

# LEADEN RODING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Leaden Roding village hall.

**Present:** Cllr Phil Sutterby (Chairman), Cllr Jim McIntock (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ann Bush, Cllr Jeanette Norfolk, Cllr Geoff Todd and District Cllr Susan Barker.

**Apologies:** -

**Members of the public:** 0

## 1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were proposed by Cllr McIntock as a true record, seconded by Cllr Bush and carried unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## 2. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- 2.1 Cllr Barker reported that Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council are charging the maximum amount to residents this year increasing Council Tax again this year
- 2.2 Cllr Barker reported that after review, the Boundary Commission has changed ward boundaries so from 2025 Leaden Roding will change from being part of Dunmow to the Takeley ward.

## 3. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 3.1 Cllr Norfolk reported that the Christmas lights competition proved a success again in December. Cllrs Norfolk, McIntock and Todd walked around all areas of the village to judge the competition and the two prizes of £25 were awarded to homes in Lordswood View and 1a Willow, Dunmow Road, the latter donating their prize to Mutts in Distress. Five further prizes of wine, chocolates and biscuits donated by Parish Councillors and the clerk were also awarded to various homes in the village. The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors who judged the competition and after discussion it was decided to organise another Christmas lights competition in December 2024.
- 3.2 The Chairman reported that after consulting Cllr Barker, both he and Cllr Todd placed tree stumps on the edge of the grass area at the entrance to Leaden Close to deter parking on the grass. These will be able to be moved to allow the village grass cutting contractor access.
- 3.3 Cllr McIntock reported that once again the resident already reported to have accumulated rubbish in the garden of his council owned property, has started accumulating household waste again, this time a collection of garden furniture is outside his house and outside the empty council owned property next door. Cllr McIntock also reported that he recently witnessed the resident dumping an old washing machine by the flats in Holloway Crescent and promptly took it back. The clerk has not received a reply since reporting the burning of rubbish at the property so will email Gina Holt from Uttlesford Housing again reporting this problem and also requesting an update on the actions from Uttlesford since the last email she sent to them.

## 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

None.

## 5. CLERKS REPORT

- 5.1 After consulting with Cllr Barker, the clerk reported that neither Essex Police or Highways appear to have concerns regarding road safety at the area outside the shop. The Chairman has asked the clerk to invite a representative from Essex Police to attend our Parish Council meeting in May so this can be discussed face to face.
- 5.2 The Chairman informed the clerk that the field by Porters Cottage is still difficult to cross at this time, as all footpaths are very muddy due to exceptionally high rainfall it is hoped that this footpath will be reinstated by the owner of the land sometime soon.
- 5.3 The clerk has reported that after consulting Uttlesford, the broken posts in Holloway Crescent have been put on a maintenance list but not yet fixed.
- 5.4 Accumulation of household waste by a resident in Holloway Crescent – see above in Parish Councillors’ reports (3.3).
- 5.5 Parking on the grass in Leaden Close – see above in Parish Councillors’ reports (3.2).

## 6. FINANCE

6.1 Cllr McIntock proposed that the following cheques be issued, this was seconded by Cllr Norfolk 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

£500.00 to St Michael’s Church PCC – donation to church insurance – see below (9.1)

6.2 Bank reconciliation:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Opening balance at 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 | Current a/c 15,888.40     |
|  | Deposit a/c <u>346.48</u> |
|  | 16,234.88                 |
| Add: Receipts since last PC meeting              | -                         |
| Less: Payments since last PC meeting             | <u>692.00</u>             |
| Balance as at 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024      | <u>15,542.88</u>          |
| Less: Outstanding cheques                        | <u>17.00</u>              |
|  | <u>15,525.88</u>          |

## 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

7.1 The following application was listed on Uttlesford’s planning applications with no request for comments from the Parish Council:

14 Lordswood View – demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new single storey.

7.2 The following planning application has been determined by Uttlesford:

Barn Adjacent to Chalks Farm, High Easter Road – Change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling including new side extension – *Parish Councillors expressed the same concerns as submitted on the previous planning application, which was refused, they are also concerned that work is being carried out at the site despite the previous application being refused -conditional approval.*

## 8. FOOTPATHS

8.1 Cllr Sutterby reported:

Footpath 5 – opposite Leaden Hill Cottages – problem reported with ref 3626969

This repair will be undertaken with a nonspecific timescale – listed for repair.

Footpaths 28 between cricket pitch and Cut Elms Cottage – problem reported with ref 3139090 – listed for repair.

## 9. PARISH PRECEPT 2024/25

9.1 The clerk presented the financial report for the period of April to December 2023, and accounting details for financial year 2022-2023. The closing balances at the end of

December 2023 are £15,575.88 with approximately £2,891.00 in outstanding payments to be made.

9.2 The Parish Council considered the draft budget for 2024/25. After discussion Cllr Todd proposed the precept remain at £6,500.00. Parish Councillors considered a possible increase in the precept for the coming year but decided as funds in the bank accounts are good and there is a cost-of-living crisis at this time it would be more beneficial for residents if the Parish's part of the Precept remained low so not to increase council tax any more than necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Norfolk and carried unanimously.

9.3 The Chairman signed the precept form for the clerk to submit after the meeting.

## 10. DONATION TO CHURCH INSURANCE

10.1 Between meeting Cllr Todd has enquired as to what the church would use a donation from the Parish Council for and found that as the church insurance is high a donation towards this would be appreciated. After discussion Cllr Norfolk proposed a donation of £500 towards church insurance, this was seconded by Cllr Bush and carried unanimously.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Cllr Todd stated that as the village looked good when lit with Christmas lights recently, he would like to try to locate Christmas lights that were originally on the village tree in Leaden Roding; he thought they may be stored in the village hall. Cllr Todd suggested they could be placed around the village hall or along the hedges at the front of the hall. After discussion it was decided to try to locate the lights or purchase some new ones for next Christmas if they were not in working order.

11.2 Cllr McIntock informed Parish Councillors that the Village Hall Committee are in the process of arranging for a Clothing Bank to be placed in the village hall grounds, funds collected from the clothes donated will go towards the maintenance of the village hall.

11.3 The Chairman stated there will be a village litter pick in April, the date has not yet been finalised.

11.4 There was discussion regarding the village Emergency Plan which at this time is not up to date regarding details of Parish Councillors. Although in the case of an emergency in the village, the Parish Emergency Plan would probably be superseded by modern technology advising residents of necessary arrangements, the clerk will update the Plan with new Councillors details.

11.5 The clerk read an email informing that the Digi Go bus service has been extended to March 2026 with a further extension into 2028 being considered on the basis of continued success and growth.

11.6 The clerk read an email from Uttlesford Community Action Network informing of mobile hub vehicles which visit villages to deliver a range of services to improve the life of residents of Uttlesford, their mission is to reduce loneliness and support vulnerable people in rural areas. They would like to visit local parishes and are requesting a place to park in Leaden Roding. The clerk will pass this to the Village Hall Committee to see if they would like to find a convenient time for the mobile hub to be parked at the village hall car park.

11.7 The clerk read an email from a resident of Margaret Roding who would like to set up a food bank in the areas to support local people and would like the support of Parish Councils in the area. It was decided that the clerk invite her to the next Parish Council meeting in March to discuss ways in which we can support this cause.

11.8 The Clerk read an email from PCSO Mike O'Donnell- Smith touching base with Parish Councils to see if there are any issues he can assist with. It was decided that the clerk invite him to our Parish Council in May primarily to discuss issues with road safety at the shop (see 5.1 above).

- 11.9 The clerk read an email from Ben Brown, Director – Environmental Services, Uttlesford apologising for the late collection of waste since the Christmas and New Year Break due to underestimating the amount of waste which needed to be collected and explaining that due to exceptionally high winds the collections were made much slower.
- 11.10 The clerk and Chairman have received an email from a resident expressing his concern that although surrounding villages have had trees and hedges cut back during the last few months, none have been cut in Leaden Roding. The clerk has informed the resident she has requested trees and hedges to be cut on Dunmow Road (ref 2872208), this is yet to be completed.
- 11.11 The Clerk read an email inviting Parish Councillors to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Uttlesford District Public meeting at Dourdan Pavilion, Great Dunmow on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00pm to 8.00pm.
- 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE DATES FOR 2024:

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

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