



GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING Held in the Village Hall Monday 8th May 2017 at 8pm

Present: From the Parish Council, Cllrs Ginny Barlow, Chris Easter, Stuart Hepburn, Jenny Jewell, Robert Mackley (chair), and the Clerk Allison Ward (secretary).

7 members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME, Robert Mackley as chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed residents to the Annual Village Meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –Parish Cllr Michael Knight and Parish Cllr Declan Tiernan.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Monday 9th May 2016 were approved and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT – Cllr Robert Mackley

During the year Great Canfield Parish Council has continued to collaborate with neighbouring Parish Councils on common issues, including the Revised Waste Local Plan and planning applications, and is grateful for the shared support and guidance.

This year the Minerals and Waste Committee considered and advised the Parish Council on its response to the final consultation on the soundness and legality of the Revised Waste Local Plan, before its submission by Essex County Council to the Planning Inspector in June, and represented the Parish Council at the inquiry in September. We are disappointed that the points raised by the Committee were not acted upon and accept it is highly likely the Plan which includes a site for hazardous waste in Great Canfield, will be approved later in 2017. Planning applications will be required to bring the sites into operation and this Parish Council along with its neighbouring councils stands ready to consider what, if any final actions it can take to protect the communities. At this point I would like to thank Tricia Clifton, John Creecy and Henry Green for their many years of commitment to both the Minerals and Waste Local Plans and their guidance to the Parish Council.

Following further representation to increase the number of houses on the Canfield Nursery site, the Parish Council sort legal advice on the easement agreed in 2015, to ensure it was robust. In June and in support of residents views the Parish Council agreed not to renegotiate the restrictive covenant, thereby restricting development to 7 houses. To date there has been no further planning applications to increase the size of the development.

The Secretary of State decided not to award costs to the Parish Councils in the Gladman appeal. As a result, the Parish Council increased its contribution to the costs incurred and returned 50% of the funds donated to residents.

Three sites in Great Canfield identified as suitable for small scale development remain in the draft Uttlesford Local Plan despite the objections raised by the Parish Council. In addition, the Parish Council objected to the inclusion of a large site south of the Flich Way in Hatfield Broad Oak parish; we remain strongly opposed to any development south of the Flich Way which threatens this natural boundary and opens the countryside beyond to development. The applicant submitted a planning application for this site in January 2017 to which this Parish Council objected, a decision is still

Signed
Robert Mackley
Chairman Parish Council

pending and we continue to work with our neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure all possible action is taken to put up robust defence to the development.

We also continue to respond to all planning applications and react to resident's concerns. Of significance in routine planning has been the ongoing issues with the developments at Hayden's End, Hellmans Cross. An enforcement notice for part of the development expired in June 2016 and the Parish Council has constantly pursued Uttlesford to take action.

We continue to chip away at Highway issues and are encouraged to see Canfield Road through to Hope End has now been resurfaced but are disappointed that there are no plans for work in Green Street where the road surface is deteriorating. And it was good to see the dead tree at Hellmans Cross finally removed by Essex Highways! The Parish Council is grateful to David Hummell and Mark Cook who volunteered to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and for the many residents who pick up the ever increasing volume of litter from around the village.

It's not easy being a Parish Councillor these days, although sometimes consulted for local advice, our views are rarely accepted and mostly ignored by Uttlesford and Essex County Council, the highways departments do their best to be unobtainable and when we are lucky enough to get through it seems more time, effort and money is spent not too, than it would to service our requests. It can be very frustrating.

The past year has been less busy than recent years but I am anticipating a busy year ahead so with that in mind I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for giving up their time freely to attend meetings and for the practical actions and support given outside of meetings. Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful clerk Allison Ward for all her hard work in the past year.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – No report

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015/16 – The Clerk

The accounts for 2016/17 closed with a loss in the year of £613, this loss remains unchanged if the Gladman receipts and refunds and the movement in VAT are excluded.

The only unbudgeted spend in the year was £1,650 spent on legal advice and consultants, the Parish Council expects this to be a continuing trend as the threat of developments close to the Takeley borders continue. The cost represents two different items, £1,250 for advice on the Easement to ensure it was sound enabling the Parish Council to respond to the pressure to increase the number of dwellings proposed for the Canfield Nursery site. The remaining £400 was this Parish Councils contribution to shared planning and highways consultants associated with the inclusion of the Bonnington Farm site, Hatfield Broad Oak in the Uttlesford Local Plan and a subsequent planning application.

The closing cash balance at March 2017 was £55,133.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident asked about the budget of £750 for the village defibrillator and the Parish Councils intentions. Cllr Mackley responded and confirmed the Parish Council is looking into suitable equipment as well as a location that will benefit a large number of residents in the village, it is noted that defibrillator equipment is already located at High Roding, Takeley and Priors Green.

David Hummell, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) co-ordinator updated the meeting on various communication routes where information is shared with residents. These include facebook and a weekly update via email; if residents wish to join the distribution list they can contact David direct or via the Clerk. In addition, a NHW newsletter is distributed to all residents with the quarterly village newsletter. The Parish Council has agreed to contribute to the cost of new NHW signs and these are currently on order. On behalf of the community Cllr Mackley thanked the NHW co-ordinators for their efforts to keep us updated.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14th May 2018 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed
Robert Mackley
Chairman Parish Council

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