

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall on Thursday 6th January 2022

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

0 residents

21/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Paul Sutton due to work commitments and accepted by the meeting.

21/136 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None.

21/137 PUBLIC FORUM – Nothing to report.

21/138 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 6th December 2021 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Lodge, this was seconded by Cllr Robertson with all in agreement.

21/139 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT – No report, County and District Cllr Susan Barker sent retrospective apologies to the meeting.

Cllr Jo Windley arrives

21/140 CLERK’S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

The meeting with new CEO of Uttlesford District Council, Peter Holt which was due to be hosted by High Easter Parish Council on Thursday 20 January at 6.30pm, has now been moved online. Cllr Lodge, Cllr Reeve, and the clerk to attend. Cllrs considered possible agenda items and the clerk was asked to submit requests to discuss issues including delays in planning decision, perceived lack of response on planning enforcement and policy issues with affordable housing allocation. Cllrs also commented positively on Uttlesford waste services and wished for this to be brought to the attention of Mr Holt.

Cllr Andrea Davis arrives

A meeting made up of representatives from the parish council (Cllr Sutton, Cllr Davis, and the Clerk), village hall committee and church met to discuss plans for the village platinum jubilee celebrations, the notes from this meeting have been circulated to the parish council. A second meeting is scheduled for 13 January in the village hall. High Easter parish council has submitted a road closure request for Sunday 5th June 2022 from 12pm to 6pm, this is currently subject to consultation.

Transport East have launched a public consultation on the draft regional Transport Strategy for the East. The strategy sets a series of priorities for better transport for everybody living, working, and learning in the region up to 2050. See this link, <http://www.transporteast.org.uk/public-consultation/> deadline for responses is 30 January.

The damaged foot bridge at junction of footpath 75 and byway 19 has been reported to Essex Highways, reference 2755460.

A streetlight at St Mary’s Bungalows that has not been working for some time and is a known issue on the Essex Highways website has been escalated to Cllr Barker for assistance.

21/141 CLLRS REPORTS

The Clerk completed the playground inspection for the month of December, there were no concerns. The Clerk will book the annual independent playground inspection which is due this month.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Lodge raised the frustrations experienced by residents because of the postal delays with some residents receiving irregular post and/or delays of up to two weeks. The Clerk was asked to write with an update to Kemi Badenoch MP.

21/142 PLANNING

21.142.01 – New Applications - None

21.142.02 – Decisions

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

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

21.142.03 – Homely Hearing

The hearing following Uttlesford's decision to refuse planning for a replacement dwelling at the Homely site is scheduled to take place on 18 January via Zoom. Cllr Reeve and Cllr Sutton will attend and take an active part on behalf of the parish council, Cllr Lodge and the clerk will attend as observers.

21.142.04 – Hastoe New Homes

The four new homes at Mounsdon Lodge were advertised on the Uttlesford housing list at the end of December. Cllr Lodge and the clerk dealt with several queries from interested parties including some who had difficulty in registering due to eligibility relating to under occupancy and age. As a result, both Cllr Reeve and Cllr Lodge made petitions to Uttlesford re the allocation process in relation to rural exceptions sites, discussions are ongoing. In addition, the Clerk was asked to urgently write to CEO Peter Holt for assistance.

Cllr Lodge updated the meeting on provisional plans for the formal opening of the housing. Enquiries are being made to see if it is possible to provide a representative from the Royal Airforce to fit with the Mounsdon connection. Cllr Lodge will keep the parish council updated on plans.

21/143 LOCAL PLAN – FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Uttlesford is asking parish councils for local knowledge to assist with the Local Plan and is requesting information on localised flooding locations. The parish council agreed to submit a response identifying four areas all relating to highway flooding; Brickford Bridge, School Lane boundary of Aythorpe Roding and High Easter parishes, School Lane adjacent to the sewage works and High Easter Road where Parsonage Brook goes under the highway. It was recognised the later two sections have recently undergone maintenance works, see item 21/145 which it is hoped will improve the situation.

21/144 BUDGET 2022/23 and QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 2021/22

The clerk presented the accounts for the period April to December 2021 and confirmed a closing cash balance of £28,142. The accounts were accepted by the Parish Council.

Cllrs considered a draft budget for 2022/23 presented by the Clerk. In conclusion and because of increasing service costs, Cllr Reeve proposed the precept is increased to £20,000 per annum, a 5% increase on the parish council element of Council Tax invoices, equivalent to £2.72 per annum on a band D property. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

21/145 DITCH WORKS

Following works by Essex Highways to remove the willow trees and repair ditches at School Lane adjacent to the sewage works, the parish council agreed further works are necessary (funded by the parish council) to remove the willow tree stumps to allow the water to flow unimpeded. In addition, the ditch at Parsonage Brook on High Easter Road is blocked and requires digging out to stop the water from flooding the highway.

A quote from a local contractor for two days labour (£500) and two days digger hire (£120+VAT) was presented to the parish council and agreed via email prior to this meeting due to the urgency of the works which were completed 2nd/3rd January. Cllr Lodge proposed that the quote for the works be retrospectively approved, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement. Cllr Boreham agreed to investigate the cost of additional black and white flexi boards now that the ditches have been cleared beyond the works completed by Essex Highways.

21/146 ESSEX LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Essex County Council is consulting on Everyone's Library 2022-2026, deadline for responses is 21 January. The parish council supported the proposals in the consultation to increase the use made of mobile library services, suggestions include having recycling bins for small items, other services being provided such as flu and covid injections, looking at better access points, increasing communication in order that the community are aware of the services and possible alternative locations.

21/147 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN – PARISH OWNED

C/Fwd to next meeting.

21/148 FINANCE

20.148.01 Cllr Robinson proposed the following payments are authorised; this was seconded by Cllr Davis with all in agreement.

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December 2021	£ 266.24
C Kelsey – Ditch clearance labour only	£ 500.00
Lodge Coaches – Paint for the phone box inc VAT	£ 42.00

20.148.02 Cllr Reeve proposed the parish council gives a grant of £100 to Citizens Advice Bureau following circulation to Cllrs of their year-end report for the parish. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement.

20/149 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. Planting of trees, Queen's Green Canopy
- b. VAS
- c. New parish council projects for 2022/23

20/150 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Monday 7th February at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 8.55pm