

**HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
 held in High Easter Village Hall Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

District Cllr Howard Ryles – Takeley ward (leaving after agenda item 17/129)

3 Members of the public (1 leaving after item 17/126)

17/124 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

17/125 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None

17/126 PUBLIC FORUM

One of the younger members of the community attended the meeting with a request for a basketball net for the current basketball hoop. Cllr Lodge thanked the resident and was sure the Parish Council would be able to fund the request, see agenda item 17/134.

17/127 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018. Cllr Lodge proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement; the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

17/128 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS – District Cllr Ryles commented that the Uttlesford Local Plan Regulation 19 (public consultation prior to submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State) is being planned for June.

17/129 BROADBAND

The Chairman thanked District Cllr Howard Ryles (Takeley Ward) for attending the meeting and for his work with Openreach on the Community Fibre Partnership programme on behalf of the community. Cllr Ryles was asked to contribute to the discussions and began by confirming the current situation.

Openreach has submitted a quote of £43,000 to provide fibre to the home for those residents who have expressed an interest and who have previously provided their details to Cllr Ryles. The next stages of the process are to agree whether the Parish Council is in a position to enter into a contract with Openreach and to produce a plan to determine whether it is possible to fund the project. Cllr Lodge confirmed he has had a conversation with County Broadband to understand their plans and they have now confirmed they will not be investing a fibre solution for the village, County Broadband are not able to reach every property in the village with their current infrastructure.

The Clerk has been in discussion with the National Association of Local Councils via the County Office for confirmation on whether the Parish Council has the powers to enter into a contract with Openreach; a statement has been received confirming the Parish Council has the necessary powers under section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972. This has led to further process questions from the Clerk on Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Financial Regulations and State Aid and a response is pending. Cllr Reeve proposed that subject to confirmation of the additional requirements it is appropriate that the Parish Council enters into the contract with Openreach to provide a fibre to the door broadband solution for the community. The Parish Council is the entity through which funding would be challenged, Openreach would remain the owners of the infrastructure throughout and at the completion of the project. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement.

The discussion turned to financing the project. The Clerk confirmed in discussions with Openreach that a £30,000 schools grant is available to the community as an Ofsted registered school operates in the village. This reduces the funding required by residents to £13,000. Vouchers for residents with speeds below 2mbs are available, however these have a 'short life' and cannot be applied for until close to the project live date. Payment is made in two parts 50% on signing the contract and 50% on delivery, in accordance with the Openreach requirements the £13k contribution from the community is part of the first payment. The Parish Council was clear that funding must be in place before the contract is signed. This will require a 'refund' policy to be part of the process should vouchers

Signed  
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

become available and if funding received exceeds requirements. A lengthy discussion then took place on whether it was appropriate to consider using the HESI funds which have laid dormant for some years to fund this balance. The Parish Council recognises these funds are community funds and a public meeting would be required in order to make any decisions. The Parish Council agreed that as a first option local businesses and residents should be approached to confirm whether the funds could be raised through this source and consideration should only be given to using HESI funds should there be a shortfall and providing the wider community were in support. If funding is not achieved it will not be possible to progress the Community Fibre Partnership. Cllr Robinson proposed that the Clerk in conjunction with District Cllr Ryles and the Chairman prepares a process for funding the project both to businesses and residents for consideration by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement.

#### 17/130 CLERK'S UPDATE & CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

Uttlesford is consulting on polling Districts and Places. The Parish Council confirmed they are happy with current arrangements and the proposal from Uttlesford of no changes for High Easter.

Uttlesford Highways Panel has confirmed the design work for the 40mph buffer from Boreham Court to Stagden Cross is underway with a view to the proposals being formally advertised before the end of the financial year. They go on to confirm 'some complications had arisen during the investigatory work in that the existing terminal signs at the other entry points into the village do not match with the Traffic Regulation Order. The whole village is therefore being reviewed to ensure that the restrictions are legally compliant.' Please note this is only the design works and the implementation of this design has not yet been approved in 2018/19 budgets, this funding will be considered at the March 2018 meeting.

Requests for a speed reduction at Bishops Green has not been accepted as it fails to meet the criteria for speed reduction, however the Panel has accepted an application for signage although neither this or the request to help address the issues with motorcycles using the bridleway are currently allocated in the 2018/19 budget. In discussion the Clerk was asked to challenge the decision re Bishops Green as Cllrs are of the view it does meet the criteria.

Following lengthy correspondence with the Post Office on the definition of Postmasters and which branches are able to provide mobile services, letters asking local Postmasters if they would consider providing a mobile service to High Easter have been sent to Felsted and Dunmow branches, responses are pending.

Hastoe has confirmed the list they compiled of possible sites for affordable housing in the village has been forwarded to Uttlesford for their consideration. Uttlesford has confirmed they are not in a position to complete their assessment of suitability until end February/early March.

Essex Highways visited the site of the Japanese Knotweed on footpath 74 opposite the vehicle entrance to the village hall car park and confirmed it will be included on their programme of spraying for the next three years.

The Parish Council has received correspondence from the Solicitors acting in the administration of the estate for the late Geoffrey Taylor to confirm a legacy of £1,000 has been left to the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. A further sum of £500 has been left to High Easter Friendly Society for its general use and given this organisation has disbanded with the Parish Council holding 'restricted' funds to organise events for the older members of the community, the Solicitors are happy to pass this fund to the Parish Council to be used for the benefit of the older members of the community.

The Essex Community Speed Watch team has confirmed that the volunteer scheme continues to operate. Should High Easter wish to take part a number of volunteers including a co-ordinator is required. Equipment is available however there is currently a waiting list, there is an option for the Parish Council to purchase its own equipment. The Clerk has advertised for volunteers and a decision on whether to re start the programme will be considered providing volunteers come forward.

Further graffiti has appeared on The Street in front of footpath 74 which the Clerk has reported to Uttlesford.

#### 17/131 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Davis carried out the playground inspection for January 2018; there are new issues.

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Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Boreham and Cllr Lodge, with the help of members of the village hall committee, carried out further drain investigations and are now satisfied that plans to repair the cracked path can continue. The drainage gully between the car park and village hall was also cleared of vegetation.

Cllr Reeve confirmed he had planted additional Essex fruit trees in the Jubilee Meadow.

Cllr Lodge suggested that the Parish Council promotes the village milkman as this could reduce the plastic recyclables for residents. The Clerk was asked to include information in Parish News.

#### 17/132 PLANNING

17.132.01 Applications - None

17.132.02 Decisions

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

#### 17/133 PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

Cllr Reeve proposed that High Easter Parish Council adopts the amended model Code of Conduct issued by Uttlesford District Council for Town and Parish Councils. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement; a copy is available on the Parish Council website.

#### 17/134 PLAYING FIELD REQUESTS

The third annual 10k run is being organised to raise funds for High Easter Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Following a request from the organisers Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council approves the use of the playing field for additional parking providing the weather conditions are suitable and the ground is not wet. In addition, the Parish Council asks that parking is marshalled, there is no parking on the marked out football pitch and that any damage caused to the surface by vehicles or in the transition/finish area is made good as necessary by the race organisers. This was seconded by Cllr Davis, with all in agreement.

Following the request in the public forum, Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council purchases a net for the basketball hoop in the play area. This was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

#### 17/135 SPRING LITTER PICK

Cllr Lodge proposed that the Parish Council organises a litter pick on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in line with the national litter pick events that weekend. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. The Clerk was asked to advertise a start time of 10am at the village hall.

#### 17/136 FINANCE

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

Allison Ward - Parish Clerk January 2018	£ 240.16
Uttlesford District Council – Green waste service 2017	£ 1,188.00

17.136.02 Essex County Council has forwarded the payment for the parish verge cutting in 2017, £3,796.62.

17/137 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – To include review of Parish Council tenders for 2018, community fibre broadband, arrangements for village event on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

17/138 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.15pm

Signed  
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)