

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall Monday 4th November 2019

Present: Cllrs Neil Reeve (Chair), Janet Robinson, Jo Windley and the Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker

5 Members of the public (1 leaving during the meeting)

In the absence of both the chairman and vice chairman, the Clerk asked the Cllrs to elect a chairman for this meeting; Cllr Reeve was duly appointed.

19/95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Andrea Davis, Robert Lodge and Paul Sutton and accepted by the Parish Council.

19/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – Cllr Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 19.103.01, The Old Surgery, as the adjacent neighbour.

19/97 THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

The Chairman welcomed Michael Young from The Hundred Parishes Society and invited him to address the meeting.

Launched in 2014 and modelled on the Chilterns Society, The Hundred Parishes Society was set up to help people appreciate and understand this area. It is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers. It currently covers 103 administrative parishes crossing district and county borders across Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The area is largely unspoilt and is richly endowed with many fine examples of agricultural and built heritage having over 6,700 listed buildings with High Easter providing fine examples of these. There is a very high concentration of pre-1700 architecture, Grade I-listed churches, village greens and conservation areas. Plus, there is an exceptional depth of visible agricultural heritage with ancient field patterns, ancient woodland, winding roads, sunken lanes and ancient hedgerows. The area also enjoys a wide variety of wildlife and long-established cultural activities. This heritage has continued largely due to the lack of natural resources, the area was not industrialised and prior to the fens being drained, the area had the best farmland in the country. The Hundred Parishes Society has a great website including a couple of pages for each parish, see High Easter, as well as information on walks and events. Their volunteer status means they cannot campaign and do not generally respond to planning applications and consultations, but they do tell members and residents about any potential concerns. They promote the Society in local newsletters and parish magazines. The Society published its first book in 2018, The Hundred Parishes: An introduction, which introduces readers to each of the Hundred Parishes with an outline of its history and a generous selection of photographs. The 400-page hardback book costs £25 a copy and further details are on the website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk/. Parishes and residents are encouraged to become members of the Society at a cost of £10 per annum. Mr Young thanked the meeting for allowing him to speak and for the opportunity to be able to share the purpose and work of the Society with a wider audience.

The Chairman thanked Mr Young for attending and for the commitment of the team which helps to contribute to ensuring what makes this area special is promoted and understood.

19/98 PUBLIC FORUM

With the Chairman's permission, the first item reported below was raised at the start of the meeting before agenda item 19/97, one resident then left the meeting.

The Village Hall Committee confirmed they had received a £9k grant from the Lottery and together with the other small grants and projected income from the pantomime, are in a position to contract the work for the village hall kitchen which will be completed in the February 2020 half term. Cllr Reeve asked that

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

congratulations be passed onto the village hall committee for all their efforts to ensure the village hall is maintained and improved for the benefit of the community.

A resident commented on the state of the name plate at St Marys bungalows which is starting to rot, Clerk to contact the relevant authority.

Cllr Davis sent a request for footpath 63, from Brickford Bridge to be cleared as it is currently overgrown at its entrance. The Clerk will add this to the list to discuss with the Public Rights of Way Officer, see item 19/101.

19/99 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 7th October 2019. Cllr Reeve proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement. The Chairman of the meeting signed the minutes.

19/100 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Barker confirmed the two big issue for the District, The Local Plan and Stansted Airport planning application are ongoing. The Inspector was due to report on the Local Plan by the end of October, however as yet nothing has been received. Three members of R4U had defected to the Green Party and whilst they remain Cllrs they are no longer portfolio holders. This includes District Cllr Anthony Gerard who held the District Cabinet Portfolio for Residents & Community Partnerships and Police and Emergency Services portfolios and was due to attend a forthcoming Parish Council meeting, this will not now happen. There was nothing to report in relation to Essex County Council other than preparations for the anticipated winter pressures for Highways and the Coroner's Office are under way.

Cllr Barker commented on the new signage at Stagden Cross which is the Essex Highways compromise following their decision not to introduce reduced speed limits along this stretch of road. The Clerk commented on the excessive height of the signage and asked if was possible to add, e.g. please drive carefully. Cllr Barker confirmed the signage had been placed high to allow site access for residents leaving their properties and therefore this was unlikely. Cllr Barker went on to comment that there had been a suggestion for similar signage at Bishops Green, the aim being to warn traffic of a hamlet. The Clerk responded to confirm the Parish Council had submitted a Local Highways Panel request in 2017 for Bishops Green initially requesting a speed limit reduction and if this is not possible signage, the Clerk to forward to Cllr Barker.

County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting.

19/101 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

Notification has been received from BT of their intention to remove the telephone equipment from the payphone on The Street. The process to transfer the ownership of the kiosk to the Parish Council will now begin. A future use for the phone box will be included on the December agenda.

Following the announcement by Barclays to withdraw the option to withdraw cash from Post Offices, the Parish Council added their support to a letter from the national association of sub-postmasters calling for a reversal of the decision as if this went ahead it would impact the services offered to residents by the High Easter mobile post office. At the end of October Barclays confirmed their intention to reverse their earlier decision.

Hastoe and the Parish Council will host a second public consultation on the affordable housing site on Wednesday 6th November between 4pm and 7pm in the village hall. Plans for the replacement play equipment will also be available for residents to comment on.

Notification has been received that the two barn conversions at Games Farm will be known as 1 The Grain Barn and 2 The Grain Barn.

The Clerk and Cllr Windley will meet the Public Rights of Way Officer on Monday 11th November at byway 57 to follow up the concerns raised by residents at the September meeting and other footpath issues.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

19/102 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The clerk will inspect the playground for November 2019.

Cllr Lodge has obtained a land registry document for the village hall which confirms the boundary between the village hall and the Parish Council. This will now be discussed with the village hall in order to clarify responsibility for the drainage, prior to a way forward being agreed.

19/103 PLANNING

19.103.01 – Applications

Application No.	UTT/19/2431/HHF
Location	Penvites, The Street
Development	Installation of 14 Kw air source heat pump with screening

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

Application No.	UTT/19/2606/LB
Location	Little Garnetts Bishops Green
Development	Demolition of existing garden room and erection of replacement garden room, replace glazing to rear elevation of house and alterations to entrance porch including enclosing with glazing, infill panel and adding an external door and replacement of area of roof covering (Revised scheme to that approved under UTT/18/1696/LB)

Cllr Reeve proposed that the Parish Council has no comment on this application and leaves the decision to the conversation officer, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/19/2618/HHF & UTT/19/2619/LB
Location	Labourers Rest Pleshey
Development	Replacement of conservatory

Cllr Windley proposed that the Parish Council has no comment on this application and leaves the decision to the conversation officer, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/19/2665/HHF
Location	The Old Surgery, The Street
Development	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of garden room and screen wall

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

19.103.02 – Decisions

Application No.	UTT/19/2154/HHF
Location	Walnut Cottage (formerly Homely), The Street
Development	Section 73 retrospective application for the reinstatement of original building; erection of porch and front entrance door; single storey infill; double-storey rear extension; front extension to line up bay windows; roof modification and new chimney and associated internal alterations.
Decision	Conditional Approval

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
Decision	Conditional Approval

19/104 OVERs EVENTS 2019/20

Cllr Reeve commented on a recent meeting he had attended in his role as an Uttlesford District Cllr in relation to social issues, in particular those residents who are more vulnerable because of age, living alone and the isolation of rural communities. The Clerk commented that this has been considered previously by the Parish Council as part of their Emergency Plan and whilst nothing is noted on locations of vulnerable residents, Cllrs are generally aware of the more vulnerable residents.

The plans for the Parish Lunch on 21st November at Lodges are in place and bookings are good, target number is 50.

19/105 FINANCE

19.105.01 Cheques for Approval, Cllr Robinson proposed the following cheques for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk October 2019	£ 258.96
JCM Services – Verge cutting 2 nd cut inc VAT	£ 1,359.96
P L Brown – Playing field cuts for season April to September 2019	£ 1,275.00

19.105.02 Cllr Reeve proposed that the Parish Council subscribes to The Hundred Parishes Society at an annual membership of £10 and to Uttlesford Association of Local Councils at a reduced membership for 2020 of £5. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement. The above schedule was amended to include,

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
The Hundred Parishes Society	£ 10.00
Uttlesford Association of Local Councils	£ 5.00

19/106 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

To include,

- i. Future website options
- ii. Future use for the phone kiosk

19/107 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING, 8.45pm