

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27 February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Ugley Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chairman), Cllr. David Cross (Vice Chairman),
Cllr. N Bowers, Cllr. Matt Francis, Cllr. Clayton Powter,
Cllr. Elizabeth Reay, and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public:

2 plus, Essex County Cllr. R Gooding and District Cllr. J Loughlin.

1. Declarations of interest: None.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence. None.

3. Open to the Public.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for their support with the four planning applications that were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 16 January 2023. Out of the four planning applications, two have been withdrawn and two have been refused.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for keeping the 2023/24 precept low, so residents did not have to pay an increase.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023 were approved and signed by Cllr. Shutes as a true record.

5. District Councillor's Report

The district council's budget for 2023/24 was approved by Full Council on Tuesday 21 February 2023. The meeting became quite heated at times. The budget shows a Council Tax Requirement of £6,694,027, which is equivalent to £171.61 for a band D property, representing a £5.00 increase on the 2022/23 amount.

UDC is required by statute to set a balanced budget in advance of each financial year. This will be achieved for 2023/24 by using £4.457 million of reserves. Whilst UDC have sufficient reserves to fund this deficit for at least the next 2 years, they will need to identify ongoing savings and reduce this deficit in the medium term.

The District Council spent 2.2million on legal costs taking Manchester Airport Group (MAG) to court after UDC refused their planning application and yet UDC did not defend their refusal.

UDC's accounts have still not been signed off.

The staff morale is very low, and the staff turnover is very high.

The Local Plan has been delayed again.

The local election is to be held on 4 May 2023.

6. Essex County Councillor's report

Cllr. Gooding confirmed that he had now had further meetings with Highways Officers regarding the program of achieving the desired outcome of removing oversized vehicles or at least a significant number, that are using Stansted Village as a through route. The order of events are as follows but no definitive dates can be given yet.

The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that imposes a weight restriction on traffic entering Grove Hill from Lower Street, Stansted, is dated 1987 and was intended originally to limit traffic queuing in Lower Street. This TRO is currently unfit for purpose and unenforceable. It is therefore necessary that a new TRO is required which provides the ability for the police to enforce the restrictions.

Cllr. Scott head of Essex Highways has agreed that a new TRO should be for oversize vehicles and not restricted to weight limit, with the ability to enforce this throughout the centre of Stansted.

Not all oversize vehicles could be restricted, school busses and public busses plus vehicles delivering to business in the restricted area would need to be allowed access.

The Local Highways Panel is carrying out a feasibility study to identify potential alternative routes that did not merely move the problem to another location. The only practical route would be Hall Road in Elsenham. Signposts and advertising the diversionary routes would have to cover a very wide area.

All these details would form part of the consultation for the Stansted Centre restriction, which is the first stage. On a satisfactory completion of the Consultation, stage two would commence.

The second stage would be to install cameras on each of the four main entrances into Stansted. The Cameras would record when oversized vehicles entered and the time they exited from the restriction zone. If the time was too short it would be assumed the vehicles were using the village as a through route and they would be prosecuted. If however, the time was sufficiently long then they would be assumed to be delivering within the village and be exempt.

Cllr. Reay asked why a clause could not be added to the Section 106 agreements on planning applications stating how excess earth from the planning sites must be dealt with. If earth must be moved off the site, it should state the route it is allowed to take.

The potholes on Cllr. Gooding's members scheme have now started to be repaired.

The drain in Bury Lodge Lane is still blocked. Cllr. Gooding said he had reported it to Highways, but he has been told the road may belong to Stansted Airport, therefore the airport would be responsible for the maintenance. Cllr Gooding said he would find out more information.

7. Planning Application submitted to UDC.

7.1. UTT/23/0339/FUL Variation of condition 3 (climate control measures), 4 (external lighting), 5 (lighting test report), 6 (Biodiversity lighting design) and 7

(Biodiversity enhancement layout) attached to UTT/22/2895/FUL - application for the 3-month time period to be extended to 9 months. Parsonage Farm, Vicarage Lane. **No comment.**

- 7.2. UTT/23/0367/CLP** Single storey side extension. Newlands Cottage, Ugley Green, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **No Comment.**
- 7.3. UTT/23/0200/LB** Retention of replacement of wooden shingles to extension roof with natural slate. Proposed repaint outside walls from yellow to cream, repaint front door from dark blue to black to match windows and frames. Replacement of UPVC window with black painted timber and leaded light window. Chestnut Cottage, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **No comment.**

Decisions made by UDC.

- 7.4. UTT/22/2037/FUL** Construction of 2 no. self-contained 3-bedroom dwellings. Land North of Lavenir, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Refused.**
- 7.5. UTT/22/3456/HHF** Single storey side extension. Newlands Cottage, Ugley Green, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **Withdrawn.**
- 7.6. UTT/22/2451/HHF** Single Storey front infill extension. The Old Mill, North Hall Road. **Approved.**
- 7.7. UTT/22/3261/FUL** 4 detached homes with associated planting and open sided car ports. Willow House, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Withdrawn.**
- 7.8. UTT/22/3077/FUL** Erection of 1 new dwelling and double garage with associated access. Land at Fieldgate Farm, Gate Lane, Ugley. **Refused.**
- 7.9. UTT/23/3275/OP** Demolition of buildings under class uses B1, B2 and B8. Erection of 4 no. dwellings with associated carports and landscaping works. Land North Of The Forge, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Refused.**
- 7.10. UTT/22/3453/CLP** Erection of 2 no. detached single storey outbuildings. Newlands Cottage, Ugley Green, Snakes Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**
- 7.11. UTT/22/1694/PIP** One new dwelling on land to the west of The Cottage, Snakes Lane, Ugley Green. **Appeal allowed.**

8. Communication

Since the Ugley Village magazine stopped being published, it is difficult to share information with residents. The Parish Council does have a website where legislations documents are uploaded.

It was agreed that Cllr. Francis would explore updating the website, so more information could be added and increase the admin users. Once that is established the council could ask the church, who deliver leaflets every other week in the village, if they could add a note informing residents that village information will be displayed on the Parish Council's website and provide the website address.

9. Clerk's review

Polices

The Standing Orders were reviewed. It was agreed no amendments were necessary.

Proposal: Ugley Parish Council continue with the Standing Orders in their current format.

Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Claydon seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.

The Financial Regulations were reviewed. It was agreed that no amendments were necessary.

Proposal: Ugley Parish Council continue with the Financial Regulations in their current format.

Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Pryor seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.

Election 2023

Notice of Election is the 22 March 2023, this is when the returning officer at UDC publishes the notice of elections. The Election Day is 4 May 2023. Period between Notice of Election and Election Day is called pre-election period (formerly known as Purdah).

During the pre-election period 22 March – 4 May there are restrictions on local authorities which may imply public support for a candidate or political party. Parish Councils must not give the impression that they are promoting the public image of a particular candidate, or group of candidates.

New councillors take office 4 days after the election, as this falls on a bank holiday, members take office on Tuesday 9 May. The first council meeting after an election must take place within 14 days after the new members take office (9 May).

Ugley's Annual Parish Council meeting is on 22 May 2023, which just meets the criteria. However, the Annual Parish Meeting is due to be held on 10 April 2023, this is in the middle of the pre-election period. It was agreed, so that Cllr. Loughlin could give a report at the Annual Parish Meeting, to have a combined meeting, with both the Annual Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2023.

The meeting in April will be held on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

20 is plenty.

Several Essex Parish Councils are campaigning to make 20mph the standard speed limit in villages where people and vehicles mix. If the road is made into a 20mph zone then it would be enforceable, if it was 20 is plenty it would not be enforceable. This may help reduce the speed through Ugley Green. It was agreed to give support to this campaign.

10. Finance

Barclays Bank are asking for proof that the Ugley Parish Council address is that of the Parish Clerks. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have any of the acceptable documents, such as a utility bill, headed paper, or a bank statement from a different bank. It was suggested to ask UDC if they could help by providing a headed letter stating Ugley Parish Council's address or ask the parish council's accountant to provide a letter. Cllr. Gooding said that quite a few parishes were having this trouble with Barclays and NatWest, it seems they are not interested in holding small parish council's accounts. The Parish Clerk is to contact the Parish Clerk at Quendon, who have just changed banks and are very happy with the outcome.

11. Finance Report.

The following payments were authorized.

L Johnson	£27.90
Microsoft Office	£59.99

The bank statement, reconciliation and a report of spending was presented to the council which was agreed and signed by Cllr. Shutes.

Cash Statement:

Balance brought forward	£8,090.15
Credit from UDC	£500.00
Total	£8,590.15
L Johnson	£27.90
Microsoft Office	£59.99
Balance Carried forward	£8,502.26

12. Any other business

Cllr. Reay reported fly tipping in the river. This must be reported to the Environmental Agency.

Cllr. Clayton reported that the road opposite Foxton Farm on Ugley Green looks as if it is subsiding towards the pond. Cllr. Gooding said he would investigate the matter.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 4 April 2023, at 7pm in the Village Hall.