

GOLDHANGER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Remote Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020

PRESENT: CHAIR – COUNCILLOR J BOURN
 VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR H REYNOLDS
 COUNCILLORS MR BISHOP, MR CHEESEMAN, MR ELLIS, MRS HOLMES AND
 MR SARGEANT.
 V BANYARD (PARISH CLERK).
 No members of the public.

2284.20 To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest in the meeting’s agenda items.
 There were no apologies for absence.
 Councillor Mrs Holmes made a declaration of non pecuniary interest in the planning application 20/00425/HOUSE below.

2285.20 It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the decision that as no meeting was held in April due to Covid-19 restrictions and therefore no election was held to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, as a result the Chair and Vice Chair will remain in office until the next Annual Meeting in May 2021.

2286.20 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11.3.2020
 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above Minutes.

2287.20 To receive any information arising from the above Minutes
 No issues were raised.

2288.20 Planning

a. The following decision by the Planning Inspectorate was noted:

APP/X1545/W/19/3236469 Land on corner of Fish Street and Head Street Goldhanger	Erection of one detached house, formation of new vehicle access onto Head Street following removal of part of wall and reconfiguration of car park	Appeal dismissed
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b. Councillors considered the following new applications:

HOUSE/MAL/20/00231	35 Church Street Goldhanger	Retrospective application for single storey link side extension, including use of garage for ancillary use. Revised description of proposal. It was RESOLVED to make no comment.
20/00425/HOUSE	14 Hall Estate Goldhanger	Erection of part single and part two storey rear and side extension. It was RESOLVED to support this application.

- c. Enforcement issues. The clerk reported that the enforcement team had asked for details of the issues raised by the Parish Council and will look into them.
 d. To consider any other planning matters. No issues were raised.

2289.20 Finances.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Parish Council budget for the year 2020-2021 as presented at the January 2020 meeting.

The monthly financial statements were approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments:

V Banyard	Clerk's salary, office allowance and expenses April and May	£ 368.04
HMRC	Tax on clerk's salary April and May	£ 81.12
Wave	Allotments water rates 18.1.20 – 31.3.20	£ 10.82
Goldhanger Village Hall	Hire of Hall Jan to Mar inclusive	£ 75.00
EALC	Subscription renewal	£ 228.73
BHIB	Insurance renewal	£ 270.62
Maldon District Council	Hedging works Nov 2019	£ 287.28

It was noted that the invoice for hedge cutting is from the last financial year.

Given the current situation the clerk will deliver cheques for signing to the Chair who will pass them on to another signatory for signing and posting.

To consider the setting up of internet banking for the Parish Council. A discussion was held as to the best way forward. One option would be for one signatory to raise a payment and another to authorise this.

Councillor Mrs Bourn undertook to find out how signatories who do not have their own account with Barclays could do this. Financial regulations would have to be updated if the Council moved to internet banking, and Councillor Mrs Bourn is preparing a draft for consideration. This matter will be considered again at a future meeting.

The clerk reported that the internal audit is nearly completed but, due to the current situation the government has moved back the dates for this to be done.

2290.20 To consider any matters or reports concerning:

1. Response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A support group has been set up in the village by the Parochial Church Council, Village Hall and Parish Council working together. It is planned to publish a support leaflet with the costs being shared between the three organizations. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council will pay £37 towards this at its next meeting.

2. Public rights of way.

A replacement finger post was put in on the Blind Lane footpath (Min 2283.19a) but as it was not cemented in the post was later stolen. Essex County Council will put in a new post.

Councillor Mr Sargeant reported a broken footbridge on the path at TL891 083 (near the Cobbs Farm bends). Essex County Council will be asked to make repairs.

3. Highways issues.

Councillor Mr Sargeant is working on a list of drainage issues in Fish Street and Church Street and in due course will send this to Highways. Some parts of the drainage system have now been jetted and a contact within Highways found which should hopefully move things forward.

4. Repairs to the village sign.

Bakers of Danbury will work on the sign as soon as restrictions are lifted. The sign is to be taken down by the Council and delivered to Bakers' premises.

5. Marigold Wood.

The spring on the gate into the woodland is still to be mended but it was noted that the gate is currently tied open.

6. Allotments.

It was reported that all the allotments are now taken, mainly by local residents. Allotment holders may now pay their rent by BACS if they wish to do so.

7. The playing field and play area.

It was reported that work on the water pipe from Fish Street to the Sailing Club is taking place now that the ground has dried out.

Nothing has been heard from Government or the EALC about when the play area can be re-opened.

Wicksteed will be asked to carry out a play area inspection as soon as possible.

8. Any other issues.

Maldon Road defibrillator kiosk. Arrangements have been made for the door to be squared up.

Speed Indicator Device. The batteries are no longer thought to be viable so it was **RESOLVED** that

Councillors Mr Cheeseman and Mr Bishop will source replacements at a cost of up to £100.

The insurance policy has been updated with the defibrillators specifically included. The War Memorial has been deleted as it belongs to the PCC.

Risk Assessment Policy. Councillor Mrs Bourn will update this to include actions to be taken in the event of a further pandemic.

2291.20 To set the date for the next meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be a remote meeting to be held on **Tuesday** 9th June at 7.30 pm. Councillors were asked to note that this is a different day from the usual.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

The above Minutes were approved by the Council at the remote meeting held on 9th June 2020