

**GREAT HALLINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 26th MARCH 2018, 8.00pm IN THE
VILLAGE HALL**

Councillors present were: Alan Townsend, Mark Bloomfield, Kaylash Juggurnauth, Andrew Noble, Alan Pinnock, Tom Streeter and Vicky Wing.

Also present: Urška Sydee (Clerk); County Cllr Susan Barker; District Cllrs Keith Artus and Lesley Wells; 25 members of public.

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to go outside to unveil the plaque on the bench in the memory of Ron Coultrup.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2017 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

3. STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF PARISH MEETINGS

The statutory provisions which applied to this meeting were brought to the attention of those present by the Chairman.

The Chairman proposed to change the order of items 4 and 5, which was agreed by all.

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

County Cllr Susan Barker raised the following points:

- The Highways Capital programme for 2018-19 now available
- Essex County Traveller unit now has a “flying squad” of 5 officers trained to deal with unauthorised encampments
- Revenue support grant cut by £28m in 2018-19 and will be totally gone by 2020
- In the last year 94% of Essex Schools judged good or outstanding; 1330 young people not in education, employment or training helped to move into employment or learning;
- Reduced household waste by 32kg per household
- Invested in our country parks seeing visitor numbers increase by 7.5% to almost 750,000;
- Resurfaced 400 miles of roads and filled 5000 potholes.

- In 2018-19 Essex will invest £14m in Broadband; £126m in major road schemes; £87m in mainstream schools and £17m in special schools adding around 2750 additional school places.
- Working with Districts and Boroughs Essex needs to build 136,000 new homes over the next 20 years- a 22% increase in the number of homes in Essex.

District Cllr Keith Artus reported:

- **Stansted Airport**
Manchester Airports Group (MAG), submitted its planning application to Uttlesford District Council to raise the usage limit from the current approved 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 43 mppa. The application includes additional runway taxi areas and aircraft stands. Over 3,000 pages of documents had been submitted for evaluation.
- **Local Plan**
Government reassessment demands an increase to 16,300 new houses. UDC had been working on a local plan requirement of 14,100 new homes for over two years and it's too late to start new the whole process. Therefore, an early review will be necessary. The next public consultation will be conducted in the summer prior to final submission to the Planning Inspector in the Autumn.
- **Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC)**
As Chairman of STACC's Environmental Issues Group he had further dealings with the Civil aviation Authority on the departure changes from the Dover (South) to Clacton (East) routes which have added 50% extra traffic in our direction. This change was made early in 2016 as the first part of NATS (National Air Traffic Service) reorganization of London airspace. The whole strategic redesign is way behind programme, and he will continue to fight our district's corner on STACC and as a member of the Noise & Track Keeping Working Group. He has recently been elected Chairman of SASIG, the Local Government Association's special interest group for aviation. This national body helps to advance sustainable aviation policies on behalf of local communities. All these roles reinforce the essential input and influence we have at parish, local and national level as our airports continue to develop and grow.
- **Grants**
Between his fellow councillor, Lesley Wells and himself, grants had been made for village defibrillators in the Hallingburys, Mutts in Distress, Little Hallingbury village notice board, rubbish bins for Hatfield Broad Oak, new facilities in St Giles church, mower, new roller and end of season maintenance for Hatfield Broad Oak cricket club, tennis and youth football equipment for Hatfield Broad Oak, equipment for establishing a local yoga class, Great Canfield happy Circle, Hatfield Broad Oak Under 5's, Hatfield Broad Oak Parochial Church Council, Hatfield Broad Club and Great Canfield Village Hall.

Cllr Lesley Wells advised there's nothing to add to what Cllr Artus had reported.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

We have 8 parish councillors who work as one body for the good of our village. Our councillors are also part of working groups such as Planning, Housing and Airport, and are representative on Road Safety, Footpaths and Health matters.

I myself am Tree Warden and have been out to several residents over the last year regarding trees that have a preservation order on.

As I am sure most of you will be aware, Freda retired last September from her post of 24 years as Clerk. Our new Clerk Urška started in October. I hope she is happy with us, as we are very pleased to have her, and she is keeping us well up to date on all matters.

Meetings

Since last years Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council have held 6 meetings through the year.

In March last year several councillors, along with the Clerk, attended a meeting with Cllr Rolf at Uttlesford on planning issues.

Over the year I have attended Highways Panel meetings, and meetings on the executive panel for both UALC and EALC. Along with other councillors I have attended meetings of SSE and NWEHPA.

The Clerk and I recently attended a course on Data Protection held at the EALC offices.

The information from all meetings we attend enables the Parish Council to know about, and comment on, proposals within our District and County, and Local Government issues.

Finance

When we considered our budget for the coming year 2018/19 we were pleased that, once again, we did not need to raise the precept figure, which relates to the Parish portion of your council tax.

The charities we have been able to financially support this year include Essex Air Ambulance, SSE & NWEHPA, Uttlesford Community Travel and, as agreed at last years annual parish meeting, St Clare Hospice. We continue to support the village hall, St Giles Church and the Highlights magazine.

Over this year we have been able to provide a replacement bench at the village hall car park, as dedicated this evening in memory of Ron Coultrup. We are also pleased to have provided new notice boards throughout the village, and contributed to the new heating system for the church.

Planning

The Parish Council have considered and commented on 23 planning applications over this past year.

While in general we have had little reason to object to the proposals, relevant comments are made where necessary, whether in opposing the application, or in support of it, for the good of the surrounding area. We do stress that new builds must connect to the mains drainage and, in general, point out any potential problems with land drainage.

At present we are being asked to comment on the Stansted Airport application to increase passenger numbers from 35mppa to 45mppa, and associated buildings.

Housing

Outline permission has been given for the affordable housing development at Tilekiln Green.

Airport

SSE continue to keep us up to date with airport matters. As stated under planning, we now have the support of SSE again in fighting this latest application for expansion.

Highways

We continue to report pot holes and other road defects in the village.

Notice Boards

All notice boards through the village have now been replaced with strong oak boards which have a rustic appearance, and easy pin backing. Our thanks to Alan Pinnock for carrying out this work.

Bedlars Green

Work to restore the Bedlars Green area by The Hop Poles is ongoing, including the new notice board and the old water pump. A recent working party have placed a post & rail fence on the green area by the pond to prevent parking which has eroded the grass. The work included a start on clearing out the pond. Thanks to Mark Bloomfield for organising this work, and thanks to all who turned up to help with special thanks to Alan Pinnock.

Elm Trees

6 Elm Trees have been purchased and are in the process of being planted around the village.

Memorial at Anvil Cross

We are in negotiations with Highways England, who are willing to part fund the cost of raising the memorial so that it can be seen above the crash barrier installed by Highways last year.

Speedwatch

A Speedwatch Training evening was held last August in the village hall. It was attended by 3 willing volunteers for Great Hallingbury, and 10 for Little Hallingbury. It was agreed by all that the group would work together for both villages and is registered as Hallingbury Speedwatch.

Litter pick

Cllr Vicky Wing organised two litter picks in our village over this last year. Again over 100 bags of rubbish were collected, along with other larger dumped items.

Thanks to Vicky for her co-ordination on this including refreshments provided for all helpers, paid for by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Watch

Vicky is also the organiser of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the village and has been pro-active in delivering leaflets and obtaining signs which have been placed around the village.

Thanks to Christine Coultrup for continuing to produce the **Hallingbury Highlights**. This free publication goes to every house in the village through our distributors. You can find out about most things going on in Great Hallingbury through the Highlights.

Thank you to all involved in looking after our **Village Hall**. We will hear about the hall later in the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors, and so many villagers, for their continued support during the past year. Special thanks to Freda for her work during the first half of the year, and Urska, both of whom have worked so well to lighten the Chairman's load.

6. SPEAKERS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations read out their reports with details on their past year and plans for the future:

1st Gt. Hallingbury Brownies - Heather Hays

It has been another busy year for the Great Hallingbury Brownies. Twelve Brownies continue to meet on Monday evenings at the Village Hall's Peachey Room, where they play games, do badge work, entertain visitors, enjoy singing and activity games and craft work. At Christmas they made a Christmas Cake for their annual Carols and Candlelight service and organised a 'Bring and Buy' stall which raised money for two charities. They took part in the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service at St Giles', the Mothering Sunday Service and performed Maypole and Country Dances at the Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show. Two young leaders helped this year, one of them being a former Brownie in Great Hallingbury. Mrs. Heather Hayes was invited to the National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving held in Westminster Abbey for completing over 40 years of service to the Guiding Movement.

St. Giles Church - Heather Hays

A warm church now welcomes worshippers and they were pleased that pupils, staff and parents from Howe Green House school and Little Hallingbury School were able to join them for the Christmas Carol Services. It was also used by Parish Council on one occasion. Last Summer the church continued to be open on Wednesday

afternoons for people to visit and reflect and have a cup of tea. This year the church will be open on the first Wednesday of each month for tea, chat and activities. Great Hallingbury Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone in the village who has continued to support the church during the last year especially Gift Day in July and Harvest Flowers Weekend in October as well as The One Hundred Club.

Flower Show - Cormack Conway

Last year's show at Gaston House was a great success the money raised was given to the village hall and Little Hallingbury School. The dog show drew in good numbers, and music by the Ukulele Society helped the afternoon along. It is the 80th year of the flower show and the next event will take place at Harps Farm. The committee has a lot of ideas but help on the day is needed.

The Carpet Bowles Club – Alex Russell

The club was formed thirty years ago to provide a social evening for the young and elderly including people with disabilities. They meet Friday evenings around 7.30pm. They regularly play in the North West Essex League and play non-league games with other villages. They support charities such as Alzheimers Society. New members aged between eight and 108 are welcome to join.

Great Hallingbury Highlights – Christine Coultrup

Many have said nice things about the magazine and to be successful it needs to reflect what is relevant to the village and its residents, so parishioners are asked to give information if they have an interest in a hobby or know of some special activity. There is no need to write an article but giving all the information would suffice. Thanks, were expressed for help with the advertising and to the Parish Council for their continued financial support as the magazine is distributed free of charge to every house and business in the village.

History Society – Christine Coultrup

The Great Hallingbury History Society continues to thrive. Attendance at our meetings is rarely less than 18 and at our last meeting there were more than 25 people. The Society continue to enjoy a programme of speakers on very varied topics. In the summer last year, the History Society had a stand at both the Flower Show and at the Harvest Flower Festival in St Giles'. Last September a trip to the Abbey at Coggeshall took place which is essentially the remains of a medieval abbey with, as the owner describes it, modern Tudor additions. The History Society plan to continue a similar pattern of activities in the immediate future. New members are welcome.

Women's Institute – Judy Simmonds

In 1942 the Great Hallingbury Women's Institute began with its work. They meet every 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm. Various speakers are invited to their meetings. The WI is known for their savoury and sweet refreshments which are often complimented. Each year a book with photographs of their activities throughout the year is produced.

7. VILLAGE HALL

Martin Mugele, the Chairman for many years advised that Lee Cox has agreed to take over chairing the committee. Village Hall continues to be a good and useful facility for the village and community at large. Regular bookings are made for family celebrations and parties for all ages. The other clubs and organisations using it regularly are the Dog Club, Carpet Bowls, the WI, the Brownies, Table Tennis, the History Society, Quiz Nights and the Parish Council. It's also used as a polling station when necessary. There is a good team looking after the village hall.

8. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH

None raised.

The meeting ended at 9.03p.m. with the Chairman thanking the members of societies to keep going and invited everyone to stay and partake of Cheese & Wine. For those who did stay it gave the opportunity to speak informally to Councillors.

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date.....