

## **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Present:** D.Clayden, P.Sutterby, J.McIntock, M.Whitehead, Mrs Bush, D.Wareham and 2 members of the public.

After interviews between meetings Leaden Roding Parish Councillors co-opted Dave Wareham as Parish Councillor. An Acceptance of Office form will be completed by Cllr Wareham and given to the clerk shortly. Uttlesford District Council will be notified of this co-option once the form has been received.

**Minutes of the last meeting** of 1<sup>st</sup> December 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 thanked the Parish Council for the donation of £25 as a prize for the Christmas lights competition held in the village for the first time. Another donation of £25 was made by the Village Hall Social Club, Mrs Bush and the clerk also donated bottles of wine. Keely Robinson organised the competition which was judged by P. Sutterby and M. Whitehead; she felt that it was appreciated by residents especially during this lockdown period and was happy to organise the same next year advertising it earlier in the year. Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to make a donation next year.

### **Clerk's report.**

- A1060 speed limit – the clerk has not yet been informed of any update regarding a Cabinet Member's approval after an objection was made during consultation of the proposed extension to the 30mph limit.
- Drainage problems on Stortford Road – it appears that flooding opposite King William House during heavy rain is not quite so bad but flooding and water on the road has worsened on Stortford Road between the village hall and the church. Drains in the village appear to be being cleaned at this time so flooding will be monitored during heavy rain again to see if this has alleviated the problem.
- 30 mph sign beside village hall – not yet repaired – the clerk will request an update.
- Fallen Highways sign approaching the roundabout on Chelmsford Road – not repaired, the clerk will request an update.
- Small village sign at Leaden Hill rusting and in need of repair – not yet repaired.
- Building waste left beside Windmill Café – reported to Uttlesford but not yet removed. P Sutterby reported that there is also an old wheely bin at the site which needs removing too, the clerk will request this again along with another wheely bin left on the green in Holloway Crescent.
- After advice from Cllr Barker the clerk has emailed Uttlesford stating that the Parish Council 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 with Leaden Roding Parish Council supporting Uttlesford in their efforts for request the fencing is removed if it is not legal to remain. She has not yet received acknowledgement of the email.

- After discussion at the last Parish Council meeting a resident has drawn up a letter he intends to circulate to all residents requesting volunteers to join together to create a Speed Watch Team, the clerk will publish the letter on the village website and in the next edition of the Leaden Reading. As yet, it does not appear to have been circulated to residents.
- At the last Parish Council meeting Cllr Barker suggested the clerk should write to Highways asking for assistance in combating speeding throughout the village. The clerk did this and received a reply stating that when they previously looked at the site in the vicinity of Rodings School it was with a view to installing a VAS although at the time, no suitable location on Highways land could be identified so instead they improved the conspicuity of the existing signage to reinforce the message regarding speeding. Highways stated they were happy to revisit although they suspect the outcome will be the same being that they are limited on options. The clerk reported that she has emailed back requesting that they revisit again to see if any options can be found
- The clerk reported the Highways sign outside Walnut Tree Cottage with wires showing is in need of repair and could be dangerous – this has not yet been repaired.
- Between meetings the Parish Council decided to donate £25 as a prize for the village Christmas lights competition (see public questions/concerns above).

#### **Finance:**

The clerk was given authority to pay: -

£48.00 to PKF Littlejohn – Audit admin fee  
 £25.00 to Mrs. T.E.Bell – donation to Christmas lights competition

#### **Planning Applications:**

The following application was circulated between meetings:

West Point, Dunmow Road, Aythorpe Roding – Proposed erection of 1 dwelling, creation of new vehicular access (existing access will change to pedestrians) and associated landscaping works. The clerk contacted Uttlesford to ascertain whether this application was for Leaden Roding and received a reply stating as it is on the border of Aythorpe and Leaden Roding they were requesting comments from both Parish Councils if there were any concerns – *Parish Councillors had no objections.*

Between meetings the clerk received an email from the Enforcement Officer at Uttlesford stating an alleged breach of planning control has been made at Burniere, High Easter Road – failure to discharge condition 2 Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy. After investigation a decision was made to close the case as no breach had taken place.

The Parish Council were unaware of this allegation.

#### **Footpaths:**

P. Sutterby reported that at this time footpaths in the village are very muddy as more people appear to be using them.

Any footpath problems can be reported by contacting Phil Sutterby or by telephoning 0845 6037631 or by emailing [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways). If problems are reported would residents please inform P. Sutterby so he is aware and can monitor any problems. Alternately the clerk can be informed and she will pass the information on.

### **Parish Precept.**

The clerk circulated income and expenditure details and bank account details before the meeting for Parish Councillors' reference. A lengthy debate followed on the budget for 2021/22 and the level of precept to set. Cllrs considered projects for 2021/22 and decided to include the cutting back of hedges on Dunmow Road approaching the school. The Chairman proposed that the Precept for 2021/22 to remain at £6,500.00, this was seconded by J. McIntock and carried unanimously.

### **Bank Account.**

The clerk informed Parish Councillors that signatories on the bank account with Santander need to be updated. It was agreed that all signatories on the account apart from the Chairman, Dave Clayden, need to be removed and present Parish Councillors need to be added. The clerk also needs to be able to access account information over the telephone, although at present statements are posted to the clerk's address, she does not appear to have the power to discuss transactions over the telephone when required. The clerk will also look into setting up online bank transfers.

### **Any other business:**

1. D.Wareham stated that the recent installation of Broadband cables throughout the village had caused most pavements to be dug up. The repaving does not appear to be of the best standard, D. Wareham expressed concern that the pavements might disintegrate over the next few months due to bad weather. The clerk will contact Gigaclear and discuss this.
2. D.Wareham asked if the Parish Council is involved in assisting residents who might need help during the COVID-19 pandemic. The clerk explained there is a COVID-19 Help Group on WhatsApp which, although not set up by the Parish Council, both herself and Mrs Bush are members. This group was quite active in assisting residents with shopping and prescriptions during the first lockdown and is running again during this present lockdown although it appears not so much assistance is required. The Parish Council have also made donations to Rodings Sewing Group when they were making scrubs for the NHS and Rodings School who found it difficult to fund raise over the past year.
3. P. Sutterby asked if the location of the defibrillator at the fire station needs to be advertised in the village. The clerk stated that if a defibrillator is needed the Ambulance service will tell the caller exactly where it is located and the code number necessary to open the case so in effect advertising the location is unnecessary, however she will put a notice on the village notice board and on the notice board at the village hall informing residents that there is a defibrillator in the village and it's location. She will not advertise the case code in case of vandalism.
4. The clerk received information from Cllr Barker which she received from a resident of Holloway Crescent flats stating that for the 7<sup>th</sup> year running Uttlesford Council has not refilled their oil tanks sufficiently and they had been without heating and hot water for several days. Mrs Bush also sent an email to Cllr Barker regarding the same issue as she was also experiencing the same problem. It appears this has happened because although the

tank is refilled fortnightly, this is not covered over the Christmas period. It is the first time it has been brought to the clerk's notice. Cllr Barker reported the problem to officers at Uttlesford and it has now been resolved, residents are seeking compensation at this time.

5. The clerk received a telephone call from an owner of a piece of land adjacent to Chalks Farm regarding access which is thought to be through a field on High Easter Road. The clerk asked the owner of the field to contact him. He also wished to gather details regarding the ownership of Chalks Green, the clerk gave him details of the legal team at Uttlesford for this information.
6. Between meetings the clerk circulated a table of Highways defects reported during the last year. Parish Councillors noted that it showed that, as in most villages, although there were lots of problems outstanding, Leaden Roding was among the villages with the highest number of defects reported.
7. Various other documents were circulated for Councillors' attention by email outside the meeting.

**Date of the next meeting**            Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 using the Zoom platform.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.