

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the ONLINE meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 using Zoom

Present:

Parish Cllrs: *Cllr A Lyster (Chairman), Cllr D Holland (vice Chairman),
Cllr T Humphreys, Cllr A Scattergood, Cllr A Burns,
Cllr A Smart, Cllr L Wotton.*

District Cllr: *Cllr W Scattergood*

County Cllr: *Cllr D Finch*

Clerk: *Mrs S Boydell*

Members of Public: none

63.2020/2021 Apologies for absence

None

64.2020/2021 Declarations of interest on agenda items

Cllr A Burns – School House

Cllr L Wotton – HGV issues & Phone Mast

Cllr A Scattergood – relationship with Cllr W Scattergood

65.2020/2021 Approval of Minutes

It was noted that an invitation to the last meeting was not received by Cllr W Scattergood. Cllr D Holland proposed to approve minutes, Cllr T Humphreys seconded and all were in agreement.

66.2020/2021 Public Speaking

No members of the public were present.

67.2020/2021 District/County Councillors Report

Cllr Wendy Scattergood

Cllr W Scattergood noted that all Clerks are emailed weekly updates that cover all important information, these updates are to be forwarded to councillors. (it was confirmed that these emails are both received and forwarded each week).

Cllr W Scattergood noted that officers attend planning sites where it is safe but due to the current restrictions some applications may be delayed.

Cllr D Holland asked when The Walthams Henny Street appeal might be determined and was informed this would be a decision determined by the planning inspectorate.

Cllr David Finch

Cllr D Finch noted that the local reform that proposes the set-up of a number of unitrees has been paused due to the pandemic and Brexit – clarity is not expected until after May 2021.

Essex County Council requested to move from tier 1 to tier 2 on the basis of evidence from the Director of Public Health Essex forecasting the trends doubling each week if steps were not taken. The process and decision was evidence based and all parties were consulted. The decision was not based on a financial incentive.

In light of the rise of unemployment more people are claiming Universal Credit and some are therefore becoming exempt from council tax payments; this is leading to a forecast of a net loss of income of £15 million so the County Council will need to look at how to go forward. Currently steps are being taken to maintain and continue services whilst balancing the budget.

68.2020/2021 Clerks Report – all items noted.

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the ONLINE meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 using Zoom

69.2020/2021 Planning

a) Lodge Farm The Ryes Little Henny Essex CO10 7EA

Application for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) - Lodge Farm has been used as for equestrian purposes in compliance with Use Class F2, previously D2, continually for over 10 years .

Ref.No:20/01650/ELD | Recd:Tue 06 Oct 2020| Validated:Tue 06 Oct 2020 | Expiry for comments:Mon 9th Nov 2020

The Parish Council support this planning application as it meets planning policies.

b) Land Adjacent To Village Hall Clay Hill Great Henny Essex

Construction of one and a half storey detached dwelling house, workshop and tool shed, access, parking, landscaping and associated development.

Ref.No:20/01666/FUL|Recd:Wed 07 Oct 2020|Validated:Wed 07 Oct 2020|Expiry for comments:Thur 12th Nov 2020

The Parish Council noted a considerable response from residents, mostly objections due to the size, access, trees, inappropriate building etc. Cllr D Holland proposed drafting an objection to then be agreed by the Parish Council and all were in agreement. Cllr Holland to liaise with Clerk regarding the submission of this objection.

70.2020/2021 2020/21 Phone Mast

Cllr D Holland directs the attention of the Parish Council to the Twinstead Facebook page regarding further resident led information where he has been working as a resident rather than as a Parish Councillor; this involves reconsulting with the community and then proposing a response regarding the re-consultation. Waldron will be conducting more surveying work on Pelham Hall Farm and will then re-consult. At this point the outputs of the survey can be viewed and their legitimacy considered – changing the position of the Parish Council if required, Ecology surveys are invalid at this time due to hibernation. Cllr D Holland to prepare a response to this application and circulate for agreement.

71.2020/2021 Highways/PROW Maintenance

a) *HGV Vehicles on Pebmarsh Road – The revised and agreed document was submitted and Cllr D Finch will chase – Cllr D Holland suggested this item can then be removed from the agenda until a response has been received.*

(Cllr L Wotton gave apologies and left the meeting)

b) *Cllr D Holland noted Highway's response regarding the sign overgrown with a tree and suggested that the land owner may be able to trim relevant hedges – discussion ensued.*

c) *Item agreed to no longer be required to be on the agenda.*

72.2020/2021 Parish Upkeep

Item agreed to be removed from the agenda until reporting is required.

73.2020/2021 Communication

a) *Communications including those on Facebook are noted.*

b) *New .gov email addresses all up and running other than two that the Chairman is in the process of rectifying with the provider; in the meantime the two original email addresses will continue to be used.*

74.2020/2021 Local Government Reform

This item is to be deferred until such time as there is information to be discussed.

75.2020/2021 Village Halls

Cllr D Holland confirmed that the lease for Twinstead Village Hall was up for renewal last Christmas but this did not happen. The Village Hall Committee Meeting prior to March 2020 involved new committee members joining. The Committee is a requirement of the lease and is to include a member of the Parish Council. The AGM is due November 2020 but has been cancelled until 2021. The concern is that as not having a member of the Parish Councillor means that the Village Hall is in breach of it's lease. It was suggested that the Parish Council should help to keep village halls in communities and to this end Cllr D Holland suggested that the Village Hall Committee held a Zoom meeting in the meantime.

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the ONLINE meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 using Zoom

This Parish Council has tried to assist with the Village Hall Committee regarding meetings and members, but although it was publicised there was no interest. Delaying the new committee beginning until 2021 causes concern.

76.2020/2021 Policies & Procedures

- a) *Financial Regulations – Cllr T Humphreys is making progress and will present this once complete for review and agreement*
- b) *The current standing orders were reviewed and agreed until the next annual review.*

77.2020/2021 Parish Council Finance

- a) *Finance report noted and agreed.*
- b) *Internet banking is getting underway and paperwork has been received by the Chairman regarding Cllr T Humphreys and Cllr D Holland. The PC is still waiting for the clerk to be set up which will then enable a trial of the internet banking process. It was agreed that the clerk will be set up as a signatory but that two other signatories will still be required for any payments to be made.*
- c) *Cllr T Humphreys and Clerk to organise proposed budget to present at the January meeting for approval of the precept. The Clerk is to contact Braintree District Council to ask if the date for the final agreement of the precept could be extended at all.*

It was noted that a yearly £5 membership payment to Colne Stour Countryside Association is supported as we share countryside issues including pylons, infrastructure and offshore grids – it is a good idea to be able to work together.

78.2020/2021 Items for the next agenda

Current items and any other items that are raised before the next agenda is finalised.

79.2020/2021 Meeting Dates

To confirm – All Parish Council meetings are still to be held online until otherwise advised by the Government of changes to the new temporary legislation.

11th January 2021

8th March 2021

10th May 2021 – Annual General Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting

12th July 2021

Clerk left meeting at 9.05pm to enable confidential HR item to be discussed.

80.2020/2021 Clerk's Pension

Cllr A Scattergood and Cllr T Humphreys suggested a suitable pension with NEST which was agreed and will be implemented as soon as possible.