

Parish Council of Ugley

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ugley held on Monday 2 March 2026 at 7.00pm, in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding joined the meeting at 7.30pm

1. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr. Matt Francies, Cllr. Clayton Powter and District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
4. **Open to the public:** None present.
5. **Planning application**
 - 5.1. **UTT/25/3329/FUL** 110 dwellings Rickling.
UPC objected.
 - 5.2. **UTT/26/0058/FUL** Erection of 1no. self-build and custom dwelling. Land At Vicarage Lane. **Objected. – Withdrawn from UDC’s Planning Agenda for 11 February 2026.**
 - 5.3. **UTT/24/0543/OP** Land North of Bedwell Road. 240 dwellings, public open space, landscaping, SuDS, and vehicular point. **Approved by the Inspectorate.**

6. Clerk’s Report

Bus shelters

Andrew Scullion, Passenger Transfer Infrastructure Manager, confirmed that Ugley Parish Council owns and is responsible for the maintains of the five bus shelters in Ugley. He provided contact information for a repair company, and the Parish Clerk is now awaiting a quote after an onsite meeting with them.
An EMR will be set up to reserve funds for future repairs.

Beating the Bounds

Given its proximity to Ugley, St. Nicholas Church in Berden extended an invitation to members of the Ugley Parish Council and Parochial Church Council to participate in a walk on Rogation Sunday, 10 May. Rogation Sunday is observed with a traditional service seeking divine protection for agriculture, livestock, and crops, and customarily includes walking the boundaries of the parish.

No councillors present expressed an interest in participating.

Risk Register

All councillors received the Risk Register; it was unanimously agreed that no changes were required.

Internal Audit

The Parish Clerk secured two quotations for carrying out the internal audit for 2025/2026. Cllr. Shutes proposed that Ugley Parish Council engage Vicky Waples, who has delivered a highly professional Internal Audit for Ugley over the past two years.

Cllr. Pryor seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

Website

Cllr. Francies paid £28.13 to renew the Parish Council website and will be reimbursed by the Parish Clerk.

Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS)

The Parish Clerk followed up with UDC to confirm whether the project was ongoing. Afterwards, an email was sent to all Parish Councils stating that UDC is reviewing additional details and will schedule a meeting once this process is finished.

Next meeting on 13 April is the Annual Parish meeting followed by a Parish Council meeting

Cllr. Ray Gooding joined the meeting.

7. Essex County Councillor's Report

Save Our Libraries Essex (SOLE) has been protesting Essex County Council's plan to introduce a £1.15 fee from 1 June for reserving library books.

Some reserved books need to be transferred from other libraries or warehouses, which adds postal costs. If the book is then not collected, as sometimes happens, it must be returned, occurring another charge. Libraries in Essex reserved over 400,000 items last year with only 18% being collected.

Elections and Representation

The May 2025 local election was cancelled after the publication of the Devolution White Paper.

The next Essex County Council election is set for 7 May 2026, following a boundary review that increased the number of councillors from 75 to 78 and eliminated all two-member divisions, so each division now elects a single councillor. Elected members may serve on the councils for only one year, as 2027 is expected to be a shadow year, with those elected working alongside the new unitary authorities.

The proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Essex is three new unitary councils, each responsible for all local services in their area. These new councils would be:

North Essex – Colchester, Tendring, Braintree, and Uttlesford

Mid Essex – Chelmsford, Brentwood, Epping Forest, Harlow and Maldon

South Essex – Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Basildon, Castle Point, and Rochford.

The proposal reflects how people live, work and travel across Essex and is built around three cities: Colchester, Chelmsford and Southend-on-Sea.

Councillor Gooding reported that a package for the repairs to the 'toot toot bridge' on North Hall Road is currently being put together by Highways. In addition, chevrons will be installed on the sharp bends in the road to enhance safety.

Cllr. Gooding said if Cllr. Reay send a list of the potholes in Ugley with the 3-word location he will report them on the Winter Damage Scheme.

Cllr. Reay reminded Cllr. Gooding of the two damaged signs on the B1383, one depicting a deer and another a horse, which remain on the verge. Additionally, the road sign near the former public house is currently obscured by a fallen tree. Cllr. Gooding noted all three signs.

8. Financial Report

Balance brough forward	£7,261.47
Microsoft	£ 84.99
Flowers J Loughin	£ 35.00
Village Hall	£ 174.00
Total	£6,967.48

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

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

There was no other business

The meeting finished at 7.55pm