

# Ugley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Ugley Parish Council Virtual Meeting held at 7.00pm on 4 May 2021

### Present:

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

### Members of the Public:

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

#### 1. Election of Chairman

**Proposal** Cllr. Shutes is elected Chairman for the coming year.  
Cllr. Pryor proposed, Cllr. Powter seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.  
Cllr. Shutes signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.

#### 2. Election of Vice-Chairman

**Proposal** Cllr. Cross is elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year.  
Cllr. Shutes proposed, Cllr. Pryor seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.

#### 3. Declaration of Interests Open to the public; None.

#### 4. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Cllr. Nick Bowers

#### 5. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29 March 2021 were agreed as a true record.

#### 6. District Councillor's Report

The District Council is currently in purdah due to the forthcoming elections. Planning meetings are being held and site visits are now taking place. The Planning Committee went to look at the proposed Bedwell Road site, which was later refused.

There is no further news on the airport application.

There is an election for a new District Councillor for Newport.

The District Council chamber at Uttlesford, allowing for the Covid restrictions, only has the capacity to hold 25 people, as there are 39 councillors it is unclear how face to face meetings are going to work.

#### 7. Essex County Councillor's Report

Essex County is currently in purdah.

Cllr. Gooding spoke at Uttlesford District Planning meeting against the Bedwell Road planning application.

Hopefully, the county is coming out of the Covid restrictions. As ECC is the public health authority they have been heavily involved. The test and trace systems that have been put in place by ECC has worked very well.

One concern, generally and nationally, is the effect of children being off school and having to stay at home, this has led to tension in some families. The statistics that have come from the Social Services for Essex has been concerning, but not as bad as other districts. Early intervention has helped to keep the numbers in Essex down. There has been a slight rise in the number of children that are in care, but nothing significant, as the figures do tend to fluctuate. There are 1120 children in care in Essex currently, which is significantly fewer than the number eight years ago. This is good, because the one thing that we know is that the life chances for children that are in care are significantly worse than those that can be maintained within their families.

Another great concern is the impact of the loss of education during the pandemic. ECC has put together an educational task force. This is to look at young people that have slipped in their academic achievements and to get that back online to get socialization in place and the loss of aspiration, which may be due to exams not being sat and how is this going to affect their options going forward. Most of all we put hope back into the minds of young people, to get them to achieve as high as they can, so they do not spend their lives feeling they have missed out.

Within the last week ECC have received the specification of the work to be carried out from the Environment Agency regarding North Hall Road. It has been difficult to reach this point. The requirements are very significant with concerns about any spillage from the repairs to the road going into the River Cam, which is one of the reasons why the agency is asking for a retaining wall to be erected first.

The structure team who are managing this project for the county have agreed to attend parish council meetings to present what they have done so far and what still needs to be completed. It is hoped that the team will attend Ugley's next meeting on 30 June 2021.

Cllr. Gooding has asked if Patmore Road leading off Cambridge Road up to the first bend could be made a 30mph road, it is currently at 60mph. The 'no tooting' signs that has been requested from a resident in Patmore Road are difficult to obtain, Highways are bound by national law, and the sign does not fall within the package that the law offers. Some traffic volumes on Patmore Hall Road have been carried out; they are no issues with over size vehicles but there is an increase in volume.

Cllr. Reay asked how long it will take before Patmore Road is repaired, there are some very large potholes. Cllr. Gooding replied that he has asked the Highways emergency maintenance and the structure team to repair the road as soon as possible.

Cllr. Reay asked if the 30mph limit was put in place could it be extended into North Hall Road. Cllr. Gooding said that the lack of houses along that stretch of road would mean that it did not comply for a lower speed restriction.

## **8. Clerk's Report**

**8.1.** The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk.

- 8.2. The annual governance statement 2020/21 was signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk.
- 8.3. The accounting statement 2020/21 was signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk.
- 8.4. The books in the bus shelter are increasing. Cllr. Pryor and Cllr. Powter said they would dispose of the books.
- 8.5. The Parish Clerk had ordered a bench on behalf of Mrs Rose Turner in memory of her late husband Councillor Tony Turner. The bench has been paid for by Mrs Turner and is to be installed on the Ugley Green.
- 8.6. The High Court has stated that it is for Parliament to legislate to allow a continuation of online meetings. So as from 7 May 2021 it will be illegal for council meetings to be held virtually. However, it is still against Government guidelines to hold indoor meetings until the earliest, 21 June 2021. Ugley Parish Council's next meeting is due to be held on 12 July 2021, this meeting will be held face to face if all members are happy to do so.

## 9. Planning Applications

- 9.1. **UTT/21/1258/FUL** Proposed demolition of an existing stable block and erection of 1 bungalow. Little Hudson Lodge, Field Gate Lane. **No Comment, leave to UDC' Officers.**
- 9.2. **UTT/21/1280/HHF** Proposed side extension to existing dwelling, with new garage and stable block to the rear of garden. **No Comment, leave to UDC's Officers.**

### Decisions made by UDC on Planning Applications

- 9.3. **UTT/19/2266/OP** Outline planning application for the erection of up to 220 dwellings including affordable housing with public open space, structural planting and landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) with vehicular access point from Bedwell Road. All matters reserved except for means of access. Land North of Bedwell Road and East of Old Mead Road, Ugley And Henham. **Refused**

## 10. Financial Report

Cash Statement, January 2021 – Circulated.

- Cashflow – Circulated.
- Payments requiring authorisation.
- EALC £149.91
- St peter's fabric £700.00
- Bench T Turner £529.95
- L Johnson £ 11.96
- L Johnson £610.05
- HM Revenue £152.40

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

Cllr. Francis approved of the phrase 'missed education' which Cllr. Gooding had used. There has been a lot of talk about children 'being behind' 'having to catch up' which is an extremely negative way of describing it, it makes it seem like the children are at fault or the parents. But the children have missed out because of Covid, through no fault of their own, and the phrase 'missed education' is very

commendable. Being positive helps with the mental health of children and gives them back their hope and aspiration.

Cllr. Loughlin had received an email from a resident complaining about the amount of rubbish on the local roads especially Cambridge Road. Cllr. Loughlin had informed Uttlesford requesting the litter to be removed.

**12. Meeting Closed at 7.55pm.**