

Parish Council of Ugley

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ugley held on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.00pm, in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

County Cllr. Ray Gooding

- 1. To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr. Nick Bowers, Cllr. Matt Francis and District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** No declarations.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 December 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
- 4. Planning applications submitted to UDC.**
 - 4.1. UDC/UTT/24/3194/DFO** Detailed application for the erection of 1 no. dwelling, details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. 3 Bedwell Road, Ugley.
Leave to UDC's Planning Officers.
 - 4.2. UTT/24/3070/HHF** Single storey rear extension and first floor side extension. The Old Stables, North Hall Road, Ugley.
Ugley Parish Council do not object in principle to this planning application, but ask that planning officers address the concerns and objections from the resident of Tiger Barn.
- 5. Parish Clerk's Report.**

Nothing to report.
- 6. Precept 2025/2026.**

At the Parish Council meeting on 9 December 2024, the Parish Clerk handed out to each councillor an up-to-date bank statement, predicted balance as of 30 April 2025, a budget table and the increase to a Band D household with various precepts.
After some discussion the following proposal was made
Proposal: Ugley Parish Council ask for a precept for 2025/2026 of £7,600.
Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Pryor seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.

A precept of £7,600 will increase a Band D household parish council tax by 3.13%, equivalent to £1.01 for the year per household.

Cllr. Shutes and the Parish Clerk signed the Precept Upon Charging Authority.

7. Financial Report.

The following payments were agreed for signing.

Balance Brought Forward	£8,816.70
L Johnson	£877.27
HMRC	£227.50
Total	£7,711.93

The Parish Clerk explained that a letter from Inland Revenue & Customs had been received stating that Ugley Parish Council owed £227.50. The Parish Clerk paid the amount but phoned the Inland Revenue to query it. It seems it was an error by Inland Revenue, and the next payment will be reduced by £227.50.

8. Any Other Business (no decisions can lawfully be made).

It was agreed that this Christmas the Parish Council would plant a tree on Ugley Green. Once the new tree is established the tall fir tree could be removed, if residents agree. Extra solo lights need to be purchased and battery for back-up.

Essex County Cllr. R Gooding joined the meeting.

Cllr. Reay reported that the 'toot toot bridge' is still in a dangerous condition.

Cllr. Gooding said that a Highway Officer had visited the bridge to assess the damage, and he was waiting for feedback on it.

Cllr. Reay said with the icy conditions, the chevrons on the bend in Patmore End have been damaged.

There are a lot of deep potholes on the road leading to Ugley Church.

Cllr. Gooding said he would investigate both.

Cllr. Powter reported the triangular traffic sign, denoting 'horse crossing' on the B1383, south of Pennington Lane, has been damaged.

In Pound Lane by 'The Hermitage', as the road is so narrow and large lorries use it, cars have made an unofficial track on the verge which means they have to swerve around a telephone pole. This is potentially very dangerous.

Cllr. Gooding said he would investigate both.

9. County Councillor's report.

The Government has announced plans for the biggest reorganisation of local government in England in over 50 years. District and County Councils will be abolished and replaced with unitary authorities, led by a directly elected mayor. Local county elections due in May this year will be delayed. Some people see this as anti-democratic. If the same status quo is maintained, they can carry on with the same trajectory. It is likely that Uttlesford will form a unitary authority with Harlow and Epping Forest.

The council reform will go ahead with or without the cooperation of councils and councillors. Cllr. Gooding said it was a "fait accompli".

The meeting finished at 8.02pm.