

**HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held in High Easter Village Hall Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Andrea Davis, Robert Lodge (Chair), Neil Reeve, Janet Robinson,  
and the Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after 19/143)

6 Members of the public (4 leaving during the meeting)

19/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Paul Sutton and accepted by the meeting.  
Cllr Jo Windley sent retrospective apologies.

19/140 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None

19/141 PUBLIC FORUM

The Village Hall Committee updated the meeting and confirmed the final funding for the new kitchen is now in place and the work will start and be completed across the February school half term in order to minimise the impact on the pre-school. An opening event is planned for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March which will be a chance to formally open the new kitchen and recognise the eight separate funders who have contributed to the work. Cllr Lodge thanked the Village Hall Committee for their commitment to achieving this project which will be a great asset for the village hall and High Easter community.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for their support in sorting out the accessibility issues with footpath 20.

A resident expressed their frustrations with the actions of the property developer at Homely who appears to have flouted and run rough shod through the planning procedures, they urged Uttlesford to take strong action. District Cllr Barker suggested the Parish Council asks for the application to be called in to committee for consideration, this would allow members of the public to speak in advance of any decision.

The Clerk read an email received from a resident who was unable to attend the meeting asking why the Parish Council did not write to Uttlesford or make a representation opposing the Stansted Planning application at the Extraordinary meeting held in January. A short discussion took place in which the Parish confirmed short timescales, availability of information to allow decisions to be made under proper process, the technical nature of the points under consideration, non-availability of Cllrs, all lead to the conclusion that the Parish Council was not best placed to respond on this occasion.

*3 residents leave the meeting*

19/142 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Cllr Davis proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. The Chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

19/143 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Baker reported that the Uttlesford Cabinet meeting is due to take place later this week and the meeting will consider the District Council budgets for 2020/21 where a £5 increase (+2%) is anticipated for the average band D property. Cllr Barker went on to confirm that reductions in central government funding are requiring local authorities to look for investment opportunities to generate income. Budgets being approved by Essex County Council are proposing similar 2% increases for 2020/21.

*Cllr Barker leaves the meeting*

Signed  
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

## 19/144 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

Essex Highways confirmed they will attend and jet the drains along The Street in an attempt to reduce the highway flooding. As this is an ongoing issue the Parish Council has asked to meet the team on site to discuss solutions.

Essex PRoW officer has confirmed the gate at footpath 20, Brickford Bridge has now been moved to allow unobstructed access to the footpath.

Every 5 years, the PRoW officer walks all PRoWs in each parish identifying any maintenance works required; in 2019 it was the turn of High Easter. As a result, nine new bridges were installed, thirteen new fingerposts and waymarkers installed and sixteen general maintenance jobs completed. If you notice any issues with PRoW they can be reported on the Essex Highways system, or reported via the Clerk.

## 19/145 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Playground inspection log for February 2020 is covered by the independent assessment, see 19/148.

Cllr Lodge confirmed a team has been brought together to plan the village VE day celebrations. Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> village event with a two-course meal, main course managed by the Punchbowl and desert by The Snug. There will be licensed bar with entertainment provided by the Douglas Barder band, professional dancers, 40s themed dress and a look at High Easter at war. The aim is to sell 300 tickets at an affordable price to ensure it is accessible to all. The plan is to hold the event at Lodges. Further discussion took place under agenda item 19/151.

## 19/146 PLANNING

## 19.146.01 – Applications

Application No.	UTT/19/3172/FUL
Location	Land Adjacent To Boreham Court The Street
Development	Proposed erection of 4 no. affordable dwellings including external works, creation of new access road and parking.

The Parish Council has championed an additional affordable housing site in the village for some years and has worked closely with Hastoe prior to the submission of this planning application. Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council has no objection to this application and makes no comment, this was seconded by Cllr Davis. When put to the vote this was four in favour with one abstention.

A meeting took place during January with Hastoe attended by Cllr Lodge, the Clerk and a resident in order to fully understand the costing model. As a result, Cllr Reeve proposed that the Parish Council continues to support the proposal that the four properties will be rental rather than shared ownership. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

Application No.	UTT/20/0149/FUL
Location	Homely (Walnut Tree Cottage), The Street
Development	Section 73A Retrospective application for the demolition of existing property and proposed erection of new dwelling.

Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council asks that this application is called in to the Planning Committee for consideration, if it is recommended for approval by Officers. This was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement. Cllr Reeve went on to propose that the Parish Council objects to the application in its current form and requests that as the property has now been demolished that the replacement dwelling is built on the identical footprint and maintaining the same area of thatch roof as previously and the bay windows. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement. The Clerk was asked to submit a response and to ask that Uttlesford takes appropriate action against the applicants following the demolition of a dwelling in a conservation area without planning permission.

Application No.	UTT/20/0099/FUL
Location	Barn At Gladen Cottage Bishops Green
Development	Proposed conversion of an existing barn to a residential dwelling.

Signed  
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council objects to this application which it sees as over development of the site. This was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

#### 19.146.02 – Decisions

Application No.	UTT/19/2932/CLP
Location	Barns at Park Gate Park Road, Pleshey
Development	The proposed demolition of the building used as a butchery ancillary to the farming activities at the Application Site followed by the Change of Use of Two No. Agricultural Buildings to Five No. Dwelling houses
Decision	Refused Certificate of Lawfulness, full planning application required

19.146.03 The Parish Council noted the Consultation on Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document and agreed not to comment. If approved a very small part of High Easter in the south east of the parish would be impacted with any new dwelling attracting a tariff of £122.60, index linked.

19.146.04 – At an extraordinary meeting of Uttlesford Planning Committee on Friday 24th January, a decision was taken to refuse the Stansted Airport planning application to increase passenger numbers. The Parish Council thanks residents who spoke at the public sessions and for those who attended,

19.146.05 – In mid-January, the Planning Inspectors responded to the Uttlesford Local Plan, their full report is available on the Uttlesford website. In conclusion they state, ‘the strategy set out in the plan is unsound’ and raise concerns about the evidence supporting it and the potential deliverability of key sites including the garden communities. Uttlesford District Council is considering its response and next steps.

#### 19/147 NEW PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT

Representatives of the Parish Council met with Creative Play to discuss the plans for the play equipment. They were one of four contractors who have submitted designs, all proposed a similar equipment solution and cost, with Creative Play providing a favourable quote for the surface. During the meeting Cllrs proposed some amendments to the original plan which would allow for a new tower, spinning pyramid net and the relocation of the springers within the fenced area, plus a bucket swing adjacent to the current swings. The quote for this plan including the new surface green/black mix is £35.2k, an all-black surface would reduce the cost to £33.9k.

The Parish Council were of the view the revised plan provides a variety of equipment that will enhance the current area. The Parish Council agreed to continue discussions with Creative Play based on a black only surface in order to determine if the price could be reduced further and within the budget without compromising on the equipment.

The Parish Council noted in the near future it will be necessary to replace the basketball net and to add something for the older children, this will be considered as a second phase.

Butterfly pre-school has contacted the Parish Council and confirmed they would like to support the plans for a new play area and to organise a small sponsored event with the children to raise funds. The Parish Council are delighted to accept this offer and look forward to joining them in their efforts!

#### 19/148 REVIEW OF PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

The annual independent review of the play area was carried out in January. There are no areas notified as high, requiring urgent action or medium/high where remedial action should be carried out. There are some areas of medium risk in particular rot at the base of some of the tower posts (will be resolved when the new equipment is installed), wear and tear on rubber cradle swing seats, condition of the picnic tables, Dunmow Rhodes dugouts and the basketball surface; all of which the Parish Council are aware of and continue to monitor.

#### 19/149 GARDEN WASTE SERVICE 2020

Uttlesford District Council is providing the garden waste service as in previous years, funded by Parish Councils. Cllr Reeve proposed that High Easter Parish Council continues to fund the service bi-weekly at a cost of £1,400 for

Signed  
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

2020, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement. The waste vehicle will be in the village hall car park on alternative Saturdays 11.30am to 12.30pm from Saturday 7th March until Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### 19/150 REPLACEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

A non-profit company e-voice.org.uk has secured funding to continue to provide a website service for community, not-for-profit and voluntary groups. 'Voice' uses the same platform as 'essexinfo' the existing provider for Essex Parish Councils and voluntary groups. The majority of existing data can be transferred from the current site to e-voice and the 'look and feel' would be very similar, although the same limitations would exist including in terms of support.

The Parish Council discussed how it uses its current website and was in agreement that the requirement is for a basic information site only. Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council moves its current website from 'essexinfo' to 'voice', this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement. The Clerk suggested the domain name of the site is changed from '...highesterparishcouncil' to '...highester' and that the outstanding work to add the village hall information to the site is incorporated in the work to set up the new site; this was supported by the Parish Council and the Clerk will progress.

#### 19/151 HIGH EASTER VE DAY PLANS

*Prior to discussions Cllr Boreham, Cllr Lodge and Cllr Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the organising committee or connected village groups who are part of the event.*

The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant authorities to confirm whether there would be coordinated national beacon lighting and if so what time slot is allocated to High Easter.

The discussion in agenda item 19/145 continued and Cllr Lodge outlined the expenditure and request from the committee for the Parish Council to consider making a contribution towards the ticket prices to ensure they were affordable for all. The Clerk suggested if the Parish Council was minded to contribute, it may wish to consider making a purchase for specific items, rather than a donation. Cllr Davis proposed that £1,000 is allocated by the Parish Council to be spent on the event in whichever way the organising committee feel is most appropriate, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

*1 resident leaves*

#### 19/152 FINANCE

19.152.01 Cheques for Approval, Cllr Robinson proposed the following cheque for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Davis with all in agreement.

<b>PAYMENT TO</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk January 2020	£ 258.96
Allison Ward – Contribution to Clerks computer	£ 200.00
Uttlesford District Council – Garden waste service 2019	£ 1,156.00
BT – Purchase of Phone Box (inc VAT)	£ 1.20

19.152.02 - A cheque has been received from High Easter Village Hall Committee for football fees of £105.

#### 19/153 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Tenders 2020

A project to plant a tree for every baby born in the village  
Village welcome pack

19/154 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING, 9.20pm

Signed  
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)