

**Annual Ugley Parish Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Annual Ugley Parish Meeting,**  
**held at 7.00pm on 13 April 2026 in the Village Hall**

**Present:**

Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chair) and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk).

**Members of the Public:**

Cllr. Matthew Francis, Cllr. Clayton Powter, Cllr. Johathan Harding, Cllr. Roger Pryor  
and Cllr. Nick Bowers.

**1. Welcome.**

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Elizabeth Reay.

**Absent:** County Cllr. Ray Gooding and District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.

**3. Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2025 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**4. District Cllr. Janice Loughlin's report.**

Councillor Loughlin was not present and did not provide a report.

**5. Ugley Parish Council's Chair, Nick Shutes report**

**Chairman's Report – April 2026**

Highways and Planning matters continue to be the main issues for the Parish Council.

**Highways**

A lot of large HGVs continue to use the B1383 through the village transporting excavated soil from building sites in Bishop's Stortford. Their destination has been the chalk quarry outside Newport, but more recently to Ugley landfill site where finished levels are being raised. Mud on the road has been an issue during the winter.

HGVs continue to use Pound Lane as a short cut to and from Elsenham despite the width restriction. The police make no effort to enforce the width restriction.

The response from Essex Highways to issues such as potholes and damaged road signs continues to be very slow.

Patmore End Road was due to be designated a quiet lane in the year just ended, but there has been no signage put up so far.

**Planning**

Permission was granted on appeal for the largest application ever in the village. 240 houses will be built on land north of Bedwell Road. This will have a significant impact on local roads, particularly during the construction phase.

Applications for 'self-build' houses adjacent to White Cottage in Pound Lane and Wade Hall Cottage in Cambridge Road were approved by Uttlesford. An application for five properties on land adjacent to The Cottage in Snakes Lane was refused.

Development has yet to start on sites adjacent to the Village Hall and Chequers pub which were approved in the present year, but both developments are likely to start this year.

An application for 110 houses on land to the south of Rickling is awaiting a decision. This site if approved would have a further impact on the village.

### **People**

I would like to thank Ray Gooding and Janice Loughlin for keeping us up to date on County and District matters, and jointly for advising us on the ongoing situation regarding devolution in Essex. We all wish Janice a speedy recovery from her ongoing treatments. Finally, I would like to thank Louise for running the administration of the Parish Council so efficiently.

Nick Shutes CHAIR.

### **6. Essex County Councillor's Report - Cllr. Ray Gooding.**

County Cllr. Ray Gooding was not present and did not provide a report.

### **7. Finance Report Louise Johnson.**

A financial document for 2025/26 was distributed to all councillors.

At the start of the 2025/2026 financial year, Ugley Parish Council had funds of £7,523, with the addition of a precept of £7,600. The main expenditures included wages for the Parish Clerk and village grass cutting. The council also purchased a new laptop for £599 and made donations of £500 to St Peter's Church and £180 to the Scouts. Altogether, expenses for the year totalled £9,172, leaving a closing balance of £5,951.

In 2025/26, five quarterly wage payments were made, compared to just three planned for 2026/27. This schedule ensures that by 2027/28, all wages for that year will be paid within the same financial year.

The meeting finished at 7.20pm.