

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held via Zoom on Monday 7th December 2020

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Robert Lodge (from agenda item 20/122), Neil Reeve, Janet Robinson, Paul Sutton (chair), Jo Windley and the Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Baker (leaving after item 20/115)

0 Zoom connections during the meeting from members of the public

20/111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Lodge sent apologies that he would be late to the meeting due to work commitments. The vice-chairman chaired the meeting.

20/112 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None.

20/113 PUBLIC FORUM

The Clerk was asked to record a note of thanks to Christmas Wrapped Up for supplying the Christmas Tree on Pump Green, to Cllr Boreham for providing the lights and to Cllr Lodge and Clem Kelsey for putting the tree in situ.

20/114 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 2 November 2020 were approved by the Parish Council as a correct record. They will be signed by the Chairman of this meeting at the earliest opportunity.

20/115 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County Cllr Barker commented on the attendance of the Highways jetting team in The Street to investigate the flooding issues on 4 December which was attended by Cllr Baker, Cllr Lodge, the Clerk, and residents. The report given on site confirmed a blockage on private land and this has been passed to the Watercourse Regulation Engineer, who also attended to follow through with the residents and various parties. A separate issue with drainage on the south side of The Street has been noted by Highways and a job request will be raised. The team were unable to investigate at Bellhouse Villas due to the volume of water and a further visit is pending.

Cllr Barker confirmed a grant has been awarded of £500 to the Parish Council to assist with the community project to provide 30 free Christmas food boxes to the elderly and alone in the parish. The Parish Council will administer the grant on behalf of the organisers of the project.

Cllr Barker updated the meeting on the efforts by both Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council in supporting businesses and residents in these challenging times.

County and District Cllr Barker leaves the meeting

20/116 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

Information on Census 2021 which is due to take place on Sunday 21st March 2021 has been circulated to the Parish Council, residents and posted on the website. We will be encouraged to complete the census online; support and alternatives will be available. More information will be shared as it is received.

Friends of the Fritchway footpath group posted on their Facebook page that they had been clearing vegetation and fallen timbers from the Bridleway at Stagden Cross in early November. The Clerk sent a note of thanks.

Some potholes have been repaired in the parish; the Clerk has contacted County Council Barker re the poor repair in School Lane; this has been confirmed as a temporary repair further information has been requested.

Numerous notifications of road closures for Gigaclear works in and around the parish have been received for December, January 2021, and February 2021. Details are on the Essex Highways website.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

The annual inspection of the playground equipment has been booked with Wicksteed at a cost of £60 for an unaccompanied inspection with primary risk assessment. This is expected to take place early in 2021.

Two new bins for the playing field and a new dog bin adjacent to the village hall car park arrived and have been installed this month.

There is a significant amount of information on support available to residents and businesses as a result of Covid, the village website has a page dedicated to this with numerous links.

In early December, the Clerk and Cllr Lodge met a representative from Caloo Ltd, a provider of skate parks, to understand the options and costs to install equipment on the playing field. A report from Caloo Ltd has been received and circulated to Cllrs. The meeting discussed the options and given the high costs, the Clerk was asked to investigate further if the limited equipment proposed met the expectations and if there was enough interest and support amongst the young people to progress.

20/117 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The monthly inspection of the play area is outstanding and will be completed by the Clerk.

Cllr Boreham noted there is a missing manhole cover between Mudwall and Shooters Hatch on High Easter Road and also commented on the volume of water on the highway along Green Street where ditches need digging out.

Cllr Windley confirmed a response had been received from Essex Highways stating it is not a priority and no action will be taken following requests to reinstate cross-field paths including footpath 23. Cllrs noted the problems with walking on the fields at this time due to the severe wet conditions; Cllr Boreham will speak to the landowner.

20/118 PLANNING

20.118.01 – Applications

Application No	UTT/20/3064/HHF
Location	6 Boreham Court
Development	Proposed single storey White UPVC Conservatory to the rear of the property

Cllr Sutton proposed no objection to this application, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/20/2772/FUL
Location	Lawn Hall Farm Hall Chase
Development	Proposed Straw Barn (Phase 1)

Application No	UTT/20/2773/FUL
Location	Lawn Hall Farm Hall Chase
Development	Proposed Straw Barn (Phase 2)

The Parish Council considered the above two applications, Cllr Sutton outlined the proposal and noted that approval has already been given under agricultural permitted development for a single open sided barn equivalent to the size of the two parts proposed in these applications, it is unclear why these two planning applications have been submitted other than a requirement to build the approved structures in two phases. There was considerable discussion and Cllrs were concerned with the size of the buildings which would be highly visible in the open countryside.

In conclusion Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council submits a comment on both applications with concerns re the siting, size, and visual prominence of the buildings from the highway and footpaths. The Parish Council notes there is no landscape impact with the application and requests if officers are mindful to approve that a landscaping condition is included to provide bunding with mature trees to help mitigate against the impact on the countryside. This was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

The deadline for the following application has passed. In reviewing the plans Cllrs expressed concern with the impact on the neighbouring property and possible loss of light.

Application No	UTT/20/2799/HHF
Location	5 Gepps Close
Development	Proposed erection of front extension to create entrance hall, rear single storey extension, addition of 1st floor side extension and internal alteration

The following is an application for permitted development and not open to general comment. The meeting had no concerns with the status of the building.

Application No	UTT/20/2785/PAQ3
Location	Barn at Shorts Farm
Development	Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling

20.118.02 – Decisions

Application No	UTT/20/2519/HHF
Location	Folks and Crows, School Lane
Development	Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and an open porch canopy to front elevation, replacing existing porch
Decision	Conditional approval

Application No	UTT/20/2648/FUL
Location	Gladen House Bishops Green
Development	Proposed conversion of existing barn to residential dwelling.
Decision	Conditional approval

20.118.03 – The planning inspector dismissed an appeal at Park Gate for the change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 5 dwellings. This was initially an application for certificate of lawful development which Uttlesford refused.

20.118.04 – Cllr Reeve outlined Uttlesford’s consultation on ‘community involvement protocol’ which seeks to involve Town and Parish Councils in discussions at pre-application stage for significant developments, with the intention that they can influence the application before matters are locked in and the application submitted for consideration. The meeting welcomed this as a positive step forward, whilst recognising that on occasions it can be difficult to engage with developers where a site is not supported in the community.

20.118.05 – The Clerk has circulated information to residents on the New Local Plan process including the stakeholder meetings. Information has also been posted on the village website. The Clerk responded to requests from Uttlesford for information on existing community services. The Parish Council noted that there is an opportunity to respond after each mini consultation, however, was of the view it would wait until the end of this stage of the process to consider commenting.

20.118.06 - Cllr Reeve has registered to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Stansted Airport planning inquiry due to start on 12 January 2021 and scheduled for 40 days. Manchester Airport Group has submitted an Amended Environmental Statement (ESA) as part of its appeal and this statement was subject to additional public consultation until by 7 December.

20/119 SURFACE WATER FLOODING IN HIGH EASTER

See minute in agenda item 20/115.

Whilst the Highways team were in High Easter, the Clerk and the Watercourse Regulation Engineer visited School Lane adjacent to the sewage works where the highway was blocked as a result of the overflowing ditches. Images of the issue with and without the overflowing water have been forwarded. It is understood this issue is the responsibility of Essex Highways however the works required here are now significant due to the collapsed bank. The matter is being progressed by the Watercourse Regulation Engineer.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

20/120 VILLAGE LITTER PICK

The meeting agreed to defer a litter pick until Spring 2021.

20/121 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council had received a request for a grant to support the Christmas food boxes to the elderly in the parish. Given it had not been possible to hold an 'overs lunch' in 2020 the Parish Council was keen to support this project. However, assuming the grant from Essex County Council met the relevant criteria the Parish Council suggested it would provide the mechanism to allow this to be received and processed. Should this not be possible, and the grant was not payable, Cllr Sutton proposed the Parish Council makes a £100 donation to the project, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

Cllr Lodge joins the meeting.

20/122 FINANCE

20.122.01 The following cheques were proposed for payment by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk November 2020 inc Zoom subscription for month	£ 280.63
JCM Services – Third verge cut inc VAT	£ 1,320.00

20.122.02 The Clerk confirmed receipt of football fees £105 from the village hall committee for the use of the playing field, and £50 from Fortis Services Ltd as a donation towards the community Christmas boxes which will be passed to the team organising the project.

20/123 ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FOR NEXT MEETING – Budget 2021/22 and Community Led Planning.

20/124 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 4 January 2021 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.