

Parish Council of Ugley

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ugley held on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.00pm, in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

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

Members of the Public: 4, plus Cllr. J Loughlin and Cllr. R Gooding

- 1. To receive and approve apologies for absence:** None.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Cllr. Shutes declared a percurial interest in 8.4 on the agenda, planning application UTT/24/0543/OP.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 July 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
- 4. District Councillor's report.**

Councillor Loughlin reported that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) will hold an extraordinary meeting on 23 September 2025 to inform councillors about the upcoming Local Government reorganisation. The agenda for this meeting will be published on 15 September 2025. This reorganisation will result in the dissolution of UDC. A public consultation is scheduled to take place between September 2025 and March 2026; however, the final decision will rest with the Government.
- 5. Questions from members of the public**

Residents of Vicarage Lane, a single-track dead-end road, have reported concerns about large vehicles causing bank erosion and driveway damage. They requested that Cllr. Gooding consider implementing a weight restriction and a 20mph speed limit on the lane. Another issue highlighted is an overgrown hedge narrowing the roadway; the current owner, who resides in Scotland, has not maintained it for several years. Cllr. Gooding responded by email saying he would contact Highways to arrange trimming of the hedge and would send the invoice to the owner.

Cllr. Shutes said that the parish council would confirm with Cllr. Gooding that Highways are going to cut back the hedge, if not the parish clerk would obtain a quote from the village grass cutter and pay for it to be done.

The public left the meeting.
- 6. Speeding in Ugley Green**

Speeding in Ugley Green is worsening, with a sudden drop from 60mph on Pound Lane to 30mph in Ugley Green with no transition zone. This issue was raised with Cllr. Gooding in 2021 and 2023, when he promised to suggest a lower speed limit for Pound Lane. Two years on, there has been no progress.

If the Parish Council wishes to bypass Cllr. Gooding, they will need to contact Kevin Bently, leader of Essex County Council.
The Parish Clerk will request information from the police for organising speed watch in Ugley Green.

Cllr. Gooding joined the meeting.

Cllr. Gooding confirmed that he has asked Highways Enforcement to assess the hedge in Vicarage Lane. This will be done within 8 weeks.

The weight restriction and a 20mph speed limit would be a struggle to obtain and difficult to enforce.

Cllr. Gooding said he will contact the residents and keep them informed of the situation and would also visit Vicarage Lane at the weekend.

Cllr Gooding stated that parish councils must now buy their own flashing speed check signs, which only affect speeding cars for about three weeks.

Cllr, Gooding offered to help organise monitoring the speed cars are traveling through Ugley Green by setting up pneumatic road tubes.

7. Planning applications submitted to UDC.

7.1. UTT/25/1973/OP Outline application, with all matters reserved except for access, for 1 no. dwelling and associated works Land Off Vicarage Lane. **Ugley Parish Council has objected.**

7.2. UTT/25/1586/DOC Proposed detached annex. Maltings Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Ugley, Essex. **Approved.**

7.3. UTT/25/1637/DOC Garage conversion with new first floor. St. Aubyns, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Approved.**

Cllr. Shutes left the meeting.

7.4. UTT/24/0543/OP Land North of Bedwell Road and East of Old Mead Road Ugley and Henham. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except access for the erection of up to 240 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point. **Gone to Appeal.**

The parish clerk stated at the meeting that Elsenham Parish Council had inquired with UDC regarding whether they intended to defend their decision and if they would appoint a noise consultant. UDC has not responded. As a result, Elsenham Parish Council has requested that their noise consultant remains on standby.

Cllr. Shutes returned to the meeting.

8. Parish Clerk's Report.

Proposal Ugley Parish Council increase the parish clerk's pay in line with the Local Government Service pay agreement, with back pay from 1 April 2025.

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

The parish clerk informed members that she had handed in her notice to Elsenham Parish Council and would be leaving by the end of 2025.

9. Financial Report.

Balance brough forward	£7,118.82
Amenity Services	£600.00
Hilbery Turf	£102.00
Hilbery Turf	£102.00
Bank Balance	£6,314.82

Cllr. Shutes and Cllr. Reay signed the above payments, bank statement, and the payment schedule.

Any Other Business (no decisions can lawfully be made).
There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.