

GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
 held at Great Canfield Village Hall on Monday 8th January 2024

Present: Cllrs Harry Anderson, Ginny Barlow (chair), Jenny Jewell, Michael Knight, Magnus Mildwater, Richard Stratton, and the Clerk Allison Ward

District Cllrs Geof Driscoll (arriving after item 7.3) and Neil Reeve

1 resident

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - None
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING** - None.
3. **PUBLIC FORUM** - Nothing to report.
4. The **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** of 11th December 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Barlow, seconded by Cllr Anderson with all in agreement.
5. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT**

County Cllr Susan Barker sent apologies to the meeting, District Cllr Geof Driscoll was attending a ward parish council meeting and arrived later in the meeting. District Cllr Reeve updated the meeting.

1. Crump Farm – has been brought to the attention of various stakeholders including the legal officer at Uttlesford, Cllr Reeve confirmed he continues to push for action. It was noted the site is not secure as had previously been reported.
2. External lights at the Uttlesford depot in Little Canfield which are causing an issue due to their brightness and being on all night. Cllr Reeve confirmed the officer responsible will be visiting to access in the next few days.
3. There is an Uttlesford extraordinary meeting next week, called by District Cllr Barker and conservative members regarding the Leader’s proposed response to the letter received from the Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities in which he requests the Local Plan timetable. Cllr Reeve noted Uttlesford has been in regular contact to keep them updated on progress. Full details are available on the Uttlesford website.
4. 50% of Uttlesford’s share of council tax goes on maintaining the 2,800 council managed homes. Right to buy results in a loss of c.20 homes per annum which cannot be replaced as the district has no land or finances to do so. Currently the housing stock is managed by Norse a contract inherited from the previous administration, there is a backlog of repairs and the current arrangements are not working well.
5. Local Plan responses are being collated, nothing further to report.

Cllr Anderson raised the absence of refuse collection again in Cuckoo Lane and the frustrations with contacting Uttlesford, this requires the small access vehicle due to the narrowness of the lane.

6. CLERK’S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1. In advance of a public consultation in February 2024, Essex County Council is inviting parish councils to an online briefing re the Essex Minerals Local Plan Review on Tuesday 30th January 2024 from 2-3.30pm. Cllr Anderson and Cllr Barlow agreed to attend on behalf of the parish council, Clerk to respond.

7. PLANNING

7.1. Applications for decision - None

7.2. Decisions for information only

Application No	UTT/23/2737/HHF
Location	Casa Lee, Canfield Drive
Development	Proposed extension to garage
Decision	Conditional approval

Signed
 Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

Application No	UTT/23/2786/FUL
Location	The Lodge 3A Ashfields Farm, Cuckoos Lane
Development	Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of new dwelling (revision of UTT/23/2169/FUL)
Decision	Conditional approval

- 7.3. Update on Crumps Farm illegal dumping of waste, there is nothing further to report at this stage. Outstanding action is a letter to Kemi Badenoch MP with the parish council concerns, Clerk to action.

District Cllr Geof Driscoll arrives

- 7.4. The meeting agreed to wait for the outcome of District Cllr Reeve's investigation into the issues with lighting at the Uttlesford depot in Little Canfield, before considering any further action.

8. CONSULTATION ON BOUNDARY CHANGES TO ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WARDS

The meeting noted the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on proposed changes to the boundaries for Essex County Council wards and had no comment. The proposals would see the current Dunmow ward sub-divided with Great Canfield becoming part of 'Takeley ward' which would include Takeley, Hallingburys, Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter and the Roding villages.

9. PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS

- 9.1. Ponds Green Street/Canfield Road – Cllr Stratton to obtain advice from FWAG (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group) on maintenance.
- 9.2. Ditches at Bacon End – The landowner has confirmed the parish council can dig the ditches and the meeting suggested this should be from Foxleys to Stomps. Cllr Knight suggested the issue is mainly overgrown vegetation and not large amounts of soil.

Cllr Knight declared an interest as a local farmer with the equipment to carry out the works.

Cllr Knight proposed he could carry out the work at c.£200. Cllr Barlow proposed this offer be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson with all in agreement.

- 9.3. Blocked culverts – The meeting discussed various points in the parish where culverts are blocked and require jetting, these include in front of Pheasant Cottage, Bacon End, in front of Linton, Bullocks Lane. Given the lack of support from Essex Highways, the meeting agreed in principle that the parish council hires a jetting lorry to come and clear blocked drains and culverts. The clerk to check with Essex Highways to confirm if this is permitted, and if confirmed to obtain quotes. Cllrs to begin to note and prepare a list of blocked drains and culverts that require clearing.

10. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS, TREES, CRIME

- 10.1. Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens – Cllr Jewell commented on the parish council signage on byway 3 that has been removed. This is in situ to advise vehicles following sat navs that the byway is unsuitable and they will become stuck. The meeting agreed to replace signage, Clerk to follow up.

10.2. Highways/Road Safety

10.2.1. Clerk to report advertising signage on highway to Uttlesford.

10.2.2. The meeting discussed fly tipping in the village and particular hot spots. District Cllr Driscoll suggested Uttlesford may be able to place cameras.

- 10.3. Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

- 10.4. Tree Warden – Cllr Knight to clear tree that has fallen across footpath 24.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

11. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

11.1. Village hall committee general update – A request was received to purchase storage heaters that could be used to raise the temperature in the hall in extreme cold. The meeting discussed at length this request and the existing hall heating which was felt not to be adequate and complex to use. In conclusion the meeting was not in support of the additional heaters and suggested that options for alternative systems are investigated, Clerk to advise.

11.2. To receive an update on village hall energy contracts – Carry forward to next meeting.

11.3. The meeting confirmed the following direct debit payments made between meetings.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>METHOD</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Great Canfield Parochial Church Council – Monthly Hall Rent	Direct Debit	£ 61.00
Scottish Power – Electricity	Direct Debit	£ 108.68

11.4. 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 Clark – Hall Cleaning December 2023	£ 60.00

11.4 The meeting noted the receipts of £210 from hall hire in December 2023.

12. PRECEPT 2023/24

12.1. The Clerk presented the quarterly accounts to end of December 2023, Cllrs accepted the reports as presented. The closing cash balance at end of December is £80,396 of which £23,155 is parish council general funds.

12.2. The Clerk prepared a draft budget which was considered and discussed by Cllrs. In conclusion Cllr Barlow proposed the precept for 2024/25 be set at £8,400 which will show as a 4.9% increase on the parish council portion of residents council tax invoices, the equivalent of £1.60 per annum for an average band D property. The justification for the increase is the higher costs to maintain services. This was seconded by Cllr Jewell with all in agreement.

13. FINANCE

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

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk December 2023	£ 215.24

13.2. Opening of savings account and updates to bank mandates pending authorisation of further application forms.

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Essex Minerals Plan Consultation

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 12th February 2024 at 8pm in Great Canfield Village Hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.40pm

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair