

**GREAT HALLINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016, 8.00pm IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL.**

**Councillors present were:-** Alan Townsend, Mark Bloomfield, Vicky Wing, Kaylash Juggurnauth, Alan Pinnock and David Barlow.

(Apologies had been received from County Cllr Susan Barker, District Cllrs Lesley Wells and Keith Artus and Cllrs Andrew Noble and Tom Streeter.)

**Also present:** Malcolm Barrell from Uttlesford Community Travel, Freda Townsend (Clerk) and 14 members of public.

**Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings, and signed by the Chairman.

**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.

**Uttlesford Community Travel - Malcolm Barell**

The Chairman explained that we are losing our Thursday bus in Great Hallingbury from 10<sup>th</sup> April this year, and so we have invited Malcolm along to explain this Uttlesford service. Malcolm informed us that Uttlesford Community Travel has one bus based in Stansted, three in Dunmow and three in Saffron Walden. The buses are available for shopping, or for group trips, also hospital appointments but this may be a car service. An annual membership is required to use the service, this is £10 for individuals and £20 for groups. The cost per journey is £3 for the first 2 miles and 80p per mile after this. The buses are comfortable 15 seat vehicles that are adaptable for wheelchair use.

Mrs Coultrup, History Society, said that one of the buses had been used on a recent trip to The Tower of London and it was a comfortable and well timed trip.

The Clerk asked if the parish council could arrange for a regular bus into Bishop's Stortford for those who did use our weekly bus. Malcolm explained that this is possible but payment would still need to be made under such a service, even if they did not travel.

The Chairman said that the parish council would consider the use of the bus as a regular service for local people to see if it would be viable. He then thanked Malcolm for coming to our meeting.

**Chairman's review of the past year:**

In this last year we have seen some changes to the parish council following the retirement of 4 of our long serving parish councillors, and an uncontested election in May 2015. We have 8 parish councillors, with myself being elected as Chairman.

We work as one body but also have several working groups, such as Planning, Housing, Airport and Neighbourhood Watch.

### **Meetings**

Our meetings continue to be bi-monthly and, since last years Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council have held 6 meetings plus an Extra-ordinary meeting in September.

Cllrs have also attended various meetings at Uttlesford on Local Plan issues and Housing, and SSE meetings on Airport matters.

I also attend the Uttlesford Highways Panel through my role on the Executive Committee of the Uttlesford Association of Local Council's.

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 2015/16 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 in this last year include, Essex Air Ambulance, Catch 22, SSE & NWEHPA and Uttlesford Community Travel.

We continue to support the village hall and St Giles church with an additional donation to the Church to assist with the cost of new heating.

Our quarterly Highlights magazine has been produced for some 20 years, with the costs being borne by Mr. & Mrs Coultrup. However, we received a request from Ron Coultrup, Editor of the magazine for financial support from the parish council and, following discussion and confirmation from the RFO that funds were available, it was agreed that we would make a quarterly payment of £500 for continued provision of this publication.

### **Planning**

The Parish Council have considered and commented on 19 planning applications over this past year.

While in general we have had little reason to object to the proposals, we do stress that new builds must connect to the mains drainage and, in general, point out any potential problems with land drainage.

We do make positive comment if an application is seen as a major improvement.

### **Housing**

The housing scheme proposed, including affordable housing, in the village is still moving very slowly. Plans have been submitted to Uttlesford but have still not been received by the parish council for consideration and comment.

### **Airport**

Following several complaints regarding the flight path being taken by aircraft, we asked Duncan Smith and Neil Robinson along to our September meeting to explain about the way point trials taking place. While the way points may not give much improvement over Great Hallingbury, the noise should not be so prolonged.

SSE continue to keep us up to date with airport matters.

### **Phone Box**

We did not get round to having the old telephone kiosk refurbished last summer, but we hope to get this done very soon.

### **Highways**

Many pot holes have recently been mended and ECC Highways will be re-surfacing the road through the village, also New Barn Lane and part of Woodside Green.

At present we have Affinity Water re-laying fresh water pipes in the village, hence the traffic lights. Also ECC are doing repairs to the old Railway Bridge, part of the Fritch Way.

At Start Hill lorries parking on the footpath by the Esso garage have caused problems with traffic and left the footpath in such a muddy state that it far from usable. Cllr Susan Barker had taken this problem to the Highways Panel and the Chairman met with Shane Taylor to assess the situation. This is now to be made a 'Clearway' from the M11 roundabout along to the next lay-by.

### **Broadband**

We have continued to look at possible ways to improve the broadband reception for our village, However, the latest programme update from Superfast Essex, the team within ECC responsible for fibre broadband roll out in the county, shows that we should have this service by 2017.

### **Litter Pick**

Organized by Cllr Vicky Wing, a litter pick was carried out through the village on 21<sup>st</sup> February. It was really nice to see so many villagers turn up to help, with over 100 bags collected plus other spurious items. It was a joy to see the village looking so spick and span, even if only for a short while as the litter is once again appearing. We hope to make this a twice yearly event. I'd like to thank Vicky for her co-ordination on this including the refreshments provided for all helpers.

Thanks also to the W.I. for doing a further litter pick at which another 20 bags of rubbish were collected.

### **Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

A short discussion took place on a possible event at the hall - outside if possible - games & refreshments.

A big thank you goes to Christine and Ron 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.

**Finally**, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors, and so many villagers, for their support during the past year. Special thanks to my Clerk, Freda who continues to liaise with all parties concerned in a very professional manner, and also keeps me in check.

### **County & District Council Matters:**

Our District and County Cllrs were unable to be present due to a UDC meeting.

### **Speakers from Village Organisations:**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Gt. Hallingbury Brownies -Heather Hays** - Heather explained that the Brownies had recently been taught First Aid with the help of Paramedics who came along in their Ambulance last Monday. The Brownies have also worked on their Writers badge this year with the help of a local author Elaine Vowles. The Brownies enjoy many activities and Heather thanked her family for supporting her on running the pack for the last 27 years!

**St. Giles Church - Heather Hays** - Throughout the last year the Parochial Church Council have explored the most appropriate method of heating the church. It

has now been resolved, following permissions from the Diocese and English Heritage, and should be put in place during this summer. Heather thanked everyone who has supported the church during the past year at our Harvest Flowers Weekend, Gift Day and Remembrance Service and supper. Also to those who have supported our new venture, The One Hundred Club, to help raise funds to maintain our beautiful and historic village church.

**Bishop's Stortford Dog Training Club - Richard Simmons** - Richard explained that there are several Dog Training establishments in Bishop's Stortford, but we are a Club with trainers receiving a small contribution to their travelling expenses, which makes the subscriptions very economical. Any spare income is donated to local dog charities. The Show held last year raised £1,000 for the Foxdells Animal Rescue. This years show is on 10<sup>th</sup> April here at the village hall.

**Womens Institute - Judy Simmonds** - Membership is the highest for many years, now having 32 members, a third of which are from outside the village. We continue to meet monthly and enjoy various outings, with monthly lunches at local hostelrys. We are affiliated to the Essex Federation of Women's Institutes and in 2015 celebrated 100 years of the W.I.

**The Friendship Club - Val Mugele** - The Friendship Club - average age 88 - continues to meet every second Tuesday in the month and we are able to enjoy a few hours catching up with everyone. We meet either in someones home or at the village hall, and occasionally go out for lunch or afternoon tea. It is thanks to all our helpers who provide transport and cakes and sandwiches, that we are able to provide these afternoons.

**The Carpet Bowls Club - Alex Russell** - We continue to play on Friday evenings at Home and various locations on away matches. We play league games, travelling up to 50 miles away, and Friendly games in Essex and Suffolk raising money for all types of charities. Members ages run from teenagers upwards! Any one is welcome to join us.

**Highlights - Ron Coultrup** - In 1996, soon after I was elected as a Parish Councillor, the then Chairman, Norman Mead, and I agreed that relying on people visiting notice boards as a means to communication with the village was not very satisfactory. The Parish Council wanted villagers to understand what they do, and so I began to produce the quarterly newsletter which, with the help of a course run by the RCCE, and the use of colour, has become the style we see today.

**History Society - Christine Coultrup** - The History Society have held 8 meetings in the last year covering a wide range of topics. Following a talk on pargetting, a party of members visited Church Street in Saffron Walden, where part of the Sun Inn is being restored which includes some magnificent pargetting. A small party of members recently attended the Ceremony of The Keys at the Tower of London.

**Footpaths - Geoff Morris** - I continue to check the footpaths for overgrowth and flooded areas, to maintain as needed. All footpaths at present seem generally OK.

*A copy of the full reports will be included in the Highlights magazine.*

### **Village Hall**

Martin Mugele, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, thanked all who help to keep the village hall running, and the parish council for the continuing financial support. The Quiz Nights do help to balance the funds. Thanks to our secretary and bookings secretary, treasurer and cleaning staff.

**Other Matters:**

The removal of our post box at Bedlars Green has been raised once again with Royal Mail, sending a copy of our letter to Sir Alan Haselhurst also. We have not heard from Royal Mail but Sir Alan had written following his communications with them on our behalf. He is still pursuing the matter with them, asking them to contact me with regard to the possibility of a replacement post box in the area.

The W.I. are holding an afternoon tea and flower demonstration on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May in the village hall.

Geoff Morris added that one footpath that is still a problem is from Leapers Lane into the Forest, which is still very boggy and overgrown. The Clerk agreed to chase up Highways or the P3 footpaths group to get some action on this.

---

The meeting ended at 9.05p.m. with the Chairman thanking the speakers for their most comprehensive and interesting reports, and invited everyone to stay and partake of Cheese & Wine. For those who did stay it gave the opportunity to speak informally on many of the subjects covered in the meeting.

Signed.....  
(Chairman)

Date.....