

GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
 held in the Village Hall Monday 10th November 2014

Present: Cllr Jon Sams (Chairman)
 Cllrs Keir Donald, Chris Easter, Henry Green, Catriona Kellerman, Robert Mackley and the Clerk Allison Ward

District Cllr Jackie Cheetham (8.00pm to 8.15pm)

County Cllr Susan Barker (8.35pm to 8.50pm)

1 Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Cllr Virginia Barlow and accepted by the Parish Council.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING - None
3. PUBLIC FORUM – Nothing to report.
4. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13th October 2014 were approved and signed by Cllr Sams as a true record after the following amendment,

Item 13.2 Isaac Lodge – Cllr Green raised a request to consider an additional memorial.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Cheetham confirmed two items of relevance; confirmation of the refusal by the Planning Officers the application UTT/14/2306/OP and advising the Parish Council that Uttlesford is due to publish its consultation on traveller sites in the District next month. Cllr Cheetham further commented that a grant of £500 has been given to the village hall committee from the New Homes Bonus and no further funds are available from Cllr Cheetham's budgets for this year, the Clerk confirmed District Cllr Jones has been approached to assist the Parish Council in meeting the shortfall in the cost of the notice board.

County Cllr Barker arrived during item 9.1, a record of Cllr Barkers update is recorded here. Cllr Barker asked the Parish Council if there were any County issues that they require assistance on. Cllr Mackley raised two highway logs that have been assessed and where remedial works has been confirmed but where no timescales have been given. The first is the ditch at Bacon End, Cllr Mackley met with the Flood Management Team in February 2014 and it was agreed that work was required to dig out and repair this section of ditch. Secondly the bridge on the road as you approach the village from High Roding has been protected with red and white bollards for almost two years. We are aware from discussions with Highways that a significant repair is required and are advised this is on a priority list but it never seems to reach the top. A further comment was added that whilst some work to stop water running down the B184 beyond the Bacons junction was carried earlier this year, the problem has not been fully resolved and this stretch of the road remains dangerous in heavy rain. Cllr Barker agreed to raise these issues and request confirmation on when works can be expected.

Signed
 Jon Sams (Chairman Parish Council)

The Clerk has been chasing Essex County Council Land and Property Department for confirmation of whether ECC intend to sell the land they own at Hope End, Cllr Barker agreed to chase on our behalf, Clerk to forward correspondence.

Cllr Barker commented on the presentation being given at the next meeting of Uttlesford Association of Local Councils, Thursday 20th November, to which Parish Councils have been invited.

6. PROGRESS UPDATE

6.1. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) with local support cleared reeds from the ponds at the junction of Green Street and Canfield Road on 15th October. The cost of the work to cover TCV expenses was £200 and this is funded by a donation from the New Homes Bonus 2013/14. Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to the residents who assisted TCV.

6.2. As reported in item 5 the Clerk has written to District Cllr Jones for assistance in meeting the cost of the new notice board at Hope End, a response is pending.

6.3. Response pending from ECC on future of land at Hope End, Clerk chasing.

7. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

7.1. The Parish Council responded to the M.A.G. (Manchester Airport Group) consultation on the future Sustainable Development Plan for Stansted Airport. Whilst welcoming that the plan focuses on a 'current' single runway the Parish Council raised concerns regarding the suggested increase to 45mppa and challenged the lack of data contained within the plan, plans for local employment, the continuation of night flights and plans to increase cargo flights.

7.2. Cllr Kellerman to attend the SSE Parish and Town Council Liaison meeting scheduled for 13th November 2014.

8. ISAAC LODGE MEMORIAL

Cllr Green suggested that consideration be given to providing an additional memorial to Isaac Lodge who was a recipient of the Victoria Cross and born in Great Canfield. The current memorial was erected in 2007 outside the church perimeter on the green at Church End. Cllr Green went on to comment that he felt the current memorial was not in a prominent place and did not give the 'honour' due to such an individual who was born and lived in the village. Cllr Green suggested a small memorial plaque could be placed inside the church.

The Clerk confirmed that this had been discussed as part of the original plans and the PCC had been approached. At the time the suggestion had been made to place the memorial outside the church perimeter and this had been duly agreed and the memorial installed. The Clerk went on to read out the regulations issued by the Church of England on memorials inside churches, in summary

'.... such memorials are subject to special provisions. No memorial may be erected in a church without a faculty and such faculties should be 'sparingly conceded'. 'An application for a memorial monument or plaque inside a church should demonstrate that the person in whose memory the memorial is being introduced was a person of distinction who made a contribution to the nation, region, county or locality which is, and is likely to continue to be in years to come, of unique exceptional or historic interest'.

Signed
Jon Sams (Chairman Parish Council)

After further discussion it was suggested that Cllr Green drafts a letter to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with the evidence suggested in the church guidance, this to be forwarded to the Clerk for additional input relating to the church legislation. A final draft will be brought back to the next Parish Council meeting for agreement before being forwarded to the PCC for consideration.

9. PLANNING

9.1. Applications

APPL No	UTT/14/3020/HHF & UTT/14/3021/LB
DEVELOPMENT	Demolition of existing shed, garage and boundary wall. Proposed side and rear extensions, cart lodge and garden room.
LOCATION	Hellmans Cottage, Green Street

Cllr Green proposed, Cllr Donald seconded with all in agreement that the Parish Council objects to both related applications. This is one of the oldest properties in the village and believed to be an original hall house, there are three reasons for the objection,

- a) The Parish Council is concerned with the new gable coming out of the thatch roof which changes both the shape of the roof and the cottage.
- b) The change in the street view resulting from the linear extension.
- c) The significant increase in footage which including all additions is almost 100%

APPL No	UTT/14/3162/HHF
DEVELOPMENT	Demolition of existing stables and erection of new stables with double garage
LOCATION	Fanns Farmhouse, Great Canfield Road

This is a revision to a previous application that was refused by Uttlesford District Council in 2013. Cllrs considered the revised plans and were of the view that the only change was the removal of the clock tower and link, there appears to have been no change in the size of the footprint. Cllr Donald proposed, Cllr Sams seconded with all in agreement that the Parish Council objects to this application by reason that the proposed building is of a size that is inappropriate in the countryside and the impact such a large structure has when visible from the road.

APPL No	UTT/14/3118/P3MPA
DEVELOPMENT	Prior notification of change of use of agricultural building to 3 Residential units
LOCATION	Barn and machine sheds, Ashfields Farm, Cuckoos Lane

This is an application for Permitted Development rights to convert agricultural buildings to residential dwellings. Whilst this form of application is not normally responded to by the Parish Council and the decisions left to the District, Cllr Donald proposed, Cllr Mackley seconded with all in favour that the Parish Council should submit a response to Uttlesford.

The Parish Council is of the view that these buildings have not been used as agricultural buildings since the farm was sold in excess of 10 years ago and that buildings at this property were converted to B1 light industrial use in previous years. The Parish council asks that Uttlesford obtains the evidence that this building was last in use for agricultural purposes. The Parish Council supports the concerns from local residents that the development of this site beyond the already agreed small holiday lets will put significant additional pressure on the single track private road, which is the only access point into the site. Clerk to prepare a draft response for approval by Cllr Donald.

Signed
Jon Sams (Chairman Parish Council)

Cllr Barker arrives, see item 5

9.2. Decisions

APPL No UTT/14/2376/HHF
 DEVELOPMENT Proposed erection of gates and brick pillars to entrance of site.
 LOCATION Woodside Cottage, Bacon End Road
 DECISION Conditional Approval

APPL No UTT/14/2734/HHF
 DEVELOPMENT Single-storey extension to detached annexe (revision of planning application UTT/14/1954/HHF)
 LOCATION Silverthorn, Great Canfield Road
 DECISION Conditional Approval

APPL No UTT/14/2306/OP
 DEVELOPMENT Outline application, with all matters reserved except for access, for residential development for up to 211 dwellings, provision of open space with recreational facilities and site access, all with associated highway and infrastructure works including a new footpath along Great Canfield Road.
 LOCATION Land West Of Canfield Road Great Canfield
 DECISION Refuse

9.3 Cllr Barlow is preparing the Parish Councils response to The Department for Communities & Local Government is consulting on ‘Planning and travellers: proposed changes to planning policy and guidance’, deadline 23rd November.

10. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:-

10.1. Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens – Nothing to report

10.2. Highways/Road Safety

10.2.1. Cllr Easter reported that a resident ‘fell down’ the open man hole along Fitzjohns Lane that has been subject to previous lengthy conversations with Highways. The Clerk to update Highways and request further information on when the repair will be carried out.

10.2.2. Cllr Mackley had been approached by a resident with concerns about reflective posts that have been placed on the Highway verge at Hope End. It is understood the resident has reported these direct to Highways and it was agreed no action is required of the Parish Council.

10.3. Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch

10.4. Tree Warden – Clerk to chase Essex County Council for an update on the works outstanding.

11. FINANCE

11.1. Cheques for Approval

PAYMENT TO	VALUE
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk October 2014	£165.11
The Great Canfield Community Trust – Hall Hire	£108.00

Signed

Jon Sams (Chairman Parish Council)

The Conservation Volunteers (inc vat)	£240.00
Aldburys Farm Contracting (inc vat)	£450.00

11.2. Cllr Sams proposed, Cllr Green seconded with all in agreement that the Parish Council retrospectively approves the purchase of a poppy wreath to replace the existing wreath in front of the Peace Oak. The Clerk ordered this at a cost of £17 at the beginning of November but as this was outside the deadlines for orders it is not expected until after 11th November. The Parish Council agreed to inform the village once this was received and a short act of remembrance would then take place led by the Parish Council.

11.3. Uttlesford Community Transport (UCT) asked the Parish Council to consider a grant. Currently the Parish Council is a member of UCT and pays an annual membership of £20. It was agreed no further grant would be given, however the Clerk was asked to include information about the charities services in the next newsletter to encourage residents who qualify to consider joining the scheme and using the services.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

12.1. Budget 2015/16 – held over to December following timetable issued by Uttlesford District Council.

At this point in the meeting the resident who had been in attendance asked the Chairman if he could ask a question, Cllr Sams permitted the question.

The resident asked the Parish Council if they were taking photographs or carrying out ‘covert operations’ on his property. The Parish Council confirmed that neither individual nor the Parish Council as a ‘body’ is involved in such activity. The Parish Council understood the question was raised in relation to current traveller consultations. The Clerk confirmed there are two consultations the Parish Council is aware of, the first is a government consultation on changes to planning policy for travellers; this is a ‘tick-box’ response and does not require comment or local evidence. The second consultation referred to by District and County Cllrs this evening is on future locations of traveller sites in the District, this consultation has not been issued and until it is the Parish Council has no comment to make. The resident continued and asked if a request had been made for local input; the Parish Council confirmed that residents are always welcome to provide their input into any matter and this will be considered in any decisions by the Parish Council. The resident suggested the Parish Council had been involved in previous ‘covert operations’. The Parish Council responded that only once over 10 years ago, has there been a requirement for the Parish Council to gather evidence in support of a planning appeal; this involved the Parish Council openly recording vehicles entering and leaving a commercial site. After further discussion the Parish Council suggested that if the resident is concerned about security this should be reported to the Police Community Support Officer and any incidents of concern can always be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation to the village. *The resident left the meeting.*

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 8th December 2014 at 8pm in the village hall.

15 TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.30pm

Allison Ward
Parish Clerk 01245 231798

Signed
Jon Sams (Chairman Parish Council)