

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held in High Easter Village Hall on Monday 3rd March 2025

Present: Cllrs Nigel Boreham, Lucy O'Connor, Janet Robinson, Neil Reeve, Paul Sutton (chairman) and the Clerk Allison Ward

24/162 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Colgrave and Cllr Lodge, reasons for apologies were accepted by the meeting.

24/163 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

Cllr Reeve declared a personal interest in agenda item 24.169.01 application UTT/25/0241/HHF and UTT/25/0200/LB as a direct neighbour of the application site.

24/164 PUBLIC FORUM – No public present.

24/165 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING it was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025, (proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement).

24/166 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County and District Cllr Barker sent apologies to the meeting due to attendance at other parish council meetings. Cllr Barker had sent a written report which had been circulated to Cllrs. The key points being,

- The planning applications at Leaden Roding Woods (Leaden Roding parish) have been called in should officers recommend approval.
- Essex County Council elections scheduled for May 2025 have been postponed due to the devolution plans. This can only be done for one year at a time.
- There will be an election for Mayor of all Essex in 2026. The proposal is that the mayor will at some point take over the role of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. In addition, there will be a deputy Mayor/s and a team of staff.
- There will be elections to shadow unitaries in either 2026 or 2027 and they will come into effect a year later. Likely to be 3 or 4 unitaries across Essex as the government is looking for a voting population of c.500,000 in each, there are c.1.8m residents across Greater Essex.

24/167 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

On behalf of a consortium of parish councils with High Easter as the lead council, the clerk submitted an application for the Love Your Bus Grant, decisions are expected by the end of March. The clerk was thanked for co-ordinating the application.

A report was received of garden waste being placed in ditches. Cllrs were frustrated with this given the issues blocked ditches cause in the parish. The parish council funds the weekend garden waste service, which is provided at no additional cost to residents, the clerk was asked to put a notice reminding residents that putting green waste in ditches is illegal and classified as fly-tipping.

24/168 CLLRS REPORTS

24.168.01 – Playground Inspection

Cllr Boreham completed the playground inspection for March 2025. The split rubber on the cradle swings which Cllrs have been monitoring, will be reassessed in April and a decision taken on whether to replace these. Cllr Boreham to oil the gate into the play area. Clerk to check location of bench and place notice asking for it not to be moved.

Signed
 Robert Lodge (Chair Parish Council)

24.168.02 - Other Reports

Cllrs agreed a date for the spring litter pick of Saturday 12th April meeting at 10am at the village hall. Cllr Reeve and Cllr Sutton will be available to help co-ordinate. Clerk and Cllr Lodge to check equipment stocks.

Cllrs noted thanks to Richard Keil for trimming the base of the tree on Pump Green.

24/169 PLANNING

24.169.01 – New Applications

Application	UTT/25/0241/HHF & UTT/25/0200/LB
Location	The Parsonage, High Easter Road
Development	S73A Retrospective application for the replacement of existing pool roof, roof lanterns and parapet wall with new due to poor condition

The meeting noted there were no issues raised by the conservation officer. Cllr Sutton proposed no objection, this was seconded by Cllr O'Connor with all in agreement.

Application	UTT/25/0390/HHF
Location	4 Bellhouse Villas
Development	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, front porch

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

24.169.02 – Application in Leaden Roding parish

Application	UTT/24/2863/FUL
Location	Darwell Wood High Easter Road. Leaden Roding
Development	Section 73A Retrospective application for the erection of a forestry building

Cllr Reeve proposed objection to this application due to its impact on the ancient woodland and local wildlife site, and the excessive scale and design of the forestry building at 59m² for the management of a 1-acre woodland. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with all in agreement.

To note application UTT/24/3036/FUL, section 73A retrospective application for change of use of woodland to wood hobby area at Chase Wood, High Easter Road was refused by Uttlesford.

24.169.03 – Decisions, for information only

Application	UTT/24/3206/TPO
Location	Walnut Tree Cottage The Street
Development	Walnut tree removed, came down in strong winds 07/12/2024
Decision	Granted

There is no condition or requirement for replanting. Cllr Reeve proposed the clerk writes to Uttlesford to request an explanation to the officer's comment stating, 'due to tree falling in wind this is not within Council's scope to condition replacement tree.' This is not consistent with previous decisions. This was seconded by Cllr Sutton with all in agreement.

24.169.04 – Stansted Airport

Cllr Boreham declared a pecuniary interest as a business partner of MAGs and took no part in this item.

MAGs have launched a public consultation (pre planning application) with a proposal to increase passenger numbers from the approved 43million/annum to 51million/annum. This to be achieved by making best use of the existing 'single runway within the same boundaries and no more flights than currently allowed'.

Cllr Sutton proposed the parish council responds stating its objection to any plans that,

- a. Result in noise increases from overflying aircraft for residents of High Easter.
- b. Lack solutions to land transport congestion which will be created by the increase in passenger numbers.
- c. Fail to give confidence that net zero can be achieved.

This was seconded by Cllr Robinson with four in agreement and one abstention.

26.169.05 – Chelmsford City Council Local Plan

The meeting noted Chelmsford City Council is consulting on its five-year update to Local Plan Regulation 19 prior to submission to the planning inspector. The parish council had no comment.

24/170 IMPACT OF ROAD CLOSURES ON B184

The clerk has been in communication with County Cllr Susan Barker, Essex Highways, neighbouring parish councils and others regarding the recent closure of the B184 and the resultant chaos and damage caused by vehicles using unofficial diversion routes through the parish.

Cllr Barker has arranged an on-site meeting with County Cllr Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council to discuss the issues and what can be done to reduce the impact of future road closures.

The parish council was realistic that there is little that can be done in terms of closures as permits for utilities must be granted, however it was of the view closures should be co-ordinated, the time the road is closed reduced, and signage should be more visible and improved including unsuitable for diversion. The clerk and Cllr O'Connor to attend the meeting.

24/171 PLAYING FIELD HIRE AGREEMENT

The clerk had circulated the draft updated hire agreement provided by the village hall committee which includes a section relating to the playing field where the hall only is hired, Cllrs were in support of this.

The exact mechanics for managing the separate playing field hire agreement where this is the main hire, e.g. football teams, requires further consideration, the clerk will meet with the village hall representative.

This led to a discussion on disclaimer signage for both the car park and play area. The clerk to check what other local parishes display and provide further information for consideration.

24/172 VE DAY 80th CELEBRATIONS

The meeting noted the action by the village hall committee to book the Greek food truck for the evening of Thursday 8th May. Other plans remain as outlined at the February meeting, further guidance on the national plans is pending.

24/173 PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS

The report on 10 current projects was issued by the clerk and accepted by the meeting as an accurate summary of the current position.

The meeting noted 4 projects for completion/progress before the end of March 2025; installation of defibrillator at The Spotted Dog, completion of the repairs to the circular bench, assessment of works to the hedge at the war memorial and tree works on the playing field.

24/174 FINANCE

24.174.01 Cllr Sutton proposed the following payments for authorisation, this was seconded by Cllr Colgrave, there were four votes in favour, and one abstention.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk February 2025	£ 339.30
Start Safety – Vertical verge markers inc VAT (payment to A Ward purchased online)	£ 266.53

24.174.02 There were no receipts banked in February 2025.

24/175 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

To include

- Annual policy reviews.
- Parish council risk assessment.
- Contracts for grass cutting.

24/176 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.10pm.