

GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
 held at Great Canfield Village Hall on Monday 11th September 2023

Present: Cllrs Harry Anderson, Ginny Barlow (chair), Jenny Jewell, Michael Knight, and the Clerk Allison Ward
 County Cllr Susan Barker (leaving during agenda item 5)
 District Cllr Neil Reeve
 1 member of the public (leaving during agenda item 5)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Donald and Cllr Stratton sent apologies due to work commitments, Cllr Mildwater sent apologies due to personal commitments. All apologies were accepted by the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

Cllr Anderson declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.1, application Haydens End as an adjoining neighbour of the site.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident raised concerns following reports in a recent waste management publication re Crumps Farm and the illegal dumping of waste, the chair confirmed the item would be discussed at agenda item 5 and 7.5.

4. The MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 10th July 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Jewell, seconded by Cllr Knight with all in agreement.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County Cllr Susan Barker reported on the following matters,

1. 54 schools in Essex are affected by RAAC, the nearest in the area is Hatfield Heath, there are also at least 2 libraries. Where Essex County Council (ECC) is required to spend monies to rectify they have received confirmation from government that they will be reimbursed.
2. Essex has a campaign to reduce the volume of waste food which goes into black bin rubbish, this is currently estimated to be 25% of the black waste. This waste is heavy and Essex are charged by the tonne for disposal and it can be used to create compost which is then sold for revenue. During September/October residents will receive information and a roll of compost bags to encourage recycling.
3. Ofsted has rated Essex children's social care services as 'Outstanding' in every area assessed, this is the second consecutive time this result has been achieved.
4. Ride London is back on 26th May 2024.

Cllr Anderson asked when the potholes notified via the County Cllr scheme will be actioned, Cllr Barker confirmed the next round would be in November and those marked in red paint should be completed. Cllr Barlow suggested the recent repairs along Lower House in front of Badgers are poor and already starting to break up.

District Cllr Neil Reeve opened with confirmation that he had raised the situation at Crumps Farm and illegal dumping of waste with the ECC portfolio holder for climate and environment, ECC lead on waste, Uttlesford Assistant Director Environmental Services and the planning team. The intention being how do we get multi agency co-operation and action to identify the issues, and then take the correct course of action, Cllr Reeve confirmed he had asked for 'fact checking' within 48 hours to identify the 'real' issues, in advance of discussions on a way forward. Cllr Reeve is also seeking reassurance that information has been sent to the planning inspector with responsibility for the proposed development of 90 homes in Little Canfield. The meeting noted the Great Canfield parish council working group had identified problems over 10 years ago with works at the site not meeting planning requirements. Cllr Reeve confirmed he would be pursuing responses with urgency and would keep the meeting updated via the clerk.

County Cllr Susan Barker and the resident leave the meeting.

Signed
 Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

District Cllr Reeve reported on a number of further points,

1. The draft Local Plan is due to be published at the end of October. The meeting noted the recent decision by the planning inspector to allow the appeal for 1,200 homes at Dunmow/Little Easton.
 2. Uttlesford will be investing £20m in Chesterford research centre towards a new building and an on-site solar park.
 3. The village defibrillator in High Easter had been used this month and had saved a life, highlighting the importance of the equipment.
 4. District Cllr Geof Driscoll in his role as chair of Uttlesford has cycled through the district visiting every parish, this was to raise awareness of e-bikes and to raise money for local disability charity, Accuro; donations can still be made.
- Cllr Anderson raised the ongoing problems with missing waste collection. Cllr Reeve acknowledged there are issues particularly due to the change in tipping arrangements with vehicles now having to travel to Braintree which is taking additional time. The situation is improving, and work is ongoing to resolve.

6. CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1. Kemi Badenoch MP has put together a rural crime survey (<https://www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/kemi-badenoch-mp-rural-crime-survey-2023>), with the aim of learning more about how residents within the Saffron Walden constituency are impacted by this issue. Residents are encouraged to respond.
- 6.2. Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on the 15% of bus services across the county that are not commercially viable and are funded by ECC. There are no bus services running through Great Canfield. The link to view the details and respond to the consultation by 5th October is <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023/>
- 6.3. Town and Parish Councils were invited to consider supplementary information to support their responses to the Local Plan Issues and Options (call for sites evaluations) which were originally submitted in 2021. The clerk confirmed there are no developments or changes which would amend the parish councils original response.
- 6.4. Essex County Council is working in partnership with Essex District, Borough, and City Councils to deliver the Food Waste Recycling project across the county. See information minuted under agenda item 5.
- 6.5. Two instances of fly tipping in the parish were reported during July/August 2023.
- 6.6. The slides from the Uttlesford Code of Conduct training were forwarded to Cllrs.

7. PLANNING

7.1. Applications for decision

Application No	UTT/23/2169/FUL
Location	The Lodge 3A, Ashfields Farm, Cuckoo Lane
Development	Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of new dwelling

Given the site already has permission for demolition and rebuilding, Cllr Barlow proposed no further comment, this was seconded by Cllr Jewell with all in agreement.

The following application has been validated since the July meeting and the period for responding expired, however it remains undecided by Uttlesford.

Application No	UTT/23/1942/HHF
Location	Haydens End Green Street
Development	Proposed adjustments to storage barn approved under UTT/20/2601/HHF

Cllr Barlow proposed the parish council requests Uttlesford consult the conservation officer as the site affected by this application lies within the setting of Haydens End, Grade II listed, and has a complex history in relation to the associated outbuildings. Cllr Barlow went on to propose the parish council objects to this application due to the increase in the scale and height, the impact this has on the adjoining listed building and concerns the storage barn will not be used for its previously approved purposes. This was seconded by Cllr Knight, there were 3 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

7.2. Decisions for information only

Application No	UTT/23/0473/FUL
Location	Land North of Honeysuckle, Canfield Drive
Development	Erection of 1no. detached dwelling and garage
Decision	Conditional Approval

7.3. To record the Clerk and Cllr Jewell prepared the parish council response to the appeal hearing for application UTT/21/3272/OP, Little Canfield; 90 new homes off the B1256 Stortford Road, including a 'sustainable drainage scheme with an outfall to the river Roding'. District Cllr Neil Reeve represented the parish council at the meeting on 1st August, a decision will be issued by the inspector in due course.

7.4. Uttlesford is consulting residents and stakeholders to help develop a Design Code for Uttlesford. This will set out a series of rules and guidelines that, when followed, will combine to ensure that all proposals are designed and built to the highest quality. The consultation closes on 22nd September; the clerk to submit a response confirming the parish council is interested in submitting images for a 'Distinctive Village' section of the code.

7.5. To record, and further to the discussions at point 5, the parish council has been made aware of the breach of planning permission ref: ESS/46/08/UTT and associated legal agreement together with unauthorised landfilling and land raising at Crumps Farm. Initial information confirmed Essex County Council has opened an enforcement notice and the Environment Agency are investigating. The meeting agreed to wait for District Cllr Reeve to progress before making any decisions to contact the various parties.

8. STANSTED AIRPORT DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION 2024-2028

Guidance on matters to consider in town and parish council responses has been received from Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) and circulated to Cllrs. The meeting confirmed its support to SAW and noted the most significant disturbance to residents comes from night flights.

9. EASEMENTS

9.1. The meeting considered a request from a resident to add edging stones to an access driveway across the village green to retain the gravel and stop it spilling onto the road. The meeting noted an easement is not recorded for this property, however the resident was certain a historic documents exists and will forward to the clerk. The meeting agreed to the works on the understanding the stones would be level with the ground and no raised kerbs would be evident.

9.2. Progress continues to determine whether historic documents exist allowing rights of way across the village green, prior to the first registration of the land.

10. PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS

10.1. Ponds at junction Green Street and Canfield Road - Clerk has contacted Essex Wildlife Trust with a request to provide advice on the most appropriate maintenance, a response is pending. Cllr Stratton confirmed a local contractor who is willing to assist. The drainage maintenance works to be carried forward to the next meeting.

10.2. Village hall defibrillator and solar panels – Clerk has chased Great Canfield Parochial Church Council for a response to the requests.

10.3. Other projects, nothing to add at this stage.

11. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS, TREES, CRIME

11.1. Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens

Essex Highways have temporarily closed footpath 21 which joins footpath 7 High Roding, due to an unsafe bridge over the river Roding. The order is in place for 6 months until 27.02.24, Essex Highways do not provide a timescale for the repair.

11.2.Highways/Road Safety

Cllr Anderson submitted a list of potholes for repair to County Cllr Barker, as noted under agenda item 5.

A resident forwarded correspondence with Affinity Water who have confirmed a repair to the pothole in front of Water Hall in mid-October. The Clerk reported an issue to Affinity Water close to the junction of Church End where water is pooling on the verge, Affinity Water confirmed there is no leak.

Cllr Knight agreed to arrange for the vegetation at the corner of Church End around the finger post to be cut back

It was agreed to hold an Autumn litter pick on Saturday 11th November, Cllr Knight to manage.

11.3.Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report

11.4.Tree Warden

It was noted there are branches sitting on electricity lines and some dead trees along Canfield Road from Peckers to Jocks Hut, and the Lower Road towards Bacon End. Cllr Knight to speak to the landowners for assistance.

12. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

12.1.Village hall committee update

The works to replace the ladies toilet has been completed at a cost of £462.50. There is a meeting this week to consider how to support the tasks currently covered by Keith Vincett. A separate meeting will be arranged to plan for the village fireworks event, the meeting noted Chris Easter has completed his firework certification test.

12.2.Energy supplier

The process to confirm the change to the new energy contract from the Community Trust to the parish council continues. The clerk has submitted an application including copies of the signed lease as proof of tenancy; however, this has been rejected by the energy provider due to lack of witness signatures!

The meeting agreed to reimburse Canfield Community Trust £93.88 for the energy payment covering July 2023. There is no payment due for August as actual readings were submitted and the account has moved into a small credit. A smart meter was installed in early August.

12.3.The meeting confirmed the following payments made between meetings either because they are direct debits or where timescales required payment.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>METHOD</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Great Canfield Parochial Church Council – Monthly Hall Rent August 2023	Direct Debit	£ 61.00
Great Canfield Parochial Church Council – Monthly Hall Rent September 2023	Direct Debit	£ 61.00
Alison Clark – Hall cleaning 18 th July	Online	£ 30.00
JPH and Son Ltd – replace toilet and cistern in ladies toilet (inc VAT)	Online	£ 333.00

12.4.The meeting noted the reduced insurance cost from the Parochial Church Council, this follows a change in the supplier for church insurance which includes the village hall. Cllr Barlow proposed the following payments relating to the village hall be made, this was seconded by Cllr Jewell with all in agreement.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Alison Clarke – Hall cleaning August	£ 90.00
Random Task – To make a box to support new ladies toilet fittings	£ 185.00
Canfield Community Trust – see item 12.2	£ 93.88
Annual hall insurance – to repay GCPCC	£ 458.00

12.5The meeting noted receipts received from hall hire of £220 in July, there were no receipts in August.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

13. FINANCE

13.1. Cllr Barlow retrospectively proposed the following payment made between meeting dues to timescale. This was seconded by Cllr Knight with all in agreement.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Firework Fury – training and certification for volunteers	£ 150.00

13.2. Cllr Barlow proposed the following payment for authorisation, this was seconded by Cllr Knight with all in agreement.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk July and August 2023	£ 400.32

13.3. There were no receipts during July and August.

13.4. Cllr Barlow proposed an additional smaller coronation plaque be purchased for the village hall sign, the larger sign to be placed at the village hall. This was seconded by Cllr Knight with all in agreement.

13.5. It is necessary to change the decision on bank mandate signatories, it was proposed Cllr Anderson, Cllr Barlow and Cllr Jewell, along with the clerk are the bank signatories for Barclays. This was agreed unanimously, and the clerk will re-start the process.

13.6. Unity savings account application remains outstanding, further information is required to be sent in support of the parish council status.

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Nothing in addition.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 9th October at 8pm in Great Canfield Village Hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 10.05pm

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair