

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall on Monday 2nd December 2024

Present: Cllrs Wendy Colgrave, Lucy O'Connor, Neil Reeve, Paul Sutton (chairman) and the Clerk Allison Ward
 County and District Cllr Barker (leaving after agenda item 24/118)
 0 Members of the public

24/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Nigel Boreham (personal commitments), Cllr Janet Robinson (personal commitments) and Cllr Robert Lodge (holiday), apologies were accepted by the meeting.

24/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None.

24/116 PUBLIC FORUM – No public present.

24/117 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING it was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2024, (proposed by Cllr O'Connor, seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement).

24/118 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

The government is due to set out further plans for the increase funding for councils in 2025/26 which was outlined in the budget. It is also announced district and county councils can increase Council Tax by 3%, same as last year, without a referendum.

Central government is planning to take control of local authority pensions and will decide where to invest.

The devolution bill is expected shortly, this will set out government plans for combining district and county authorities, or unitary authorities where district and county disappear. Authorities will have the right to elect mayors which could for example see a labour mayor with mix conservative and independent authority. The plans are very much mandating rather than asking.

The meeting discussed concerns raised by residents with the eroding triangles. It was suggested 'floppy bollards' funded by the parish council could be considered. Clerk to review number of, and status of triangles for further discussion at the January meeting.

Cllr Barker confirmed she is aware of the issues with the gully adjacent to High Trees (High Easter Road, opposite the Essex Way) and is working to establish responsibility.

24/119 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

The agreed tree works on the playing field are scheduled for 12th December, (post meeting these are delayed whilst arrangements are made to ensure safety due to overhead cables).

A nil rough sleeper count was returned to Uttlesford as part of the annual count.

24/120 CLLRS REPORTS

24.120.01 – Cllr O'Connor carried out the play area inspection for the month. The cleaning of the equipment will be carried out in the Spring. The cable tie on the notice remains outstanding, and there is some minor 'fraying' evident on the ropes on the 'spinning top'. Clerk to check the guarantee period and contact the supplier for advice. Cllr Robinson to carry out play area inspection in January 2025.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chair Parish Council)

24.120.02 - Other Reports

Cllr Reeve attended the Uttlesford meeting for Town and Parish Councils re enforcement and updated the meeting, Clerk to circulate information pack from the meeting.

24/121 PLANNING

24.121.01 – New Applications

Application	UTT/24/2807/HHF
Location	4 Bellhouse Villas
Development	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch

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

Application	UTT/24/2854/HHF and UTT/24/2855/LB
Location	Cottons Cottage, The Street
Development	Erection of two storey rear extension and other alterations to fenestration and new door (renewal of planning permission UTT/21/3303/HHF)

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

Application	UTT/24/2865/HHF
Location	Rosedean Cottage, The Street
Development	Demolition of the existing 20th century rear two storey extension, single storey rear extension and conservatory. Altering the internal layout and replacing the demolished extensions with a rear one and two storey extension, including converting the existing garage. (revision to UTT/24/1892/HHF)

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

Application	UTT/24/2792/LB
Location	Spotted Dog Public House
Development	Installation of life-saving equipment

The parish council is the applicant for the above application.

24.121.02 – Decisions, for information only

Application	UTT/24/1823/HHF
Location	Gladden House, High Easter Road
Development	Proposed new access and works to cartlodge
Decision	Conditional approval

24/122 BIODIVERSITY DUTY

24.122.01 Under the Environment Act 2021, public authorities in England, including parish and town councils, must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is known as the 'biodiversity duty'. The duty requires parish and town councils to agree specific policies and objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity. There is no requirement to public reports on progress.

24.122.02 Cllr Sutton proposed the draft biodiversity policy circulated by the clerk be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Colgrave with all in agreement. The policy will be published on the parish council website.

24/123 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON REMOTE MEETINGS AND PROXY VOTING

The meeting agreed to respond in support of allowing town and parish councils to hold remote meetings and for the decisions around when these are held to be flexible to allow councils to make relevant local decisions. The parish

council was not in support of proxy voting as it felt discussions at meetings were an important part of the process and during which opinions can change. Clerk to respond.

24/124 PLAYING FIELD

24.124.01 Hire policy, the clerk had shared advice from Rural Community Council of Essex on the scenario where the hall only is hired and the event ‘spills out’ onto the playing field. It is suggested appropriate wording relevant to this scenario is included in the village hall hire agreement. The clerk has spoken to the village hall committee who are in the process of updating their hire agreement and will consider the parish council draft agreement and requests. Once the village hall committee has completed its review, the parish council will be in a position to approve the playing field hire agreement.

24.124.02 To receive an update from the play area advisory committee – Nothing to report.

24/125 GENERAL MAINTENANCE/PROJECTS

24.125.01 Repairs to Pump Green seat - A report on the options and costs had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Sutton proposed the repairs use the ‘widening’ pieces available direct from the original supplier, it was further agreed the parish council purchases these direct in order the VAT can be recovered (c.£628 inc VAT), there will be a further £100 labour cost for the repair. This was seconded by Cllr Colgrave with all in agreement.

24.125.02 Cllr O’Connor gave an update on plans for the ‘over’s Christmas lunch’ on 9th December. The clerk and Cllr O’Connor to liaise re the risk assessment which will be circulated to the parish council for information.

24/126 FINANCE

24.126.01 Cllr Sutton proposed the following payments be made; this was seconded by Cllr Reeve with all in agreement. Cllr Colgrave signed the payment schedule.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk November 2024	£ 339.30
JCM Services – 4th instalment grounds maintenance inc VAT	£ 995.46
Bar House Events (Allison Ward payee) – Christmas lunch over hire inc VAT	£ 132.00
E M Colvin – Monday Muster play reading events	£ 75.00
Mary Davis – Monday Muster September to December 2024	£ 946.00

To note the Cllr planning training (reference minuted 24/110) which Cllr O’Connor was due to attend was cancelled and will be rescheduled in 2025.

24.126.02 There were no receipts banked in November 2024.

24/127 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. Precept setting 2025/26.
- b. To consider adding additional signatories to the bank mandate signature.
- c. Consideration of actions to prevent further erosion of green triangles.

24/128 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.00pm.