

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 12 December 2022 in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chairman), Cllr. David Cross (Vice Chairman),
Cllr. Elizabeth Reay, Cllr. Roger Pryor,
and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public:

Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding.

1. Declarations of interest: None.
2. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Cllr. N Bowers, Cllr. Matt Francis, Cllr. Clayton Powter and District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.
3. Open to the Public.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 October 2022 were approved and signed by Cllr. Shutes as a true record.

5. Essex County Councillor's Report.

North Hall Road has now been re-opened. Cllr. Reay said that the vergers must be given time to recover. Drivers needed to slow down and use passing places to pass oncoming cars, not go onto the verge.

Cllr. Gooding said Highways would revisit the road in the spring and carry out any further work that was required.

There are still some overhanging trees that need cutting back along North Hall Road, past the bridge towards Henham.

Cllr. Gooding said that it cost ECC £2 million per year to fund the Highway Rangers Service in the county. Therefore, due to lack of funds it was withdrawing its funding, this represents a withdrawal of £65,000 contribution to UDC. UDC have asked town/parish councils to contribute £1 per registered voter in each parish, or the service would be discontinued. UDC would require most of the town/parish councils to contribute. If the rangers were discontinued their responsibilities would fall on Essex Highways.

6. Planning Applications.

6.1. UTT/22/3239/FUL Erection of 2 dwellings with associated car ports and landscaping works. Land to the East of Cambridge Road. **No Comment.**

6.2. Appeal.

Land South of Bedwell Road. Outline application for up to 50 market and affordable dwellings, public open space and associated highways and drainage infrastructure - all matters reserved except access. Application

reference: UTT/20/2908/OP Appellant's name: Rochester Properties. Appeal start date: 01.12.2022

UDC have forwarded all the representations submitted on the application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

7. Parish Clerk's Report.

7.1. It was agreed not to contribute towards the cost of the Highway Rangers.

The Highway rangers are not allowed to work on road of over 30mph. This limits the use of the Rangers in Ugley.

7.2. The precept for 2023/24 needs to be sent to UDC before 20 January 2023.

The budgets were agreed.

Cllr. Shutes proposed a precept of £7,000 for 2023-24.

The vote was carried unanimously.

7.3. The dates for the Parish Council meetings in 2023 were circulated.

7.4. The NALC and the National Salary Awards had agreed on a pay rise for Parish Clerks, to be back dated to 1 April 2022.

8. Finance Report.

The following payments were authorized.

Royal British Legion	£25.00
Hilbruy Turf	£192.00
Amenity Services	£200.00

The bank statement, reconciliation and a report of spend were presented to the council and agreed.

Cash Statement;

Balance brought forward	£9,575.23
Royal British Legion	£25.00
Hilbruy Turf	£192.00
Amenity Services	£200.00
Total	£9158.23

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

Cllr. Gooding said he is still trying to arrange a meeting with UDC, Essex Police, Essex Highways, and Essex Minerals and Waste regarding the HGV's that are using local roads to transport spoils from development sites in Bishop's Stortford North to locations in Essex. Unless the drivers are infringing a traffic regulation order, there is little the police can do about it. However, they are driving up Grove Hill where they breach the weight limit and through Ugley Green where they breach the width limit.

The drain in Bury Lodge Lane is still blocked. Cllr. Gooding said he had reported it to Highways, but he has been told the road may belong to Stansted Airport, therefore the airport would be responsible for the maintenance. Cllr Gooding said he would find out more information.

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm