

Ugley Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2019

Present:

Cllr. Nick Shutes (Chairman), Cllr. David Cross (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr. Roger Pryor, Cllr. Betty Francis, Cllr. Jean Reay
and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public:

District Cllr. Janice Loughlin.
Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllr. D Hilton.

2. **Declarations of Interest.**

3. **Open to the public.** None present.

4. **Signing of the Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **District Cllr. Janice Loughlin's Report**

Uttlesford District Council have increased their council tax this year by 2.99%, any increase above 3% would have resulted in a referendum.

UDC has had major reductions in the funding received from central government. It is therefore vital to find other sources of funding. As part of the strategy, councillors at their 2019-20 budget setting meeting on 21 February 2019, agreed in principle to borrow £100m over three years to invest in commercial property. Of this, £20m would be allocated to further investment at Chesterford Research Park - in which the Council owns a 50% share and £80m allocated to other investments. At present, all investment has to be within the district boundary, although Councillors may be asked in the future to widen the area.

The new home bonus has been agreed for a further year.

Planning application UTT/19/0025/FUL, erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and garage, Land Adjacent Maughans Field Gate Lane, Ugley Green, has been 'Called in' by Cllr. Keith Artus, Councillor for Broad Oak and the Hallingburys. This application will now be decided by UDC Planning Committee.

Fairfield has now submitted their planning application to UDC, but it will not be decided until after May 2019.

6. **Planning Application**

- a) **UTT/19/0326/HHF** Erection of ancillary annexe. Sundown, Cambridge Road, Ugley. **Ugley Parish Council object to this planning application on the grounds that it is ‘out of keeping with the character of the area’.**
- b) **UTT/18/2694/FUL** Retrospective application for change of use to self-contained one bed studio flat. Orford Hall, Pound Lane, **Ugley Parish Council have ‘no objection’ to this planning application.**

Planning application decided by UDC

- c) **UTT/18/2052/LB** Additional ground floor WC with window, plus an en-suite bathroom and built in wardrobes. The Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**
- d) **UTT/18/2755/FUL** Change of use and extension of existing Coach House into a 3 bedroom holiday let. The Old Vicarage Lane, Ugley. **Approved.**

7. **Clerk’s Report**

Grass cutting contract

Three tenders had been received for the grass cutting contract. It was agreed to award the grass cutting contract for 2019 to Hilbery Turf.

Devolution

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) has informed Parish Councils, that County Councils intend to approach all Parishes towards the end of 2019 with the proposals to devolve certain services. Although ECC is at present proposing to make a financial contribution to Parishes it is unclear as to whether the amount on offer will be sufficient for the needs of each Parish and how long such payment will continue. Cllr. Ray Gooding stated that some of the services that ECC proposed to devolve to Parish Councils would be broken kerb stones and bus routes.

Great British Spring Clean

It was agreed to hold the village spring clean on Saturday 23 March 2019, meeting at 10am by the Village Hall. The Parish Clerk is to purchase 6 litter pickers.

Local Election

The Parish Clerk is to attend an election meeting on 27 February 2019 at Saffron Walden. The election nomination packs will be available.

Ugley Sign

Cllr. Sally Kitcat from Quendon & Rickling Parish Council very kindly re-erected the Ugley sign on the B1383; the Parish Clerk has thanked her.

8. **Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding’s report**

ECC have increased their council tax for 2019/20 by 3.99%, which is the maximum that they are allowed, plus 1% extra for social care. One million has been earmarked for adults and children with special needs and £500,000 for gang related crimes.

Cllr. Gooding is arranging for reflective signs to be installed on the posts in the centre of the road at the junction of Saunders Art Auctioneers on the B1383; this will be a temporary measure until UK Network Power installs the electric cables.

9. Financial Report

Cashflow – Circulated

Payments requiring authorisation;

BACS M Burke £ 500

BACS Campaign to
Protect Rural England £ 36

Total £ 536

Cash Statement February 2019

Balance brought forward £7984.68

Home Bonus UDC credit £ 500.00

BACS M Burke £ 500.00

BACS CPRS £ 36.00

Bank Balance £7948.68

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

It was with great sadness that Cllr. Shutes reported the death of Cllr. Tony Turner, who died on 3 February 2019.

The road from the Chequers Public House to North Hall Road is in need of repair, deep gullies have formed down the sides of the road. Cllr. Gooding and the Parish Clerk are to report this to Highways.

Cllr. Loughlin informed members that Rebecca Dobson, UDC Democratic and Electoral Services Manager was leaving in the middle of April 2019, it was not known who would take over the administration of the local elections in May 2019.

The meeting finished at 7.55pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by a Parish Council Meeting, is to be held on Monday 8 April 2019 at 7.00pm, in Ugley Village Hall.

Signed