

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 26 January 2015

Present: Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chairman), Cllr. David Cross (Vice-Chairman), Cllr. Betty Francis, Cllr. David Hilton, Cllr. Roger Pryor, Cllr. Jean Reay, Cllr. Tony Turner and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public: 0, Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding.

The meeting opened at 800pm

- 1** **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. J Salmon.
- 2** **Declarations of Interest – None**
- 3** The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 December 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4** It was agreed that Ugley Parish Council would set a precept for 2015/16 of £6,966 plus a grant from UDC of £234, totalling a budget figure of £7,200. The increase was due to it being an election year, if an election was called for in Ugley it would cost the Parish Council in the region of £1,500 - £2,000. The vote was carried unanimously.
- 5** Chairman and the Parish Clerk signed the ‘Precept upon Charging Authority’ form.
- 6** **Clerk’s Report**
It was proposed that Ugley Parish Council renew their membership for ‘Campaign to Protect Rural England’ (CPRE) at an annual fee of £36. The vote was carried unanimously.
- 7** It was proposed that the dates for the following Parish Council meetings are changed from Monday 7th September 2015 to 14th September 2015 and 7th December 2015 to the 14th December 2015. The vote was carried unanimously.
- 8** All Councillors signed agreement forms allowing agendas to be transmitted electronically; this is due to an amendment to the Local Government Act 1972.
- 9** Cllr. Shutes and the Parish Clerk will be attending the meeting at Saffron Walden on the 10th March 2015 which is providing a briefing on the processes to be followed in administering the combined election on 7 May 2015.
- 10** Any item that requires a decision by the Parish Council must be emailed to the Parish Clerk six days before the meeting so it may be added to the agenda.

11 Treecology will be carrying out the crown reduction of the oak tree by the post box on the 7 February 2015.

12 **Plans Received**

(i) **UTT/14/3812/FUL** The erection of a detached dwelling house, detached double garage and associated parking. Land at Cambridge Road, Ugley. **No Objections.**

(ii) **UTT/14/3774/LB** Internal repairs and minor alterations. Guyvers, Patmore End, Ugley. **No Objections.**

13 **Finance Report**

The following cheques and payments were approved for signing;

100981	CPRE	£36.00
100982	Treecology	£480.00

Total		£516.00
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Current balance (both Accounts) £2,843.23

Any other Business (no decisions can lawfully be made under this item).

14 **The Chace, Pound Lane, Ugley.**

In 2013 Ugley Parish Council wrote to English Heritage with their concerns regarding alterations that might be made to the property called 'The Chace' that would affect its historic character. English Heritage contacted the Parish Council in January 2015, saying that they had written to the owners several times but had no reply and without access it would be extremely difficult to assess the building. The Parish Clerk is to write to English Heritage explaining that since their initial request 'The Chace' had been granted planning permission to remove the thatched roof, although as yet this had not been carried out. The Clerk was also to ask the question if there was any way that the building could be listed without the owner's consent.

15 **Stansted Airport**

All Councillors had received a questionnaire survey from London Stansted Airport. The councillors that had begun to answer the questions in the survey had found it was not relevant to them and therefore had not completed it.

16 **Boards across the ditch on Ugley Green.**

Cllr. Turner requested that this item is re-addressed at the next Parish Council Meeting on 16 March 2015.

17

Road Signs

Cllr. Cross asked Cllr. Gooding if anyone ever cleaned the road signs, many were very dirty and hard to read: also bollards in the road directing vehicles round an obstruction are sometimes hard to see as they were covered in mud. Cllr. Gooding thought this may be something the Highway Rangers could be asked to do.

18

Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding

Cllr. Gooding reported that Essex County Council plan to freeze council tax for the fifth successive year. They are going to spend capital where it is most needed, i.e. schools, roads, adult care and flood defences.

£131 million in the county's Highways and transport network, around £79 million to provide 3,000 additional primary schools and other schools improvements and £5.1 million to support 'Adult Social Care Services'.

19

Highway Rangers

Cllr. Gooding encouraged Parish Council's to apply to the 'Highway Panel' for any small local projects that could be carried out by the Highway Rangers. At present the verges along Cambridge Road were being cut back.

Cllr. Cross gave Cllr. Gooding a wish list the Ugley Parish Council had composed, and were still waiting for the Highway Rangers to start;

Cllr. Gooding said he would look into the matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Next Meeting; Monday, 16th March 2015 at 8.00pm held in the Ugley Village Hall.

Signed

Chairman