

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Virtual Meeting held at 7.00pm on 26 October 2020.

Present:

Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chairman), Cllr. David Cross (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr. Nick Bowers, Cllr. Matt Francis, Cllr. Roger Pryor,
Cllr. E Reay and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public: 3 plus

District Cllr. J Loughlin, Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** Cllr. Clayton Powter.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. Shutes declared a pecuniary interest on item 8 on the agenda, as his wife owns part of the land.
- 3. Open to the public.**

Cllr. Shutes gave some background on the planning applications for Newland Cottage. In April 2020, the first application was submitted to UDC. Due to Covid-19 the Parish Council were not, at that time, holding meetings, so the Parish Clerk circulated the application to all the Councillors and asked for comments/objections. From these comments it was agreed that Ugley Parish Council would object to this planning application on several reasons. UDC refused the application.

The revised application was received by the Parish Clerk on 14 September 2020, the day of the Parish Council meeting, with a deadline for submitting responses by the 9 October 2020. The Parish Clerk, therefore, circulated the application to all Councillors asking them to look at the plans on UDC's website, so it could be discussed at the meeting that evening. The consensus at the meeting was that the developer had gone a long way to address the objections made by UDC planning officer, therefore the Parish Council decided to submit 'no objections' they were neither supporting the application or objecting to it. Cllr. Shutes pointed out that this is not a green field site there is already a permitted dwelling, and it was likely that in the future an application will get approval to build on the land.

Member of the public expressed their anxiety and disappointment of the Parish Council's decision of 'no comment', made at the meeting held on the 14 September 2020. The revised application had not addressed all the objections made previously by the Parish Council, and therefore, could not understand how the Parish Council could change their stance.

As the date for submitting responses to this application had now been extended to 2 November 2020, Cllr. Shutes said the Parish Council would consider the application again, later in the meeting.

4. **Signing of the Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Minutes will be signed later.

5. **District Councillor's report**

The new Local Plan is progressing slowly. However, since the withdrawal of the last Local Plan the number of new houses to be built in Uttlesford has increased from 750 to 1250 per year. Landsec has put in an application for 1,200 new houses in Thaxted. It is now a free for all for developers. Cllr. Loughlin said she was very worried about the villages in Uttlesford. The Government have brought out a White Paper. UDC are not in agreement with the contents of the White Paper and will be submitting a response.

Planning Committee meetings are still to be held via zoom, but site visits are now allowed. UDC are having to start the meetings at 10am as there are so many applications at present.

UDC will not expect staff and officers to return to the Council Offices until June 2021.

Councillor Alan Storah recently died, he was a former Town Planner and Chair of the Local Plan Liaison Group. Cllr. Storah was very well liked and will be deeply missed.

6. **Essex County Councillors' report**

As North Hall Road is still closed, Cllr. Gooding has been chasing up Highways Officers, to try and arrange for signs to be installed in Patmore End Road, warning of dangerous bends and reducing the speed limit to 20mph around the double bend. Cllr. Reay stated that the verges in Patmore End Road were disappearing into the ditch and with all the recent rain, things are going to get worse. Cllr. Gooding said that diversions could not be put in place, as it would involve sending traffic around Ugley Green or Grove Hill. The work on North Hall Road is currently out to tender.

Essex has now gone into tier 2 in terms of the Covid-19 restrictions. This was because the numbers of people testing positive were doubling every two days, and hospital admissions doubling every three days. It is hoped that by moving into tier 2 early, Essex can go back to tier 1 much quicker. To be able to do this the number for hospital admissions will need to reduce for three consecutive weeks, it is predicted that this may be possible on the 3 December 2020.

Essex have given approximately one million pounds to hospitality businesses. There is a charitable section of Active Essex, which has considerable funding, and Essex are using this money to help families that are struggling, especially during the school holidays. Essex have sent out 10 thousand food hampers, which contains food to last a family a week, they have also given 2.5 million pounds to each of the three food banks in the county.

Essex are currently investigating contingency plans for future school holidays.

7. **UTT/20/2273/FUL** Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of 2 detached dwellings. Newland Cottage, Ugley Green.
After a long discussion and studying of the plans, it was proposed that Ugley Parish Council's view remains as 'No Objection to the current application', the proposal was passed by 5 votes in favour, 1 vote against.

8. **Clerk's Report**

The Parish Clerk has begun to look at budgets on a preliminary basis for the 2020/2021 precept.

Lorries are using the Ugley Green route daily. The 6' 6" width restriction is being ignored. The Parish Clerk is to report it to Essex Chief of Police.

Cllr. Shutes left the meeting.

Gladman Developers

Gladman Developers, who are proposing to build 220 houses North of Bedwell Road, has approached Elsenham PC again regarding a meeting, the last meeting that had been arranged was cancelled due to lockdown.

Elsenham PC have stressed to Gladman that the meeting should not be merely a mechanism to allow Gladman to tick the public consultation box and the meeting would bring forth some contribution to the community.

The meeting is to be held on Wednesday 9 December at 7.30pm.

Gladman are sending out leaflets to Elsenham & Ugley residents, advertising the meeting, Henham PC have asked not to be associated with the meeting, as they have a policy not to hold meetings with developers.

A pre-meeting between Elsenham and Ugley PC, is to be arranged to agree a joint approach as to how best to tackle Gladman.

Cllr. Shutes re-joined the meeting.

Poppy Wreath

Cllr. Frances is to find out what is happening about the poppy wreath this year and will let the Parish Clerk know.

CPRE

Ugley Parish Council renewed their membership to the Countryside Charity Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost of £36.

Dates for next year

The dates for the 2021 Parish Council meetings were circulated. The meetings will continue to be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Footpath 29

Footpath 29 has recently been re-established on its correct line, which takes it from the end of Alsa Wood further to the left (west), and then parallel to the motorway.

However, 4 to 6-inch stumps of young blackthorn, field maple and hawthorn were left, and they are a definite trip hazard. The Parish Clerk is to contact the company responsible for the maintenance of this footpath.

The Link

It was agreed to continue leaving the 5 copies of The Link in the Village Hall.

9. Financial Report

Cash Statement for July 2020 Circulated.

Payments for signing

Balance brought forward	<u>£6,851.14</u>
Precept	£3,000.00
L Johnson	£ 629.30
Inland Revenue	£ 159.60
Total	£9,162.24

- 10. Any Other Business** (no decisions can lawfully be made under this item).
Cllr. Loughlin reminded members that Ugley Parish Council could still claim £500 from the Home Bonus Fund.

- 11.** Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 14 December 2020 at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

Signed