

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at Leaden Roding village hall.

Present: Cllr Phil Sutterby, Cllr Ann Bush, Cllr Jim McIntock, Cllr Jeanette Norfolk and District Cllr Susan Barker

Apologies: Cllr Geoff Todd

Members of the public: 3

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 3rd December 2024 were proposed by Cllr Norfolk as a true record, seconded by Cllr Bush and carried unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None

3. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

3.1 Cllr Barker reported Essex County Council have opted for devolution and now are waiting for the Government to accept this decision.

3.2 Cllr Barker advised that after another major water leak in High Roding causing no water in many surrounding villages including Leaden Roding, the Parish Council should contact Affinity Water and our local MP to request that the water mains on the B184 are upgraded. Parish Councillors were in agreement to follow this advice; the clerk will contact both our local MP and Affinity Water.

4. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 Cllr McIntock reported that large electrical items have been fly tipped in the bin area of Holloway/Willow Crescent. The clerk will report this again to Uttlesford.

4.2 Cllr Sutterby stated that Cllr Todd has now removed the fallen elm tree on the grass area by the roundabout.

4.3 Cllr Sutterby reported that he has erected posters to encourage residents to pick up after their dogs in various positions in the village, seeking permission from landowners where necessary.

4.4 Cllr McIntock stated that the sign for High Easter at the roundabout has been dislodged. As it takes time for Highways to repair, he will look into the possibility of repairing it himself.

4.5 Cllr Sutterby reported that after agreeing with Aythorpe Roding Parish Council at the last meeting to jointly request Highways consider safety measures for reducing speeding vehicles on B184 on the approaches to the school, he has received information from Aythorpe Roding PC that they have emailed Highways but not yet received any response.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION/CONCERNS

5.1 Two owners of plots in the woods in High Easter Road attended the meeting to make it clear to Parish Councillors that there were twelve plots in the woods sold to different purchasers and they feel that since a building was erected by another purchaser they have been stereotyped as looking to do the same. They wanted to make it clear that they have both purchased their plots to enjoy the unspoilt woodland and will continue to follow the protocol of the Woodland Trust and are not party to any of the felling or development in other parts of the woods.

6. CLERKS REPORT

6.1 Ongoing antisocial behaviour from a resident in Holloway Crescent – rubbish still appears to be accumulating on the property and the smell of burning is prominent a lot of the time the clerk will ask if Uttlesford are still monitoring this.

6.2 The clerk has requested rubbish accumulating behind St. Michaels Mead and The Goldings be cleared by Whirlledge and Knott.

- 6.3 The clerk is in the process of setting up a dedicated parish council .gov email as recommended by the Practitioners Guide 2023. The clerk has received information from other parish councils that Cloud Next is the recommended domain to provide this for a fee of £100 per annum for the domain name and email account. Year 1 will be covered by a government grant. Parish Councillors agreed unanimously to go with Cloud Next.
- 6.4 Uttlesford Community Police were due to visit the village on Sunday 8th December to speak to residents and expected to be stationed outside the shop at 3.30pm (see 10.2 in minutes of 3rd December 2024). Neither the Chairman or the clerk witnessed any police presence at that date and time, the clerk has not been informed of a reason why they did not attend.
- 6.5 The Oak tree in Holloway Crescent has not yet been cut, Cllr McIntock reported that, at this time there is no foliage on the tree so is not blocking light – this will be monitored when there is growth on the tree.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 Cllr Norfolk 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 (2024)

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The following planning application was received from Uttlesford for Parish Councillors' comments:

Chase Wood, High Easter Road, Leaden Roding – Section 73A Retrospective application for change of use of woodland to wood hobby area – the clerk has requested through Cllr Barker that this decision be 'called in' so the decision is made by the Planning Committee rather than Officers. The reasons for this are that:

This is ancient woodland and should be protected as such. Woodland needs managing and coppicing on rotation but these structures are not needed for this.

The applicants do not need structures in the woods themselves to carry out their hobbies.

The structures are very visible from the road through the woods and are detrimental to the woodland setting.

If granted the applications sets a precedent for further structures to be erected.

Langleys Farm, Poplars Lane – proposed change of use of land from commercial to residential and erection of 2 detached self-build dwellings with new vehicular access gate – *no objections*.

Coombe Cottage, Stortford Road – Proposed ground floor side extension, internal alterations and all associated works – *no objections*.

New Cottage, Dunmow Road – S73A retrospective application for catslide dormers and black cladding – Parish Councils concerns are that the original approved application was for a garage but it appears the structure built is now a home. This is causing vehicles which should be parked on the property being parked at the end of the side road opposite the property causing visibility issues for traffic driving in and out of the road.

9. FOOTPATHS

- 9.1 Cllr Sutterby reported:

Broken footbridge on footpath 28 from Cloghams Green to Cut Elms – this has been reported (ref 2954316).

10. PARISH PRECEPTS

10.1 The accounts were presented by the clerk for the period April to December 2024, these were accepted by the parish council. The bank balance on 31st December was £13,372.40.

10.2 The clerk presented a draft expenditure budget for consideration. After discussion regarding a proposed purchase of two VAS cameras at a cost of approximately £3,000 each, Parish Councillors discussed rising the precept to £12,000, which will show as a

82.29% increase on the current year on council tax bills for the Parish Council portion of the precept. The average band D cost will be £43.24 per annum. Cllrs Norfolk proposed a precept of £12,000, this was seconded by Cllr Bush and carried unanimously.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 The clerk read an email from the Essex Association of Local Councils encouraging Parish Councils to take part in some activities for VE Day 80 on Thursday 8th May 2025. After discussion it was decided to consult with Leaden Roding Village Hall and Social Club committees to try to arrange a joint evening of activities for the event.
- 11.2 The clerk reported that she was contacted by a new resident of Bridge House Cottages, Stortford Road requesting the Parish Council support her request of Highways that a footpath be created from Bridge Cottages to join the existing footpath at the industrial area. The clerk stated that the Parish Council would back this request but it will take a large amount of time for Highways to look into the possibility, make plans and gain funding before the footpath is instated.
- 11.3 The clerk has had a request from the clerk from High Easter Parish Council to see if the Parish Council will join in collaborating with local Parish Councils to pull together a grant application to support and grow local bus routes in our area. Cllr Bush stated she is willing to be part of the small working group to put the application together. The clerk will put Cllr Bush's name forward.
- 11.4 The clerk has received a quote from John Kenney – our village grass cutter, of £4,800 for cutting back the overhanging vegetation and scrub around the area opposite the village shop without completely exposing the houses but gaining vision and clearance to the bulk of the vegetation, the ground to be worked to enable it to be seeded throughout. After discussion it was agreed in principle for this to go ahead but Parish Councillors would like to meet with Mr Kenney and ideally residents of the homes affected so there would not be any problems when the work is being carried out.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 4th March 2025
Tuesday 13th May 2025
Tuesday 8th July 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Tuesday 14th October 2025
Tuesday 2nd December 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.