

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ULTING PARISH MEETING HELD AT
CROUCHMANS BARN, ULTING ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM

Those present: Cllr. Irene Allen (Chair), Cllr. Colin Ashby, Cllr. Jenny Clemo (Acting Clerk), Cllr. Lester Magness and Cllr. Kathy Palmer.

Also present: Cllr Simon Morgan, Maldon District Council
Members of the public - 3

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 16th May 2023

The minutes were read out by the Chairman, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Before giving her report, the Chairman passed on the sad news that our previous Chairman, Vicky Anfilogoff, died in Broomfield Hospital on 24th April this year. Vicky had done sterling work in the village with over 20 years as Secretary to the Village Hall Committee, and 12 years as a Parish Councillor for Langford, 8 of which as Chairman. Her work, with Jenny Clemo on the Neighbourhood Plan was a gargantuan task and praise must be given to both of them for the unstinting persistence through all the changes and difficulties. Vicky will be very sadly missed in our village as a colleague and a friend.

3. Chairman's Report.

Firstly, the Chairman must once again give a vote of thanks to everyone on the Parish Council for their sterling work in the past year.

Tree work has again been very much on our minds this year with another on the green in Ulting Lane being removed, and a TPO being placed on a diseased tree in Ulting churchyard. The Parish Council are responsible for the two closed churchyards, and this year we have carried out necessary remedial work on the ash trees in Ulting Churchyard and replaced part of the oak fence at Langford Church. We have also had more problems with fly tipping, exacerbated by the need to book a place at the local tip, and with potholes in all our roads which seem to be on the increase, and more dangerous because of the water levels on the roads following all the rain. I won't even mention the water at the end of Ulting Lane as it would be improper for your chairman to start swearing this early in the evening!

The Art Show this year was again a great success, and grateful thanks must be passed on to the organisers who did such a great job, and to everyone who helped in any capacity – from car parking to making the tea. An especial thanks go to the makers of the wonderful cakes, who were eaten out of house and hall by the visitors and had to bake more after a very long day. We raised over £1790 for the village hall which is a wonderful result, and the artworks were, as usual, to a very high standard. Sally Marks, our Treasurer for the event, gave a wonderfully detailed account of pictures and folios sold and all the other expenses said, "Blood, sweat and tears of Committee and helpers was priceless" and I so agree with that. So another great success for the Art Show but, as we all agreed, next year the hours will be 10 till 4 on both days as 10 till 5 is too exhausting, and we also agreed that the programme will be of normal paper (although still with a coloured cover) instead of card, to save money.

Thanks are due to Colin Ashby and his team for keeping the churchyard and cemetery of St. Giles' looking so good, and for putting up the bat box in the churchyard, and thanks also to Alan Marks and his sons for keeping the green in Ulting Lane well mown.

I would also like to record grateful thanks to everyone who took part in the Litter Pick on 16th March. Although we were fewer in number than last year, the amount of litter picked was the same, and we decided that we had almost enough parts to assemble a small car. One really has to wonder what kind of people they are who throw litter so easily from cars or bicycles.

True to their promise in offering something to the village when the new eel pass was agreed, Essex & Suffolk Water stepped up to the mark and provided funding for replacement LED street lighting in the village and this is most welcome. Dog walkers are also most grateful for the new dog waste bin in Ulting Lane by the Permissive Path.

You will also have noticed that we have a new notice board on the village hall. This beautiful addition was gifted to the Hall by the Village Hall Committee and was put up on 28th January. Thanks to Andy Cullen, Colin Ashby and Lester Magness for their sterling work in getting this (rather heavy) noticeboard in place. Sadly, due to restrictions imposed by Highway on the siting of such signs, it will not be possible to replace the notice board in Ulting, but we offer our grateful thanks to the owners of The Old School for allowing us to have a sign on their building for so long.

Now we come to another sad part. Our lovely Parish Clerk, Justine, has decided to step down. She has done sterling work in the post over the last year, and we are very grateful to Jenny Clemo for her guiding hand in all this. We are also very grateful to Justine for staying on an extra month while Jenny was in Australia – very much appreciated. We had seven candidates for the post and the Parish Council has selected a new clerk subject to satisfactory references.

Finally, I would like to record my own thanks to those members of the public who attend and take an interest in what goes on in our communities. It can often be a lonely task being a Parish Councillor, and one that is often misunderstood as our powers have been systematically eroded over the years. However, with the limited powers that we do have, we aim to do our best for the communities that we serve, so thank you all for your support.

4. Items from the parishioners.

a) A resident thanked the hardworking councillors for what they do for the Parish.

b) Bumfords Lane and Ulting Lane potholes and flooding – Residents are concerned that these two roads are almost impassable due to the large potholes.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.52 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: