

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at Leaden Roding village hall.

Present: Chair Jeanette Norfolk, Cllr Jim McIntock, Cllr Geoff Todd, Cllr Jo Waters, Cllr Jeff Farrington and District Cllr Susan Barker.

Apologies: County Cllr Geoff Bagnall

Members of the public: 5

The Chair opened the meeting by expressing her thanks to the outgoing Chair, Phil Sutterby, for his 15 years of service to the Parish Council. She acknowledged his valued assistance, knowledge and wisdom, and noted that his contribution would be greatly missed by the Parish Council.

The Chair welcomed two new Parish Councillors, who were due to be formally co-opted at the meeting.

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 21st July 2026 were proposed by the Chair as a true record, seconded by the Cllr Todd and carried unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

2. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- 2.1 The Parish Council considered the application of co-option to fill a vacant parish councillor position. Following consideration, it was resolved to co-opt Joanna Waters to the Parish Council.
- 2.2 The Parish Council considered the application of co-option to fill a vacant parish councillor position. Following consideration, it was resolved to co-opt Jeffery Farrington to the Parish Council.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- 5.1 Cllr Barker reported that the resident in the flats in Holloway Crescent causing antisocial behaviour has now been moved by Uttlesford.
- 5.2 Cllr Barker advised the Parish Council that the best contact for reporting antisocial behaviour by council tenants is Uttlesford's Antisocial Behaviour Officer instead of Housing, the clerk will use this contact in future.

6. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 6.1 Cllr Norfolk stated her concern regarding an incident in Holloway Crescent where a resident incinerating cardboard on one of the hottest days of the year caused a fire in his garden which got out of control. Thankfully the fire brigade extinguished the fire before it spread to any properties or fields in the area. After discussion it was decided that if any residents were concerned regarding further fire risks they should report it to Uttlesford's Antisocial Behaviour Officer.
- 6.2 Cllr McIntock reported that the resident accumulating rubbish in his back garden is now using vans parked in the small car park in Holloway Crescent to store further rubbish. The clerk will report to Uttlesford's Antisocial Behaviour Officer.
- 6.3 Cllr Norfolk reported that a silver transit van appears to have been dumped by the flats in Holloway Crescent. She will send the VIN number to Cllr Barker who will report to Uttlesford.
- 6.4 Between meetings, the Clerk and Chair received information from a resident regarding Chalks Green. As the matter did not fall within the remit of the Parish Council, the

Chair responded to the resident and advised them to refer the matter to Uttlesford District Council.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

7.1 The mother of a resident of the village who survived the tragic accident on Stortford Road on 28th April 2026 read a statement which she requested to be included in the minutes:

*"My name is **Martine**, and my son is **Bradley Gilbert**.*

As you all know, Bradley was severely injured in the horrific collision on Stortford Road that also tragically took the life of sixteen-year-old Oliver Lane.

Bradley is currently healing, but his injuries have changed our families' lives forever.

I am standing here tonight because of Emily Mainwaring and her efforts to make the roads safe for the villages, who constantly and systematically falling on deaf ears/brick walls, and this needs to change, after her and her husband Richard saved my sons life at the roadside of this accident, she has tirelessly tried to get something safe put in place to protect all villagers who need to cross the road safely!

This has fallen on deaf ears, with Cllr Sue Barker stating that until a death takes place, nothing can be done.

A few days later, she again spoke to Cllr Barker and said a death has now occurred and what can be done.

She advised Emily nothing could be done for 2-3 years as there was no funding.

When Emily questioned this, she again said it's not my problem anymore; I've forwarded this on to my successor, Geoff Bagnall. Emily is also in conversation with him regarding this.

But my issue is not only with what is currently being done to prevent future accidents but how historically Cllr Barker has systematically ignored and buried the need for a safe crossing point.

I received an official internal email from the Highways Design Team. I want to share its contents with this room, because every parent and person in this village needs to hear how our children and the elderly are being protected or the lack of protection, as the case seems to be.

*According to the council's own records, a formal request for a safe pedestrian crossing on Stortford Road was logged in May 2024 under reference **LUTT243001**.*

Essex Highways did not investigate it. They did not run a safety survey.

Why? Because the officer wrote in black and white that they did not have the funding. A basic pedestrian survey costs less than five hundred pounds.

The council chose to shelf a known safety hazard to save pocket change.

*But it gets worse, and **Councillor Sue Barker** needs to hear this directly because she is sitting in this room tonight.*

*The official email from the Highway Liaison Officer states explicitly, and I quote: '**During the following financial year, the former County Member, Councillor Barker, was asked to prioritise which requests would be progressed to a survey and unfortunately according to my notes from the time this scheme request was not selected for a survey.**'*

Councillor Barker, you were given the specific choice to prioritize the safety of Stortford Road. You had the power to order that survey. You chose not to select it.

*Instead of demanding real data, the highways department admits they simply **guessed the danger level**. They wrote that they 'did not feel' the road would meet the criteria for a crossing. They used guesswork instead of facts. And because that guesswork was wrong, a teenager is dead and my son is severely injured.*

*So, while the council argued that they did not have five hundred pounds for a survey on Stortford Road, I want to address what the council did have funding for right next door on the adjoining Dunmow Road, under references **LUTT222015** and **LUTT202024**.*

*To date, the council has poured a total of **thirty-seven thousand, six hundred pounds** of taxpayers' money into that side road. And let me tell you exactly where those thirty-seven thousand pounds went, because not one single penny of it touched the tarmac.*

*In December 2023, under phase one, they spent **eight thousand pounds** on 'Initial Desk Studies' for a private contractor to draw office pictures and run utility checks.*

*In June 2025, under phase two, they spent another **five thousand, five hundred pounds** on 'Administrative Finalisation' just to mark that paperwork as 'Completed' on their office computers. That is thirteen thousand, five hundred pounds completely emptied from the public budget and gone—leaving the physical road entirely unchanged.*

*The remaining **twenty-four thousand, one hundred pounds** was parked into a rolling construction pot. It was supposed to physically build traffic calming features in September 2025. It was delayed, it was unbuilt, and it is currently sitting frozen in a bureaucratic log.*

The total spent on the road surface is zero. Nothing has been built on the tarmac.

*Right now, there is not a single safe crossing point on this network for a minimum of **six miles**. Our children, our elderly our families step off public buses and are forced to cross a high-speed road entirely unprotected.*

TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY - the PV2 from 2023 on the Dunmow Road LUTT222014 gave the council/highways grounds to immediately fast-track a safety intervention; under the Highways Act 1980 the highway authority is responsible for the safety of the entire network, not just individual strips of asphalt.

In 2023, the PV2 LUTT222014 found that the average speed on approaching Leadon Roding was 36.6mph and the council possesses constructive knowledge that the village as a whole suffers an active speed crisis.

They have a legal obligation to view the village in its entirety as a singular continuous hazardous zone.

The law does not require a separate PV2 was needed, as the existing one should have triggered a “stage 4 safety review”

But the authorities decided to use internal procedures as a shield to do nothing!

The authorities were 100% aware that even at a pelican crossing no deterrent was offered to speeders and did nothing; this represents a severe systematic failure to protect the residents of Leaden Roding.

*And now, the council has quietly **disbanded the Local Highway Panels**, telling us there is 'no other mechanism' to request safety changes.*

The county council has completely abandoned the safety of Leaden Roding.

And let me be completely clear tonight: this information is not staying in this room. My very next step is to hand this entire timeline and Sarah Tomlin's leaked email directly to our MP, Kemi Badenoch, and to the editors of the local press. The public deserves to know exactly how choices were made to prioritise office budgets over children's lives.

*I am asking the Parish Council tonight: **Do not let them get away with this.** Councillor Barker, I want you to look at my family and explain that choice tonight. And I want this Parish Council to formally vote to use local funds to hire an independent safety team, run our own traffic survey, bypass the county's excuses, and force them to build a safe crossing before another child in this village is hurt.*

I want to take this time to make a Closing Personal Statement

"We cannot change the past. But we are not going to just close the stable door after the horse has bolted. We are going to make sure that door is locked forever to protect the rest of the community!"

My son has been blessed with the absolute miracle of surviving this.

But I want to explain the true effect this council's desire to save five hundred pounds has cost my family!

[SEP]My son Brad is 23 and was in the prime of his life until the 28th Apr 26 when he was hit by a van.[SEP]He received a Grade Three Diffuse Axonal Injury. For those of you in this room who are not medically trained, let me tell you what that means.

The impact to Bradley's head was so violent that his brain shook in different directions, ripping the tissue almost completely in half. His frontal and rear brain lobes were damaged. He suffered hundreds of active microbleeds. These things NEVER repair themselves!

His eye socket was burst open. His face was ripped apart. When I asked the neurologist about his skull fractures, they told me he had too many to even count.

They described my son's head as a dropped egg—smashed to pieces on the inside, but held together only by the shell.

His brain bled so extensively the doctors described it as (in my words) something resembling a slush puppy. ^[1]_{SEP}Both of his legs were broken.

His lung collapsed from the sheer force of the air being blasted out of his body.

When the police came to my door that night, I asked them if my son was alive. They looked at me and said: 'We don't know. We just want to get you to the hospital in time to say goodbye.'

For days, I lived hour to hour. I sat by his bed, never knowing if the last time I told him I loved him would be the last time I ever got to say those words to my child.

I stand here tonight for Brad and for Oliver, whose short life has ended all because the authorities refused to find five hundred pounds, or simply do their jobs by using the traffic data they already bought three years prior for zero extra cost.

Now, I challenge anyone sitting in this room tonight to look at me and tell me the financial value of your child's life.

My son was not hit by a lunatic driver; he was hit by a middle-aged man heading home from work, the police have refused to pay for forensic information to confirm the driver's speed that killed Oliver Lanes and ruined my son's life, again I am being sited burocratic funding as the issue, I was told and I am quoting the police directly "we can not justify wasting £3000 of the tax payers money when we don't think the driver was excessively speeding" again my son and Oliver being let down and de-valued,

Is it the five hundred pounds for a survey we didn't even need?

Based on medical knowledge and independent assessments, the driver's speed was estimated/alleged to be around 32- 33 mph. At this speed, had the safe crossing point to traffic calming measures been put into place, we wouldn't NOT be here today!

At just reducing to a mere 28 Oliver would most likely be alive today. If the driver had slowed to 25 mph, both my son and Oliver would have maybe sustained a break or two, so this shows the importance of the historical PV2, which shows the average speed through my village is 36.6mph

To break this down for all concerned AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety indicates that being hit by a van at

25mph - 25% suffer a fatality or severe, life-threatening injury (classified as AIS 4+, meaning severe trauma like a critical brain injury or major internal organ damage)

30mph - this increases to 50%

3mph – this becomes 65%

So I ask: Is the thirty-seven thousand, six hundred pounds you wasted paying off office contractors to make absolutely no changes to our tarmac worth more than our villagers' lives?

In the UTTLESFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MEETING AGENDA

Section 12 – The final works at a cost of £24,100 was due to be completed in 1 year

<i>Date: Time: Venue:</i>	<i>Monday 29th September 2025 14:00 Online Microsoft Teams Call</i>
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Chairman: Panel Members:	CC Member Ray Gooding
Officers:	CC Member Susan Barker, CC Member Martin Foley, CC Member Paul Gadd
	Essex Highways – Daniel Maclean, Highway Liaison Team Leader
	Essex Highways – Sarah Tomlin, Highway Liaison Officer

1	Implementa tion of Speed Control Measures in Dunmow Road, Leaden Roding	Implementa tion of Speed Control Measures in Dunmow Road, Leaden Roding	Dunmow	Lead en Rodi ng CP	Traffic Managem ent	Implementa tion	LUTT222 015	£24,1 00	Due to be comple ted Year 1 quarter 3	Q 3
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In the UTTLESFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MEETING AGENDA

Date: Time: Venue:	Tuesday 31 st March 2026 10:30 Online Microsoft Teams Call
Chairman: Panel Members:	CC Member Ray Gooding CC Member Susan Barker, CC Member Martin Foley, CC Member Paul Gadd
Officers:	Essex Highways – Daniel Maclean, Highway Liaison Team Leader Essex Highways – Sarah Tomlin, Highway Liaison Officer

Section 18 – The final works for £24,100 are listed as completed

18	Implement ation of Speed Control Measures in Dunmow Road, Leaden Roding	Implement ation of Speed Control Measures in Dunmow Road, Leaden Roding	Dunmow	Lead en Rodi ng CP	Traffic Managem ent	Implement ation	LUTT222 015	£24,1 00	Comple ted	Comple ted
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TO DATE NO WORK HAS EVER BEEN DONE!

I have lived in the village for 19 years, and not a single change has been made!

I am not a politician. I don't know all the rules or the laws. I found all of this evidence out in just two hours this morning by simply looking at your own public records.

But what I am is a mother with a big voice. And I want this Parish Council to stand behind me tonight, help me make that voice heard, and force them to make this village safe for every child and every elderly resident who cannot run for their lives across that road.

Thank you.

After discussion, the clerk will email Cllr Bagnall to ask for assistance with appropriate measures Highways could consider in the area. Cllr Farrington suggested that after a fatal accident Highways are at liberty to routinely undertake a view of the road to consider safety measures, the clerk will also request if this is the case.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

- 8.1 Ongoing antisocial behaviour from a resident in Holloway Crescent – see 6.2 above.
- 8.2 Camper van in Willow Close – still in situ with electricity still being supplied to the camper van from the adjoining house, the clerk will report again.
- 8.3 Local PCSO, Mike O'Donnell Smith was unable to attend the Social Club on Friday 21st August due to other work commitments. He has organised another three dates – 25th September, 23rd October and 20th November but the dates are subject to change due to his shift pattern. The clerk will contact him nearer the time to confirm before advertising the dates on the website and Facebook page.
- 8.4 The clerk reported the PCSO Mike O'Donnell Smith has agreed to perform further speed checks in the village after receiving a request from Cllr Norfolk.
- 8.5 Overhanging hedges on Chelmsford Road have been reported but not yet cut.
- 8.6 Cllr Farrington now has the key for the village notice board and will revarnish in due course.
- 8.7 The overgrown hedge between Holloway Crescent and the village hall has been reported but not yet cut.

9. FINANCE

9.1 The Chair proposed that the following cheques be issued, this was seconded by Cllr Waters and carried unanimously:

£19.00 to Leaden Roding Village Hall Trust – hire of hall

9.2 The Chair approved the following debit to the bank account; this was seconded by Cllr Waters and carried unanimously:

£4.99 debited by Santander Bank on 21.07.2026 – Bank charges

£4.99 debited by Santander Bank on 20.08.2025 – Bank charges

9.3 The clerk researched into banking options with a view to switching to another bank and instigating online banking. She reported that the two best options she found were Unity Bank which has a specialised parish community organisation account with charges of £7 per month or a NatWest Community Bank Account with no charges but one of the signatories would need to have an account already with NatWest. After discussion Cllr Waters stated she has experience with using a community account with Lloyds with no charges. The clerk will research Lloyds and report back at the next meeting.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

UTT/26/1442 – 3 Leaden Hall Farm Cottages, Stortford Road – Application to discharge condition 3 (doors and skirting) attached to UTT/26/0419 – Discharge conditions in full.

UTT/26/1275/CLP – Land at Newhouse Farm, Stortford Road – Certificate of Lawfulness which seeks to confirm that the placement of a caravan for agricultural purposes would not constitute

‘development’ as defined under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Proposed – Approve Certificate of Lawfulness.

UTT/26/0742/LB – 1 Leaden Hall Farm Cottages, Stortford Road - Retention of unauthorised works, remedial works and improvements – Conditional Approval.

UTT/26/0917/HHE – 1 Leaden Hall Farm Cottages, Stortford Road – Creation of driveway and car parking area to front elevation (partially implemented), provision of oil tank to west elevations including shed to enclose it (partially implemented) and 2 side extensions (1 single and 1 two storey) – Conditional Approval.

11. PARISH COUNCIL WHATSAPP GROUP

- 11.1 The Chair proposed that the Parish Council should use a WhatsApp group for Parish Councillors and the clerk as a means of communication for urgent business. This was seconded by Cllr McIntock and carried unanimously. The Chair will organise.

12. FOOTPATHS

- 12.1 The clerk reported information received from Phil Sutterby:
Footpath 14 High Easter Road has been ploughed but the path has not been reinstated.
Footpath 12 on A1060 has not yet been ploughed.

13. PURCHASE OF VAS SIGNS

- 13.1 The clerk reported that after completing more online forms, she is hoping to receive the VAS licence imminently. Once the licence has been granted the sign will be ordered with the view to have it installed as soon as possible.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 The Chair asked Parish Councillors and Cllr Barker if they had any objections to changing regular Parish Council meetings to Monday evenings at 7.30pm. All were in agreement with a view to avoiding the first Monday of the month if possible. The clerk will check the Mondays are available with the village hall bookings clerk.

- 14.2 The Chair is not able to attend the next meeting on 13th October; it was unanimously agreed to change the date to Monday 5th October. The clerk will rearrange with the village hall bookings clerk and change details on the website.

- 14.3 Cllr Waters would like to familiarise herself with the Parish Council finances. The clerk will email details of the accounts from the last financial year and include the current funds in the accounts.

- 14.4 Cllr Waters stated she would like the village Local Plan to be discussed at the next meeting; the clerk will add to the agenda.

- 14.5 Cllr Waters proposed a task force to be set up for A1060 road safety. Cllr Farrington agreed to assisting her.

- 14.6 The clerk read an email from Uttlesford’s Electoral Services Manager giving initial details of the parish elections in May 2027. The clerk will pass on more details during the coming months.

- 14.7 The clerk will report that the Highways sign near Leaden Close informing of the roundabout is being obscured by a hedge; she will report to Highways.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday 5th October 2026

Tuesday 1st December 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm