**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**On Monday 14th April 2025 at 7:30pm.**

**PRESENT**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence – None.**

Absent: Cllr Alastair Gould (SBC) and Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC).
2. **Declarations of Interests.**No declarations.
3. **Cleve Hill Solar Park Development Update.**Cllr Mike Newman informed the parish council that a meeting had been held with David Fisher and Jackie. The Solar Park is now connected to the grid and the Battery should be commissioned in June.
The final completion is due 13th November 2025. The safety concerns are recognised, and two sessions are being held on 3rd April and 8th May to discuss further.
4. **Kent Police Beat Officer Update.**No crime or anti-social behaviour was reported in March 2025. The next police surgery will between 5pm and 6pm in Dunkirk Village Hall on Wednesday 16th April 2025.
5. **Skylark – Update.**Cllr Alan Stewart has chased Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC) for an update from Luke Simpson however, no further details are currently available. A decision has still not been made. The Seasalter Road application was declined in November and currently awaiting a potential appeal.
6. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025.**

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

1. **Footpath Warden.**Network Rail have finally removed the styles and pictures were shared with the parish council.
2. **Website Update.**Cllr Mike Newman and Cllr Catherine Wilkinson have both had other commitments however, it was noted that the bio graphics on the website need to be updated and the Newsletter is over a year old so some update is required. Cllr Mike Newman proposed that he created a new website layout proposal which the parish council unanimously agreed.

**Action 200: Clerk to add Website update to May Agenda.**
3. **Community Resilience Plan.**Cllr Teresa Bowles has signed up for flood warning alerts which will be distributed via email and text messages. Cllr Tom King and Cllr Mike Newman are part of the community resilience plan and it was agreed that they need to formally meet to discuss the Community Resilience Plan.

**Action 201: Cllr Mike Newman and Cllr Tom King to provide an update at the May meeting.**
4. **Community Landscaping.**Cllr Teresa Bowles obtained a quote, Cllr Clare Boggia is awaiting further quotes for landscaping. It was agreed that two quotes were required by the parish council.
5. **Matters Arising (for information only)**Action 139c – Ongoing.
Action 202e – Ongoing – Cllr Clare Boggia is in the process of arranging the installation of the defibrillator.
Action 52a – Ongoing.
Action 64b – Ongoing.
Action 104d – Complete.
Action 127a – Complete.
Action 127b – Ongoing.
Action 142a – Ongoing – Clerk to follow up with Swale.
Action 160 – Complete.
Action 161b – Complete.
Action 170 – Ongoing.
Action 182a – Complete.
Action 182b – Complete.
Action 186 – Ongoing.
Action 188a – Complete.
Action 188b – Complete.
Action 188c – Ongoing.
Action 190 – Ongoing.
6. **Highway Improvement Plan.**The report below was shared with parish council by Cllr Clare Boggia.
**Graveney Bridge Junction**

No personal injuries reported since 2017 and therefore seen as low priority

Logged to refresh the slow sign on the road

Asked for a painted arrow on road, but turned down

Action:

* People must report any incidents on the bridge even near misses

**Road Signs**

Turn left sign in Head hill road will be replaced as faded

**Speed Limits**

Despite asking and being on the HIP forever, road environment does not meet the KCC guidelines to reduce the speed.

Trying to get a 20mph for the nucleus part of the village – to qualify the speed limit must be 24 mph or below

Cost of a traffic survey will be met by KCC

Rumble strips in approach to bridge again declined – too costly for maintenance

Live speed indicator could be used rather than the stable speed flasher. These have to be located in the 30mph limit area only and we have to have 3 locations for them . KCC would provide pole . A bracket is put on pole and we can move about to vary the area of speed flasher. These would cost about £7,000

**Action:**

* Last speed survey done in 2022, this will be repeated, one by the orchard in Denley end of the village and one in the central area. It is imperative that as many people know this is being done and within the middle of the village people go really slow – currently showing an average of 27mph got to be 24mph or below
* IF indicates low speed and want 20mph implemented this will cost £3000 for a traffic regulation order and then cost of signs. There is some budget from KCC and County councillors hold a small budget and rest to be met by us.
* Consider live speed flasher
* Order a pack of stickers about speed limit for villagers to put on wheelie bins and a large banner that can be put in different parts of the village to warn people (Completed)

**Parking Issues by the Pub/Culmers Terrace**

This was looked at on google earth and problems seen and understood. KCC will draw up a plan looking at exact proposed area of yellow lines. A traffic regulation order will need to be published which costs silly money!

**Action:**

* PC must have an open engagement meeting about this for the parish residents and businesses in the village once plan drawn up

**Parking on Pavements**

Understood issues presented at the meeting. Putting in bollards is something tat can be done however the area at School Terrace does not meet with minimum space (450mm)to do and KCC would no support.

**Action:**

* CB has emailed PC James Tancock (TB has done previously) outlining what KCC have suggested, so he can talk to owners of said cars
* Perhaps PC could write to home owner

**Village Gateways**

These cost about £1,500 each, and there is a budget with KCC and could probably fund one this year and one next year

Suggested area would be in front of entrance to Poplar Hall ensuring good vision lines for owners of property

**Action: (If all in agreement at April meeting)**

* Agree siting
* Clerk to write to owner of land Mr Michael Attwood to explain what PC would like to do and seek permission to site
* Clerk to write to owners of Poplar Hall outlining the same (Mr and Mrs Paul Winter)
* One gateway to go behind existing sign at Denley end of the village.
* PC to potentially agree to fund one so that both can be done this financial year

**Footpath**

Left on HIP, but no further action. If we want a scoping document done, we need to pay for this and unless serious plans to build footpath in the near future, advised not to do.

It was noted important to keep on the HIP as this will be used for further planning applications

**Action 204a: Clerk to add Gateway funding to May agenda.
Action 204b: Clerk to call Cllr Clare Boggia prior to next meeting to see of quotes have come in for the Gateways.
Action 204c: Clerk to write to Cllr Rich Lehmann (SBC & KCC) and Cllr Alastair Gould (SBC) regarding the boundary kerb and fence line where the former pub car park was.**

1. **Correspondence.**19 items plus 1 Planning.
2. **Finance.**a. Budget Variance Report – January to March 2025. The variances for the quarter were reviewed and it was noted that the Lighting energy costs were higher due to being out of contract which has now been rectified. The price cap does not apply to commercial property.
The Website expenses were higher due to invoices coming in which had not been received in the prior year. The S.137 expenditure was high due to the Village Planter and planning consultancy as unexpected items. The repairs and renewals were higher due to the Odins Path Noticeboard replacement and cleaning of noticeboards.
b. Financial statement and bank reconciliation – approved and signed by Cllr Mike Newman.
b. Payments.
i. SSE Footway Lighting April (for info only – paid by D/D)
ii. Clerk Salary – April Salary - £259.86 – Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
iii. HMRC – PAYE Payment for April £187.74 – Proposed by Cllr Alan Stewart and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
iv. KALC – Invoice 9417 for Annual Subscription - £260.87 – Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.
v. Graveney Village Hall – Hall Hire Invoice 030 - £78 and Donation of £172. Approved by Cllr Tom King and seconded by Cllr Mike Newman.
vi. Gallagher Insurance - £928.78. Proposed by Cllr Mike Newman and seconded by Cllr Alan Stewart.
3. **Planning.
REF 25/500877/FULL – Erection of a single storey side and rear extension. Demolition of the existing porch and conservatory – 4 School Terrace, Seasalter Road, Graveney Kent ME13 9DU.**
Cllr Alan Stewart noted that there would be a large side and rear extension with new utility room and the existing conservatory would be removed. All new materials would match the current property. The application was discussed and it was agreed to stipulate that the parish council would not wish for any future change of use due to the parking issues within the village and that it would be desirable that the property is completed to be in keeping within the conservation area.
4. **Graveney with Goodnestone Trust.**Nothing to report.
5. **Reports from Parish Councillors.**Cllr Mike Newman has done some research regarding bank accounts and asked the parish council if there were any reasons why we could not change the account as believe the parish council could benefit from digital banking. Cllr Alan Stewart believes this should be revisited and Cllr Mike Newman confirmed that we can do dual digital signing of payments and free banking elsewhere. The parish council agreed that cheques are phasing out and the parish council should look into alternative options.
Cllr Teresa Bowles offered thanks to Ross for cutting the grass around the memorial bench again.
The new sign at Odin’s Path is metal and so Cllr Teresa Bowles has had to purchase some magnets of which the parish council agreed to re imburse for this. Cllr Teresa Bowles will send the receipt to the parish clerk for inclusion at the next parish meeting.
It was noted that cyclists are using the footpath across the field outside the village hall.
Cllr Lesley Lound informed the parish council that on Sunday afternoons there has been extensive activity across Cleve Hill which needs to be reported on the portal.
Cllr Tom King had nothing to report.
Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Tom King had a meeting with consultants at Swale on 12th March 2025 regarding the three conservation areas. Goodnestone area dates back to 1976. Swale recognise the importance of the tree designations. A desire was shown to extend the Graveney Bridge Conservation area to include the pub car park.
The Graveney Church conservation area opposite Murtons Farm ad Murtons Barn should ideally all be extended. The conservation committee will report this back to Swale.
Cllr Clare Boggia had nothing to report.

**Action 209: Clerk to add change of bank account to May agenda.**
6. **Reports for Borough and District Councillors (if present).**
Not present.

1. **Any other business (for information only).**No other business.
2. **Date of next meeting – Monday 12th May 2025.**
3. **Close of meeting.**The meeting was closed by Cllr Mike Newman at 9.22pm.

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