

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

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

1 Member of the public

18/146 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Neil Reeve and accepted by the Parish Council. Cllr Janet Robinson sent apologies that she would be late to the meeting.

18/147 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None

18/148 PUBLIC FORUM

The Clerk and Cllrs had received a number of enquiries and comments concerned with the works to the property Homely, The Street. The Parish Council confirmed it is not a listed building, although it is in the conservation area and the site includes a Tree Preservation Order. The Clerk has written to Uttlesford asking if they can visit the site to ensure any works are in accordance with planning.

The Clerk had received an email from a resident following the Essex Hunt meet in the village the previous week and to which there had been no advance notice. The Clerk will make contact asking if the village could be notified when a hunt is due to take place.

18/149 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 7th January 2019. Cllr Windley proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. The Chairman signed the minutes.

18/150 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS – County and District Cllr Susan Barker sent her apologies to the meeting.

18/151 CLERK’S UPDATE & CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

The process of verifying the suitability of the remaining two potential affordable housing sites continues. Hastoe has requested a view from Essex Highways with reference to the site accessibility, and their response is pending. Cllrs will hold an update meeting with Hastoe next week.

The electrics required by the Post Office are due to be installed on Friday 1st March, which should enable the Post Office service to begin at some point in March. Current plans are that a service will be provided on Tuesday mornings between 9am and 11am.

The PCSO Simon Horne will be in The Snug between 10am and 12pm on 12th February and 27th March.

Cllr Reeve spoke to Essex County Council (ECC) re the work in Garnetts Wood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owned by ECC. It was confirmed there is a “master plan” for the wood which involves trying to restore some of traditional coppicing, and opening up some areas to more light to bring in the rarer flowers, bugs and butterflies. The work was approved in a plan that had public consultation (albeit about 6 years ago) and has been executed by an approved contractor. Permissions were gained from local landowners to enable access with minimal public interference and they tried to be as careful as possible with the paths. Following concerns raised by residents on the state of the paths, the Clerk will follow up any remedial works with ECC.

The Clerk and Cllr Lodge met with the preschool and contractor to agree the details of the fencing for the play area. This will form an area 6m x 10m, surrounded by a 4ft high picket style fence with ‘rounded tops’. The 10m width will be set in the middle of the hall wall, i.e. leaving a 1m gap on each side so not directly against

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

the footpath. This will allow a mower to get around the birch trees. There will be a 3ft single gate close to the footpath side which will allow the preschool to bring the children out from this area onto the playing field.

28 residents past and present, as well as Parish Cllrs sat down to lunch at the village hall on Wednesday 16th January. After allowing for costs (meal £450, drinks/sundries £24), the net cost to the Parish Council was £334 which will be funded from the 'overs' budget.

One contractor visited and provided a quote to repair the paths in front of the village hall, a second quote will be obtained before discussing further. Outstanding actions – website changes to include village hall.

18/152 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Windley will carry out the playground inspection.

18/153 PLANNING

18.153.01 - Applications

Application No	UTT/19/0087/HHF & UTT/19/0087/LB
Location	Cottons Cottage, The Street
Development	Proposed erection of two storey rear extension and low retaining wall (renewal of previously approved application UTT/15/3478/HHF)

Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council has no comment on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/19/0096/FUL
Location	Games Farm, High Easter Road
Development	Erection of agricultural storage building

Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council comments on this application, requesting that should Uttlesford recommend for approval, appropriate action is taken to ensure the planning approval currently in existence for the agricultural storage building under UTT/17/0290/FUL, is allowed to lapse in order that permission is not in existence for two agricultural storage buildings when only one is confirmed necessary by the applicant. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

18.153.02 Decisions

Application No	UTT/18/3198/HHF
Location	Tarr Potts Farm, Slough Road
Development	Proposed balcony
Decision	Refused

18.153.03 Cllr Reeve attended and spoke at the Uttlesford Scrutiny Committee meeting on 15th January about his experiences following the Planning Committee consideration of the Stansted Airport application. This followed a motion calling for an independent investigation into the Council's handling of large planning application processes. The process cases to be studied will include the application determined in November 2018 for increased capacity at Stansted Airport as well as other large planning applications.

18.153.04 Uttlesford District Council has published a revised Sustainability Appraisal for its Regulation 19 Pre-submission Local Plan; this is open to comment until 25th February. The Parish Council agreed not to comment.

18.153.05 Uttlesford District Council is consulting on an update to the Statement of Community Involvement until 25th February. The Parish Council agreed not to comment.

18.153.06 Uttlesford District Council submitted the Uttlesford Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 18 January 2019 for independent examination. All documentation submitted is available to view and download on the Councils website: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-plan-examination.

18/154 PLAYGROUND and PLAYING FIELD

The quote to remove the ladder and vertical uprights from the play frame and to replace the wooden post on the gate into the meadow is £130, the Clerk has authorised the works.

The quote to repair the goal post following the vandalism is £95 and the cost to repair the fencing is £628+vat; a total of £723+vat. Dunmow Rhodes had been asked to provide a quote to repair the net, however no information has been received. The Parish Council accepted these quotes and agreed to process an insurance claim for the total amount, considering the excess of £125; Clerk to liaise.

Cllr Lodge and the Clerk met a contractor to discuss the most appropriate form of defence barrier between the playing field and car park. In conclusion it was proposed that wooden posts are set into the ground at approximately 1m intervals. At each end it was proposed to have two posts with a vehicle width gap that would be secured by a chain, as currently that can be removed to allow access when required. The quote for the works is £1,226.76, some due diligence was carried out on the estimated material costs and Cllrs were of the view it was a reasonable estimate. Given the urgency to get the work done to prevent further vandalism, Cllr Lodge proposed the quote was accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Davis with all in agreement.

The Clerk had purchased a new net for the basketball hoop following a request from a younger resident at a cost of £13.99.

Discussions turned to the future plans for replacing the play area and financing. Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council takes responsibility for resolving the long term issues with the HESI fund and arranges to transfer the funds to the Parish Council to be held in a designated fund which would consider the original purpose of the fund as well as the future requirements in relation to the play area. The exact terms of the designated fund to be confirmed once the funds are transferred and after consultation with the original contributors. This was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

18/155 40mph SPEED LIMIT BOREHAM COURT TO REHOBETH

Essex Highways have come back to the Parish Council suggesting that the proposed limit will not now be introduced as it fails to meet the Essex Highway criteria. Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council ask County Cllr Susan Barker to challenge this decision and to push for the 40mph reduction as agreed when the Parish Council attended the Highways cabinet surgery. This was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

18/156 BROADBAND

During January County Broadband confirmed they have reached the pre order target to bring fibre broadband to High Easter. The Clerk was asked to contact County Broadband to ask if they would share an outline map based on the pre-orders received to date, in order that the Parish Council could determine whether there are properties within the parish that would not be in a position to connect to the fibre infrastructure being built, because either they or neighbouring properties had not pre-ordered. The Parish Council continues to push Gigaclear for confirmation on whether it is in a position to provide a fibre solution, whilst the offer from Openreach to support a community project remains on the table, however the schools grant previously available has now expired. The Parish Council is mindful of the need to keep residents updated on the wider picture and would hope to be in a position to provide further information in the spring.

Cllr Robinson arrives.

18/157 FINANCE

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

PAYMENT TO	
Allison Ward - Parish Council January 2019	£ 252.33
New basketball net – Allison Ward via Newitts	£ 13.99
The Snug (invoice balance after part payment in Petty Cash)	£ 334.00

PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOLLOWING PARISH LUNCH	
Allison Ward – Wine and sundries	£ 24.00
The Snug (part invoice payment in Petty Cash)	£ 116.00

18.157.02 The Parish Council agreed to carry forward consideration of on line banking, pending a decision on whether to transfer the bank account to an alternative banking provider.

18.157.03 The Clerk confirmed confirmation from the solicitors acting on behalf of the late Geoffrey Taylor that an amount of £1,000 had now been transferred to High Easter Parish Council ‘for the benefit of the community’. Cllr Lodge proposed that these monies be held in the designated fund for future replacement of the play equipment, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement. A further amount of £500 has also been received, this was originally a bequest to High Easter Friendly Club, however as this group has now disbanded the Parish Council agreed to accept the funds and to allocate to the fund supporting work with the ‘overs’ in the village.

18/158 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA to include village litter pick on Saturday 6th April meeting at 10am at the village hall.

18/159 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 4th March 2019.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.05pm

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)