

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 14 December 2015

Present; Cllr. David Cross (Acting Chairman), Cllr. Betty Francis, Cllr. David Hilton, Cllr. Roger Pryor, Cllr. Jean Reay, Cllr. Tony Turner and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public: 2, Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding and District Cllr. J Loughlin.

The meeting opened at 700p.m

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Nick Shutes
- 2 **Declarations of Interest** – None.
- 3 **The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 October 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**
- 4 **Open to the Public.**

Mr. Andy Skelton gave a talk on the benefits of high speed broadband; the service in Ugley at present is inadequate for anything other than basic functions. Some rural communities have already successfully installed high speed services in partnership with various providers, this could possibly require some community funding. The first step would be to determine if there was a demand from the residents of Ugley and whether they would like to pursue this project, if there was, then meetings with relevant providers to determine feasibility and costs could be arranged.
5. **High speed broadband, Andy Skelton’s email circulated.**

Cllr. T Tuner proposed that Mr. Andy Skelton is appointed ‘Broadband Champion’ to act as a focal point for the community, Cllr. D Cross seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

Mr. Andy Skelton agreed to compose a letter, which he will email to the Parish Clerk, asking residents if they are interested in pursuing this project. Once the letters are printed with names and addresses the Councillors will deliver them.

An update on the responses received will be given at the Parish Council meeting on 29 February 2016.
- 6 **Clerk’s Report.**
 - a) **Transparency Code for smaller authorities.** The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out a new audit framework for local public authorities which are currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. Under the new audit framework smaller authorities including Parish Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 will be exempt from routine external audit. The Parish Council will be subject to the new transparency requirement. The public will now act as the external auditor. All information that is normally sent to the external auditor at the end of the financial year will now be published on the Parish Council’s web page. Also to be published, minutes, agendas, any associated meeting papers (planning applications), all expenditure above £100, Parish Council’s assets, internal auditor report, list of

Councillors with their function on the Parish Council and their representation, if any, on external local bodies.

The publishing of the information should commence as soon as possible although for this financial year 2015/16 an external audit will still be required to be completed.

The Government has set up a fund to help with the cost of complying with this new code. It was agreed to ask for funding towards the cost of a printer/scanner and staffing costs for the extra working hours initially required.

b) **Oak Tree.**

It was agreed to accept the quote of £200 from Amenity Services to cut back and crown raise the oak tree on The Green.

c) **Letter sent to Mr. Mills and Miss Miles**

The response from Mr. Mills and Miss. Miles was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not pursue this matter. The Parish Council had informed Mr. Mills and Miss Miles that they would be held responsible if any accidents occurred on this path.

d) **Precept 2016/17.**

Proposal, Ugley Parish Council asks for a precept from Uttlesford District Council of £5,000 for the financial year 2016/17. Cllr. D Cross proposed, Cllr. J Reay seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

e) **The potholes in North Hall Road.**

The bad condition of North Hall Road had been reported to Essex Highways, a reply was received stating that the road had been assessed and had not met their criteria for repair at this time.

7. **District and County Councillors' report.**

Cllr. J Loughlin informed the meeting that Uttlesford District Council had appointed Mrs. Dawn French as the new Chief Executive.

The planning application of 40 new homes on Cambridge Road has been refused, it will now go to appeal.

Uttlesford District Council has produced their interactive local plan map, showing the areas of land put forward for potential housing sites. The sites in Ugley include Vicarage Lane, North Hall Road, Bedwell Road, Pound Lane and Patmore End.

Cllr. R Gooding stated that the 'Government corporate spending review' has been announced. The District Councils will be financially worse off than the County Councils. Local Councils will be given more power over decision making in their local areas. They will be able to add 2% on Council tax to pay towards social care in their areas. From 2020 they will be able to keep money from business rates collected from shops and businesses to spend on local services such as street repairs and transport.

The percentage of overweight and obesity in this area is above the national average. There is also a problem with alcohol abuse which is measured by hospital reports on falls and liver disease.

8. **Heavy lorries through Ugley Green.**

Cllr. T Turner had written a letter to Sir Alan Haselhurst regarding the passage

of heavy lorries through Ugley Green, Sir Alan Haselhurst had replied that he would leave it to Cllr. R Gooding to take the lead as he is a member of the Highways Authority. A letter from Essex County Council had stated that the restriction signs are advisory and therefore not enforceable. This is not correct and Cllr. R Gooding will pursue this matter. Cllr. T Turner and Cllr. N Shutes went to meet PCSO Strange on 9 December 2015 at Stansted to ask him if there was anything further that the police could do to help, unfortunately PCSO Strange did not turn up. The information that he would be attending was advertised on the Essex Police web site.

9. Finance Report

Cashflow – Circulated

Cash Statement Balance brought forward	£8569.66
Income	Nil
Payments	
100999 HM Revenue	£ 135.60
101000 L Johnson	£ 541.56
101001 L Johnson	£ 92.77
101003 Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00
Total	£ 819.93
Balance carried forward	£7749.73

Represented by

Current account	£5,676.85
Business account	£2,072.88
Total	£7,749.73

Payments approved since the last meeting.

101004 Chris Rix Electrical Ltd	£ 786.00
101005 Hilberys	£ 156.00

The following cheque was approved for signing;

101006 CPRE	£ 36.00
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10 Any other Business.

Cllr. B Francis reported that the post in the centre of the road at the junction of Saunders Art Auctioneers on the B1383 was very dangerous; although Highways had erected a new pole they had not installed a light on it. The Parish Clerk is to contact Highways.

11. Cllr. T Turner had been informed that a resident in Ugley was taking procedures to try and close one of the public footpaths in the village. Cllr. R Gooding stated that Essex County Council was responsible for public footpaths and it was not an easy procedure to close one.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25p.m

Next Meeting; Monday, 18 January 2016 at 7.00p.m to be held in the Ugley Village Hall.

Signed

Chairman