

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at Leaden Roding village hall.**

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

Apologies: Cllr Ann Bush

Members of the public: 3

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 14th January 2025 were proposed by Cllr McIntock as a true record, seconded by Cllr Norfolk 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 that due to the Local Government Review there will be no County Council election this year. There should be an election in 2026 for a Mayor of Essex and in 2026/27 elections for the new unitary areas.

3.2 In September 2025 details of the new unitary areas for Essex will be submitted to the government.

4. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 The Chairman reported that there has been no further feedback from Highways regarding the joint initiative with Aythorpe Roding for safety measures on Dunmow Road at the school.

4.2 Cllr McIntock reported that two cars appear to have been dumped in the village, one in Willow Green and another in Holloway Crescent, he provided the make and registration numbers of the cars. The clerk will report this to Uttlesford.

4.3 Cllr Norfolk expressed her concern regarding dog fouling in the village which appears to be getting worse. The clerk stated that anybody witnessing this should report it to Uttlesford Animal Warden and fines will be issued.

4.4 The Chairman reported that Highways have recently cut the hedges on Dunmow Road on one side only, it is hoped that the other side will be cut imminently.

4.5 Large electrical items have been fly tipped in the bin area of Holloway/Willow Crescent. The clerk will report this again to Uttlesford.

4.6 It appears that somebody is living in a caravan in Willow Green, the clerk will report this to Uttlesford.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION/CONCERNS

5.1 Residents from Holloway Close attended the meeting to express their concern regarding post erects at the end of the grass area at Holloway Close which have stopped access to vehicles driving onto the grass including ambulances, fire engines and Uttlesford's own mower which now cannot access the grass to enable it to be cut. The residents stated that although residents never leave their cars on the grass for long periods of time, they do occasionally drive to their doors if they have heavy items in their cars and also one resident is dropped off at their door as they are in poor health and it would be difficult for them to walk to and from the parking area. Residents want to find out if there should have been planning permission for the posts, what the cost to install the posts, they were unhappy that residents of Holloway Close were not informed this was going to happen and were not consulted about it for their views. Cllr Barker requested that the clerk sends her an email with the concerns of residents and Parish Councillors and she will make enquiries to Uttlesford.

5.2 A resident from Holloway Close stated the unsociable behaviour from a resident is continuing despite being reported to Uttlesford by the both the Parish Council and individual residents. The resident was witnessed smashing metal on the path of an adjoining home damaging some of the path. There are new residents who recently moved to the property next door and this is not a good welcome to the village. The clerk will once again report to Uttlesford.

6. CLERKS REPORT

6.1 Ongoing antisocial behaviour from a resident in Holloway Crescent – see 5.2 above.

6.2 The clerk requested rubbish accumulating behind St. Michaels Mead and The Goldings be cleared by Whirledge and Knott, this does not appear to have been cleared as yet.

6.3 The clerk is in the process of setting up a dedicated parish council .gov email as recommended by the Practitioners Guide 2023 and will have it set up by the next meeting.

6.4 Cllrs Sutterby and McIntock have now re-erected the sign for the Easters located at the roundabout.

6.5 The clerk has given Cllr Bush's details as representative for Love Your Local Bus group to the clerk for High Easter, no feedback to report at this time.

6.6 The clerk has spoken to John Kenney regarding cutting bushes and overgrowth by the roundabout. Before anything is agreed the Chairman suggested he should speak with John Kenney and the residents who previously halted the cut so they could agree on what and where should be cut. The clerk will pass the Chairman's contact details to John Kenney.

6.7 The clerk reported that the joint arrangement with the Village Hall Committee and the Social Club to hold a VE Day event on Thursday 8th May is under way. Arrangements have been made to hold a free burger or hot dog event on the evening of 8th May culminating with the lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm. The clerk will print leaflets to be posted to every resident, has ordered a VE Day flag and will coordinate payment for purchases for the event. Members of all three committees have volunteered to help on the evening and with the delivering of leaflets. The event will also be advertised on Social Media, the village notice board and the website.

7. FINANCE

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

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

£ 1,539.00 to Uttlesford District Council – fortnightly green skip for 2024

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

A further application for 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. Parish Councillors for this are that:

- The building is less than 100 meters from the road and can be seen from the road and it can also be seen if you use footpath 14 which is not what the planning application suggests.
- From the application it states work started on 10/07/2023. This was obviously started without any consideration to the forest, its surroundings, the protected plant species and local residents. It's only now almost two years later that the plan has been submitted, which should have been done at the start!
- List on the planning application is that the applicant has said to the question: - *Are there any trees or hedges adjacent to the proposed development?* They have answered "no" to this question. In this wood there are definitely trees surrounding the whole area, albeit, less than this time a few years ago.

- Irreplaceable habitat has already been destroyed - the application talks about how the building has no impact and it clearly has done already.
- It looks like it has the potential to be used as a dwelling.
- The ecological survey should be thrown out - who (and what kind of reputable firm) carries out an ecological survey in January, it should be done no earlier than April.
- The fact that this site is an ancient woodland seems to have been overlooked (glossed over) in the application, and as such we would presume that no development should be approved within it.
- Is a building this size required to manage 0.4ha (1 acre) of woodland? The last 400 years of evidence would suggest not.
- After requesting advice from the Woodland Trust, the response received is:
Thank you for seeking the Forestry Commission's advice about the impacts that this application may have on Ancient Woodland. As a non-statutory consultee, the Forestry Commission is pleased to provide you with the attached information that may be helpful when you consider the application:

Details of Government Policy relating to ancient woodland

Information on the importance and designation of ancient woodland

Ancient woodlands are irreplaceable. They have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, with many features remaining undisturbed. This applies equally to Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).

It is Government policy to refuse development that will result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland, unless "there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists" (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 186).

We also particularly refer you to further technical information set out in Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland – plus supporting Assessment Guide and Case Decisions.

New Cottage, Dunmow Road – S73A retrospective application for catslide dormers and black cladding – Parish Councillors concerns are;

- The original approved application was for a garage but it appears the structure built is now a home.
- Work carried out seems in line with change of use to a residential dwelling without a planning request for this.
- Residents have been seen living within the building and also extra cars for these residents are now being parked dangerously on the opposite side of Dunmow Road/Leaden Close as there is not enough car parking space at New Cottage and cannot see how this provision would occur as there is no frontal space for extra vehicles.
- This parking is causing problems for people trying to access Leaden Close.
- As residents seem to be living in the accommodation it seems the property owners have not followed the correct planning requirements for change of use.

Land at Poplars Lane, White Roding – Agricultural storage building – *No objections.*

1 Bridge House, Stortford Road – Re render house and replacement windows – *No objections.*

Rodings Primary School, Dunmow Road – Retention of a class base for a temporary period – *No objections.*

8.2 The following decisions to determine planning applications listed below have been made by Uttlesford:

Chase Wood, High Easter Road – Section 73A retrospective application for change of use of woodland to hobby area - Refuse

Cumorah, Dunmow Road – Use of first floor area over existing garage (formerly playroom) as a one-bedroom, single occupancy flat – Approve Cert Lawfulness

Land at Stortford Road – Erection of 2 detached dwellings – Conditional Approval

Rodings Primary School – Retention of a class base for a temporary period – No objections

Coombe Cottage, Stortford Road – Ground floor side extension, internal alterations and all associated works – Conditional Approval

9. FOOTPATHS

9.1 Cllr Sutterby reported:

Broken footbridge on footpath 28 from Cloghams Green to Cut Elms which was reported on 23rd November 2024 (ref 2954316) has not yet been repaired.

10. PURCHASE OF VAS SIGN

10.1 The clerk has made enquiries regarding the purchase and installation of a VAS sign and passed information she has gained to Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors will need to decide where the VAS signs will be positioned and if there is already a suitable pole in the ground there is no need to apply to Essex Highways for planning permission. If a pole needs to be installed planning permission will need to be obtained. The clerk has details from a VAS company used by some other Parish Councils called Elan City who supply solar cameras which need a standard 89mm post for installation. More details need to be gained regarding the positioning and installation, the clerk will find more information from Highways to be discussed at the next meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 The Chairman requested that the clerk purchase new pads for the village defibrillator – these will be purchased as soon as possible.

11.2 The clerk reported that Uttlesford are arranging multi- agency Neighbourhood Roadshows once again this year, the closest ones to Leaden Roding is on 20th May at High Easter and High Roding.

11.3 Parish Councillors have been invited to the Annual General Meeting of Uttlesford Citizens Advice which will be held at 12pm on 10th March at Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden.

11.4 The clerk reported that there has been some disruption to waste collection in the village recently which was due to staff sickness. Uttlesford have apologised for this and hope normal collections will resume and run smoothly.

11.5 Between meetings the clerk was approached by a resident requesting that the Parish Council fund an animal scanner at a cost of £46.54. The resident was concerned with the number of dogs and cats being found in the Rodings where, when out of vet's normal hours, the only scanner to determine the owners is with a vet in Witham. The resident stated that if funded by the Parish Council, they would take full responsibility for the scanning and locating of owners of lost dogs and cats. After discussion it was unanimously decided that the Parish Council would not fund this, the opinion was that it would not be good use of public funding.

11.6 The Chairman has arranged for a village litter pick on 29th March at 9.00am.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13th May 2025 (Annual Meeting and Annual Village Meeting)

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 9.35pm.