

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th September 2018

Present: D.Clayden, P.Sutterby, Mrs G Essex, J.McLintock, M.Whitehead, Cllr Barker and 11 members of the public.

Minutes of the last meeting of 17th July 2018 were agreed and duly signed.

Public questions/concerns addressed to the Parish Council

A resident commented on the cut of the vegetation opposite the village hall stating this was an improvement.

He also complained that the village website was lacking information regarding events in the village. The clerk stated that the website is primarily for Parish Council information which is included, all information regarding Parish Council minutes, accounts, the green skip, and copies of past and present Leaden Readings are published. If Parish Councillors wish her to include more she is very happy to add them but at this time this is all the information she has been given to publish.

A resident asked for information regarding a problem with doves plaguing Leaden Close, nesting under his solar panels and leaving droppings on his and his neighbours' properties. It is thought that the doves originate from a dovecote in a neighbouring property in Rosdene Garden. Between meetings the clerk has written to the owner of the dovecote and read the response – they were unaware of problems regarding their doves, since 2003 they have been very particular about removing eggs every two weeks to ensure that numbers in the dovecote do not increase. At present, of the eight nesting holes, seven are occupied but only 4 pairs are actively laying although all of the nesting holes are regularly checked. They are mystified as to where the other doves have come from although as they do 'flock' they could be from elsewhere. They have brown/white doves and racing pigeons occasionally visit their garden but do not encourage them and do not feed the doves or leave bird food on the open table or on the ground. They will keep the numbers restricted in the dovecote to an acceptable level by continuing to remove the eggs on a two-week cycle. The problem has also been reported to Uttlesford and Cllr Barker, Cllr Barker stated that after consultation she believes this is a civil matter but the resident present stated that after seeking advice he has been assured it is a Public Authority matter. He will email Cllr Barker details of his finding and she will look into this further and seek clarification from Uttlesford's Environmental Health.

A resident asked for an update on complaints reported regarding rainwater on the A1060 not flowing from gutters quickly enough during heavy rain. The clerk has spoken to Highways and has been told that the drains have been checked and there are no blockages. She has also reported that the road surface has indents which cause water to collect during rainfall which could be causing pedestrians to get wet, she was informed that this will be looked into but if the indents are less than 2 inches deep (which they probably are) there will be no further action taken. She has also requested on the website and through Cllr Barker that the Highways Rangers clear the gutters along the A1060 of weeds.

A resident requested the date when Parish Councillor Nick Ringrose resigned. The clerk went through previous minutes and informed her of the date. She asked if the post had been advertised and stated that this should be the case up until 6 months before the next election in May 2019.

The clerk agreed that she was quite right and clarified that the post has been advertised at regular intervals since Cllr Ringrose's resignation and will be again within the next week.

A resident asked for updates on complaints made regarding the puddle outside King William House and the vegetation on the footpath on Dunmow Road towards Aythorpe Roding which cannot be cleared by the Highways Rangers as it is outside the 30-mph limit.

Both problems have again been reported to Highways and the clerk read the following responses:

Puddle outside King William House - We have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Every report we get is treated as very important and we aspire to repair all highway defects in good time. Essex is a large county and across a network covering more than 5000 miles of road, more than 1500 structures and 127,000 street lights we need to prioritise how we spend your council tax money to best effect for all residents. At present we prioritise our principal road network, the repair of the worst pot holes and other safety critical work such as flooding and bridge repairs. Our recent investigation of this issue has concluded that it is not as serious as many other issues we are aware of, so we won't be taking any further action on it. This does not mean that this report is not important to us. The location will be regularly monitored through scheduled inspections and we may take action in the future if there has been significant deterioration.

Vegetation on Dunmow Road - We have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Every report we get is treated as very important and we aspire to repair all highway defects in good time. Essex is a large county and across a network covering more than 5000 miles of road, more than 1500 structures and 127,000 street lights, we need to prioritise how we spend your council tax money to best effect for all residents. At present we prioritise our principal road network, the repair of the worst pot holes and other safety critical work such as flooding and bridge repairs. Our recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects we are aware of, so we have recorded it and will consider it when we are planning future works in the area. Consequently, you do not need to report this issue again. This does not mean that this issue is not important to us; we will repair it just as soon as is humanly possible given the constraints explained. It will be regularly monitored through future scheduled inspections to see if it has worsened. A future inspection may result in its current prioritisation being changed if there has been significant deterioration.

The resident also enquired regarding her request for another dog waste bin – the clerk stated this was reported in the minutes of the 29th May and repeated again that Uttlesford do not have the resources to empty any more dog waste bins, however dog owners can now deposit dog waste in all village litter bins.

A resident stated she has made a request to Highways for double yellow lines to be installed on Dunmow Road between the school and Longhide as it is dangerous for pedestrians when parents are parking on the footpath when picking up children from school. Cllr Barker is aware of this request and will make enquiries from Highways and inform the resident of her findings.

Clerk's report.

- Traffic calming request on B184 Dunmow Road – Cllr Barker and the clerk have received the following information from Highways: *The validation relating to the request to install a VAS on the approach to the school has now been completed. Although in principle the concept of a VAS would meet the criteria based on the approaching speeds the site assessment has determined that there is not sufficient highway verge width to facilitate this. The validation has however identified the need to improve the conspicuity*

of the existing signage through removing vegetation and increasing the size of the existing repeater signs and it is recommended that the LHP funds amendments to this in the new financial year. Parish Councillors were disappointed with this decision, other villages with similar footpaths and verges have had VAS installed. Cllr Barker stated she will request the decision be reviewed.

- Possibility of an extension to the 30 mph limit on the A1060 at Leaden Bridge – the Chairman, P. Sutterby and Cllr Barker attended a site meeting with Highways to discuss this issue in July. Cllr Barker stated that Highways have decided that there is enough length of road to extend the 30mph to Bridge Cottages. This should be completed sometime in 2019.
- Puddle outside King William House – see above.
- Vegetation on footpath on Dunmow Road – see above.
- A1060 drain clearing – see above
- Vegetation opposite the village hall – the has now been cleared.
- Residents have now trimmed the laurel hedge at Redwings.

Finance:

The clerk was given authority to pay: -

£17.00 to Leaden Roding Village Hall Trust – hire of hall for today's meeting

£280.00 to R.C. Bell – printing of the Leaden Reading (Sept 2018)

Planning Applications:

The clerk has received a letter from Planning Enforcement informing of an allegation that a breach of Condition 3 (Materials) and 4 (Contamination) of planning approval at Leaden Hall Farm, Stortford Road. They confirm an investigation has been carried out and a decision made to close the file as the condition has now been fully discharged and compliance achieved. The Parish Council were unaware of this allegation.

Footpaths.

P. Sutterby stated that two trees have fallen across the bridle path at Longsted Lane but it is still passable on foot. The trees will be removed in due course.

Any footpath problems can be reported by contacting Phil Sutterby or by telephoning 0845 6037631 or by emailing www.essex.gov.uk/highways.

Report from Cllr Barker:

Uttlesford are increasing fines for offenders of dog fouling, dropping litter and fly tipping. Residents are encouraged to report offenders to Uttlesford so that they can be prosecuted.

Essex County Council are in the process of finalising proforma letters to assist Parish Clerks in writing to landowners requesting them to cut back hedges. These will be sent to all Parish Clerks when finalised.

Any other business:

1. P. Sutterby thanked Cllr Barker for the funding of the newly purchased litter pickers.
2. P. Sutterby stated that the litter pick arranged for the 25th August gathered 12 bags of litter which was collected by Uttlesford the following Tuesday, he thanked all volunteers for their help on the day.
3. P. Sutterby proposed a vote of thanks to Geoff Todd for removing and disposing of the damaged village planters by the village sign and also for cutting the grass verge from the village hall to the church.
4. P. Sutterby proposed a vote of thanks to Geoffrey Farrington for renovating the village seat and reinstating it by the village sign. Parish Councillors complemented the quality of his work.
5. The clerk reported that she has requested that Highways repair the road sign on the A1060 opposite the entrance to Holloway Crescent as the posts appear to be rotting.
6. The clerk stated that a notice has been placed on the notice board advertising the sale of 40% share in a home in Boreham Court, High Easter. This was requested to be advertised as local residents will be considered as purchasers if a purchaser from High Easter is not found.
7. The clerk brought to Parish Councillors attention an article regarding the Rodings in a recent edition of the Romford Recorder which might be of interest.
8. The clerk has been informed that the Writtle University Road Race will cycle through Leaden Roding on the morning of 30th September.
9. Various other documents were circulated for Councillors' attention outside the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 30th October
Dates for future meetings: Tuesday 4th December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.