

# Ugley Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Virtual Meeting held at 7.00pm on 11 January 2021.

### Present:

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

### Members of the Public:

District Cllr. Janice Loughlin, Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding

1. Declarations of interest; None.
2. To receive and approve apologies for absence; None.
3. Open to the public; None.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020 were approved.

### 5. District Councillor's Report

The Stansted Airport appeal is starting on 12 January 2021.

The Fairfield appeal for 350 new houses was approved by the inspectorate. This is a devastating result for all the surrounding villages and could open up for further housing development. The application went to appeal for non-determination by Uttlesford District Council (UDC). This means that it was not heard by the Planning Committee and therefore members were not given the opportunity to give their views. Cllr. Loughlin read out an email from Nigel Brown, Development Planning Manager at UDC, saying that UDC had not failed in its duties, it had been waiting for the Highways submission, when Fairfield declared it was going to appeal through lack of determination. UDC strongly defended against the appeal at the hearing. Due to the lack of a 5-year land supply, no Local Plan and no objection from Highways, the inspectorate approved the application.

No site visits are allowed at present due to Covid-19.

### 6. Essex County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Gooding said part of the problem why Highways withdraw their objections to the Fairfield application was that UDC has no Local Plan.

There was no further information regarding North Hall Road, the Officer dealing with this has contracted Covid-19. The Environmental Agency keep

presenting Highways with additional requirements as they are looking for a greener solution.

When Essex moved into tier 4 the Government put in a contingency plan for schools. The schools in the south of the county would go to home learning for another 2 weeks, these did not however include the schools in Uttlesford. On 31 December 2020, the infection rate for Uttlesford was almost 800 per 100,000 an increase of 55% in three days. ECC asked the Secretary of State, for schools in Uttlesford to be closed and go to home learning. However, this has now been overtaken as the government has now announced that as from 5 January 2021 the whole area is moving into lockdown.

There had been some speculation on the reason why children's nurseries have been closed in Scotland and not in England. The reason is that in the first lockdown where nurseries were closed, there was a significant increase in child abuse and neglect in young children within families in England and including Essex. It is therefore considered that this represented a significant risk that outweighed the risk from spreading the virus in this age group.

Cllr. Francis asked what the percentage was of children attending online learning compared to the first national lockdown?

Cllr. Gooding said that it varied in different areas; in Uttlesford it was about 6% which was slightly higher than in the first lockdown.

ECC are currently asking for old laptops, which after being reconditioned are passed onto children that need them.

## **7. Planning Applications**

**UTT/20/3409/LB** Proposed amendment to conversion of barn to 1 dwelling approved under UTT/20/0626/LB – addition of basement level. Parsonage Farm, Vicarage Lane, Ugley. **No Comment.**

## **8. Members Initiatives funding**

It was agreed that the £550 from the ward members initiative funding, would be best spent by giving it to the Henham and Ugley Primary School. The school needs to replace some playground equipment which was condemned as being unsafe. Due to Coronavirus the school has been unable to carry out their usual fund-raising activities. Cllr. Loughlin said she would inform UDC of the decision.

## **9. Clerk's Report.**

Glenn Shaw, Watercourse Regulation Engineer, at Essex County Council has agreed to visit Snakes Lane regarding the constant flooding in the area. The Parish Clerk is still waiting for information from Cllr. Gooding, which is to be forwarded to Glenn Shaw.

As the village hall is closed due to the coronavirus it was agreed to temporarily stop the membership to The Link magazine.

**Proposal** Ugley Parish Council set the precept for 2021/2022 at £6,300.

Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Cross seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.  
This results in a 3.02% increase.

**10. Financial Report**

Cash Statement, January 2021 – Circulated.

**Payments for signing**

Balance brought forward	£8,805.81
L Johnson	£ 610.05
H M revenue	£ 152.40
Railton TPC	£ 400.00
Total	£1,162.45

Bank account £,7,643.36

**11. Any Other Business (no decisions can lawfully be made under this item).**

Cllr. Powter said there was no stile at the end of the footpath that finishes by the old White Horse Public House. The footpath leads down a slope straight onto the B1381, which is dangerous for young children. As this had not been raised by the local resident that inspects the footpaths in Ugley, it was agreed that there had probably never been a stile on this path.

**12. Meeting Closed at 7.55pm.**