

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held via Zoom on Monday 5th October 2020

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

County and District Cllr Susan Baker (part of meeting)

0 Zoom connections during the meeting from members of the public

20/80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None all present.

20/81 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

Cllr Windley declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 20.87.02 Birds Farm, as joint owner of the site subject to the decision. As this is an information only item it will not be necessary for Cllr Windley to leave the meeting.

20/82 PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Lodge wished to record the Parish Council's condolences to the family of the late Peter and Sheila Sellens who both passed away in September 2020. Peter was a Parish Cllr, and a committed member of the community, contributing much to the life of High Easter.

20/83 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 7 September 2020 were approved by the Parish Council as a correct record. They will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

20/84 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT - Cllr Barker had confirmed she be would late to the meeting due to commitments to attend other Parish Council meetings taking place this evening; the Chairman moved this item to later in the agenda and subject to Cllr Barkers attendance.

20/85 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

The planning application for the affordable housing was finally approved by Uttlesford in September. The next stage is for Hastoe, the Housing Association to go out to tender to appoint a Contractor. Assuming this goes according to plan they should be in a position to start on site early 2021.

The government is consulting on management of pavement parking with the deadline for responses 22 November, the Parish Council will consider at the November meeting. Please see this link for further details, <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking>

The Clerk confirmed notification from Uttlesford of an amendment to application UTT/20/1937/FUL submitted by the applicant following the Essex Highways objection. Cllr Sutton suggested there is no change to the Parish Council objection, the Clerk was asked to submit confirmation of this and to add points of clarity re the road classification (Class III and not unclassified), the impaired vision for a driver approaching from the north and the continued lack of visitor parking onsite or on the adjacent highway.

The Parish Council continues to support those residents who require assistance with prescription collections.

20/86 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Clerk had carried out the monthly safety check on the play equipment, there are no new matters to report.

In response to the delays in Uttlesford's planning decision process, Cllr Reeve confirmed he had spoken to planning to understand the timeframes including the process for deciding when applications are scheduled to go to committee; Cllr Reeve will continue to follow this up.

County and District Cllr Susan Barker joins the meeting

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Windley commented on the lights at Stansted Airport and asked whether light pollution is a concern raised by objectors to the increase in passenger numbers at the airport, Cllr Reeve responded that he was unaware this was a 'nuisance' issue with the main focus for residents being noise.

Cllr Windley is chasing Essex Public Rights of Way officer for help with reinstating footpaths where farmers have cropped the fields including footpath 18, and with fallen trees on footpath 95. Cllr Lodge confirmed the majority of footpath 95 has been cleared by the volunteers however there remains overgrown vegetation at the top end.

Cllr Robinson asked if the issue re the damaged footpaths around the village hall could be looked at; Cllr Boreham and Cllr Lodge to meet with representatives of the village hall to agree the works necessary and way forward.

Cllr Robinson commented on the drainage issues along The Street caused by heavy rainfall particularly around the telephone box. County Cllr Barker confirmed this has been recently logged again with the highways engineers and she is waiting for confirmation of a site visit which all interested parties could attend.

The Chairman invited County and District Cllr Susan Barker to report to the meeting.

20/84 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County Cllr Barker reported on the proposed works to replace the highway surface for a long stretch either side of Dunmow High Street. The works are scheduled to take place in the evenings and will involve road closures. The detours are lengthy and may include traffic using local roads through High Easter. Cllr Barker suggested any plans to do a litter pick are delayed until post the resurfacing and confirmed she had asked that any pot holes repairs which are marked along High Easter Road are also delayed until the completion of works, as HGVs diverting are likely to cause further damage.

County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting.

20/87 PLANNING

20.87.01 – Applications - None

20.87.02 - Decisions

Application No	UTT/20/1965/HHF
Location	1 Bellhouse Villas, Barnston Road
Development	Proposed garage
Decision	Refused

Application No	UTT/20/2004/FUL & UTT/20/1703/LB
Location	Birds Farm Bishops Green
Development	Conversion of barn to 1 no. dwelling (revised scheme to that approved under planning permission UTT/19/1920/FUL)
Decision	Refused

Application No	UTT/19/3172/FUL
Location	Land adjacent to Boreham Court
Development	Proposed erection of 4 no. affordable dwellings including external works, creation of new access road and parking
Decision	Approve with conditions

Application No	UTT/20/2156/LB
Location	Chapel House, The Street
Development	S73a retrospective application for a single storey, oak framed pergola
Decision	Refused

20/88 COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Parish Council considered a draft information sheet and proposed questions to be used to determine whether there was community support to prepare some form of community led development plan. In their discussion Cllrs noted both the current state of Uttlesford Local Plan and the government's paper 'Planning for the Future'. Following some minor amendments, a second draft will be issued for final approval with a 4-6 week deadline for completion once circulated. Cllrs agreed the information sheet would need to be hand delivered to each home in the parish to ensure all received and had the opportunity to respond; Clerk to progress.

20/89 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON WHITE PAPER – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Cllr Sutton summarised the key points and noted that the paper proposes huge changes which would impact every aspect of planning. Whilst there are some positive and welcome proposals for streamlining the application process and improving access to information, there are areas of concern around the simplified 'zoning' proposal and any suggestions that would reduce the local community input in the decision process, especially where this was perceived to be in favour of developers; there is little or no detail provided at this stage in the White Paper to fully understand the implications on Parish Councils.

As a result, Cllr Sutton was of the view it is difficult for the Parish Councils to make a meaningful response to the questions raised in the consultation and made a proposal not to respond. Cllr Reeve agreed and seconded, adding that it would be appropriate to leave the response to Uttlesford, however if there were any specific and more local points raised in the Uttlesford response where local support would be welcome, the Parish Council could consider submitting a 'supportive' response. This suggestion was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk will continue to circulate any responses received from Uttlesford and other bodies. Deadline for responses to the white paper consultation is 29 October.

20/90 UTTLESFORD HIGHWAYS PANEL

Applications are open for funding by the Uttlesford Highways panel for the year 2020/21. The Clerk was asked to submit the following applications,

- a. Repairs and the protection of Bishops Green triangle from erosion by highway users.
- b. Repairs and the protection of Lofty Green triangle from erosion by highway users.
- c. Hamlet signage at Bishops Green.

20/91 PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

The chairman confirmed the receipt of a letter from younger members of the community asking the Parish Council to consider installing a skate park; the Clerk has already acknowledged the letter. Cllrs agreed to invite a supplier to visit and access the area and to provide an indication of the likely costs before the matter could be considered further.

The bank to place the old slide needs 'building up', Cllr Boreham to consider requirements and costs.

The Parish Council discussed the issues with the waste bins on the playing field which are emptied by Uttlesford who have confirmed replacing the bins is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Clerk circulated a number of options and in conclusion Cllr Davis proposed that the Parish Council purchases two dark green, 90 litre, open top, plastic litter bins, subject to agreement that Uttlesford will empty them both. One bin will replace the existing broken bin and the second can be located at various points as required including the play area. The bins will have a concrete ballast rather than being permanently fixed to the ground. It was also agreed to replace the dog bin at the entrance to the village hall car park which has lost its lid, the capacity of this bin will be increased to 35 litres. The total estimated cost is £400 ex VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement. (To note, the existing bin adjacent to the bench will need removing as it is currently in a concrete based.)

Cllr Lodge proposed that JCM services who carry out grounds' maintenance works for the Parish Council are contracted to cut the playing field hedges, quote £295, and to cut the Jubilee Meadow hedges, £100. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

20/92 LITTER PICK

Following the suggestion from County and District Cllr Barker in item 20/84 it was agreed to delay any decision on a litter pick. When this is discussed the Clerk asked that consideration is given to clearing the ditch of litter and vegetation along the front of the playing field and village hall.

20/93 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council had received a request from Friends of Rodings Primary School for a grant to assist with projects around the school including the provision of additional outside storage; the application noted that it has not been possible to fund raise since March and the future fundraising events are unlikely. Cllr Sutton proposed that a grant of £250 be made to Friends of Rodings Primary School, this was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

20/94 ELECTRONIC BANKING

The Clerk circulated a paper with options for authorising payments electronically. After consideration, Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council remains with the co-operative bank with the Clerk entering the data online and in doing so replacing one of the two current manual signatories. Cllrs agreed an additional level of control at the Parish Council meeting where payments are authorised to reduce the risk and to meet the requirements of the legislation requiring local councils departing from the two-signature rule to “implement and maintain robust controls on expenditure as an integrated part of their overall financial control system”. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. Once the bank confirms the correspondence name change on the account, the Clerk will progress.

20/95 FINANCE

20.95.01 The following cheques for approval at this meeting

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk September 2020 inc Zoom subscription for month	£ 280.63
Friends of Rodings Primary School	£ 250.00
JCM Services (3 rd Meadow cut inc VAT)	£ 228.00

20.95.02 The following receipts have been received, Uttlesford District Council precept, £11,400; High Easter Village Hall Committee 50% of football fees, £70.

20.95.03 The Clerk presented the accounts for the period April to September 2020 including an updated estimated outturn for 2020/21, the only unbudgeted item added being the waste bins. The estimated closing cash position at March 2021 is in line with budget. The closing cash position as at September 2020 was £22,705.

20/96 ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD, litter pick, response on government consultation on management of pavement parking and tree planting.

20/97 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 2 November 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.