

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall on Monday 5th December 2022

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

County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after agenda item 22/111)

3 residents (1 leaving during agenda item 22/109 and 2 leaving after item 22/114 brought forward)

22/107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – All in attendance.

22/108 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None.

22/109 PUBLIC FORUM

Resident's voiced concerns with the planning application UTT/22/3074/HHF to install solar panels in the rear garden of The Parsonage. The primary concern expressed being the impact on the view of neighbouring properties who overlook the paddock and the potential for reflection from the panels affecting these properties. Cllr Sutton encouraged residents to submit their own responses to the application, however reminded the meeting these comments need to be reasons in planning, (see Uttlesford website for guidance) adding there is no suggestion of any form of hedging or landscaping to reduce the impact on neighbours.

Further to the discussions at the November meeting re application UTT/22/2967/HHF for proposed developments at Tarr Potts Farm, a resident provided further comments and an updated plan with suggested mitigations to reduce the impact of the additional gates. Cllr Lodge suggested the applicant be advised to submit the revised drawings to Uttlesford for consideration as part of the applications.

1 resident leaves the meeting

Cllr Lodge proposed agenda item 22.114.01, planning applications were brought forward on the agenda, there were no objections.

22/114 PLANNING

22.114.01 Applications

Application No	UTT/22/3168/FUL
Location	Land South of The Street High Easter
Development	Proposed change of use of land from agricultural to residential and the erection of 1 no. dwelling

The meeting noted this site is in the village conservation area and discussed the importance of the design of the dwelling in this sensitive location. Cllr Sutton proposed the parish council accepts that the site could have potential for a single dwelling, however objects to the proposed design of the house due to its scale, design and appearance not being of a standard that would be expected at the entrance of a historic conservation area. This was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/22/3074/HHF
Location	The Parsonage, High Easter Road
Development	Erection of 33 Photovoltaic solar panels on free standing rack in rear garden.

Cllr Sutton proposed an objection to the application due to lack of landscaping to protect the PRoW, with a comment noting that the parish council is sympathetic to the principle of sustainable energy and understands the applicant's choice of location away from the historic curtilage of The Parsonage. However, it notes that

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

without any landscaping to screen, either set in a trench or surrounding by hedging, the panels will have a visual prominence from the PRow.

Application No	UTT/22/3004/FUL
Location	Lawn Hall Farm, Hall Chase
Development	Proposed straw barn (phase 1) - amendments to that approved under UTT/20/2772/FUL

Cllr Sutton proposed no objection this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

Application No	UTT/22/3005/FUL
Location	Lawn Hall Farm, Hall Chase
Development	Proposed straw barn (phase 2) - amendments to that approved under UTT/20/2773/FUL

Cllr Sutton proposed no objection this was seconded by Cllr Windley with all in agreement.

2 residents leave the meeting.

22/110 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 7th November, Cllr Sutton proposed the minutes be accepted as a correct record this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

22/111 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

District Cllr Susan Barker noted various items which were due to be discussed by Uttlesford full council at a meeting on 6 December, these included approval of the retention of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme at 12.5% which is the lowest in Essex, and motions on freezing council tax and responding to the Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation on introducing a congestion charge which would include the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. (*Minutes of the meeting are available on the Uttlesford website*).

Cllr Barker confirmed Essex County Council's decision to withdraw funding for local Highway Rangers teams who carry out maintenance and minor repairs to fingerposts, cleaning of signage and cutting back signage vegetation. The meeting noted the support received in the past from the rangers and the urgent request from Peter Holt, CEO at Uttlesford asking town and parish councils to consider funding this service at a cost of £1 per electorate. The Clerk confirmed this would amount to c.£620 for High Easter and Cllrs were supportive of Peter Holt's suggestion, Clerk to respond.

At Essex County Council members will consider the recommendations from a new report which outlines improvements for children's mental health. Reminder Ride London/Essex will take place on 28 May.

Cllrs noted recent maintenance works by Essex Highways in The Street to reduce surface water flooding, it is understood further works have been suggested. Cllr Barker confirmed discussions with the various interested parties took place at Albans, High Easter Road (Barnston parish) and works are scheduled during the road closure later this month to try and alleviate surface water flooding. Cllrs noted the surface water drainage issues at Bellhouse Villas has reoccurred despite previous works by Essex Highways to resolve, Cllr Barker confirmed she was aware and is following up with Essex Highways.

County and District Cllr Susan Barker leaves the meeting.

22/112 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

The stile in the churchyard at footpath 21 has been removed by the church after consultation with Essex County Council and the relevant parties. The stile needed repair, and this would have been a cost to the landowner, plus it was not licensed and therefore either needed licensing or removal.

Essex Highways have notified road closures, Barnston Road, 12th December for 2 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching. Shorts Farm Road, 5th January 2023 for 1 day while Openreach undertakes pole renewal.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllrs are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Uttlesford Citizens Advice, which will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday 13th December at The Old School Community Centre, Takeley.

Grants are available for constituted groups to organise winter warmer of food support to the most vulnerable. RideLondon is returning to Essex next May and grants are available from London Marathon Events which runs this event for groups looking to encourage participation in sport and other exercise. Please contact the clerk for further information.

The boundary commission for England is consulting on final proposals for parliamentary boundary changes. No change is proposed for High Easter which would remain in the Saffron Walden Constituency. The consultation is open to responses until 5 December.

The clerk has circulated various correspondence on the Uttlesford Design Code and opportunities for Cllrs and residents to take part, see this link <https://uttlesforddesigncode.co.uk/index.php>

22/113 CLLRS REPORTS

22.113.01 – Playground

The Clerk completed the playground inspection for the month and there is nothing new to report.

22.113.02 – Other Reports

Nothing to report.

22/114 PLANNING

Continued

22.114.02 – Decisions – For information only

Application No	UTT/22/2336/HHF & UTT/22/2337/LB
Location	Cock and Bell House, The Street
Development	Alterations to improve the thermal performance of the key habitable rooms where previous works have taken place
Decision	Conditional Approval

The following application was decided by Uttlesford planning committee at their November meeting.

Application No	UTT/22/1910/HHF & UTT/22/1911/LB
Location	Mudwall Farm, High Easter Road
Development	Proposed side extension (revised scheme to that approved under UTT/1380/07/FUL).
Decision	Refused

22.114.03 The meeting noted UTT/21/2338/FUL for the ‘erection of 5no. dwellings alongside ancillary access, landscaping, parking, and associated development’, on land at School Lane was dismissed on appeal by the planning inspector.

22.114.04 The meeting noted application UTT/21/0313/FUL, ‘retrospective application for the erection of two side extensions to former barn and installation of a bio-mass boiler for disposal of wood, at Maidens Barn, did not go to the November planning committee as previously suggested. A challenge on the class use of the site has been submitted which the parish council anticipates will delay the process whilst this is considered.

22/115 PRoW DIVERSION

Cllr Lodge proposed no comments on the draft order to divert footpath 4 away from Great Garnetts farmyard and extinguish footpath 8. This is a longstanding issue that the parish council is pleased has a potential solution. This was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

22/116 20's PLENTY CAMPAIGN

Cllr Reeve attended the 20s Plenty (a not-for-profit organisation) webinar earlier this month and the slides and information from this have been circulated. Their campaign seeks to influence Essex County Council to change its speed management policy to make it affordable for local communities to introduce 20mph limits on streets throughout the county where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads.

Cllrs were of the view a request for a 20mph speed limit to replace the current 30mph on The Street would be unlikely to reach the criteria, however Cllrs agreed to write in support of a county wide campaign, noting the potential need for a 20mph zone at Rodings Primary School which is attended by children from the parish. Clerk to respond.

22/117 WARM SPACES AND OVER'S EVENTS

The clerk confirmed budgeted project costs for 'Monday Muster', a free seated exercise class for the elderly followed by a lunch which would run from January to March 2023, is £2.5k; £1.3k for the instructors, £0.5k contribution for venue energy costs (no hire charge), £0.7k for lunch provision.

A decision on Essex County Council warmer weather grant to support the lunch is pending, Uttlesford has confirmed a grant of £1k towards the instructor costs. Cllrs are supportive of a parish council grant to support the project; however, a final decision will be carried forward to the next meeting to allow a decision on the warmer weather grant to be confirmed.

22/118 PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATE

22.118.01 - Cllr Reeve had circulated notes from a meeting attended by himself and the clerk to discuss Uttlesford's pilot community energy project which is being supported by Saffron Walden Community Energy and piloted by Littlebury parish. The meeting supported Cllr Reeve progressing discussions at a local level.

22.118.02 – CPR training, clerk to make enquiries on possible resources.

22.118.03 – Other projects, no further updates on electric charging points, vehicle activated sign for The Street, or play area phase 2.

22/119 FINANCE

22.119.01 Cllr Lodge proposed the following payments for authorisation, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk November 2022	£ 270.92
Paul Brown – Playing field grass cutting 2022	£ 1,725.00
Hundred Parishes Society – Annual subscription	£ 10.00

22.119.02 The Clerk had circulated updated financial reports to the end of November.

22/120 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – Precept setting 2023/24.

22/121 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7.30pm, subject to availability of the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 8.50pm

Signed
Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)