Parish Council of Ugley

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ugley held on Monday 12 October 2026 at 7.00pm, in the Ugley Village Hall

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

Members of the Public:
Cllr. Ray Gooding and Cllr. George Braeckman

1. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** None.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 September 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

4. **Open to the public:** None present.

5. **District Cllr. George Braeckman.**
Local government reorganisation plans for Uttlesford District Council have been paused due to updated legal advice. This means the government's proposal to create 5 unitary councils in Essex has been withdrawn.
Local elections will continue to be held in May 2027. There will be no new boundaries.
UDC has wasted £100,000 of taxpayer's money due to preparing for LGR, which the government has now shelved.
Harlow Town Council and ECC have not lost so much as they refused to engage with the Government plans.

UDC have set out a three-year plan to upgrade council houses, as some council houses are now 80 years old. This will include updating heating systems.

UDC Enforcements are under pressure to act following months of controversy over the unauthorised traveller's site near Felsted, where work began over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. UDC were seen as an 'easy touch' for lack of inaction over ongoing breaches of planning laws**.** The same lack of action from UDC has been reported from residents on the unauthorised airport parking car park on Elsenham Road, Stansted, which has been trading illegally for almost 2-years.
Uttlesford District Council admitted residents felt the council's communication had fallen short and questions should have appeared on the council's website sooner and urged residents to keep reporting incidents.
The council has commissioned a review of planning enforcement, including out-of-hours responses and communication with affected communities.

UDC has retained interest earned on S106 funds rather than returning it to the fund, amounting to nearly £200,000 a year. UDC have held interest on funds for NHS, Schools, Essex Highways and Elsenham Parish Council.

UDC's Scrutiny Committee is developing a corporate S106 Financial Management Policy that sets out the proposed options on, how the council should treat accrued interest on the S106 funds it holds.

The Government is introducing a National Scheme of Delegation (NSD) for planning functions from 31 October 2026. Where applications would either go to the Planning Committee or Planning Officer, they will now go to one nominated member and one officer. Applications will be determined by officers and referral to Planning Committee will be the exception and only occur where the statutory requirements are met and the nominated officer and nominated member agree. This represents a big change to what has gone before.
District Councillors will lose the power to 'call in' a planning application, as this would be inconsistent with the national scheme.
UDC are to consider the report regarding the Changes to Scheme of Delegation (Planning), at the Full Council meeting on 20th October 2026.

6. Planning applications.

6.1. UTT/25/3329/FUL 110 dwellings, football pitch, football pavilion, landscaping and children's play area. Maces Farmyard and Land at Belcham's Lane, Rickling Green, Essex, **Withdrawn.**

Cllr. Gooding joined the meeting.

7. Clerk's Report.

Highways issues.
Cllr. Mark Webster's response to the Parish Clerk's email about outstanding highway issues in the village was very unsatisfactory. Highways have lost the recorded locations of all reported issues and have no plans to replace a major road sign on the main road through Ugley. Cllr. Webster also incorrectly referred to Cllr Gooding as a former councillor. Cllr. Gooding has replied to Cllr. Webster and is awaiting a response.

2027/28 Precept.
The 2027/28 precept will be discussed at the December meeting.

Bus Shelter Maintenance.
Cllr. Shutes will assess the village bus shelters and identify their likely maintenance requirements for the coming years. Provisions to be included in the precept.

Defibrillator.
Stephanie Burlison, Chair of the Ugley Village Hall Committee, has agreed to oversee servicing of the defibrillator. Responsibility for keeping the circuit up to date remains unclear. Cllr. Powter volunteered to undertake training and assist Stephanie with the defibrillator as needed.
It was unanimously agreed that Ugley Parish Council would pay the £336.00 pro forma invoice for three battery packs and new pads.

Highways invoice.
On 6 October 2026, Essex Highways held a consultation at Ugley Village Hall about the 'quiet lane' at Patmore End, which had been on hold for more than two years. The

Village Hall Committee submitted a £37.00 invoice for the venue hire, which the Parish Clerk will forward to Essex Highways.

8. **County Cllr. Ray Gooding's Report.**
Cllr. Gooding reported that local government reorganisation plans had been paused. ECC welcomed the decision because of significant concerns about the contracts involved, including social care.
The mayoral election will be held in May 2027. The elected officeholder will be the East County Mayor, not the ECC Mayor.

9. **Standing orders.**
Following a review, the current Standing Orders were deemed fit for purpose, with no amendments required.
Proposal: Ugley Parish Council continue operating under the current Standing Orders.
Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Harding seconded the vote was carried unanimously.

10. **Christmas Tree Lights - Cllr. Shutes.**
Proposal: Cllr. Shutes purchase Christmas tree lights, a car battery and an inverter for the tree on Ugley Green, at a cost of up to £250.
Cllr. Pryor proposed, Cllr. Powter seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

11. **Financial Report.**

Balance brought forward	£7057.14
UDC Precept	£4000.00
Balance	£11,057.16
Inland Revenue	£201.80
L Johnson	£830.61
Hilbery Turf	£102.00
L Johnson	£65.25
L Johnson	£25.48
Balance 12/10/2026	**£9,835.00**

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

12. **Any Other Business (no decisions can lawfully be made).**
Cllr. Reay reported that three damaged chevrons - one at the church junction and two on the bend were lying on the verge. The Parish Clerk agreed to report them on the Highways map.

Cllr. Bowers reported that Essex Waste lorries had resumed using Ugley Green despite the road's width restriction. As the police had previously resolved this recurring problem, the Parish Clerk will notify them.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.