

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

14 plus District Cllr. J Loughlin.

1. Declarations of interest: None.
2. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Cllr. R Pryor, Cllr. Essex County Cllr. R Gooding.

3. Open to the Public.

Member of the public objected to two planning applications UTT/22/3275/FUL The Forge, 4 new houses and UTT/22/3261/FUL Willow House, 4 new houses. There are no shops, schools or doctors in the village. Residents of Ugley feel very strongly about keeping Ugley a rural village.

Willow House application. If this application went ahead residents would have to use Vicarage Lane for access. Vicarage Lane is a narrow lane with no footpath. The line of sight from Vicarage Lane when accessing the B1831 is very poor, and the houses would also overlook neighbouring houses.

The Forge application. This development would have a boundary against ancient woodland. The woodland has a varied amount of wildlife which would be at risk if this development went ahead. Access, like the Willow House application, would be Vicarage Lane. This land has no drainage, and the land often floods. There is currently 2 people employed on this site who will be made unemployed if this development was approved.

Cllr. Loughlin informed the meeting that she had 'called in' The Forge application. This will now be assessed by the Planning Committee and not the Planning Officers. The committee will also visit the site.

Cllr. Loughlin said she would speak to the planning department tomorrow and try to 'call in' the Willow House application as well.

Cllr. Loughlin also urged residents to send all their objects to members of the Planning Committee. As UDC do not have a Local Plan or a 5-year land supply it is very difficult to refuse planning applications.

Members of the public were enraged about the HGV vehicles using Pound Lane and Ugley Green. The drivers are in breach of the width limit. They have no consideration for other drivers and are often abusive. These vehicles are using local roads to transport spoils from development sites in Bishop's Stortford North,

Hertfordshire to locations in Essex. Some residents had written to Cllr. Gooding asking what he could do about it, but they had not received an answer. The Parish Council informed the meeting that Cllr. Gooding was writing a letter to Essex Waste, he needed to get it approved by ECC Legal Department. This is primarily a police matter and residents must inform the police when they see these lorries.

It was unfortunate that Cllr. Gooding had been unable to attend the meeting this evening. Cllr. Shutes said he would phone him and ask if an extra meeting could be held to discuss this problem.

Cllr. Reay and Cllr. Powter had attended a Rural Crime meeting. Anti-social behaviour was one of the issues covered. Cllr. Reay said she had a police contact number and would speak to the Officer to get some help and advice.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022 were approved and signed by Cllr. Shutes as a true record.

5. District Councillor's Report

The Local Plan has been delayed again. This opens the area up to any development. When Residents for Uttlesford took the majority nearly 4 years ago, one of the promises on their manifesto was that they would produce a 5-year plan. This looks unlikely as the elections are in May this year. There are rumours that R4U will be employing an outside expert to help with the plan. Many of the council's employees are still working from home and the council building is very empty. The turnover of staff is immense, with 8 staff members out of 11, working on the Local Plan, resigning in one week, in total 58% have left in the last 18 months.

The District Council spent 2.2million on legal costs taking Manchester Airport Group (MAG) to court after UDC refused their planning application and yet UDC did not defend their refusal.

The Highway Rangers have now been disbanded.

6. Planning Applications.

6.1. UTT/22/3261/FUL 4 detached houses with associated planting and open sided car ports. Willow House, Cambridge Road, Ugley.

Objection on the grounds of over development in the countryside.

Access from Vicarage Land onto the B1381 is very dangerous with limited sightline.

6.2. UTT/22/3275/FUL 4 dwellings with associated car ports and landscaping works. Change of use from class 1 (light industrial and office), B2 (vehicle repair and manufacturing) and B8 (storage) to class C1 (residential). The Forge, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Objection on the grounds Over development in the countryside. Loss of employment. Encroachment onto protected woodland. Access from Church Lane onto the B1381 is very dangerous with limited sightline.**

6.3. UTT/22/3532/HHF Demolition of existing rear extensions, replacement single and two storey rear extensions and reinstatement of 3 dormers to front elevation amendment to that approved under UTT/17/3609/HHF. The old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane. **No objections.**

6.4. UTT/23/000101/HHF Proposed one and a half storey rear and side extension, single storey rear extension, alterations to existing garage studio and internal alterations – amendment to that approved under UTT/21/2714/HHF. Wickets, Pound Lane, Ugley. **No objection.**

6.5. UTT/22/2606/HHF Rear and loft extension and addition of carport. Spurgate, Field Gate Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**

6.6. UTT/22/2895/FUL Section 73A retrospective application for change of use from agricultural/equestrian land to domestic recreational use with associated floodlighting and storage shed. **Approved.**

Appeal

6.7. UTT/20/2908/OP Land South of Bedwell Road, Outline application for up to 50 market and affordable houses, public open space and associated highways and drainage infrastructure – all matters reserved except access.

7. Precept

The Chairman and the Parish Clerk signed the Precept Upon Charging Authority form, for a precept of £7,000.

8. Proposal Ugley Parish Council adopt the new Code of Conduct to keep in line with Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council.

Cllr Shutes proposed, Cllr. Powter seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

9. Parish Clerk's Report.

Adding Cllr. Pryor as signature to the council bank account is still ongoing. The bank said they would send the appropriate forms, but they have not done so yet.

10. Finance Report.

The following payments were authorized.

Ugley Village Hall	£144.00
Inland Revenue	£159.80
L Johnson	£660.92
L Johnson	£103.36

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

Cash Statement:

Balance brought forward	£9,158.23
Ugley Village Hall	£144.00
Inland Revenue	£159.80
L Johnson	£660.92
L Johnson	£103.36
Balance Carried forward	£8,090.15

11. Any other business

Cllr. Reay and Cllr. Powter had attended a Rural Crime Community Event. The meeting was to address issues of rural crime in parishes, to tackle problems like

vehicle and equipment theft, hare coursing, fly-tipping, dogs that are dangerously out of control, burglaries and wildlife crime.

Details were given for Crime Stoppers, where crimes can be reported anonymously.

Cllr. Reay and Cllr. Powter were given lots of information that needs to be shared with the residents of Ugley but as there is no village magazine it is difficult to do.

Cllr. Shutes asked for 'Communication' to be added to the next agenda.

Cllr. Powter is to liaise with the publishers of the Henham Magazine, The Dragon, Cllr. Francis is to liaise with the publishers of the Elsenham magazine, The Elsenham News, to ask if there is any scope for Ugley's news to be incorporated into their magazine, maybe just twice or three times per year.

Cllr. Reay asked if any defibrillator training had been carried out, the Parish Clerk is to find out.

Meeting Closed at 9.25pm.