

**HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held in High Easter Village Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Robert Lodge (chair), Neil Reeve, Paul Sutton, and the Clerk Allison Ward  
 County and District Cllr Susan Barker (leaving after 23/89)  
 0 residents

**23/85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Lucy O'Connor and Janet Robinson (holiday) and Cllr Wendy Colgrave (personal commitments). The apologies were accepted by the meeting.

**23/86 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING**

Cllr Lodge declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 23/94 as a director of Lodge Coaches who currently operates the bus service subject to the consultation.

Cllr Neil Reeve declared a personal interest as an Uttlesford District Councillor for Hatfield Broad Oak and the Hallingburys ward.

**23/87 PUBLIC FORUM** – No public present.

**23/88 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Cllr Lodge proposed the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as circulated be accepted as a correct record this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

**23/89 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT**

County and District Cllr Barker reported as follows,

1. Roadwork repairs on High Easter Road have been completed including trees cut back. Cllr Lodge confirmed there were additional trees to cut back and would send Cllr Barker a map.
2. The situation at Maidens Barn is pending an appeal, Uttlesford can do nothing further until that takes place.
3. The draft Local Plan Consultation document is in the public domain as Uttlesford Local Leadership, Council and Cabinet prepare to consider whether to approve the draft for public consultation at the end of October. Cllr Sutton noted that there is no evidence planning and this would be expected to be made available either just prior to or with the consultation. Cllr Barker commented that in her view what Uttlesford has produced is a plan that stops, there is nothing that takes us beyond the 2041 end date meaning the draft plan will not be easy to simply review. Cllr Barker suggested High Easter parish council considers calling a public meeting to get people's views and encourage comments.

A discussion followed on the perceived excessive number of road closure for minor works, some with and some without advance notification, and the overgrown vegetation across signage and highways which in some cases reduces visibility. Cllr Barker noted the parish concerns and will feedback.

*County and District Cllr Barker leaves the meeting.*

**23/90 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

Confirmation has been received that the financial claim made against the parish council when a cyclist came off his bike due to conditions on the highway, have been dropped and the case closed.

Further to the query made at the last meeting re street lights (minute reference 23.74.02), Essex Highways confirmed 'Unit ID 268975 is being affected by a dead service, this has been passed on to UK Power Networks to

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 Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)

repair and they usually attend within 28 days. With regard to the other units, they are currently awaiting an LED upgrade as part of our Phase 4 project. Our outside contractors are completing this project and they are aiming to start the Uttlesford District in November 2023.’

Uttlesford has commissioned a survey to better understand the current and future provision of outdoor sports facilities, which will result in the production of a district wide strategy. Clerk responded.

Uttlesford is consulting on spending priorities for 2024/25, responses invited from residents, town/parish councils by 5th November. See this link <https://letstalk.uttlesford.gov.uk/uttlesford-district-council-budget-2024-25>

Footpath 95, vegetation, and trees are now blocking the footpath, the landowner has been contacted for assistance.

## 23/91 CLLRS REPORTS

### 23.91.01 – Playground Inspection

Outstanding for this month, Cllr Colgrave to check.

### 23.91.02 – Other Reports

The meeting was aware of comments posted on Facebook in response to recent fibre wi-fi failures for users of County Broadband, the parish council has not received any direct communication. The parish council has no influence over the network providers who operate in the parish this is managed by Superfast Essex; crossover of providers exists in some parts of the parish where the private network providers have deemed there is commercial advantage to extending their networks. The parish council cannot get involved in commercial agreements.

The clerk confirmed Royal British Legion have been contacted and they are only able to provide plastic wreaths for laying at war memorials on Remembrance Sunday. The clerk was asked to contact a local residents to ask if they can provide a ‘living wreath’ (no plastic or artificial additions). It was noted the wreaths laid at High Easter war memorial on behalf of the other parishes would be plastic.

## 23/92 PLANNING

### 23.92.01 – New Applications

Application	UTT/23/2167/HHF
Location	The Hill, Chelmsford Road
Development	Proposed two bay cart lodge

Cllr Sutton proposed no objections to this application, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

Application	UTT/23/2247/HHF & UTT/23/2248/LB
Location	Mudwall Farm, High Easter Road
Development	Demolition of existing porch and erection of replacement porch

Cllr Sutton proposed no objections to this application, this was seconded by Cllr Lodge with all in agreement

### 23.92.02 – Decisions

Application	UTT/23/1059/FUL
Location	Wheats Farm, Stagden Cross Road
Development	Conversion of redundant buildings to 2 no. dwellings
Decision	Conditional Approval

Application No	UTT/23/0438/FUL
Location	Land South Of The Street High Easter Essex
Development	Change of use from agricultural grass land to residential with the construction of 1no. dwelling
Decision	Refused

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Application No	UTT/21/3034/FUL
Location	Lodge Coaches, The Street
Development	Proposed erection of building for use as storage of vintage vehicles and vintage vehicle parts
Decision	Conditional Approval
Application	UTT/23/1912/HHF
Location	Lanterns, The Street
Development	Proposed side extension to pool house for new shower room/WC - revised application to that approved under UTT/23/0314/HHF
Decision	Conditional Approval
Application	UTT/23/2017/PAQ3
Location	Agricultural Buildings, south of Quoins, Onslow Green
Development	Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 5 no. dwellings
Decision	Application Required
Application	UTT/23/2016/PAR3
Location	Agricultural building south of Quoins, Onslow Green
Development	Prior notification of change of use from agricultural building to flexible commercial use.
Decision	Application Required

23.92.03 The Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation is due to commence at the end of October. The parish council is aware of the content pre-publication and as published to Uttlesford committees. The Clerk was asked to prepare communication to be issued to residents once Uttlesford publish the consultation.

### **23/93 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX CONSULTATION**

Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on 'The Waste Strategy for Essex' which provides a framework of how waste produced by homes and businesses in the county will be managed over the next 30 years. The consultation can be viewed at this link <https://www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy> response deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Cllrs noted this is a high-level strategy consultation which seeks to go beyond the government national targets to enable 'a bigger impact more quickly'. To be achieved by promoting a circular economy that encourages and enables the reuse of products multiple times, by enabling collaborative and innovate working between local authorities, businesses and residents and by delivering information and initiatives to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour. The meeting had no comments on the consultation.

*Cllr Lodge took no part in the next item and Cllr Sutton chaired the debate*

### **23/94 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BUS NETWORK CONSULTATION 2023**

Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on the 15% of services that are not commercially viable and funded by ECC. The current service 17/18 which operates through High Easter is one of the services at risk with the consultation proposing the service is withdrawn and the on-demand service extended to cover the area currently serviced by the bus route.

Following discussion Cllr Sutton proposed the parish council strongly objects to the proposal. The key points of the objection being,

1. The bus transport needs of a rural community are different from those of urban communities, the demand will always be significantly lower and require funding support.
2. The scheduled service provides vital social interaction, removing the service will increase rural social isolation.
3. The current on-demand service, unlike the scheduled services, does not extend to Chelmsford. Passengers are taken to 'hubs' for onward connections. It is unclear if the solution proposed would extend on demand to Chelmsford. Additional changes will make any journeys challenging for passengers and less likely.
4. The parish council asks, at which point does an on-demand service become a taxi?
5. The on-demand service uses technology to pre-book services. The demographic of users suggests many will find this challenging.

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6. A scheduled bus service provides passengers with the security of knowing when it will arrive and where. The uncertainty of an on-demand service will increase anxiety and as a result passengers are unlikely to use it.
  7. Public bus services reduce the number of cars on the road network, removing the service will increase private car journeys at a time when nationally we are encouraged to change behaviours.
- This was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement.

*Cllr Lodge resumed the chair*

## **23/95 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

Cllr Colgrave attended the Code of Conduct training run by Uttlesford in July. In the absence of Cllr Colgrave it was agreed this item would be carried forward to the November meeting,

## **23/96 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Parish Council risk assessment assesses the risks that it faces and allows it to satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. A draft is in progress, this item to be carried forward to the November meeting.

## **23/97 PLAYING FIELD**

A quote is pending for cutting the hedges around the playing field and jubilee meadow. Cllr Lodge proposed that providing the quote is similar to last year that the works are commissioned, this was seconded by Cllr Boreham with all in agreement.

## **23/98 PARISH PROJECTS UPDATES**

23.98.01 - The village hall is not available during the week for an overs Christmas Lunch, the meeting considered Saturday 9th December however there are insufficient Cllrs available to facilitate this date. Cllrs were supportive of an alternative option to provide a Christmas lunch for the Monday Muster group and this will be pursued.

23.98.02 - The five a-side football nets have been replaced.

23.98.03 - A quote has been received for extending the play area and providing additional equipment for under 5's, this requires further quotes for re-locating the basketball hoop and additional fencing before a complete project quote can be considered. The clerk is also seeking alternative equipment quotes. The meeting was supportive of considering options for fully accessible equipment.

## **23/99 FINANCE**

23.99.01 The clerk reported on options for moving to online banking and opening a savings account. Whilst there are other providers, the parish council currently banks with the Co-operative bank who offer both services. Before considering alternative banking providers the meeting agreed to pursue both requirements with the current provider.

23.99.02 The Clerk presented the quarterly accounts to end of September 2023, Cllrs accepted the reports as presented. The closing cash balance at end of September is £48,671.

23.99.03 Cllr Lodge proposed the following payment is approved for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

<b><i>PAYMENT TO</i></b>	<b><i>VALUE</i></b>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk September 2023	£ 296.92

23.99.04 The second instalment of the parish precept, £10,500 has been received in September.

## **23/100 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

In addition to the carry forward items, to include a decision on location and purchasing of additional defibrillators.

## **23/101 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

**TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.15pm**

Signed

Robert Lodge (Chairman Parish Council)