GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council – Allison Ward
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Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the **Ordinary Meeting** of Great Canfield Parish Council which will be held at Great Canfield Village Hall on **Monday 10th October 2016** for the purpose of transacting the business set out on the agenda below.

SIGNED (CLERK): **DATE 6th October 2016**

THE PRESS & PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING, Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

3. PUBLIC FORUM – There will be 15 minutes available for the Public to speak on Parish Council matters or any issue of local concern.

4. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12th SEPTEMBER 2016 for approval and signature

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

6. PROGRESS UPDATE

   6.1. The meeting on the Essex Flood Assessment Project in early October was cancelled due to lack of interest. The Clerk is attending a local Parish Council meeting in early November where a presentation will be made on the project and will report back to this meeting in November.

   6.2. The Minerals Advisory Committee spoke at the inquiry into the soundness and legality of the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Waste Local Plan, a report has been circulated to Cllrs.

   6.3. The light bulb in the phone box was changed by a resident at a cost of £5.34.

7. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

   7.1. An application has been received from UK Power Networks to install a new electricity cable at Weardale, Bullocks Lane. To provide this service UK Power Networks require a new underground cable across part of the land owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is asked to agree to this request and to sign a consent form permitting the works. Parish Council to confirm decision.

   7.2. Essex Highways are extending an initiative which allows the temporary closure of roads that flood in heavy rain. It is aimed at preventing damage to properties where for example cars go through at speed and create a wash, although could apply to other stretches of road where there is a risk of vehicles becoming stuck. The initiative requires the support of Parish Councils and requires local management of flood warning signs. Parish Council to note and consider whether this is relevant to any part of Great Canfield.

   7.3. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new constituency boundaries. They propose keeping a Saffron Walden constituency, including the whole of Uttlesford, substituting four wards of Braintree district for the existing four wards of Chelmsford city. The consultation is open until 5th December should the Parish Council with to respond.

8. PLANNING

8.1. Applications for decision

Application No	UTT/16/2625/HHF & UTT/16/2626/LB
Development	Demolition of outbuilding and part of adjoining garden wall. Alterations to existing garden wall. Replacement of plastic downpipe with metal downpipe. Erection of single storey side extension and associated internal alterations.
Location	Green Easter, Cuckoos Lane

Application No	UTT/16/2692/HHF
Development	Proposed single storey side extension
Location	Ashcroft, Bullocks Lane

8.2. Decisions

Application Number UTT/16/2121/FUL

Development	Proposed change of use of grazing land to paddock. Formation of manege and erection of stable block
Location	Rosedale, Great Canfield Road
Decision	Conditional Approval (Planning Committee decision)

8.3. Enforcement – Haydens End, Hellmans Cross. The enforcement notice issued under case ENF/15/0500/C requiring the removal of the stable block and clearance of the site has now expired. The Clerk is chasing Uttlesford for an update.

9. STANSTED – AIRCRAFT OVERFLYING THE VILLAGE

Parish Council to discuss comments raised re noise levels from aircraft overflying parts of the village particularly at night. The changes to the Stansted Airport departure routes which were introduced in February 2016, saw day time flights move from the Detling routes to the Clacton routes and as a result took aircraft away from directly overflying the village. However, the routes remain for night time flights, (23.00hrs to 6.00hrs), Stop Stansted Expansion and others have campaigned over many years for a reduction and end to night time flights. Parish Council to consider any actions.

10. CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL TAX PRINCIPLES

The Government is consulting on 'Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation' which includes proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for all local parish and town councils; it is open for responses until 28th October and Parish Councils are being encouraged to respond.

The consultation includes the suggestion that the Government will impose a referendum on all Parishes who wish to increase their precept by a level to be agreed. Currently this principle is only applied to Unitary and Local Authorities, i.e. Essex and Uttlesford and the consultation proposes continuing this at a level of 2% for 2017/18, plus the additional Adult Social Care precept. In the consultation it goes on to propose this level of a capped 2% increase, above which a referendum is required, be extended to larger Parish Councils, and **then suggests this could be introduced for all parishes.**

If the proposal was adopted at a level of 2% then with the current precept of £5.0k, Great Canfield Parish Council would require a referendum if it chose to increase its precept by +£100. The cost of a referendum is estimated at an amount equivalent to an election of c.£1,000. If for example the Parish Council wished to carry out a project for which additional precept was required, it would be severely restricted in the amount it could raise without a referendum.

The two key points and their questions are,

3.3.6 A large proportion of parishes are modest in size – for example, around 4,000 parishes have precepts of £25 (band D equivalent) or less. However, the Government is aware that increases in these precepts continue to concern local tax payers and is therefore prepared to consider extending referendums to all parishes.

3.3.7 We recognise that issues of proportionality, practicality and cost could be raised by such a step, and would welcome views on this.

Question 6: Do you agree with the suggestion that referendum principles may be extended to all local precepting authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.6? If so what level of principle should be set?

Question 7: Do you have views on the practical implications of a possible extension of referendum principles to all local precepting authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.7?

Great Canfield Parish Council to consider responding.

11. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**:-** to include

11.1. Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens

11.2. Highways/Road Safety

11.2.1. Update on signs at duck pond.

11.2.2. Essex Highways has confirmed work is required to clear the vegetation overhanging the highway at the bridge approaching the B1256, however no schedule of when the work will be completed can be given. The Clerk continues to chase the Flitch Way Park Ranger for additional assistance.

11.2.3. A temporary road closure is due to take place for the length of Great Canfield Road from its junction with Dunmow Road to its junction with Green Street from 22nd October whilst work to clear block ducts is completed.

11.2.4. Other items to chase or outstanding, weight limit sign High Cross Lane, general state of Highway and resurfacing, pot holes.

11.3 Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch

11.4 Tree Warden

12. FINANCE

12.1 Cheques for Approval

PAYMENT TO	***VALUE***
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk September 2016	£168.49
Mr G Sives – light bulb for the phone box	£ 5.34
PKF Littlejohn – Annual External Audit inc vat	£360.00

12.2 The External Audit has been completed and other matters 'not affecting our opinion' are drawn to the attention of the Parish Council. The statement is 'The Council should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests. Any earmarked reserves should be considered and formally approved by the Council'. The Clerk has posted the notice of completion of audit on the website and the accounts are available for review.

12.3 Quarterly financial report and bank reconciliation.

12.4 Update on bank accounts.

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 14th November 2016

15. TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING