

# Little Bardfield Parish Council



[www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk)

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

7.15pm

This meeting was held remotely due to the Covid19 pandemic

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cllr Terry Cutmore, Cllr Andrew Davies, Cllr Clare Beeston, Liz Williamson (Clerk)  
District Councillor – Cllr Alan Storah

Members of the public: William Gardiner, Mary Gardiner, Mo Fitt

### 1. Chairmans Welcome

Vice Chair Cllr Terry Cutmore welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
The meeting was held remotely via Zoom which was hosted by Cllr Andrew Davies.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Colin Simpson. Cllr Simon Walsh

An email has been received from Mr William Gardiner dated Thursday 25 June 2020 who has announced his resignation from the Parish Council.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

None were declared

### 4. Public Forum

Cllr Cutmore welcomed District Councillor, Alan Storah to the meeting. Cllr Storah had previously circulated his monthly report which included an item on Pauls Farm, which he acknowledged is an ongoing concern for residents within the parish of Little Bardfield. Cllr Storah relayed to the committee members and the members of the public who were present at the meeting, that he had evaluated correspondence forwarded to him from parish representatives. Compiled from the information received, Cllr Storah has produced a series of 20 questions to present to Uttlesford District Council which require a response. If Cllr Storah considers that the response

received is inadequate he will pursue the issue of the dumping of waste on behalf of the residents/parish.

Concerns was raised by Cllr Cutmore that we currently do not have a viable parish council as Little Bardfield PC currently does not have a chair or vice chair. Cllr Cutmore also stated that the comments made to UDC are considered and invariably not agreed with and so disregarded. Comments, such as consultation responses to planning applications, or complaints made to Uttlesford DC Enforcement Team are also invariably not agreed with and so are not taken into consideration when determining or investigating matters that are important to parish council residents. Cllr Storah stressed the importance of referring to Local Plan policies when raising an objection to a planning application. Cllr Storah also stated the importance of producing evidence when making a complaint against a person/business which residents consider is unlawful.

Members of the public stated to Cllr Storah that witness statements had been produced and submitted to the Enforcement Team at UDC and that evidence has also been submitted regarding land ownership taken from documents held by Land Registry. It is alleged that the land in question may not in fact belong to Mr Patrick Gardiner. Video and photographic evidence has also been produced and submitted to UDC regarding lorry movements, which are entering and exiting the site.

Cllr Storah was informed that the level of activity has doubled over several months and it is considered that this is a commercial operation involving a local business with lorry movements 5 days a week for approximately 12 hours a day. Stig Grab Service obtained an exemption certificate from The Environment Agency, but to the knowledge of residents a site visit was not carried out by anyone in authority to view the location of the site. The conditions of the approved licence are not being complied with, as the licence states that waste can be moved but not imported. The video and photographic evidence supports the claim that conditions are not being adhered to.

It was asked whether a temporary stop notice could be issued by UDC whilst the claim of an illegal business is investigated. Cllr Storah was requested by the members of the public present, to speak with the Development Manager (Nigel Brown) to relay the parish council and members of the public's concerns, and a request was made to re-open this investigation based on the evidence gathered and submitted.

Cllr Storah confirmed that he would speak with Nigel Brown with a view to re-opening the case and would report back to the Parish. Cllr Beeston asked for a timescale for this to happen but Cllr Storah could not commit to this, although it was stated that he hoped to speak with Nigel Brown early next week (week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020).

### **Members of the public left the meeting**

5. Minutes of previous meeting held on 17 March 2020

Concern had been raised concerning the residents of the Almshouses during the lockdown period of Covi19. In the first instance, residents were advised to seek the help of family and friends. However, if this was not possible, help was given by the local community who pulled together and assistance was provided to any resident who needed support.

The minutes were approved and will be signed as a true record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

No matters arising from the last meeting

7. Planning Applications

An appeal has been raised by Mr Patrick Gardiner against the refusal by UDC of a retrospective Planning Application for 5 caravans (possibly 7) to be classified as residential accommodation.

The consultation response submitted to UDC on behalf of the parish council will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and therefore no further comments would be made on the application.

8. Asset Register

The Asset Register has been amended and update accordingly with the inclusion of the defibrillator and the gifting of a bench to the cricket club.

9. Progress on the Installation of the defibrillator.

An upright pole needs to be sourced to affix the defibrillator. The electricity cable is in place but it requires an electrician to connect the defibrillator to the electricity supply. William Gardiner has agreed to arrange for this to happen and the parish council will pay the cost of the electricians services.

10. Finances

Both bank accounts are looking healthy. Laura Wrens payment has been authorised for the purchase of books for her university course.

The payments made from April until present were discussed and agreed and the accounts spreadsheet was updated accordingly. The payments received have also been included in the spreadsheet and were approved by members.

Donations to local charities were discussed and approved

Hundred Parish Society	£10
Thaxted Mini Bus	£150
Stop Stansted Campaign	£100
Air Ambulance	£150

All of the payments for the donations would be made from the Community fund.

**Clerk to set up payments for authorisation**

11. Appeal at Pauls Farm

See item 7

12. Fly-tipping at Hawkspur Green Solar Farm

An email and an on-line form to report fly-tipping has been completed by the Clerk. No response has been received from UDC.

**Clerk to chase UDC for a response**

13. Update on parish Website

Now that the website is up and running it was agreed that it should no longer be a regular item on the agenda. Cllr Cutmore informed committee members that a sub-section on the website which recorded payments over £100 had been removed as all payments are now recorded on the website under the Finance section, End Of Year Accounts.

14. Update on ultrafast broadband

Three residents have transferred to Gigaclear as their broadband provider. Cllr Beeson stated that it was an improvement on BT which had been the previous broadband provider, but was not as good as she had hoped.

15. County Councillor/District Councillor Reports

Both reports are published on the website.

16. Any other business

Cllr Cutmore on behalf of the parish council, thanked the Clerk for her support to the parish council and informed her of an increase in salary, which had been agreed by all members and which would be confirmed formally via email.

Meeting closed 8.38pm