

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2020 using the Zoom Platform

Present: D.Clayden, P.Sutterby, J.McIntock, M.Whitehead, Mrs Bush Cllr Barker and 3 members of the public.

Between meetings Mrs Gay Essex sent a letter of resignation as she has moved away from the village. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for all the hard work she had put in for the good of Leaden Roding during her 20 plus years on the Parish Council. All Parish Councillors and the clerk wish her well in her new home.

Between meetings the clerk informed Uttlesford of the resignation and notices from Uttlesford and Leaden Roding Parish Council were put up on the notice board and village website informing residents of the resignation and advertising a vacancy. Once the clerk hears from Uttlesford that a co-option can be made she will arrange interviews for applicants.

Minutes of the last meeting of 30th September 2020 were agreed. As this was a virtual meeting the minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

Public questions/concerns addressed to the Parish Council

A resident expressed concerns re speeding in the village, particularly in the area by Rodings School and asked if the Parish Council have a short- and long-term strategy on speeding. Cllr Barker stated that most Essex villages share this concern. She stated that as Leaden Roding is situated on two priority routes – A1060 and B184 – Essex Highways will not agree to reduce the speed limit below 30mph. She suggested there are other measures which could be used to slow traffic including another zebra crossing and more signage. She stated rumble strips cannot be installed within 300 yards of a property due to noise. The clerk stated that in September 2018 Highways performed a speed survey on the B184 and their findings proved that speeding was an issue and looked into the possibility of installing a VAS sign but due to lack of space they could not find a suitable position to install it so instead erected more road signs in the area. The clerk stated that over the last 20 years progress the Parish Council have been actively requesting traffic calming measures in the village and a lot of improvement has been made but the process is slow as our village is one of many who are requesting these measures and Highways measure the cost and benefit to each village before agreeing any improvements. Cllr Barker stated it was very unlikely that a static speeding camera could be erected which would be subject to an Essex County Council decision. The resident asked if the Parish Council has looked into the possibility of setting up a Community Speed Watch team in the village, the clerk stated that there is a lack of interest in resident participation in community activities in the village but if anybody was willing to join a Speed Watch team the Parish Council were in agreement that they would support it and make some funds available if necessary. The resident stated he was prepared to look into trying to find some volunteers. It was suggested that hedges within the village were, in places, growing over some traffic signs. Cllr Barker will request that the Essex Rangers cut them back. It was mentioned that a survey asking for views re speeding had been instigated by another resident without the knowledge or input of the Parish Council earlier in the year and the results have not been shared with the Parish Council (see details below).

Clerk's report.

- A1060 speed limit – the clerk reported that it appears that the 30mph extension at Leaden Bridge is imminent as a Public Notice has now been given. Cllr Barker stated that there had been an objection made during the consultation time and this extension is now awaiting a Cabinet Member's approval.
- Drainage problems on Stortford Road – during the recent bad weather the drainage problem opposite King William House has recurred and flooding between the church and the village hall has worsened considerably. The clerk has reported both of these problems again.
- 30 mph sign beside village hall – not yet repaired – Highways appear to think this has been repaired, the clerk will report again, this has again been reported, Cllr Barker will report too.
- Fallen Highways sign approaching the roundabout on Chelmsford Road – this has not been repaired and the original sign seems to have disappeared, the clerk will report again, this has again been reported, Cllr Barker will report too.
- The clerk has requested that Highways examine all signage in the village as lots of signs appear to be in need of repair or replacement.
- Flooding at Wrens Park – after recent heavy rain, with no flooding at Wrens Park, the repair has seemed to work. The resident from Wrens Park was informed by Highways that the problem could recur in the future if the ditch opposite the property was not regularly cleared. Between meetings the clerk had a site meeting with the resident of Wrens Park and the owner of the ditch and it was agreed that the ditch would be cleared yearly in the autumn. As it seems to be clear at this time it will not be cleared again until next autumn but if there were any concerns before then, the owner will clear it sooner.
- A resident who conducted a survey re speeding in the summer contacted the clerk for advice on who to send the findings. The clerk informed her that although protocol suggests it might be useful to give the Parish Council details of the findings, she could send it straight to Highways if she preferred. The clerk has not heard any information since, and as time has elapsed, it is assumed that the resident sent the findings to Highways directly.
- The clerk reported that as the COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to cause concern the December issue of the Leaden Reading will be published on the website only again this quarter, for health and safety reasons. It has been advertised that if residents require a paper copy, they are welcome to contact the editor and he will print and deliver one to them.
- Between meetings the clerk noticed the small village sign at Leaden Hill is rusting and in need of repair. She has reported this to Highways.
- After reporting building waste left on the pavement by Windmill Café, the majority has now been cleared. A large bag of sand is still present, the clerk will report to Uttlesford.
- The clerk read a thank you letter from Roding Schools and a note in the school newsletter thanking the Parish Council for the donation made.
- After advice from Cllr Barker the clerk will contact Uttlesford stating they do not wish to enter into costly legal actions to remove fencing at Chalks Green but will leave it to Uttlesford as guardians of the Green to act as necessary to find a solution to the issues raised.

Finance:

The clerk was given authority to pay: -

£333.00 to MD Landscapes – grass cutting (inv 543 and inv 511)

£111.00 to MD Landscapes – grass cutting (inv 573)

£675.00 to Mrs. T E Bell – clerks ½ year salary

Planning Applications:

The following applications were circulated between meetings:

Land at adjacent to Chalet Bungalow, Stortford Road – construction of a pair of link-detached dwellings – *Parish Councillors are unsure if this application is in place of the application just approved below or is another application making 3 new dwellings on the site. They object to 3 dwellings on the site due to over development and have concerns with the amount of traffic which will enter and leave the A1060 if too many properties on the site.*

Between meetings the following decisions have been received:

Burniere, High Easter Road – proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage – *conditional approval*.

Land adjacent to Chalet Bungalow, Stortford Road – Erection of 1 detached one and a half storey dwelling associated drainage and external works – *conditional approval*.

2 Leaden Dene, Dunmow Road – Rear and side extension – *conditional approval*.

Between meetings the following decision after appeal to the Secretary of State has been received:
Old Rectory, Stortford Road – proposed detached garage – *appeal dismissed*

Footpaths:

P. Sutterby reported that at this time footpath in the village are all in good condition.

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

Any other business:

1. Cllr Barker stated that due to the high amount of flooding on Essex roads she is lobbying the Cabinet Member for Highways to see if flooding can be reported directly instead of online form filling.
2. The clerk will report a damaged traffic sign outside Walnut Tree Cottage, Dunmow Road. Wires going through the post appear to be visible and Parish Councillors are concerned for the safety of pedestrians walking past.
3. The clerk reported she received an email who she thinks was from a motorist driving through the village stating concern re ongoing roadworks operatives driving unsafely whilst manoeuvring their vehicles in the course of their work. The clerk replied stating that the roadworks has been instigated by BT Openreach and although the Parish Council has no

input into who undertakes the work, she will bring this to the attention of BT Openreach for them to pass on to the contractors.

4. The clerk made Parish Councillors aware that will be a nationwide Census in 2021.
5. Various other documents were circulated for Councillors' attention by email outside the meeting.

Date of the next meeting Tuesday 12th January 2021 using the Zoom platform.

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