

# LEADEN RODING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Leaden Roding village hall.

**Present:** Cllr Phil Sutterby (Chair), Cllr Mike Whitehead (Vice Chair), Cllr Jim McIntock. Cllr Mrs Anne Bush

## Members of the public: 0

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr Mrs Susan Barker

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

None

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were proposed by Cllr Bush as a true record, seconded by Cllr Whitehead and carried unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Sutterby.

### 4. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 The Chairman reported that on 10<sup>th</sup> November he and the clerk attended a Road Safety meeting at Hatfield Broad Oak village hall held for Parish Councillors and clerks in the area to discuss problems with various representatives from agencies dealing with road safety. This was organised by Uttlesford District Councillor Geoff Driscoll, other attendees were Fiona Gardiner – a representative from Uttlesford Safety Partnership, Andrea McCallister - Road and Water Safety manager representing Essex Fire Service, Michael O'Donnell -Smith, the area P.C.S.O and Lewis Barber – Deputy Essex Cabinet Member for Highways. Various road safety and Highways issues were discussed will be reported back to the various agencies, the Chairman stated it was very apparent that all villages are experiencing the same problems regarding road safety with speeding being the main priority. The Chairman and clerk discussed speeding problems in our village highlighting the need for assistance with slowing traffic on Dunmow Road at the school site. No feedback has been received to date.

4.2 The Chairman reported that since 22<sup>nd</sup> September police have visited the village 12 times with speed cameras. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 22 drivers were stopped for speeding with the highest speed caught at 62mph.

4.3 Between meetings the Chairman has reported to Uttlesford that dog bins in the village have not been emptied regularly. He was told this was due to staff shortages.

4.4 The Chairman reported that he has received notice (as a resident of the village) that there will be overnight closures on B184 Dunmow Road for Highways maintenance. The clerk has not received any information regarding this.

4.5 Cllr McIntock reported that on 3<sup>rd</sup> November he attended a meeting at the village hall to give information regarding the Ride London event that will again go through the village in May 2023. He stated that the organisers believe that the roads will not be closed for as long as they were in May 2022 and access into and out of the village should be easier. The Ride London Organisers intend to hold more meetings before the event to keep residents informed and to listen to concerns. He also stated that if the Social Club apply to be a registered stop for the event, Ride London will provide provisions for participants to purchase at no cost and will also donate £500 to the Social Club. Cllr McIntock stated that as a member of the Social Club he is eager to go ahead with this to gain funds for the refurbishment of the toilets at the village hall.

### 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

None

## 6. . CLERKS REPORT

- 6.1 Damaged soakaway at the corner of Dunmow Road and Holloway Crescent – Cllr McIntock stated he did not believe that the soakaway is in need of repair at this time.
- 6.2 Damage to footpath at entrance to Holloway Crescent by Finale driveway – Cllr McIntock reported that he has not witnessed flooding in this area recently but will continue to monitor.
- 6.3 Blocked drains outside 10 Holloway Crescent have been reported – Cllr McIntock reported that he has not witnessed flooding in this area recently but will continue to monitor.
- 6.4 At the last meeting the clerk asked Cllr Barker if she has an update from Cllr Scott regarding looking into why the installations of a VAS sign on the approach to the school which was shelved after being approved by Highways and included in the Local Area Panel projects budget about two years ago and was then removed stating that there was nowhere to place the VAS sign safely as the footpath on Dunmow Road is too narrow. Recently the Parish Council has been advised by the same Highways Officer that a VAS sign can be installed at the same site at the expense of the Parish Council. Cllr Barker has not yet received any information but will ask again – no further update at this time. The clerk also asked County Councillor Lewis Barber to look into this at the Road Safety meeting she attended with the Chairman in November and is awaiting feedback.
- 6.5 Field opposite the school - a resident clearly remembers a footpath to the right of the field in the past– at a previous Parish Council meeting it was reported that Cllr Wareham found that public footpaths cannot be changed unless it has been agreed by the County Council or Central Government. At a previous meeting Cllr Barker reported that she had referred this to Public Rights of Ways for advice and was told there was never a footpath at the location. As the resident was adamant a footpath was there years before, Cllr Barker asked the resident to provide evidence that this was an official footpath and she will then seek advice, this evidence has not yet been provided. Between meetings the clerk thought she had located a map which had the footpath shown and emailed Cllr Barker with the information but agreed after further investigation the line on the map was not a footpath.
- 6.6 The damaged village sign outside Bridge Cottages, Stortford Road previously reported to Highways – this has been reported to Highways again but not on their priority list at this time.
- 6.7 The sign opposite the village hall which is laying on the grass has been reported but not on Highways priority list at this time. Parish Councillors asked the clerk to request that the damaged sign is removed if it is not going to be reinstated imminently.
- 6.8 The damaged sign outside the fire station which was previously reported to Highways has been examined three times by Highways representative but not yet been repaired, Parish Councillors expressed concerns that the small part of the post still in the ground is a health and safety risk – Highways state they have inspected this and the repair is not on their priority list at this time. This problem was also reported at the Road Safety meeting which the Chairman and clerk attended in November.
- 6.9 Overgrown tree and shrubs obscuring the school sign on Dunmow Road has been reported to Highways but not yet cut. At this time the school sign is visible as leaves are not on the trees, the Chairman will inspect to see if he can cut the branches back.
- 6.10 Cllr Whitehead stated that he and another resident had gained permission from one of the owners of Chalks Green to cut back overgrown weeds from the edges of Chalks Green for safety. A handful of other residents assisted with this too.

## 7. FINANCE

7.1 Cllr Whitehead proposed that the following cheques be issued, this was seconded by Cllr Sutterby and carried unanimously.

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

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

7.2 Bank reconciliation:

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Current account balance:  | 15,591.05        |
| Deposit account balance:  | <u>345.01</u>    |
|                           | 15,936.06        |
| Less outstanding cheques: | 2,214.05         |
| Plus outstanding credits: | <u>885.54</u>    |
|                           | <u>14,607.55</u> |

7.3 The clerk stated that, due to ongoing problems with signatories on the bank account which, until resolved, means a new cheque book cannot be issued, she is using as few cheques as possible resulting in some payments still outstanding. Once a new cheque book is issued, payments will be cleared quickly. After lengthy conversations and emails with the bank the clerk has been informed that the signature changes sent to the bank in March 2021 have not been changed and Parish Councillors and the clerk's details appear to have been lost so need to be submitted again. The clerk has submitted her details in order for a cheque book to be issued promptly and has asked Parish Councillors to give copies of identification originally submitted and she will send them to the bank again.

## 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8.1 The following planning applications were circulated between meetings for Parish Councillors' comments:

5 Brownlows Close – Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, conversion of existing garage to habitable space, new detached garage and associated works including new area of hardstanding – *no objections*.

Land rear of 3 Holloway Crescent – Proposed detached bungalow and garage – *no objections*.

8.2 The following decision after appeal to the Secretary of State was received:

Barn North of Leaden Hall Barns, Stortford Road – Change of use of agricultural building to 2 dwellings – Appeal allowed.

8.3 An allegation has been made to Uttlesford that a breach of planning control may have taken place at Burniere, High Easter Road, Uttlesford have confirmed that an investigation has been carried out and decision made to close the file as not expedient.

The Parish Council was unaware of this allegation.

## 9. FOOTPATHS

9.1 Cllr Sutterby reported:

The following issues are still outstanding.

Footpath 5 – bridge over river Roding in need of repair – this is still awaiting repair.

## 10. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

10.1 A discussion took place to decide if the Christmas Lights competition should go ahead at this time as some families are struggling with finances due to the recession. The competition is a joint venture with Leaden Roding Social Club who were keen for the competition to go ahead with 2 prizes of £25 donated between the Parish Council and Social Club. A number of other prizes would be donated from Parish Councillors. After discussion a decision to go ahead with the competition was proposed by Cllr

McIntock, seconded by Cllr Whitehead and carried unanimously. The judging will take place on Monday 19th December by the Chairman and Cllr Whitehead.

#### 11. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

11.1 The clerk has booked meetings for 2023 following the same pattern as 2022 (see list below). Parish Councillors are happy with the dates, the new start time of 7.30pm will continue.

#### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 The clerk read email from Uttlesford Councillor Peter Holt informing that Essex County Council is withdrawing funding for Highways Rangers across the county. To continue with this service Uttlesford is asking Parish and Town Councils to make a voluntary contribution of £1 per registered voter in each parish which would equate to approximately £535.00. After discussion it was decided to sought the views of other local Parish Council before coming to a decision.

12.2 The clerk received an email from the clerk of Caythorpe Roding Parish Council giving information on two points raised at a recent meeting which they have raised the Rodings Primary School:

(a) A recent litter pick showed less rubbish except past the school.

(b) Parking outside the school is causing a danger to road users.

12.3 The clerk reported that a Police Community meeting booked at the village hall for 22<sup>nd</sup> November went ahead although no communication regarding the meeting was made to the clerk since 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It appears all communication regarding advertising the meeting was sent to the village hall bookings clerk in error so the clerk was not aware the meeting was going ahead. Although the meeting was advertised on Facebook a couple of days before there was not other form of advertising. The clerk to be kept informed of any further meetings so they can be advertised to residents appropriately.

12.4 The clerk informed Parish Councillors that the deadline for submitting the Parish Precept to Uttlesford is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. She will add this item to the next Parish Council meeting and circulate finance information to Councillors before the meeting to enable them to discuss the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

12.5 The clerk informed Parish Councillors training briefings are due to take place by the Essex Association of Local Councils regarding procedures for the forthcoming Parish elections in May 2023. There will be 2 briefings in January and 2 in February. The recommend that the briefings are attended by not only the clerk but all Chairman and Councillors as well. The clerk will give more details when received.

12.6 The clerk reported she has completed a Rural Mobility Survey on behalf of the Parish Council. This consisted of giving information regarding amenities in the village and local amenities residents attend outside the village if not available in the village – e.g., doctors surgeries, hospitals, etc.

12.7 The clerk reported that it appears the Post Office have been trialled a Drop and Collect Service operating from the Country Shop from 20<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November. No feedback regarding the trial has been received at this time.

12.8 Earlier today the clerk reported that she had contacted Highways and Cllr Barker to report what appear to be a burst or damaged water pipe at Leaden Hill. A substantial amount of water was flowing down the hill on the A1060 Stortford Road and as the weather is forecasting freezing weather, she is concerned that if the water freezes overnight, it would become very dangerous for motorists. It appears that during the day it has been inspected and fixed very swiftly to avert any danger.

12.9 The Chairman thanked Cllr Barker, Parish Councillors, the clerk and residents for their support during the year and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. October 2023  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.