

LEADEN RODING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at Leaden Roding village hall.

Present: P.Sutterby (Chair), M.Whitehead (Vice-Chair), Mrs Bush, J. McIntock, D.Wareham and District Councillor Susan Barker.

Members of the public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

None

3. MINUTES

Cllr Wareham brought to the clerk's attention that she had omitted to report that a resident asked if it is legal for a landowner to close a public footpath, referring to the path around the field on Dunmow Road opposite the school. The resident stated that she had lived in the village for many years and the path had been a public footpath in the past but now is not. Between meetings Cllr Wareham has looked into this and found that public footpaths cannot be changed unless it has been agreed by the County Council or Central Government. Cllr Barker stated she would refer to Public Rights of Ways for advice. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 7th December 2021 were then proposed by the Chairman as a true record, seconded by Cllr Wareham and carried unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

4.1 A resident stated that the soakaway at the entrance to Holloway Crescent is still in need of repair, this will be reported again.

4.2 A resident stated that the footpath at the entrance to Holloway Crescent by the driveway of Finale is in need of repair, the clerk will report this.

4.3 A resident stated the after works carried out to install broadband cabling by Gigaclear, it appears that water meters outside 10 Holloway Crescent have been covered over. The clerk will investigate who to report this problem to.

4.4 A resident stated that drains in the layby outside 10 Holloway Crescent need to be cleared as there is flooding after heavy rainfall in the area. The clerk will report this.

4.5 A resident expressed concern that cars are being parked in the entrance road to Willow Green, Holloway Crescent which could make it difficult for emergency vehicles to access Willow Green. The clerk will request that Uttlesford police this problem and erect appropriate signage to deter parking on the entrance road.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

5.1 Cllr Barker reported that development work at on land adjacent to Chalks Farm, now being called Mulberry Farm, High Easter Road which appears to be being carried out without any planning approval, has been reported to Uttlesford's Planning Enforcement Team by both herself and the clerk.

5.2 Cllr Barker has had meetings with the Chairman and local landowners to discuss the clearing of ditches which appear to cause flooding on Stortford Road after heavy rain. The problem is ongoing at this time, a local farmer is in the process of digging into the ditches to investigate where the pipework leads to, which will then give an idea of whose responsibility the pipework belongs. Cllr Barker will assist the Parish Council to locate a grant to pay for any work to be carried out to rectify the problem if necessary.

6. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 6.1 Cllr Wareham reported he has looked into the legal height of Highways signs on pavement after an enquiry from a resident in our previous meeting and has found that the sign in question is within the legal height.
- 6.2 Cllr Wareham reported that he has received a reply from Highway regarding the positioning of the posts on Chalks Green and according to their risk assessment they have no cause for concern.
- 6.3 The Chairman and Cllr Wareham reported that they had an enjoyable evening walking to all parts of the village in December to judge the Christmas Lights competition and thanked resident Keely Robinson for her assistance in arranging and advertising the competition. After discussion it was decided to hold the competition again next Christmas but arrange for the judging to be carried out slightly nearer to Christmas as it was felt that some residents were still in the process of erecting Christmas lights when last year's competition was judged.

7. CLERKS REPORT

- 7.1 The clerk reported that Jeanette Norfolk and Geoff Todd will represent the Village Hall Committee to organise arrangements for the Queen's 75th Jubilee celebration in the village. She will ask for volunteers from the Social Club when a meeting is called and requested at least two Councillors to come forward to represent the Parish Council. The Chairman and Cllr Wareham volunteered to help with Cllr Whitehead volunteering if other commitments did not clash. Once all volunteers are in place a meeting will be arranged to discuss arrangements for the celebration.
- 7.2 Damaged soakaway at the corner of Dunmow Road and Holloway Crescent – see above.
- 7.3 After discussion it was decided that the clerk would enquire whether Highways are able to install a VAS sign on the approach to the school on Dunmow Road and seek the cost.
- 7.4 The clerk will request that the 30mph signs on Dunmow Road be extended further towards Aythorpe Roding. She stated that this is a long process as funding and a consultation would need to be arranged by Highways. Cllr Barker confirmed that the process could take approximately 2 years.
- 7.5 The clerk spoke to the owner of the field by Porters Cottage where a resident was having difficulty accessing the footpath across the field. This has now been reinstated and the owner hopes that when crops start growing it will become more defined. The clerk also received an email from the resident confirming that footpath had been reinstated although still slightly difficult walk at this time.
- 7.6 The clerk stated that the Community Policing Team have hired the village hall to organise a public meeting on Tuesday 22nd November at 6.00pm. After discussions it was decided to invite them to speak at the Parish Council's Annual meeting on 17th May.
- 7.7 The clerk received a letter of thanks from the Read family, one of the joint winners of the Christmas lights competition:

All of us here were unbelievably thrilled to receive joint first prize for the Leaden Roding Christmas Lights Competition. We wanted to thank the Parish Council not only for choosing us but for running such a lovely competition. Leaden Roding looked beautiful this year!

We had a family vote on what to do with the prize money. We always support CHESS (Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme) in Chelmsford that do amazing work for the homeless. They are always in desperate need of many items to support those sleeping rough. Now that the sales are on we used the £25 prize money to buy an extra warm sleeping bag to donate to CHESS. This will be truly appreciated by a rough sleeper unable to access accommodation.

I hope the Parish Council will be pleased that the prize money has been put to good use!

Parish Councillors stated that they were pleased that the prize money was put to such good use but also to have received this feedback as it confirms that the decision to run the competition again was correct.

8. FINANCE

8.1 The Chairman proposed that the following cheques be issued, this was seconded by Cllr Bush and carried unanimously.

£17.00 to Leaden Roding Village Hall Trust – hire of hall

£25.00 to Mrs T E Bell – cash prize for Christmas lights competition

£280.00 to R C Bell – printing of Leaden Reading (Dec 2021)

8.2 The clerk reported that prior to the above payments being made the Parish Council bank balances are: Current account - £15,392.87

Deposit account - £344.83

The clerk is still awaiting invoices for the year's grass cutting and also for the green waste skip.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

9.1 The following planning application was circulated to Parish Councillors between meetings for comments:

1A Dunmow Road – Additional entrance/exit on driveway including lowering the kerb – *no objections*

9.2 The following alleged breach of planning has been reported to the Enforcement Team and awaiting a decision:

Land adjacent to Chalks Farm, High Easter Road- unauthorised works including installation of gateway.

10. FOOTPATHS

10.1 Cllr Sutterby reported:

The following issues are still outstanding.

Footpath 1 - bottom of Longsted Lane, the footbridge detached from concrete base.

Footpath 5 - Leaden Hill, timber is rotting on the bridge over the river (ref 2711562).

Cllr Barker will look into both issues as they have been outstanding for some time.

11. PARISH PRECEPT

11.1 The Clerk presented the financial report for the period April to December 2021.

The closing bank balances at December 2021 total £15,737.70, with approximately £3,374.00 in outstanding payments to be made.

11.2 The Parish Council considered the draft budget for 2022/23. After discussion Cllr McIntock proposed the precept remain at £6,500 as although the bank balance is high due to less expenditure during the Covid lockdown, the Parish Council are looking at the possibility of purchasing a VAS sign where the cost would lower the reserve amount. This was seconded by Cllr Bush with all in agreement. The Chairman signed the precept form for the Clerk to submit after the meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 The Clerk reported that she has been notified of a Knife Amnesty event at Leaden Roding Fire Station between 11.00am and 12.00pm on 17th January where a bin will

be in place for knives to be deposited so that they can be disposed of safely and without fear of prosecution.

- 12.2 The Chairman produced information regarding Climate Action Fund grants of up to £30,000.00 which he will pass to the Village Hall committee for their reference.
- 12.3 Cllr Wareham stated a second defibrillator is now in place in the village. This is located in the school grounds. It is unclear whether it is for the use of members of the public or just for school use.
- 12.4 Cllr Bush stated residents of the flats in Holloway Crescent are unhappy regarding the regularity of the emptying of bins by Uttlesford. This causes the room in the flats where the bins are stored to smell. The Chairman stated that during the Christmas period there were delays in the emptying of bins due to Bank Holidays where most of the village were affected, but hopefully all is back to normal. He stated if residents were still unhappy, they should contact Uttlesford directly to express their concerns.
- 12.5 Cllr Bush stated she had received complaints that the dog bin in Holloway Crescent is not being emptied regularly and a bag had been left underneath the bin recently. The Chairman stated due to the Christmas change in timetable the bin was full so he had emptied it and placed the bag underneath for collection, all has now been collected and regular collections should now be resumed.
- 12.6 The Chairman stated that the Green Waste collection of Christmas trees had been well supported again this year.
- 12.7 The Chairman stated that the first village litter pick of 2022 will take place on 2nd April, any volunteers to meet at the village hall at 9.30am.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE DATES FOR 2022.

Tuesday 8th March 2021

Future meetings: Tuesday 17th May 2022 (Annual meeting)
 Tuesday 12th July 2022
 Tuesday 6th September 2022
 Tuesday 18th October 2022
 Tuesday 6th December 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.