

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall Monday 7th January 2019

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Andrea Davis, Robert Lodge (chairman), Neil Reeve, Jo Windley and the Clerk Allison Ward

5 Members of the public

18/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Janet Robinson and Cllr Paul Sutton and accepted by the Parish Council.

18/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None

18/133 PUBLIC FORUM – Cllr Lodge offered sincere condolences to the Boreham family on the death of Roy Boreham. Roy served as a Parish Cllr for many years and was a very special person who had a care and passion for High Easter and its community. One of his greatest legacies will be Boreham Court, the rural homes initiative which resulted in 12 low cost houses for local people. If the Parish Council ever needed help or equipment Roy was always first to say ‘I’ll sort that’ and the job was done; there were many jobs around the village that Roy was quietly involved in and that people will never have known about. Roy you will deeply missed.

As there were no questions from the public forum that were not related to an item on the agenda, the Chairman asked that agenda item 18/142 be brought forward and opened to general discussion; there were no objections.

18/142 PARISH LUNCH

This is confirmed for Wednesday 16th January at 12.30pm; the Parish Council are very grateful to Butterfly pre-school who will close for the day to allow the Parish Council to host the lunch in the village hall. The Clerk confirmed numbers were rising steadily and contact will be made with those who have not yet called. The Snug are doing the catering and a short discussion took place to confirm the arrangements for the day and the help needed from Parish Cllrs; Cllr Lodge, Cllr Reeve, Cllr Windley and the Clerk confirmed they were available to help on the day and additional help will be arranged as necessary.

1 resident leaves

The Chairman asked that agenda item 18.139.01 be brought forward and opened to general discussion; there were no objections.

18/139 PLAYGROUND & PLAYING FIELD

18.139.01 – The Chairman began by confirming that vandalism has occurred to the playing field as a result of a vehicle driving across it one evening between Christmas and New Year, churning up the grass surface. The Parish Council was made aware that Brian Hockley had rolled the ground to improve the damage to the service and the Clerk was asked to thank Brian for his efforts. In addition, the vehicle drove into the metal railings around the play area causing damage to one of the posts and panels, and further damage resulted when the vehicle drove into one of the goal posts loosening the upright posts and breaking the net. The Clerk confirmed the incident had been reported to the police and estimates for repairing the damage are pending. The Parish Council agreed that an insurance claim would be opened as the repairs are likely to exceed the £125 excess.

A discussion followed on what action could be taken to prevent such vehicle access in the future and a number of options were tabled. Cllr Lodge confirmed the Parish Council has timber posts to replace those currently missing and will arrange for a contractor to provide a cost for various options pending a final decision by the Parish Council.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

4 residents leave

18/134 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 3rd December 2018. Cllr Davis proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

18/135 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS – County and District Cllr Susan Barker sent her apologies to the meeting.

18/136 CLERK’S UPDATE & CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

Hastoe has confirmed one of the three parties is no longer interested in providing land for affordable housing and has withdrawn from the process. Two sites remain on the table and information due from one has been delayed until end of December.

Following a further site visit agreement has been reached on work necessary to begin the mobile post office service to the village. A new phone line for use by the mobile post office was installed in The Snug in early January. The relevant paperwork is now being processed pending the issue of a post office number. Current estimates are this should take a further 6-8 weeks after which the mobile service can begin.

The PCSO Simon Horne visited the village at short notice on 12th December and has confirmed operational duties permitting he will attend monthly between 10am and 12pm and be based in The Snug. All are welcome to pop along to say hello and talk about any issues. Future dates are 23rd January, 12th February and 27th March.

Christmas Tree recycling will be available in the village hall car park on Saturday 12th January between 2pm and 3pm.

The Clerk is chasing – for an update on the 40mph speed limit between Boreham Court and Rehobeth; quote for replacement of the post on the gate into the Jubilee Meadow; update on County Broadband plans to allow further consideration of any community projects with Gigaclear or Openreach; quote for resurfacing the village hall. Outstanding actions – website changes to include village hall.

18/137 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Clerk inspected the playground for December 2018. There were no new issues other than the vandalism referred to in item 18.139.01.

The Clerk was asked to report a dead tree adjacent to the highway at Garnetts Wood, (post meeting Essex Highways confirmed *‘Our recent investigation of this issue has concluded that it is not as serious as many other issues we are aware of, so we won’t be taking any further action on it.’*)

Cllrs noted that Garnetts Wood has undergone significant tree management by Essex County Council, however the use of vehicles has severely damaged the public footpaths through the wood. Cllr Reeve will contact Essex Highways to discuss.

The VAS sign which belongs to Essex Highways and is in situ along The Street has now completely failed, including the LED lights. The Clerk was asked to contact Essex Highways to understand if they are in a position to replace the equipment.

18/138 PLANNING

18.138.01 - Applications

Application No	UTT/18/3493/HHF & UTT/18/3494/LB
Location	Chestnut Cottage, The Street
Development	Demolition of front porch and erection of replacement front porch

Signed

Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council has no objection to this application, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/18/3417/PAP3Q
Location	Games Farm, High Easter Road
Development	Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwellings

To note the above is an application under permitted development and not open to general comment. In addition, permission has already been given to convert the agricultural building to 2 no. dwellings. This application seeks some amendment to the design of the original plan.

18.138.02 Decisions

Application No	UTT/18/2841/HHF
Location	11 Stagden Cross Villas
Development	First floor rear extension, ground floor infill extension & a front porch extension.
Decision	Conditional Approval

Application No	UTT/18/2673/HHF
Location	Newell Cottage, The Street
Development	Proposed rear conservatory
Decision	Refused

18/139 PLAYGROUND and PLAYING FIELD

18.139.01 – Brought forward item on agenda

18.139.02 – Cllr Davis and the Clerk met the Wicksteed playground inspector to discuss the concerns with the vertical uprights supporting the ladder. Significant movement exists if force is applied to the uprights. Their advice continues to be that the uprights and ladder should be removed and that it is not possible to determine the extent of wood rot below the surface and therefore at which stage the structure is unsafe. Cllr Lodge proposed that given the independent advice the ladder and two supporting vertical uprights should be removed as soon as practically possible, this was seconded by Cllr Davis, with all in agreement. The Clerk was asked to arrange. It was recognised that a project needs to begin to look at replacing the current wooden frame.

18/140 TENDERS 2019

The verge cutting contract for 2019 has been issued to three contractors and their responses will be considered at the March 2019 meeting. Essex County Council has confirmed the verge cutting funding will be as for previous years; this is likely to require some funding from precept if the levels of service are to be maintained.

Tenders will not be issued for the playing field or Jubilee Meadow as these were awarded on a two-year basis in 2018.

18/141 BUDGET 2019/20 and FINANCIAL UPDATE 2018/19

The Clerk presented the quarterly finances for the period April to December 2018 and these were accepted by the Parish Council. They confirm a cash balance at the end of December of £14,489.

The Parish Council considered the budget for 2019/20 which includes a provision for the May 2019 Parish Council elections. Cllr Lodge proposed a £1k (9.5%) increase in parish precept which would give a total receivable of £11,400. This increase was felt necessary to meet inflationary costs as well as to support the repairs to the footpaths around the village hall, new fence/post deterrent for the playing field and the long term plans to replace the play area. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

18/142 PARISH LUNCH – brought forward agenda item.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

18/143 FINANCE

18.143.01 Cllr Reeve proposed the following cheques for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December 2018	£	252.33
WW1 Commemoration Event – Robert Lodge (sundries inc tea/coffee, engraving)	£	18.69

18.143.02 The Clerk presented the final reconciliation for the WW1 event. After paying all expenditure and allowing for £300 of grants, the Parish Council net position was proceeds of £11.88, (total receipts £3,270 and total expenditure £3,258.12).

18/144 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA on line banking and broadband update.

18/145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 4th February 2019, (*post meeting this has been changed to Thursday 7th February in the village hall.*)

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.20pm