

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall on Monday 4th October 2021

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Robert Lodge (chair), Neil Reeve (from agenda item 21/94), Paul Sutton, Jo Windley, and the Clerk Allison Ward

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after the County and District Cllrs update)

21/90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Andrea Davis (holiday) and accepted by the Parish Council.

21/91 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None

21/92 PUBLIC FORUM – No public present.

21/93 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 6th September 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Lodge, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

21/94 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County and District Cllr Susan Barker commented on the next Uttlesford District Council meeting which is due to take place across two evenings 5th and 6th October. This meeting has been extended to allow members to consider whether to appeal the decision refusing Uttlesford's application for a statutory planning review of the recent Stansted airport decision. The meeting also includes a number of motions which may be of interest; planning applications in relation to solar panels, calling on Government to retain the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift and a motion on green tests for the Local Plan. Full details including the minutes of the meeting are available on the Uttlesford website.

Cllr Neil Reeve joins the meeting

Cllr Barker confirmed she will be in contact with County Broadband re the road closures on High Easter Road. The signage is not being removed or turned around when works are not taking place which means residents are unaware if the road is accessible or not.

Cllr Lodge asked for assistance from Cllr Barker in arranging for all the relevant parties to attend School Lane to discuss the highway flooding, Cllr Barker to arrange.

Cllr Reeve commented that Uttlesford has appointed Peter Holt as the new CEO, and he is due to start in October.

The Chairman proposed to bring forward agenda item 21/100, there were no objections.

21/100 BISHOPS GREEN – HAMLET GATEWAY SIGNS

Cllr Barker confirmed funding is available for the Bishops Green hamlet signs. The meeting agreed these should be placed at the far side of the new entrance to Garnetts Wood when entering from Barnston, and as far south as Mudwall. Cllr Barker agreed to check the locations to ensure any neighbouring residents would have the appropriate visibility and to provide the information to Uttlesford Local Highways Panel.

County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting

21/95 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

A list of small maintenance jobs relating to signs and fingerposts has been submitted to the Essex Highways Rangers for completion.

The Clerk circulated a press release from Uttlesford following an independent review into the development management service. This details recommendations aimed at improving and giving a new direction to the planning

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 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

service, this will be considered at a meeting of Uttlesford Cabinet in mid-October, details are on the Uttlesford website.

A final information event for the affordable housing will take place on Tuesday 16 November between 4pm and 7pm in the village hall. Its purpose is to ensure all those interested are aware of the process and timescales, as a reminder residents must be on the Uttlesford housing register to be considered for a property.

October village hall Sunday lunchtime bar opening on 31 October to include how High Easter can play its part in supporting actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

Several emails relating to the pending retrospective application at Maidens Farm had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been advised the application would go to the October planning committee with a recommendation for approval, however this was then withdrawn as further information had been submitted by residents which Uttlesford needed to consider. Both District Cllr Barker and Cllr Reeve agreed to speak to the planning department as the view is this is not new information but further evidence to support residents' concerns, the Parish Council does not therefore understand why the item has been delayed. The Clerk was asked to keep the residents who have contacted the Parish Council updated.

Road closures advised by Essex; Onslow Green, Lofty Green Road, due to commence on 3rd November 2021 for 20 days, County Broadband works.

21/96 CLLRS REPORTS

Cllr Reeve raised membership to Uttlesford Association of Local Councils, in recent years the parish council has not been a member as it is felt the group is inactive. Cllr Reeve commented that there is new momentum in the group and the intention is they will be a group in a position to contribute to the Local Plan consultations and comment on collective town and parish issues and this may be of some benefit to High Easter. Cllr Reeve proposed that the Parish Council takes out annual membership at £5 for the year, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

Cllr Windley agreed to spray the weeds around the pump at Pump Green. Cllr Lodge confirmed he had purchased some bags of gravel (payment for this is outstanding and subject to an invoice/receipt from Cllr Lodge) however it was felt a further similar quantity is required, Cllr Lodge to arrange.

Cllr Sutton noted that some of the granite kerbs along The Street are now missing following the recent roadworks. These contribute to the setting of the conservation area and Cllrs were of the view they should be reinstated, Clerk to notify Essex Highways. Cllr Sutton to investigate the costs of purchasing in case Essex Highways are not in a position to action.

Cllr Sutton commented on the poor state of the fingerpost in front of Elm Cottage. The Clerk confirmed that previously the Uttlesford Highway Rangers were unable to paint the post due to the encroaching hedge, the Clerk had written to the residents at the time asking for the hedge to be reduced however this has not progressed. The Clerk was asked again to write to the residents requesting the post is exposed to such a degree that the Uttlesford Highway Rangers could repair, assuming this is agreed by the residents the Clerk was asked to add the job to the list of tasks for the rangers.

Cllrs considered several jobs where volunteers were needed including clearing out the ditches along the front of the village hall, litter picking, clearing any blockages from the outlets along the main streams and restocking the salt bins. It was agreed to ask residents for assistance on Saturday 2nd October from 10am. It will be necessary to contact landowners along the river stretch to obtain permission, clerk to arrange in consultation with Cllr Lodge.

Cllr Davis had attended the Countess of Warwick show as part of the Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) committee. Cllr Davis went on to update the meeting on the latest actions of the group who are focusing on the impact of climate change and supporting the Uttlesford latest appeal, although this will not be financial support. The next meeting of SAW is in November.

Cllr Reeve raised the outstanding issue of community led planning for High Easter following agreement earlier in the year to ask Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to attend a meeting to explain the options once face to

face meetings were able to continue. The Clerk was asked to contact RCCE to confirm whether they are in a position to attend a Parish Council meeting.

21/97 PLANNING

21.97.01 – New Applications

Application No	UTT/21/2879/HHF
Location	The Mill House, The Street
Development	Proposed cart lodge

Cllr Sutton proposed no objection, this was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement

Application No	UTT/21/2856/HHF
Location	Briars Bank, Heyrons Lane
Development	Proposed first floor extension

Cllr Sutton proposed that the Parish Council objects to this application given the history of development at the site stating objection policy S7, increasing the scale of the dwelling further will have a detrimental impact on the countryside setting. And objection policy GEN2, the design of the upper floor addition would be prominent in relation to the existing dwelling and is of a design not in keeping with surrounding properties. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/21/2707/HHF
Location	Bugle Cottage, The Street
Development	Proposed replacement of flat roof with pitched roof

Cllr Lodge proposed no objection, this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement

21.97.02 – Decisions

Application No	UTT/21/2221/FUL
Location	Blakes Farmhouse, Blakes Lane
Development	Proposed change of use from paddock to equine manege and lunge arena, construction of manege and lunge arena, erection of stables and horse walker and improvement to existing crossover
Decision	Conditional Approval

21/98 LOCAL PLAN

21.98.01 – Call for sites

Uttlesford has asked Town and Parish Councils to notify the Policy team of any sites within their parish that might be thought acceptable, this could be a site not submitted in the call for sites or one already submitted. Cllr Reeve commented that the primary reason for the request is to ensure land identified in neighbourhood plans has been considered. Cllrs felt they were not in a position to do this without consulting with residents which would not be appropriate. Cllr Sutton proposed no response which was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

21.98.02 – Culture, Creativity, and the Arts survey

The Clerk was asked to prepare a draft response on behalf of High Easter Uttlesford's baseline assessment of Culture, Creativity, and the Arts. This will be circulated to Cllrs for agreement before being submitted.

21/99 UTTLESFORD NATURE RECOVERY PROGRAMME (C/fwd from September meeting)

Uttlesford has launched a new biodiversity mapping tool to allow local groups and residents to identify local sites with important biodiversity or that have the potential to be havens for plants, animals, and insects. Cllrs considered the following sites should be submitted; Garnetts Wood, Jubilee Meadow, churchyard, cricket pitch, Parsonage reservoir and the brook, Chapel Field House Orchard. Cllr Reeve commented that there may be funding available to

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Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

improve some of these areas, Cllr Lodge added with funding there may be options around Brickford Bridge that could improve the area and improve the flooding issues. Cllrs also suggested several meadows and footpaths where there was unusual and rare flora and fauna, Clerk to begin the process of reporting the sites to Uttlesford and verifying whether individual footpaths could be included.

21/100 BISHOPS GREEN – HAMLET GATEWAY SIGNS (item brought forward in the meeting)

21/101 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE JOBS

Following correspondence with the contractor for repairing the goal mouths, the Parish Council agreed to delay the work until Spring 2022 as it had not been possible to get the posts moved and the works completed before the end of the autumn growing season. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor to notify them and to ask whether it is possible to include re-locating the goal posts as part of the works. Clerk to notify the football clubs.

The work to repaint the bus shelter is waiting the availability of the contractor.

Cllr Lodge proposed that the hedges on both sides of the playing field and Jubilee Meadow are cut in October based on the quote received of £400+vat. This was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement, Clerk to arrange and notify village hall committee and pre-school.

21/102 EVENT FOR THE OVERS & QUEEN’S PLATINUM CELEBRATIONS

21.102.01 – Two quotes had been received from local contractors to provide afternoon tea for the parish event on Wednesday 10th November between 2pm and 4pm. Pricing was similar and in conclusion Cllr Windley proposed that The Snug are asked to provide the catering at a cost of £12 per head which includes provision for clearing away and washing up. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement. Cllr Lodge went on to suggest we ask the second contractor to assist with an event in 2022.

21.102.02 – It has been confirmed that the beacon lighting will be on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 9.15pm. There is no further progress or decisions on other events.

21/103 FINANCE

21.103.01 Cllr Lodge proposed the following payments are authorised; this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk September 2021	£ 266.24
Mark Harrod Ltd (via Parish Clerk) – Goal sockets inc vat	£ 175.20

The Clerk confirmed the second instalment of the parish precept, £9,500 and a receipt from High Easter village hall for football fees of £252.50, had both been received however not reported at the September meeting.

21.103.02 The Clerk had circulated the quarterly accounts to end of September in advance of the meeting, Cllrs did not have any questions and the meeting accepted the reports as circulated. The closing cash balance at end of September is £32,361.

21/104 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – To include VAS sign, carried forward pending further information from Essex Highways.

21/105 DATE OF NEXT MEETING scheduled for Monday 1st November at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.15pm

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)