed watch to inform on leave for two weeks. Cllr Clare Boggia has since followed up this call and been informed that Alan Watson is still on leave but will continue to chase. Some volunteers have now been secured. The Police have surveyed the area and informed Cllr Clare Boggia as to where the surveys can be held. The camera can be ordered when more confirmation has been received. New cameras are expensive, and a second-hand camera was agreed to possibly be an option.
Cllr Clare Boggia met with Southern Housing a few weeks prior to the parish meeting and informed Cllr Clare Boggia that they would write in response with their findings. Cars are parking alongside privately owned houses and cannot be monitored. Making any improvements to parking could be very difficult due to privately owned land and it was suggested that contact be made with landowner. Swale Borough Council are not able to support the Parish Council with improvements or parking issues as not their land.
4. **Good Councillor’s Guide.**Cllr Alan Stewart informed that Parish Council that it would be appropriate to purchase two copies of the Good Councillors Guide and two copies of the Financial Guide. Purchase proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Mike Newman.

**Action 73: Clerk to order two copies of each of the Good Councillors Guide and Financial Guide.**

1. **Village Fete.**Cllr Teresa Bowles proposed holding a Village Fete in 2024. It was suggested that this be held on the first Saturday in June 2024 (1st June 2024). Cllr Teresa Bowles highlighted that Volunteers would be required and requested that the Parish Clerk place an advert on the Parish Website.

**Action 74: Clerk to request Volunteers for Village Fete on the Parish Website. All enquiries are to be sent directly to Cllr Teresa Bowles.**

1. **Lest We Forget Bench Quotes.**Cllr Teresa Bowles has obtained two quotes for labour to install the bench. A quote of £1,789.56 was received and another for £2,250. The higher quote was confirmed to cover a larger area. Cllr Clare Boggia proposed that the Parish Council go ahead with the lower quote which was provided by S&J Services, this was seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.

**Action 75: Cllr Teresa Bowles to arrange the completion of works for the Lest We Forget Bench installation.**
2. **Culmers Terrace – Parking.**Cllr Mike Newman informed the Parish Council that an email had been received from a Parishioner regarding two static homes that had been erected bordering Culmers Terrace and Goosefields. Cllr Clare Boggia reported on the building regulations portal as the air was full of dust due to brick cutting. A gentleman has also contacted Cllr Clare Boggia to complain. It was noted that enforcement informed the Parish Council that there could not be any action with regards to the new opening until it was classed as useable.
**Action 76: Clerk to forward email sent to planning to chairman to complain about dust.**
3. **Crime Report/NHW Update.**Cllr Clare Boggia informed the Parish Council that there were no items to report for our parish this month.
4. **Correspondence.**There were eight items of correspondence. Greg Morris the new Kent Police Beat Office had emailed the Parish Council. Cllr Mike Newman responded with a warm welcome and agreed to attendance at the September 2023 Parish Meeting.
Cllr Mike Newman received a letter from Janet Turner with regards to Community Benefits on behalf of All Saints Church re the Boiler. British Gas have now declared the boiler is unsafe however, the Church have been informed that they cannot simply replace the boiler and will need to obtain a Green Space heating system. Cllr Mike Newman will respond to Janet Turner.
5. **Finance** a. Financial Statement and bank reconciliation – Approved and signed by Cllr Mike Newman.
 b. Payments:
 ii. SSE Footway Lighting June (for info only – paid by D/D)
 ii. Clerk Salary payment (for info only – paid by D/D).,
 iii. Footpath Warden expenses - £84.47 for equipment – Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.

**Action 79a: Clerk to prepare quarterly expenditure report for April, May & June and circulate.
Action 79b: Clerk to add quarterly expenditure report for July, August & September to October Agenda
Action 79c: Clerk to speak to KALC with regards to obtaining a new auditor for 2023/2024.**

1. **Planning – Nil.**
2. **Graveney & Goodnestone Trust.**

Cllr Alan Stewart confirmed that there were no updates.

1. **Reports Parish Councillors.**Cllr Mike Newman contacted James Brett to highlight that we had a Parish meeting coming up and to see if there were any updates relating to the Skylark project. There are no updates currently. It has been confirmed that a letter box drop will take place to determine what has been actioned.
Cllr Mike Newman confirmed that potholes at the top of Head Hill Road and Homestall Lane had been filled however, were of poor quality. White lines have not yet been completed. The yellow lines should be completed in the next two to three weeks.
Cllr Alan Stewart commented on the lack of verge cutting. Cllr Teresa Bowles is chasing her contact to arrange and to look into a plan for 2024.
Cllr Clare Boggia noted that a petition had been put in relating to the closure of the Faversham Recycling Site.
Cllr Teresa Bowles asked for an update with regards to the placement of the noticeboard at Odins Path. Cllr Clare Boggia will chase this up. Painting of the noticeboard will commence next week. It has been reported that the land behind Culmers Terrace has been used as a quad bike and motorbike track and items have been disposed of over the fences onto the farmers land which is not neighbourly.

**Action 82a: Cllr Mike Newman to write to Swale BC to highlight objections to the closure of the Faversham Recycling site.
Action 82b: Clerk to chase re health and wellbeing.**

1. **Reports for Borough and District Councillors (if present).**Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC) (SBC) sent his apologies however, also reported via email that a protest for the Faversham Recycling Centre will take place on 13th July at 8am, a link was also provided for the petition.

1. **Footpath Warden – update.**An email was received from the Faversham Footpath Group regarding the two stiles crossing the railway line. The Footpath Warden confirmed that photographs and measurements had been taken and reported. There have been staff changes in maintenance however, assurance was given that these two stiles will be changed to kissing gates and will arrange to meet with the footpath warden.
2. **Any other business**No other business.
3. **Date of next meeting – Monday 11th September 2023.**
4. **Close of meeting.**

Meeting was closed by Cllr Mike Newman at 9.23pm.

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