

Parish Council of Ugley

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ugley held on Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.00pm, in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

3 plus District Cllr. J Loughlin and Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr. Nick Bowers.

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

4. Open to the public.

Matthew Robinson, on behalf of the Ugley Village Hall Committee, gave an update on the Village Hall. The Village Hall is 100 years old. The heating, lighting, roof and windows all need updating or repairing to help the hall run more efficiently.

Matthew had produced a booklet, to submit for potential grant applications. The booklet is a working document and headed 'The next 100 Years'.

Various funding channels have been approached, but with no success so far. It was predicted that by the end of the finance year the reserves will be £11,000. Ugley Village Hall isn't VAT registered.

Matthew said that any donation from the Parish Council would be very welcome.

Cllr. Shutes said to give a sizable donation the precept would have to be raised. This could cause complaints from residents. However, the Parish Council would discuss the possibilities when agreeing the precept at January's meeting.

The Foxley Group

UTT/23/2411/FUL Erection of 4 no. single storey dwellings with associated carports and landscaping works. The Forge Cambridge Road. Refused 20 November.

UTT/23/2318/FUL Erection of 4 no. detached dwellings, with associated planting and cart lodges. Willow House Cambridge Road. Waiting for decision.

Kevin Gregory and Natalie Taylor on behalf of The Foxley Group gave a talk on their proposed planning applications. They currently have submitted two applications. The 4 new houses at the Forge in Vicarage Lane, has been refused twice by UDC Planning Committee. The application has now gone to appeal.

The application for 4 new houses at Willow House in Vicarage Lane has also been refused by UDC Planning Committee, a revised application was submitted to UDC on 18 September 2023 and is currently awaiting a decision.

Kevin Gregory said all the issues that UDC had refused the first application on had now been addressed. The access had been made larger, therefore increasing the sightline and making it safer. A footpath will be installed to keep pedestrians safer, and the angle of the houses had been changed so none of the neighbouring houses were being overlooked. All the National Policy Guidelines and the Essex Standard Guidelines had been abided by. There was no reason why this application would not be approved.

Kevin Gregory said they would like to work with residents from the village rather than against them. They could also make a payment towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

Cllr. Shutes said that the Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds of Ugley being a rural village and it is overdevelopment in the countryside.

5. District Councillor's report.

Regulation 18 Consultation is now running, it closes on 18 December 2023.

There are no further developments in Stort Valley.

UDC had reduced the number of affordable housing on a development from 40% to 35%. There is also a lack of council houses, there is nowhere in this area for adults with learning difficulties to live.

The waste collection in the area has been disrupted due to waste lorries breaking down, UDC say they do not have funds to repair them.

6. Essex County Councillor.

Cllr. Gooding has visited the blocked drains which have been reported to him and has asked for them to be jet washed. A foot path had also been reported which has leaf mould on it, this is a UDC issue.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. They have taken over from the Government to inspect and regulate every County Council's adult social care service every 18 months. This includes end of life care; people being discharged from hospital and how people with learning difficulties are assessed. ECC have a very good record on adult social care and are due to be inspected by April 2024.

7. Planning applications.

7.1. UTT/23/2946/OP Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 3 dwellings with associated curtilage, vehicular access and parking. Land off Vicarage Lane. **Ugley Parish Council strongly object to the above planning application. Ugley is a rural village, there are no shops or schools. This is overdevelopment in the countryside. These houses would not be sustainable. All the construction traffic would have to use Vicarage Lane, which is a single track, making it not suitable for large vehicles.**

7.2. UTT/23/3049/FUL S73 application to vary condition 2, approved plans UTT/23/1822/FUL. Newlands Cottage, Ugley Green. **It was agreed to leave to UDC Planning Officers.**

Decisions made by UDC.

7.3. UTT/23/1329/HHF Erection of front porch and cladding. 5 Patmore Fields, Ugley, Essex, CM22 6JW APP **Approved.**

7.4. UTT/23/0609/HHF Proposed single storey link extension to create new entrance lobby and link to existing detached garage. Newland Cottage, Ugley green. **Approved.**

7.5. UTT/23/2463/PIP Planning in principle for up to 4 no. dwellings Land West Of The Cottage, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**

7.6. UTT/23/1471/PIP 4 new dwellings Land west of the Cottage, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**

7.7. UTT/23/1822/FUL Proposed new detached dwelling and garage following demolition of existing property. Newlands Cottage, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**

Appeals.

7.8. UTT/23/1213/FUL Demolition of buildings under class uses B1, B2 and B8. Erection of 4 no. dwellings with associated carports and landscaping works Land North Of The Forge, Cambridge Road. Refused 12 July. **Lodged an Appeal.**

7.9. UTT/22/2037/FUL 2 new self-contained 3-bedroom dwellings. Land North of Lavenir, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Lodged an Appeal.**

8. Clerk's Report.

The Parish Clerk predicted that by the end of the financial year, 31 March 2024, the Parish Council would have £8,800 left in their bank account. Out of this, £5,500 are EMR, leaving £3,300 as general reserve.

The grass cutting and salary budgets will need to be increased. Making the total payments £9,490. To ask for a precept to cover the payments, £9,500 would mean an increase for a band D household of 0.82p per month a percentage of 31.87%.

It was agreed to wait until January's meeting to set the precept.

9. Finance.

- Cashflow – Circulated.
- The following payments were authorised by the Parish Council.
- Cllr. Shutes agreed and signed the bank statement.

Balance	£10,293.22
Hilbery Turf	£96.00
British Legion	£35.00
L Johnson	£214.88
Inland Revenue	£168.60
Taylor Computers	£75.00
Balance	£9,872.34

10. Any other business.

Cllr. Shutes asked if Cllr. Reay would arrange for a large tree to be removed, which had been left on the number 4 public right of way near the crossing stile.

Cllr. Shutes reported 3 dangerous manhole covers north of the Chequers Public House on the Rickling path. The Parish Clerk is to report this to Highways.

Cllr. Powter reported that rights of way public footpath number 23 is blocked, the Parish Clerk is to report this to Highways.

Cllr. Frances reported that some of the wooded figure posts on Ugley Green needed straightening up, the Parish Clerk will report this to Highways.

Cllr. Reay had attended an Essex Waste Strategy Zoom meeting. Cllr. Reay said it was a very informative meeting setting out the vision, targets and priorities of Essex Waste Partnership. With the aim to reduce waste, protect the environment and save resources.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.