

Parish Council of Ugley

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

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding

- 1. To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr. Nick Bowers and District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.
It was agreed to send Cllr. Loughlin a bouquet of flowers.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 December 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
- 4. Open to the public:** None present.
- 5. Planning applications submitted to UDC:** None.
- 6. Essex County Councillor, Ray Gooding's report.**
Cllr. Gooding reported a recent head-on collision in Ugley Green and has requested police records to determine vehicle speeds. This data may support lowering Pound Lane's current 60mph speed limit.

Councillor Gooding reported that the necessary repairs to the 'toot toot bridge' on North Hall Road are currently being considered by Highways. In addition, chevrons will be installed on the sharp bends in the road to enhance safety. Councillor Reay noted that although some repairs have been carried out, they have already sustained damage.

Councillor Gooding asked Highways Enforcement to assess the Vicarage Lane hedge and confirmed the hedges are resident-owned. He proposed either sending a letter to residents asking them to trim their hedges or having Essex Highways do it and bill them. He will follow up with Essex Highways.
- 7. Planning application.**
None.
- 8. Christmas tree and lights – Cllr. Shutes.**
The tall tree on Ugley Green will remain, but it is now too high to decorate for Christmas.
A new tree will be put up annually for Christmas, with lights powered by a 12-volt battery.

9. Clerk's Report.

The Code Of Conduct was circulated to all councillors, no amendments were needed.

Before the Parish Council arranges for repairs to the bus stop on Cambridge Road, opposite Ugley Village Hall, it should first be confirmed whether Essex County Council owns the bus shelter. Councillor Gooding advised the Parish Clerk to write to Helen Morris, Head of Transport.

The Parish Clerk informed UDC that Ugley Parish Council is interested in participating in the VAS three-year project. Confirmation of the meeting date is currently pending.

Matthew Robinson has resigned as Chair of Ugley Village, and no one has yet filled the role. He was also the contact person for the defibrillator. The Parish Clerk is now working to identify who the new contact will be.

10. Precept Upon Charging Authority.

Cllr. Shutes and the Parish Clerk signed the Precept Upon Charging Authority Precept agreed at the meeting held on 8 December 2025.

The precept and budgets for 2026-2027 were discussed. It was agreed to ask for a precept of £8,000. This would be a 3.49% increase, the equivalent increase of £1.16p per year per band D household. The Chair will sign the Precept Upon Charging Authority at the Parish Council meeting on 12 January 2026.

11. Financial Report.

Balance brought forward	£8,306.79
L Johnson	£612.37
HM Revenue	£393.60
Uttlesford Association of Local Councils	£5.00
L Johnson	£34.35
Village Hall	£174.00
Bank Balance as of 12 January 2026	£7087.47

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

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

Cllr. Powter mentioned that an electric cable had been left in the ditch near the entrance to Snakes Lane. The Parish Clerk will investigate who is responsible for leaving it there, so they can collect it.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.