

Little Bardfield Parish Council



www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10th September 2020
7.15pm

This meeting was held remotely due to the Covid19 pandemic

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cllr Andrew Davies, Cllr Terry Cutmore, Cllr Colin Simpson, Liz Williamson (Clerk)
District Councillor – Cllr Alan Storah
Member of the Public – Paul Eastall
Apologies for absence – No apologies were received. Cllr Walsh did not attend the meeting

1. Welcome

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

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 30th June 2020

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record of the matters discussed, by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Cutmore.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 All donations have now been presented to the chosen charitable organisations from the Community fund.

3.2 The defibrillator is yet to be installed. The plinth has been erected and the electricity source is now available from Rose Cottage. It is unsure what needs to be done to allow the defibrillator to be accessible and available for the public

Cllr Davies to pursue

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

5. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

5.1 Following the resignation of Cllr Gardiner and Cllr Beeston, the Parish Council were unable to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the June meeting. Until an election can take place in May 2021, Cllr Colin Simpson proposed Cllr Andrew Davies to act as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Terry Cutmore. Cllr Andrew Davies was therefore elected unanimously as Chair.

5.2 Cllr Andrew Davies proposed Cllr Terry Cutmore as Vice Chair which was seconded by Cllr Colin Simpson. Cllr Terry Cutmore was therefore elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

Clerk to arrange for documentation to be prepared and signed

6. Update on Finances

6.1 A copy of the bank statements for both the Treasurer's Account and the Community Account were sent via email to Cllrs. The finance spreadsheet containing all transactions has been updated and now balances. Two cheques remain un-presented which relate to donations made to Thaxted Mini-Bus and Essex Air Ambulance. This would mean £300 would be deducted from the balance of the Community Fund.

7. Planning Issues

7.1 District Cllr Storah was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Storah provided the committee with an update regarding the dump/waste site. Uttlesford DC Enforcement Team have currently closed the case and have said that the site/works are not unlawful, but the Enforcement Team will conduct monitoring on an as and when basis.

A meeting will take place between Debbie Scales (Uttlesford DC), Suzanne Armstrong (Essex County Council) and Sarah Frost (Environment Agency) who will visit the site and assess whether there is anything happening which is unlawful. The current situation as stated by Uttlesford District Council is that all works are legitimate. If this is found not to be the case, Uttlesford DC will re-open the case and carry out a further investigation.

Cllr Cutmore voiced the concerns of the local residents who are becoming increasingly frustrated by the lack of presence by Officers on the site. 14 months into the investigation and Uttlesford DC have only visited the site once. This is despite residents compiling and submitting documentation, photos, and videos as evidence, to illustrate that unlawful works are being carried out. Cllr Storah emphasised that evidence such a photo's need to be signed and dated to be of value as evidence.

Cllr Storah was unable to comment on the lack of presence, but did re-iterate that three officers from three separate organisation who all have an interest in the site will visit and assess the works taking place to assess whether they are unlawful.

Following the meeting, Cllr Storah will report back to Members at the next scheduled parish council meeting and provide an update.

Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Storah for attending the meeting and for his assistance with this matter.

- 7.2 A query was raised regarding the removal of 7 caravans at Paul's Farm following the recent appeal decision. The Planning Inspector issued a decision which dismissed the appeal meaning that the caravans are now unlawful. Cllr Storah was asked by Parish Councillors, what would the consequence be for Pauls Farm. Cllr Storah will provide clarification as to what will happen now that the siting of the caravans are deemed unlawful.
- 7.3 Uttlesford DC have sent consultations to all Parish Councils regarding the Government White Paper regarding the review of the Planning System together with the Uttlesford Local Plan process. Cllr Storah urged the parish Council to submit a response to the consultations.
- 7.4 The question was asked as to the progress of the Uttlesford Local Plan. Cllr Storah explained that the plan is progressing albeit very slowly and the Plan should be adopted by December 2014 which is the deadline set by Government. Officers from Uttlesford DC are intending to meet with civil servants to discuss the current timescale which is unachievable.
- 7.5 Planning Application 20/2064/HHF – Mallards Oxen End

No objection was made to the proposal

Clerk to respond to UDC

8. Parish Council Vacancies and Co-option

- 8.1 Paul Eastall has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Paul moved to Oxen End in 2018 and has an interest in Parish and local government issues. It was explained to Paul that the Parish Council were unable to fill the vacancies until such a time that the vacancies had been advertised.
- 8.2 A notice has been displayed on all three notice boards and on the website informing parishioners of the vacancies. An election can be triggered by 10 local government electors writing to the Returning Officer at Uttlesford DC or to the clerk of the Parish Council and requesting that the vacancies be filled by an election. If this does not happen then the vacancies can be filled by co-opting. The deadline for the request for a Parish election is 30th September. After that date anyone wishing to join the Parish Council can be co-opted rather than elected.

9.0 Any Other Business

9.1 The salt bins are full and ready for the winter weather.

9.2 It was re-iterated that the defibrillator needs to be put in situ as it was purchased at the beginning of the year and has yet to be put in position.

9.3 It was discussed that it may be beneficial to purchase two additional defibrillators, one at Oxen End and one at Hawkspur Green. The funds in the community account would permit these purchases. This is to be discussed further.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting is 9th November 2020. All meetings are currently to be held virtually until further notice.

Meeting closed at 20:27.