

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall Monday 3rd December 2018

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

1 Member of the public

18/116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Neil Reeve and Cllr Janet Robinson and accepted by the Parish Council.

18/117 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None

18/118 PUBLIC FORUM – Nothing to report

18/119 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 5th November 2018. Cllr Lodge proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

18/120 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS – County and District Cllr Susan Barker sent her apologies to the meeting.

18/121 CLERK'S UPDATE & CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

The Clerk has been in contact with Hastoe who have confirmed there is nothing further the Parish Council can do at this stage. Prior to this, Cllr Boreham approached the landowner of the additional site identified by Uttlesford and they have confirmed they are not interested in putting their land forward. Hastoe have given the remaining three landowners until mid-December to establish their requirements, after which a decision can then be taken on the way forward.

The contractor who currently cuts the verges in High Easter will no longer be in a position to tender for the contract from 2019; the Parish Council confirmed the contract would be tendered in the normal way to contractors who have contacted the Parish Council through mailings and others identified as able to carry out the works.

The Clerk had circulated further information on the Essex Highways trial in 2019 which would see the devolution of services including verge cutting, PROW maintenance, street lighting and other services to Parish Councils. The Parish Council is concerned with the proposed grant which would be transferred by Essex County Council to cover these works. For High Easter it would be £1k; currently the Parish Council receives £3.8k for verge cutting which is supplemented by a further £0.5k of parish precept. The Clerk was asked to write to Essex Highways highlighting its concerns with the budget being offered to small parishes and suggesting variations should be considered for different types of villages, i.e. those with a large number of PROWs and verges.

Superfast Essex has issued an update on the Gigaclear rollout, which applies to some properties in High Easter who are covered by this part of the programme. There are delays in delivery of the fibre infrastructure primarily due to the complexity of the network build coupled with resourcing challenges resulting from Gigaclear's rapid growth. Revised estimates for High Easter are now between September 2019 and February 2020. The Clerk was asked to request an update on County Broadband plans.

Cllr Lodge had received a call from the postmaster confirmed there had been another change in Post Office management and as a result a subsequent visit was made to reassess the requirements, although it is unlikely the mobile unit will be up and running before February 2019. The Clerk will contact the new manager for an update and timeframe.

Essex County Council has launched a public consultation on Essex Future Library Services Strategy (2019-2024), the consultation is open from 29 November 2018 – 20 February 2019.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

An email from the Braintree and Uttlesford Local Policing Team has confirmed the contact details for the two PC's and one PCSO who are responsible for covering the south of Uttlesford including High Easter. The Clerk has responded and added that a venue to host a community 'surgery' could be arranged within the village.

Uttlesford have confirmed arrangements for the Christmas waste collections. There will be no collections during Christmas week, for the week commencing 1 January collections for this week will be one day late.

18/122 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The playground inspection for November 2018 will be covered under agenda item 18/124.

The Clerk was asked to report the missing finger post at the entrance to footpath 109.

Cllr Windley raised Footpath 63 which runs down to the River Can and is overgrown. Previous efforts to have this cleared have not been successful. The Clerk will report to Essex Highways.

18/123 PLANNING

18.123.01 - Applications

Application No	UTT/18/2971/HHF & UTT/18/2972/LB
Location	Labourers Rest
Development	Replacement of existing conservatory and the addition of a new gabled roof dormer to first floor bedroom

Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council has no objection to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

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

Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council objects to this application as the size and design of the balcony would in its opinion be detrimental to the visual appearance and character of the original barn as approved, i.e. not a feature you would expect to see on a converted Essex barn. The Parish Council is also concerned that the balcony would overlook footpath 22 which borders the site and be visually intrusive from the southern entrance of the site. In considering the application, the Parish Council also noted the recent addition of what appear to be two large 'storage sheds' close to the front boundary of the site; the Parish Council asks if Uttlesford can consider whether these should be included for consideration in this application. This was seconded by Cllr Davis with all in agreement.

18.123.02 - Decisions

Application No	UTT/18/2693/HHF
Location	8 Gepps Close
Development	Demolition of side extension and erection of single storey side extension and single and two storey rear extensions.
Decision	Conditional Approval

18/124 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

Wicksteed Leisure carried out the annual, independent playground inspection in mid November. The report includes one 'Medium/High' risk relating to wood rot at the free standing horizontal ladder support which is making the ladder assembly unstable. Whilst the equipment is safe for continued use, remedial action is recommended within 3 months. The Parish Council discussed this and were not in full agreement with the issue identified. The Clerk was asked to contact Wicksteed and ask to meet the inspector on site to discuss further.

In addition, there were several medium risks where appropriate action is required to reduce or eliminate risks where budgets allow. The majority relate to monitoring of existing equipment, in addition the Parish Council agreed to the following,

- a. Repair or replace the foot/grips on the wooden frame ramp, (Cllr Boreham)
- b. Secure the nets on the 5-a-side goal posts, (Clerk)
- c. Football shelters, recommend ground fixings and repair of broken and missing Perspex, (Clerk to write to Dunmow Rhodes).

The report also identifies the need for additional bark. The Parish Council has already identified this and further bark will be purchased in the Spring.

18/125 STANSTED AIRPORT

The Parish Council shares the disappointment of many with the decision by Uttlesford to approve the increase in passenger numbers at Stansted. At this stage the Secretary of State has asked Uttlesford not to issue a decision notice until he has had a chance to consider. Cllr Davis proposed that the Parish Council writes to the Secretary of State following the Uttlesford planning meeting asking for the application to be called in for consideration at national level, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

18/126 WW1 COMMEMORATION EVENT

Cllr Lodge opened this agenda item by reading one of a number of letters and emails received thanking the Parish Council for organising such a memorable day. The Parish Council were grateful for all from across the community who contributed to the event and wish to note their thanks to the village hall committee, church and bell ringers for their contributions and most importantly to residents for their support throughout the day.

A final reconciliation of income and expenditure has not been finalised and can only be completed once the November bank statement is received and the final cost invoices. The Clerk indicated there is likely to be a small loss on the event of between £100 and £200. This will be confirmed at the next Parish Council meeting.

18/127 CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR THE OVERS

A date of Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 12.30pm has been set for the Parish Lunch which is open to all residents past and present, the cost is £5 with the balance paid from funds held for this purpose by the Parish Council. Two quotes for the catering had been received at £18 and £14 per head and the Parish Council agreed to proceed with the lower quote.

18/128 FINANCE

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

Allison Ward - Parish Clerk November 2018	£	252.33
Wicksteed Leisure – Annual playground inspection inc VAT	£	54.00
WW1 Commemoration Event – Salt of the Earth (catering)	£	2,600.00
WW1 Commemoration Event – Janet Robinson (hall decorations)	£	20.70
WW1 Commemoration Event – The SAS Association (donation speaker's charity)	£	100.00
WW1 Commemoration Event – Lodge Coaches inc VAT (fireworks, MDF and Tommies)	£	466.48

18/129 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA to include Parish Lunch and Budget 2019/20.

18/130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 7th January 2019

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 8.55pm

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)