



GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING Held in the Village Hall Monday 14th May 2018 at 8pm

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

4 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 District Cllr Keith Artus. County Cllr Susan sent apologies that she would be late to the meeting.
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING held on Monday 8^h May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT – Cllr Robert Mackley

Here I am reporting on another busy year for our small Parish, we are once again under attack from housing applications in the north of the Parish. With the government actively encouraging house building, no local plan yet approved and a question mark over Uttlesford housing supply projections, we are faced with a new application for 135 Houses at the Gladman site, a scoping opinion for a further 110 homes on the field opposite and an application in Canfield Road for 5 new houses. This later site had been put forward in the Uttlesford Call for Sites and was evaluated by them as suitable for small scale housing development, along with two similar sized plots at Hope End. Once again the PC is currently working vigorously with Takeley PC to oppose the Gladman site, has commented on the scoping opinion and has opposed the application for the 5 houses in Canfield Road.

Over the last year we have had four applications called in to Planning committee two at Tandans, Canfield Drive both were approved and two retrospective applications for Hayden's End that were not. The Parish Council spoke in objection to all four on planning issues and an enforcement notice has been issued for Hayden's End and an enforcement file opened for Tandans, where previous planting conditions have not been met.

The Essex Revised Waste Local Plan was approved by Essex County Council in 2017 and we now await a planning application. I would like to thank the now disbanded waste and minerals committee for all their hard work opposing this over the years, the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

The biggest blight we have had in the village this past year has been fly tipping and litter dropping, we have had several major fly tipping incidents, one that shut a road for three days and at the recent litter pick over 30 sacks of rubbish were collected. The Parish Council is now putting pressure on our local MP and council to campaign for tougher laws, as the present do not seem to be a deterrent.

The Parish Council has commented against the application to increase passenger numbers at Stansted Airport and watch the airport parking problems currently being experienced by our neighbouring parishes closely.

Signed
Robert Mackley
Chairman Parish Council

Potholes and poor road surfaces are still a problem as they are countrywide, the PC continues to put pressure on highways to keep Great Canfield towards the top of the to do list.

On a brighter note we have been instrumental in the insulation of a Defibrillator at Ashfields central for the village, free WiFi for users of the village hall, have bought new neighbourhood watch signs, made a donation to the Essex air ambulance and have made a donation to the village firework display, the best attended village event we have.

I would like to say a thank you to my fellow councillors who give up much time and effort freely to the village in their capacity as Parish councillors and to our Clerk Allison Ward who inbox seems to get bigger every year.

County Cllr Susan Barker arrives

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT – County Cllr Susan Barker

Cllr Barker began by updating the meeting on matters relating to the District Council and confirmed a paper on increasing the level of fines for fly tipping and littering is due to go to the July cabinet. Cllr Barker went on to confirm there have been successful prosecutions both against an operative and a householder who had thought their waste was being appropriately disposed of.

The continuing issues with flooding on the B184 were discussed, it was noted that the advice from Essex Highways is if we were to allow the farmer to dig out the ditch it will come off the list for a proper fix.

Uttlesford District Council is in the final stages of the Local Plan preparation before it goes to the Council in June. It is important that the Council goes out to regulation 19 and if they cannot get approval in time, it is likely the government will step in and make the decisions.

The Stansted airport application to increase passenger numbers is due to be heard in July by the Planning Committee, if we do not have all the evidence we need, it will be delayed.

At Essex County Council the pressures on costs are challenging with an increase in social care requirements for the elderly and for adults with disabilities. Cllr Barker confirmed she is now the Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate which covers a range of services including libraries, registration service and major contracts.

Residents were invited to raise any questions or comments and began by sharing the concerns of neighbouring Parish Councils in relation to airport parking in the communities. Comments included the problem of cars waiting in local lanes and laybys to pick up. The meeting agreed help is needed from the airport in particular in providing suitable and affordable facilities within the airport perimeter.

A resident went on to express dissatisfaction with the state of the highways. There are logs reported that are accessed as not requiring fixing and then some months later when they have deteriorated they are marked up for repair, the view of residents is it would have been more cost effective to repair when these issues were minor. Residents are aware budgets are tight and constrained, however went on to suggest that some repairs are sub-standard and have to be redone within a short period of time, having a proper job done that lasts is not only more cost effective but reduces the disruption to residents,

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017/18 – The Clerk

The accounts for 2017/18 closed with a total loss in the year of £564, however this includes £1,500 for the village defibrillator which is allocated to the easement fund and not precept.

Expenditure for the year was in line with the budget, with total donations of £250 including £50 SSE, £100 village fireworks and £100 Essex Air Ambulance. There was no spend on planning consultants during 2017/18 however costs will be incurred in the coming financial year to support the Parish Councils response to the Gladman application.

The closing cash balance at March 2018 was £54,619 of which £7,161 is in the general fund.

7. PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13th May 2018 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed
Robert Mackley
Chairman Parish Council