**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT GRAVENEY VILLAGE HALL**

**On Monday 10th March 2025 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs Mike Newman, Alan Stewart, Tom King, Lesley Lound, Catherine Wilkinson, Teresa Bowles, The Parish Clerk, Footpath Warden and Catherine from Graveney Church.

1. **Apologies for Absence –** Cllr Clare Boggia and Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC).

Absent: Cllr Alastair Gould (SBC).
2. **Declarations of Interests.**No declarations.
3. **Cleve Hill Solar Park Development Update.**Cllr Mike Newman informed the parish council that Cleve Hill are now at a stage where they can appoint an independent Community Benefits Consultant to set up a charitable trust. The indicative is that the independent consultant will manage the community benefit funding which will be centred by the parish council. The funding will largely be available for education and ecological support with the hope that some funding will also be available for the Church.
A meeting will be held mid-April to discuss this further where it expected that more information will be available.
Cllr Alan Stewart noted that there was some tree planting scheduled with screening being put in place around September to create a wooded area by April. It was indicated that surplus trees could be planted at the top of Cleve Hill. It was confirmed that maintenance access would be granted.
Cllr Alan Stewart also informed the parish council that a community newsletter is due to be circulated.
Diesel pumps are scheduled to be put in place to pump excess water away to assist drainage.
Cleve Hill are monitoring the water outage and it was confirmed that planning would like an access point to the electrical bunding area.
A public meeting will be organised to discuss processes if an issue was detected at the Cleve Hill Site. Safety is an ongoing concern, and the parish council have asked for details of Public Liability Insurance cover of this site and stated that the parish council would welcome a meeting to discuss safety.
4. **Kent Police Beat Officer Update.**It was noted that dates for the next surgery and location will be announced shortly.
No crime or anti-social behaviour was reported in February 2025.
5. **Graveney Church – Update.**Catherine thanked the parish council for their input with the Christmas Carol Service. Catherine confirmed that the church remains without heating. A planning application has been submitted and a re-submission needed to be completed which was done in February 2025 with no response to date and is being chased. If permission is granted a dilemma will surface as to which provider to use. The Church have their AGM in April and Catherine noted that she was concerned with regards to the future of the Church as people within the Church community have decided to take a step back so presently there are discussions taking place regarding the future. The Church do, however, hope to work with the parish council to try and circulate and welcome more parishioners. It was noted that 6 to 8 members are required to form the PCC.
6. **Skylark – Update.**Cllr Alan Stewart informed the parish council that the Head Hill Road planning application stated that there were no decisions or updates currently to report. An email has been sent to Cllr Rich Lehmann (SBC & KCC) who has confirmed that a meeting is scheduled to be held with the case officer on Wednesday.
The Seasalter Road planning application was refused in November 2024 however, waste management placed a late submission on 19th February 2025. Cllr Alan Stewart has made contact with the case officer to ask if this submission can be included as part of the appeal. It is believed that Skylark will appeal the refusal. The parish council would not be consulted in the event of an appeal.
7. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025.**

These were proposed as a true record of the Monthly Parish Meeting by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Mike Newman. The minutes were signed by Cllr Mike Newman.

1. **Graveney with Goodnestone Conservation Meeting.**David Lane requested a site meeting to discuss the three conservation areas within the parish.
Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Tom King will be attending site with David Lane on Wednesday. It was noted that listed buildings could not be changed. Cllr Alan Stewart will offer a report at the next parish meeting.
2. **Footpath Warden.**The footpath warden informed the parish council that he had received an email from a parishioner to complain about the water logging issue that has been taking place for the past few months. Reece at Swale Borough Council has confirmed that this has now been resolved.
3. **Matters Arising (for information only)**Action 139c – Ongoing.
Action 202e – Ongoing – Clerk to follow up with Cllr Clare Boggia.
Action 52a – Ongoing.
Action 64b – Ongoing.
Action 104d – Ongoing – Clerk to follow up with Swale.
Action 127a – Ongoing.
Action 127b – Ongoing.
Action 142a – Ongoing – Clerk to follow up with Swale.
Action 160 – Cllr Mike Newman has been experimenting and believes that he can improve the website and plans to make the newsletter digital. Microsoft products allow you to make this digital easily. Cllr Mike Newman and Cllr Catherine Wilkinson plan to work on this further.
Action 161a – Complete.
Action 161b – Cllr Mike Newman has the renewal offer from the insurer however, would like to work on this further, it was confirmed that the parish council have until the middle of April to review. Cllr Mike Newman will review and ensure the renewal invoice is sent to the parish clerk for payment at the May meeting. It was proposed that the parish council continue with a three year fixed term in order to fix the premium which the parish council unanimously agreed with.
Action 165a – Complete.
Action 165b – Complete.
Action 168a – Complete.
Action 168b – Cllr Alan Stewart noted that Gary Gibbs had dealt with this action.
Action 168c – Complete.
Action 168d – Cllr Teresa Bowles confirmed that Gary Gibbs had written to All Saints View.
Action 168e – Complete.
Action 168f – Complete.
Action 170 – Ongoing.

**Action 182a: Clerk to place Website Update on the April agenda.
Action 182b: Clerk to call Cllr Clare Boggia to discuss the defibrillator and Highway Improvement Plan.
Action 182c: Community Resilience plan to be included in all future agenda’s as a permanent item.**
4. **Highway Improvement Plan.**No updates at present.

**Action 183: Clerk to discuss with Cllr Clare Boggia.**
5. **Correspondence.**50 items received.
6. **Finance.**a. Financial statement and bank reconciliation – approved and signed by Cllr Mike Newman.
b. Payments.
i. SSE Footway Lighting March (for info only – paid by D/D)
ii. Clerk Salary – March Salary - £259.44 – Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
iii. HMRC – PAYE Payment for March £188.16 – Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
iv. Streetlights – Invoice 15072 & 15130 - £202.64 – Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.
v. Graveney Village Hall – Hall Hire Invoice and donation - £178 – Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.
7. **Planning.**None.
Cllr Alan Stewart informed the parish council that the Oast Cottage and Graveney Village Hall planning applications were approved.

**Action 186: Clerk to follow up as to why the Graveney Village Hall Comments are missing from the portal.**
8. **Graveney with Goodnestone Trust.**Cllr Alan Stewart confirmed that the Trust held a meeting last week regarding the next steps to consider in the event that the trust is wound up and are in the process of receiving follow up instructions.
9. **Reports from Parish Councillors.**Cllr Mike Newman informed the parish council that he had been in touch with Gary Gibbs. SGN were in the process of completing works along Graveney Road and Homestall Lane. Articulated lorries had moved cones and placed containers in place destroying all of the verges. Smaller lorries have also been causing issues along Homestall Lane. KCC attended quickly and re tarmacked.
Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC) has made contact regarding fly tipping. Signage will be placed which will be followed by CCTV. KCC are still awaiting costings to put posts in place. Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC) is kindly also arranging for the area to be cleaned.
Cllr Teresa Bowles noted that the new entrance at the Four Horseshoes was awaiting hedge planting and thanked Ross at Wheelwrights for cutting the hedge around the Village bench.
The hedge by the School Cottages is overgrown and causing obstruction. Chalkley Road is also the same.
Cllr Alan Stewart stated that this should be reported on the KCC Portal.
Cllr Teresa Bowles confirmed that contact would be made with PC James Tancock regarding the numerous parking issues within the parish.
Cllr Tom King noted that the rear extension at the Four Horseshoes pub had been removed.
Cllr Catherine Wilkinson – Nothing to report.
Cllr Lesley Lound – Nothing to report.
Cllr Alan Stewart informed the parish council that Vincents had placed chippings at Sandbanks Lane and noted that the Annual Parish meeting is scheduled to be held in April. The May parish meeting will conists of policy reviews and the June meeting will include the AGAR review.

**Action 188a: Clerk to invite community groups to April Annual Parish Meeting.
Action 188b: Clerk to place Community Landscaping on April Agenda.
Action 188c: Clerk to place Four Horseshoes Hedge on Action List for review.**
10. **Reports for Borough and District Councillors (if present).**
Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC) was not present however, shared the following report with the parish council.
In terms of updates, theres just the below, regarding the public meeting Swale Borough Council are holding this coming Wednesday on Local Government Reorganisation.
The governments aim is for Kent to be turned into Unitary Authorities in the next two to three years. This will mean Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council would become part of a larger Unitary Authority responsible for all of the services KCC and SBC currently provide.

The authority we become part of will cover a massive area (probably 3-4 times larger than Swale), and both residents and councillors could easily end up finding themselves with less power and less of a voice to represent their local area..

Current possible options for the reorganisation could see Swale grouped in with Medway, Gravesham and Dartford, or possibly with Canterbury and Ashford (or even Canterbury, Ashford, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone).

To hear more about these plans, and to share your views, please go along to the meeting on Wednesday evening. For those not able to make it to Sittingbourne, the meeting will also be broadcast on Swale Borough Councils YouTube channel.

1. **Any other business (for information only).**No other business.

**Action 190: Clerk to check where the defibrillator signs were sent to.**
2. **Date of next meeting – Monday 14th April 2025.**
3. **Close of meeting.**The meeting was closed by Cllr Mike Newman at 8.26pm.

**Signed………………………………………………………………….Date …………………………………..**