

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall Monday 2nd September 2019

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

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after item 19/66)

4 Members of the public (2 leaving after public forum)

19/62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

19/63 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – Cllr Davis declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 19/69 property Shooters Hatch, as close friends of the applicant.

19/64 PUBLIC FORUM

The village hall committee updated the meeting on the plans for the kitchen refurbishment. Unfortunately, the application to Tarmac for a grant from their Landfill Communities Fund was unsuccessful and this has set the timescales for the project back; it is now unlikely to start until February 2020 half term at the earliest. Additional grant applications have now been made to Awards for All, £9k and three further applications to smaller bodies for between £1.5k and £2k. County and District Cllr Susan Barker suggested that many years ago when the village hall was in need of funding, the Parish Council increased precept for one year only to raise additional funds which were then passed directly to the village hall. The Clerk commented that the Parish Council would need to have the powers to do this under current legislation and was uncertain whether this was possible; the Clerk to seek advice.

1 resident leaves the meeting.

Continuing on from correspondence received prior to the meeting, a resident raised concerns with the increasing traffic and speed of motorised vehicles using byway 57, there has been an increase in instances between traffic and pedestrians using the adjoining lanes and it was noted by the Parish Council that similar concerns had been raised previously in relation to other byways. The Clerk confirmed in correspondence that the speed limit on byways is the same as the highway from which the byway connects, i.e.60mph. The resident asked what action could be taken and whether it was possible to downgrade the byway to a bridleway. The Clerk confirmed legislation exists to downgrade byways, however the criteria for doing this is very limiting and the byways in High Easter would not qualify. There does not appear to be any legislation that helps to manage or resolve the problems caused by motorised vehicles, horse riders and pedestrians using the same recreational footpaths. District Cllr Barker added that this is an increasing problem across Uttlesford. The Clerk suggested the Parish Council writes to its MP to highlight the problems, as without a change in legislation at national level, there is unlikely to be a permanent and satisfactory solution. Cllr Windley added that she had walked the byway and there is no signage to warn users that they are approaching the highway and it was agreed signage would help to raise awareness of the approaching highway. District Cllr Barker suggested the Parish Council submits an application for signage to the Uttlesford Highways Panel, the Clerk will also look at alternative options. The issue with vans following sat nav directions which route them down the byways was also discussed and the Clerk will investigate if there is an option to remove byways from satnavs. The Clerk will also speak to the PCSO when he is next in the village to make him aware of the increasing issues and seek his advice. This item will be added to future agendas whilst options are explored.

1 resident leaves the meeting.

19/65 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 1st July 2019. Cllr Sutton proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement. The Chairman signed the minutes.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

19/66 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Barker commented on the separate planned local road closures for BT works and pot hole repairs and noted that it is unfortunate these could not have been planned simultaneously. Cllr Barker congratulated the Parish Council on the verge cutting and added that the highways devolution plans to Parish Councils are not as generous as current arrangements. The Stansted planning application is expected to go back to the Uttlesford Planning Committee in September/October.

19/67 CLERK'S UPDATE & CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

Essex County Council has sent notification of a minor amendment to the definitive map which removes a section of footpath 27 (adjoining Good Easter close to the property Round Roblets) as it is 'subsumed into the adopted road and path network'. The footpath remains as previously, either side of the highway.

The Clerk met Creative Play in July to discuss possible proposals for replacing the play equipment. Their report is pending; further meetings are planned for September with alternative contractors, in preparation for a discussion on the way forward at a future meeting.

Parish Councils are the first tier of Local Government and were created by statute in 1894. This year it is 125 years' celebration of the Local Councils sector. The Parish Council has no specific plans.

Uttlesford District Council is currently consulting on polling districts and places, which it is required to do every five years. There are no changes proposed to High Easter and the Parish Council is satisfied with the current arrangements which use the village hall.

SSE Town and Parish Council Liaison meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18th September, Cllr Davis to attend and Cllr Robinson if available.

19/68 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Davis completed the playground inspection for August 2019 and noted the planks on the slope were showing signs of wear and may need replacing. The Clerk will speak to a local contractor for advice.

The Clerk will chase for an update on footpath 20 and Cllr Lodge will chase the village hall committee and arrange to meet to discuss the continuing drainage problems.

Cllr Robinson noted that footpath 23 had been ploughed and not reinstated within the specified timescale. Cllr Windley will investigate.

1 resident arrives

Cllr Lodge raised concerns with garden waste being put in the ditch to the rear of properties on the north side of The Street. Previously repairs were carried out to clear the pipe and re-dig the ditch. The Clerk will investigate and write to residents as required.

19/69 PLANNING

19.69.01 Applications

Application No	UTT/19/1783/FUL
Location	Maidens Farm, Green Street
Development	Change of use of existing agricultural buildings to commercial use, Class B1(c)

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

Application No UTT/19/1952/FUL
 Location Shooters Hatch, High Easter Road
 Development Proposed sectioning off of part of existing grazing paddock and construction of equestrian ménage

Cllr Sutton proposed the Parish Council makes no comment on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Windley, with all in agreement.

Application No UTT/19/1998/HHF
 Location 1 Bellhouse Villas
 Development Erection of two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and new front porch

The Parish Council considered that whilst large, this application was in keeping with the property at the opposite end of the terrace. Cllr Sutton proposed no objection, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

19.69.02 Decisions

Application No UTT/19/1161/HHF & UTT/19/1162/LB
 Location The Labourers Rest
 Development Replacement of an existing conservatory and the additional of a new gabled roof dormer to provide improved head room in an existing first floor bedroom.
 Decision Refused

Application No UTT/19/1070/FUL
 Location Paddock off, High Easter Road
 Development Erection of stable block incorporating tractor and hay store
 Decision Conditional Approval

To note, revised plans were submitted for the following application reducing the scale of the proposed garden room; these were not notified for further consultation. The Uttlesford conservation officer confirmed the reduced scale was acceptable in terms of the impact on the listed building.

Application No UTT/19/0964/HHF & UTT/19/0965/LB
 Location Spooners, Markhams Lane
 Development Proposed garden room
 Decision Conditional Approval

Application No UTT/19/0828/FUL
 Location Birds Farm, Bishops Green
 Development Change of use of part of site to allow the siting of two shepherd's huts for use as holiday lets
 Decision Conditional Approval

Application No UTT/19/0749/HHF
 Location Homely The Street
 Development Section 73 retrospective application for the proposed part replacement of existing dwelling, part single storey infill extension. Minor external alterations.
 Decision Refused

Application No UTT/19/1491/AG
 Location Great Garnetts Farm, Bishops Green
 Development Erection of agricultural building for straw bale storage
 Decision Withdrawn

Application No	UTT/19/1648/HHF & UTT/19/1649/LB
Location	Chestnut Cottage, The Street
Development	Demolition of existing front porch and erection of a replacement front porch.
Decision	Conditional Approval

19.69.03 – Hastoe and the Parish Council hosted an early consultation on the proposed affordable housing site, adjacent to the current Boreham Court development in mid-July; plans are on display in The Snug. Hastoe confirmed they were very pleased with the attendance and 10 housing interest forms were completed during the afternoon. There were a number of comments and concerns raised by residents and Hastoe are currently considering these and the layout plan to see if they can mitigate any of the points raised. Further consultation will be arranged with individual property owners where necessary and assuming all goes according to plan it is hoped to have a further consultation in late Autumn, prior to the submission of a planning application.

19.69.04 Uttlesford Local Plan hearings took place during July and the Planning Inspectors are now considering the evidence presented. Initial findings and advice on the next steps in the examination are not expected to be issued before late September.

19/70 HIGH EASTER PHONE BOX

BT is consulting (via the District Council) on the removal of a number of phone boxes and equipment in Uttlesford including the phone box situated in The Street, High Easter. The Parish Council is reluctant to see another service taken away from the community, however given the phone box has not been used in the last 12 months, it accepts that it cannot provide any evidence in support of retaining the equipment.

However, given the box is in the village conservation area, Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council responds confirming its acceptance that the equipment will be removed and requesting that the Parish Council adopts the kiosk, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

The Parish Council notes that adopting the kiosk means finding a use for it and a number of ideas have been suggested by residents including a book exchange, defibrillator post and an information point. The Parish Council will consider a use for the box once the decision is confirmed and the process to adopt the kiosk begins. Clerk to respond to Uttlesford District Council.

19/71 BYWAYS

This agenda item in relation to byway 57 was discussed during the public forum and a number of actions are noted above.

19/72 HIGH EASTER FIBRE BROADBAND

Notification has been received by residents who are part of the Gigaclear fibre programme that their rollout of fibre has been delayed by two years to 2021.

County Broadband has confirmed their plans are on track and report that they are *'currently drawing to a close on the pre-build phase of the project and are in the process of making the relevant traffic notice orders for the areas where we will need to close part of the roads prior to the main build. Assuming these all pass through with limited issues we would anticipate starting the main build in your village in November and we are still expecting to build to the whole parish.'*

The Parish Council are pleased to hear the plans for County Broadband are on track, including providing coverage to the whole village, however they noted their disappointment at the delayed plans from Gigaclear and the Clerk was asked to write to its MP expressing this.

19/73 HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council noted the plans by 'essexinfo' to withdraw the current free hosting and web building service available to Parish Councils and voluntary groups in Essex, including High Easter Parish Council, from March 2020. The Clerk confirmed Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) are due to issue guidance on alternative providers in early September, after which the Clerk would be in a position to provide further guidance on the way forward; it was agreed to carry this item forward. Cllr Davis suggested a resident who has experience in web building who may also be able to help and the Clerk will get in touch once the EALC information is available.

19/74 OVERs EVENTS 2019/20

Cllr Lodge will look at suitable dates for a visit to the Lodges museum including lunch or afternoon tea.

19/75 FINANCE

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

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk July and August 2019	£ 517.92
JCM Services – Jubilee Meadow maintenance inc VAT	£ 228.00
Uttlesford District Council – Uncontested Parish Council elections	£ 115.35
Information Commissioners Office – Annual Subscription	£ 40.00

The following cheque was issued between meetings

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
R C Boreham & Co – Playground bark inc VAT	£ 864.00

19.75.02 Correspondence has been ongoing with PKF Littlejohn, external auditors, in relation to additional fixed assets and information from last year's process when the Parish Council was 'exempt' from submitting a return to the External Auditors. At this stage confirmation on the outcomes of these discussions are unconfirmed, however all are considered 'other matters not affecting opinion'. Final papers are expected to be returned by the external auditors during September.

19.75.03 Cllr Lodge proposed the Parish Council purchases a poppy wreath to lay on Remembrance Sunday this was seconded by Cllr Davis with all in agreement.

19/76 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. To consider changes following the publication of updated Parish Council financial regulations.
- ii. District Cllr Gerrard, Portfolio Holder for Residents & Community Partnerships; Police & Emergency Services will be attending the meeting to hear about local concerns.
- iii. Playing field hedge trimming.

19/77 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 7th October 2019, 7.30pm at High Easter village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.05pm