

GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
 held at Great Canfield Village Hall on Monday 9th October 2023

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

District Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Donald and Cllr Knight sent apologies due to work commitments, Apologies were accepted by the meeting.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING** – None.
3. **PUBLIC FORUM** – No public present.
4. The **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** of 11th September 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Barlow, seconded by Cllr Jewell with all in agreement.
5. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT**

County Cllr Susan Barker sent apologies to the meeting.

District Cllr Geof Driscoll commented that the proposed Local Plan is in the public domain as it goes to the various working groups and council meetings for consultation approval. Assuming it is supported it will open to public consultation in early November. The plan confirms the government target of 14k new homes in Uttlesford for the period 2021-2041 of which 8k already have approval as at April 2023, leaving the plan to confirm the balance. To note the 1.2k new homes approved on appeal at Little Easton are not currently in the approved numbers.

In early October Uttlesford updated its 5-year land supply and confirmed a supply of 5.14 years for the period 2023-2028. This is above the minimum threshold of 5 years as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The £2 bus fare is extended to December 2024. Cllr Driscoll raised a disparity whereby children paying for seats on school buses are paying above this amount, Clerk to forward local information.

District Cllr Geof Driscoll thanked the community for its support following his recent cycle ride through every ward in the district which raised £1,215 for Accuro a charity in west Essex providing support for local children, young people and adults with disabilities.

District Cllr Neil Reeve updated the meeting on the discussions re the situation in Crumps Farm and his commitment to continue to pursue action by the relevant authorities.

Cllr Jenny Jewell leaves the meeting

Uttlesford has launched the Zero Carbon Community Grant scheme to support energy conservation and efficiency measures in community buildings, nature and biodiversity projects or projects promoting sustainable lifestyle choices.

6. CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1. Uttlesford has commissioned a survey to better understand the current and future provision of outdoor sports facilities, which will result in the production of a district wide strategy. Clerk responded.
- 6.2. Essex Highways has confirmed the road closure of Green Street, due to commence on 10th October 2023 for 3 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Affinity Water undertakes renew and replace frame and lid. The closure is between Canfield Road and Church End.

Signed
 Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

- 6.3. Essex County Council has sent an invitation to Town and Parish Councils to attend the district Transport Meeting which is concerned with local bus services, Thursday 2nd November 10am to 12pm.
- 6.4. Uttlesford is consulting on spending priorities for 2024/25, responses invited from residents, town/parish councils by 5th November. See this link <https://letstalk.uttlesford.gov.uk/uttlesford-district-council-budget-2024-25>
- 6.5. Uttlesford is consulting on arrangements for polling districts and polling stations, the meeting noted the current arrangements were satisfactory, Clerk to respond Closing date is Monday 13th November.

Cllr Jenny Jewell returns to the meeting

7. PLANNING

7.1. Applications for decision - None

7.2. Decisions for information only

Cllrs noted the advice given by Place Services Heritage in response to the following application, and Uttlesford's apparent decision to go against this. The clerk was asked to write to Uttlesford for an understanding of why Uttlesford took this approach.

Application No	UTT/23/1942/HHF
Location	Hayden's End Green Street
Development	Proposed adjustments to storage barn approved under UTT/20/2601/HHF
Decision	Conditional approval

Application	UTT/23/0081/CLP
Location	Wheat Cottage, Green Street
Development	Siting of an ancillary temporary structure
Decision	Refused certificate of lawfulness

7.3. The Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation is due to commence in November. Early sight of the papers were available as the consultation went to the Local Leadership Group, Uttlesford Council and Cabinet for approval in advance of the publication.

Takeley parish council sent a request asking neighbouring councils to respond before publication to the proposal to reduce the Countryside Protection Zone around the airport. Cllrs considered the request and whilst supportive of the view expressed, agreed they would wait until the consultation was published and full information including supporting documents available.

7.4 The meeting noted the discussion at item 5 re Crumps Farm and the correspondence Cllr Reeve had shared with the Clerk, chair and Cllr Jewell. Whilst the parish council awaits further action by the lead authorities, Cllr Barlow proposed the parish council appoints its own expert, initial spend maximum £5k, in order that the parish council has an independent view of the situation, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson with all in agreement. Cllr Barlow and the clerk to action.

Cllr Jewell proposed the parish council updates HSE based on the information it has to date, and speaks to NFU, this was seconded by Cllr Mildwater with all in agreement. Clerk to action.

The Clerk was asked to update Little Canfield Parish Council and invite them to join forces for a collective approach.

7.5 In support of groups and individuals who promote and provide spaces for communities to come together, Cllr Stratton proposed the parish council writes to Roxwell Chequers Community Benefit Society in support of their campaign to save the Chequers pub and secure its long-term future via a community buyout. This was seconded by Cllr Barlow with all in agreement. Clerk to action.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX CONSULTATION

The meeting noted the Essex County Council (ECC) consultation on 'The Waste Strategy for Essex' which provides a framework detailing how Essex Waste Partnership will manage the waste produced by homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years. The consultation can be viewed at this link <https://www.essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy> and closes on 22nd November. Whilst the consultation sets out the principles there is no detail to support how it will achieve these, the parish council agreed not to respond to the current consultation.

9. PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Parish Council risk assessment assesses the risks that it faces and allows it to satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. The framework from the clerk is pending and will be carried forward to a future meeting.

10. PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS

10.1. There has been no response to the request for advice on works necessary to the ponds at the junction of Canfield Road and Green Street from either The Conservation Volunteers or Essex Wildlife Trust. District Cllr Reeve suggested Uttlesford has recently appointed a 'Principal Ecologist' who may be in a position to advise, Clerk to contact.

10.2. Easements, the parish council continues to update its records on properties which have easements in place at Bullocks Lane and which are not recorded on the parish council land registry, a further property was confirmed during September.

10.3. Great Canfield Parochial Church Council has given permission for a defibrillator to be placed on the external wall of the village hall, Clerk to progress.

10.4. The coronation plaque has been placed at the village hall to commemorate the place where the village came together to celebrate. A second smaller plaque will be purchased for the village sign at a cost of c.£200. Clerk to arrange.

11. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS, TREES, CRIME

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

11.2. Highways/Road Safety - Reminder of the litter pick on Saturday 11th November, Cllr Knight to lead.

11.3. Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report

11.4. Tree Warden – Nothing to report

12. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

12.1. Village hall committee update

The Oktoberfest will be held on Friday 13th October, clerk to circulate standard hall event risk assessment to Cllrs and village hall event lead.

Cllr Mildwater is attending regular meetings with the sub-committee arranging the firework event. The clerk and Cllr Mildwater are producing the risk assessment which is in circulation and being updated as the meetings progress, once finalised this will be circulated to Cllrs for approval.

12.2. The village hall energy supplier has reverted back to Scottish Power, the reason given was that the account had been transferred in error. The Clerk contacted Scottish Power who confirmed the transfer was to variable rates, this was immediately transferred to a fixed rate contract for one year, this was accepted by the parish council.

12.3. Cllr Barlow proposed a grant of £100 is made by the parish council towards the firework event, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson with all in agreement.

12.4. The meeting confirmed the following direct debit payment made between meetings.

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>METHOD</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Great Canfield Parochial Church Council – Monthly Hall Rent November 2023	Direct Debit	£ 61.00

12.5. 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>
Anglia Fire Protection – Annual fire extinguisher tests	£ 100.80
G Barlow – TENS license for Oktoberfest	£ 21.00
Alison Clark – Hall Cleaning 19 th September and 3 rd October	£ 60.00

12.6 The meeting noted there were no receipts from hall hire in September. A receipt of £793.15 was received from Scottish Power, this being the credit on the village hall energy account at the point it was terminated in July 2023.

13. FINANCE

13.1. The clerk presented the quarterly accounts to end of September 2023, Cllrs accepted the reports as presented. The closing cash balance at end of September is £80,821, of which £23,581 is not allocated to reserves or the village hall fund.

13.2. Cllr Barlow proposed a grant of £250 is made to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson with all in agreement.

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

<i>PAYMENT TO</i>	<i>VALUE</i>
Allison Ward - Parish Clerk September 2023	£ 202.41
Essex and Herts Air Ambulance – Grant	£ 250.00

13.3. The meeting noted the receipt of £3,925 for the second instalment of precept.

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

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 13th November at 8pm in Great Canfield Village Hall.

TIME AND CLOSE OF MEETING 9.40pm

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow, Chair