

GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
 held in the Village Hall Monday 10th October 2016

Present: Cllrs Ginny Barlow, Chris Easter, Jenny Jewell, Michael Knight, Robert Mackley (Chairman), and the Clerk Allison Ward

0 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Stuart Hepburn and Cllr Declan Tiernan and were accepted by the Parish Council.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING – None
3. PUBLIC FORUM

The Clerk had circulated an email received from a resident who could not attend the meeting regarding litter in the village. The Parish Council share resident's frustrations with those who drop litter throughout the village and wish to express their thanks to all residents who regularly pick up litter in their areas. There was a suggestion that this could be made more formal, however the Parish Council concluded that at this stage they would prefer to retain the current approach where residents do what they can, when they can. The Parish Council co-ordinate an annual litter pick during the Spring and agreed to add a further event on Saturday 26th November once the vegetation is low, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. Suggestions had been made of putting notices at laybys and other high litter spots encouraging people to take their litter home, but it was generally felt these would not be effective. The Clerk confirmed Uttlesford produce posters which can be displayed in notice boards and it was agreed these should be put up when space allows.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12th September 2016, were proposed by Cllr Knight as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Easter with all in agreement; the Chairman signed the minutes.
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – None received.
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 Parish Council are grateful to the resident who purchased and replaced the light bulb in the phone box.

7. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- 7.1. Cllr Barlow proposed that the Parish Council permits UK Power Networks access across Parish Council land to install a new underground electricity cable to the property Weardale, Bullocks Lane. This was seconded by Cllr Mackley with all in agreement. The contract was signed by the Chairman and will be forwarded by the Clerk.
- 7.2. Essex Highways are extending an initiative which allows the temporary closure of roads that flood in heavy rain, aimed at preventing damage to properties. After discussion and considering the views of effected residents, Cllr Barlow proposed that the Parish Council submits an application for consideration covering the stretch of road from Church End to Bacon End as far as Foxley; Clerk to progress.
- 7.3. The Parish Council noted the proposal from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) to retain a Saffron Walden constituency, including the whole of Uttlesford and substituting four wards of Braintree district for the existing four wards of Chelmsford city.

Signed
 Robert Mackley (Chairman Parish Council)

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

Cllr Barlow proposed that no comment is made on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Easter with all in agreement.

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

Cllr Jewell proposed that no comment is made on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Easter with all in agreement.

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. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to notify District Cllr Artus of the situation.

9. STANSTED – AIRCRAFT OVERFLYING THE VILLAGE

The general view was the change in departure routes from Stansted with aircraft now using the Clacton routes and not the Dover (Detling) routes during daytime operating hours, had benefitted the village. The Dover route continues to be used for night flights and this Parish Council supports the view of Stop Stansted Expansion and others that night time flights should not be permitted. No further action required at this stage.

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.

The consultation includes the suggestion that the Government will impose a referendum on all Parishes who wish to increase their precept above an agreed level. Currently this principle is only applied to Unitary and Local Authorities, i.e. Essex and Uttlesford, the consultation proposes continuing this at a level of 2% for 2017/18, plus the additional Adult Social Care precept, as well as extending the 2% cap to all Town and Parish Councils.

If the proposal was adopted at a level of 2% Great Canfield Parish Council would require a referendum if it chose to increase its precept by as little as £100. The cost of a referendum is estimated at an amount equivalent to an election, c.£1,000 a 20% increase in precept.

Cllr Knight proposed that the Parish Council objects to the proposal to cap increases in Parish Council precept because of the limitations it would place on its ability to provide local services. The Parish Council is of the view that it is elected by the local community to provide the most appropriate services at the most affordable cost, they are accountable to the residents they serve and should not be limited in their services and initiatives by a cap on precept. This was seconded by Cllr Mackley with all in agreement. The Clerk was asked to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Signed
Robert Mackley (Chairman Parish Council)

11. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

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

11.2. Highways/Road Safety

11.2.1. The Clerk confirmed the land (verge) adjacent to the larger pond at the junction of Green Street and Great Canfield Road is not Parish Council land, however the land (verge) adjacent to the smaller pond is. The Clerk was asked to purchase a duck awareness sign to be placed on the Parish Council land.

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.

11.2.5. A resident responded to the item in the September minutes 11.4.1 with specific comments on the increase in oversized vehicles accessing Newland Farm via Bacon End. The Parish Council is fully aware of the issues and continues to monitor and where necessary will discuss with Little Canfield Parish Council and Uttlesford.

11.2.6. Clerk was asked to report the bollards on the verge along Hope End following concerns from a resident re highway safety (reference number 2494084).

11.3. Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report

11.4. Tree Warden – No further progress on the tree at Hellmans Cross.

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 The Clerk presented the quarterly financial report. The cash balance at end of September is £57,711.

12.4 Work to open a new savings account is outstanding.

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – No specific additional items.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 14th November 2016.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.20pm

Allison Ward
Parish Clerk 01245 231798

Signed
Robert Mackley (Chairman Parish Council)