

**Little Bardfield Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**



**Minutes of the Meeting on 29th November 2023 at 7.30pm
at Little Bardfield Cricket Club Pavilion**

Present: Andrew Davies (Chairman), Colin Simpson (Vice-Chairman), Juliet O'Brien, Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk), and Dr Cllr Tayler.

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1. **Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Foley.
3. **Minutes** - of the Parish Council meeting on 6th September 2023 were approved **P: Cllr Davies, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav.**
4. **Declarations of interest** – None.
5. **Public forum** – None.
6. **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports** – Cllr Tayler reported that the Thaxted Area Parish Meeting, run by UDC, had updated about Rural Exemption Sites. Affordable Housing could be applied for, if there were links to Parish residents. The Community Land Trust would help with the process. It was reported that an additional 5,000 houses would be required across Uttlesford, 500 were planned in Thaxted, and 1,200 in Little Easton/Dunmow. It was advised that the PC should respond to the Local Plan Consultation, and encourage parishioners to do so. It was suggested that Little Bardfield could make the community more sustainable if the Cricket Pavilion could become the Community Centre, with a car park and housing behind it. Cllr Tayler advised that the PC should write a narrative response rather than completing the questionnaire, and email it across to UDC. He also reported that UDC were offering free Code of Conduct training for Cllrs. Cllr Foley would be meeting the new Highways Officer, and he would pass on all the concerns in the Parish.

7. Planning

7.1 Applications requiring comments

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/23/2667/HHF	Planning details here	Pauls Croft Little Bardfield Road No Comments	Awaiting Decision
UTT/23/1987/LB	Planning details here	The Old Rectory Little Bardfield Road No Comments	Awaiting Decision

7.2 Applications with Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/23/2474/LB	Planning details here	Almshouses Little Bardfield Road	Awaiting Decision

8. **8.1 Flooding** – The flooding on Hawkspur Green Road continued to cause problems. It had been reported.

8.2 Highways works – Styles had been resurfaced. It was unclear who would be paying for the works.

8.3 Caravan Parking – A request from a Parishioner for parking a caravan at the end of Styles had been received. It was determined that this was not a matter for the PC, and that the Parishioner should contact UDC. The Clerk would respond to them.

8.4 Defibrillator Hawkspur End – It had been reported that the defibrillator cabinet had been letting water in, the Clerk would find out which company supplied it, and seek advice, and Cllr Davies would see if it could be repaired in the meantime. There was also a problem with the defibrillator at the Cricket Club, the Clerk would investigate, as it was very disappointing as the device was less than 5 years old.

9. Finance

9.1 Bank Accounts – £12,485.11 to note balances and bank reconciliation with cashbooks on the Parish Council Treasurer's account and (as Trustee) on the Community Fund, on 24th November.

9.2 Payments - To note payments previously approved or made under contractual or statutory obligations, paid from 6 September 2023 to 24th November – a list will be available at the meeting. A payment was due to CW Lowe for cutting the verges. **P: Cllr Davies, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav.**

9.3 Quarterly Accounts – The accounts were received.

9.4 Budget 2024/25 – The budget for 2024/25 was determined.

9.5 Precept 2024/25 – The Precept for 2024/25 was determined at £3,500 **P: Cllr Davies, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav.**

10. Items for the next agenda – Defibrillators, Parish Council emails.

11. Dates of next meetings - To be determined: 24th January 2024, 15th May.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.37.

Prepared by Jessica Ashbridge, Clerk to Little Bardfield Parish Council
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