

**HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
 held in High Easter Village Hall Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Robert Lodge (Chairman), Neil Reeve, Paul Sutton. Jo Windley and the Clerk Allison Ward

1 Member of the public leaving after item 17/112

17/110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Andrea Davis and accepted by the Parish Council.

17/111 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None

17/112 PUBLIC FORUM

A resident asked if there was anything residents could do to help with reinstating the Post Office service in the village. The Parish Council restated a recent letter from the Post Office confirming that no Postmaster had come forward to provide a 'roaming' service to the village. It was suggested that the Parish Council writes directly to the local Postmasters asking if they would be willing to assist, the Clerk was asked to action.

17/113 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Cllr Reeve proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement; the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

17/114 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS – None

17/115 CLERKS UPDATE

The CAA were due to issue their PIR of LAMP Phase 1A which includes the changes to departure routes at Stansted, by the end of December 2017. The CAA website has been updated to state, '*While the LAMP Phase 1A PIR is ongoing, the CAA has discovered a technical issue which requires further investigation with the relevant change sponsor. The publication of the final CAA analysis report for Modules A, B and D will therefore be delayed. At this stage, we anticipate the target for publication is 31 January 2018. In the meantime, we have advised the relevant sponsor to investigate the issue and advise us accordingly.*'

Christmas lunch was served by the Parish Council and friends to 24 residents past and present. The Parish Council would like to thank The Punchbowl for their generosity in supplying meats and trimmings, Gwen Taylor, Lucy O'Connor and Alf Jackson for their donations and giving up their time to help. After a small charge to those attending and with thanks to additional donations from Cllrs a surplus of £26.37 was made and will be added to Parish Council funds for over's events.

The Parish Council are very grateful to John Ward for giving his time voluntarily to carry out maintenance in the playground; protection to the base of the uprights supporting the frame, retightening bolts and washing the play equipment.

The Clerk has arranged to meet a playground equipment supplier in January to discuss future options for replacing the wooden frame. Further suppliers will be asked to visit and provide options during the first quarter of 2018, ahead of future discussions on long term plans later in 2018.

Following a complaint received the Clerk has reported the graffiti on the pavement along The Street to Uttlesford District Council who are the authority responsible for removing graffiti.

Uttlesford District Council is running a session on Emergency Planning, Rest Centre Management which is open to Parish Councils; there was no Cllrs available to attend at this stage.

Signed  
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

## 17/116 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Reeve carried out the playground inspection for December 2017, the works reported by the Clerk above were again noted with thanks; there are no additional points to add.

Cllr Sutton raised concerns received by residents on the speed of traffic through The Street, with traffic regularly exceeding the 30mph limit. Cllr Sutton went on to suggest the Parish Council investigates whether re-introducing a community speed watch programme would be feasible. Cllrs were supportive of this suggestion providing sufficient residents were willing to take part. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries of Essex Highways re the process for setting up a scheme and circulate information to gauge residents interest.

Cllr Windley commented on the new recycling facility at Dunmow library for dropping off 'small' electrical items, the Clerk was asked to include this information in Parish News as a reminder to residents.

## 17/117 PLANNING

## 17.117.01 Applications

Application No	UTT/17/3246/HHF
Location	Chestnut Cottage, The Street
Development	Extension of existing vehicular access

Cllr Reeve proposed that a comment is submitted as the Parish Council is of the view that an 8m crossover is in excess of what is necessary for two cars to pass. A crossover of 8m will have an impact on available street parking and the Parish Council would prefer to see an access of c.5.5m. This was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

## 17.103.02 Decisions

Application No	UTT/17/2987/FUL
Location	Lodge Garden, High Easter Road
Development	Proposed amendment to previous approval UTT/17/0189/FUL (demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling), additional windows and amendments to previous window positions and external wall finish to be painted weatherboards
Decision	Conditional Approval

## 17/118 BUDGET 2018/19 and FINANCIAL UPDATE 2017/18

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2018/19 which was discussed by the Parish Council. Of note is Uttlesford's decision not to forward the Local Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils, (last year reduced by 50%) the impact is a further £108 reduction in Parish Council income for 2018/19. Considering this reduction, inflationary increases and additional assets on the insurance policy, Cllr Reeve proposed that the Parish Council precept for 2018/19 be increased to £10,400, this is a 2% increase in total precept or £208. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. Cllrs noted this will be reflected as a 3.3% increase on the Parish Council element of residents Council Tax invoices. This is because the total available band D equivalent properties to contribute has gone down from 349 to 345.

Cllrs noted the expenditure for the year 2017/18 and year end cash balance which is forecast at £8k, both are in line with latest estimates and there are no concerns.

## 17/119 VILLAGE BROADBAND

Further to the discussions at the April 2017 Parish Council meeting and following support and information from residents, District Cllr Howard Ryles (Takeley Ward Cllr) has been working with BT to determine the cost of a Community Fibre Partnership that would see fibre broadband available in High Easter. Following conversations with Superfast Essex it is understood there are no plans to provide a fibre solution in High Easter and County Broadband with their wireless solution continue to 'hold' the village for the next three

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Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

years. Cllr Ryles confirmed a price of £43k had now been received from BT. This information moves the project on and gives two areas to consider, funding and contractual arrangements.

For the project to go ahead a legal entity needs to enter into the contract with BT and there have been ongoing conversations over the last month with both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to determine if either is a suitable entity. The Village Hall Committee has confirmed given its charitable status that it is not in a position to assist. The Clerk confirmed that the situation with the Parish Council is unclear and a question has been sent to the National Association of Local Councils, via the local office to understand whether the Parish Council has powers to enter into the contract. The Clerk is also in discussion with BT for access to Parish Councils who have entered into such contracts and for a copy of the contract.

Cllrs discussed at length the proposals and commitments required and felt that without all the information they were unable to conclude whether or not it was appropriate or legal for the Parish Council to be the party to the contract. The Clerk will continue to chase for information and providing information is available will invite Cllr Ryles to attend the next Parish Council to discuss further. The Parish Council also considered County Broadbands position and were keen that they had the same opportunity to share their plans and receive questions from residents, Clerk will discuss with Cllr Ryles whether it is appropriate they are invited to the next meeting or a future meeting.

#### 17/120 TENDERS TO BE ISSUED FOR 2018

The Parish Council agreed to issue tenders for 2018 as follows,

- a. Verge cutting.
- b. Playing field grass cutting.
- c. Jubilee Meadow grass cutting and misc playing field maintenance.

It was agreed to retain the verge cutting contract term at one year as this is totally dependent on funding from Essex County Council. Tenders b and c above will be issued for two years and the Jubilee Meadow tender will be updated to include cutting back the bushes and shrubs along the rear village hall path three times per year. Clerk was asked to issue for review and decision at the March Parish Council meeting.

#### 17/121 FINANCE

17.121.01 Cllr Lodge proposed the following cheques for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December 2017	£ 240.16
Perry Contracting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> cut of verges November 2017	£ 1,758.42
RCCE – Affordable Housing Survey (*) inc VAT	£ 131.36

\* costs incurred in 2016 for printing, postage and analysis of the Housing Needs Survey, not previously invoiced.

17/122 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – To include litter pick 2018

17/123 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, please note different day.

17/124 TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.00pm