

21st February 2022

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 21st February 2022 in the Baptist Schoolroom at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Steve Hayler, John Moran, Philip Player and George Smith,
Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. James De Vries (UDC)

2. Public Representations

Mr. David Bidwell addressed the meeting on the following matters:-

- i. Fir Trees, Walden Road. Mr. Bidwell said that, if the area is cleared and suitable for re-planting, that Mr. Alan Bidwell (Beeches Nursery) wished to donate three oak trees towards the replanting and the Jubilee commemorations.

Members thanked Mr. Bidwell and asked him to pass on their thanks to Mr. Alan Bidwell for his generous offer.

- ii. the pot hole near Clayes had still not been filled and it was causing great concern. Mr. Bidwell noted that a bad pot hole on the Walden Road, the cause of two recent car accidents, had been filled but it was now re-appearing following the recent rain.

Councillor Smith said that he had reported the pot hole near Clayes, this in addition to the Clerk inspecting the problem with Highways when they were in the village. Councillor Smith would seek to have the problem taken care of but suspected that Highways may be trying to get Gigaclear to take action as the problem lay with their contractor when backfilling the cable trench.

3. Short address by Cllr. Martin Foley on County Council matters

Precept Levels. The following precept levels have been received.

Essex County Council met on 10 February 2022 and set their precept at £53,853,028. This results in a 2022/23 County Council Band D Council Tax of £1,401.12, an increase of £60.21(4.49%). This comprises a 1% increase for the 2022/23 adult social care precept, 1.5% 2021/22 deferred adult social care precept and a 1.99% increase for the general county fund.

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority met on 3 February 2022 and set their precept at £2,895,361. This results in a 2022/23 PFCC Fire and Rescue Authority Band D Council Tax of £75.33, an increase of £1.44 (1.95%) on the previous year.

The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex – Policing and Community Safety set their precept on 3 February 2022 at £8,398,969. This results in a 2022/23 PFCC Police

Authority Band D Council Tax of £218.52, an increase of £9.99 (4.79%) on the previous year.

The Town & Parish Councils' precepts are detailed in Annex 1 and total £3,998,069. This results in an average Town/Parish Council Band D Council Tax of £104.02, an average increase of £4.24 (4.25%) on the previous year.

The Cabinet of Uttlesford District Council met on 14 February 2022 and decided to recommend a Council Tax Requirement of £6,403,772. Assuming this is approved by the Council on 22 February 2022, this results in a District Council Band D Council Tax of £166.61, an increase of £5.00 (3.09%) on the previous year.

The total of all precepts levied is therefore £75,549,199. This results in an average total Band D Council Tax of £1,965.60, an increase of £80.88 (4.29%) on the previous year.

Councillor Foley recognised the need for speed reduction measures in the village but realised that the replacement VAS signs with SIDS would be expensive. He said that he may be able to provide some financial assistance through the Locality Fund.

4. Short address by Cllr. James De Vries on District Council Matters.

There was no address or report from Councillor de Vries who, Councillor Foley reported, had been delayed on his return from the Netherlands.

5. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests in matters on this agenda

6. Minutes.

Resolved - that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January 2022, previously circulated, be approved (Cllr. Player)

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 19th January 2022, previously circulated, be approved (Cllr. Hayler)

7. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

- a. Rectory Lane. Following contact with the Fenland Leisure it was hoped to put the works in hand during the half term week starting 1st June. The Communities Grant from the District Council had been held over until September 2022.

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

- a. Water End/Spriggs Lane. (see Item c.2)
- b. Spoil Butlers Lane/Byrds Farm. Nothing further to report
- c. Speeding. Councillor Moran reported the following after a recent meeting of the Local Highways Panel:-

1. Replacement of VAS signs in Ashdon is listed as being in validation process. There was an agenda item stating that parish councils can purchase new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), the type that flash the speed limit when a vehicle approaches in excess of the limit, or Speed Indicator Device (SID), the type that tells the driver their speed. To replace a VAS with a SID would cost parish council £5,000 each one;
 2. Awaiting funding and in validation are the following:
 - Spriggs Lane verge protection.
 - Entrance points to village on Ashdon Road, Radwinter Road Bartlow Road; appropriate calming measures (which is taken to mean rumble strips and white fences. It was noted that the white fence at Radwinter Road had collapsed);
 3. No mention of speed limit reduction throughout village to 20mph, speed reduction pads or calming measures in Steventon End.
- iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.
- There had been a meeting in the Village hall between representatives of the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council on Monday 21 February. The cardinal points arising were:-
- a. The main alarm system would be extended to cover the small hall and the original thatched part of the building (Action VH);
 - b. the electrical inspection had been carried out by Rix Contractors and the report received. No reason or fault could be found causing the power to fail as it did during the meeting held on the 19th January 2022;
 - c. the insurance would be updated and subsidence added (Action PC)
 - d. responsibilities for maintenance would be defined in a new document (Action PC)

Note - Councillor Foley joined the meeting at this point.

Councillor Hayler would investigate the possibility of connecting broadband to the Village Hall
Action Cllr. Hayler)

- iv. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mrs. Melanie Horrigan presented an update on the Neighbourhood Plan explaining the responses to the public consultation and how the plan would be amended prior to presentation for Regulation 16. There had been 57 responses to the Neighbourhood Plan and 37 to the Design Code. It had received overwhelming support. Three green spaces had been removed and some factual changes made to street names, open spaces names and other minor matters. The planning consultant, Ian Poole would finalise the plans for submission to the District Council. The Group had appointed a Mr. Ashcroft as their Planning Inspector, this would hopefully be carried out in May /June.

Resolved - to:-

1. Note the comments received during the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation and approve the responses to the comments;
 2. approve the proposed modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan;
 3. approve that the amended Plan, along with the necessary supporting documents, are submitted to Uttlesford District Council;
 4. approve the supporting documents including the Design Code, also including the District Council comments from the Reg 14 Consultation and the Parish Council response to the above. (Cllr. Smith)
- v. Community Led Housing.

The Council's solicitor had not yet received a response to his latest communications which was most frustrating as the Chairman had supplied all documents requested by the District Council some time ago. Councillor Smith would take up the matter with the District Council Officer concerned.

b) Ground Rent. Nothing further to report.

Resolved - that this item be removed from the agenda and brought back as required (Cllr. Smith)

- vii. Superfast Broadband. Nothing further to report
- viii. Neighbourhood Watch. Nothing further to report
- ix. Event/Plans to celebrate H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- i. Jubilee Grant. The Clerk reported that a grant could be available from the District Council towards the Jubilee celebrations. Receipts would be required for expenditure incurred.
 - ii. Planting of a Jubilee Oak at the "Fir" trees, Walden Road.

The following had been received from Councillor De Vries:-

Please see below the response I have received from Ben Smeedon, the UDC Landscape Officer in regards to the triangle of land opposite Guildhall Way.

"The management of the pine trees and potential replacements in the long term is a matter which is being looked at, but is likely to take some time to reach a conclusion. One of the options may be for UDC to offer the land to the parish council.

The possibility that the triangle of land might be offered to the PC is a very tentative suggestion. I will be speaking with our Facilities Assistant Director, Nicola Wittman, and also our Director of Finance, Adrian Webb, to gauge whether or not such an offer is likely to be made. If an offer were to be made to be PC and they were to express their interest in having the land transfer to them, then UDC would need to have a land valuation undertaken and the proposed disposal of the

asset considered by Cabinet. Assuming that the offer is accepted then the process is I suggest likely to take 12 months to conclude.

The management of the pine trees is the current responsibility of UDC as the landowner. Any trees which are found to be dead will be felled and any other necessary tree works carried out. Any trees felled will be replaced with suitable new tree planting. Replacement of any pines felled with English oak trees I would consider appropriate. As previously advised the wholesale felling of the pines and replanting with oaks is unlikely to find favour at this time.

If the PC have a site in their ownership on which they wish to plant a Jubilee Oak tree then I'm sure I can arrange for a tree to be supplied by UDC for the PC to plant. If the PC wish to plant an oak this current season I will need to have details of the proposed planting site so that an order can be placed within the next two weeks."

Are there any other locations that could be considered for a Jubilee Oak?
Otherwise it might take more than a year to get one on that triangle of land.

A letter would be written to Councillor De Vries stating the Parish Council's position that:-

- a. In the long term they would consider taking over the land;
- b. In view of the perceived "urgency" of wishing to commemorate the Jubilee during the current year the District Council would be urged to take all steps to clear any decaying trees;
- c. the Parish Council would re-plant in the autumn taking up Mr. Bidwell's kind offer to donate the oak tree (s) (Cllr. Smith)

Councillors Smith and Moran would investigate suitable commemorations and report back within the next two weeks.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Various emails distributed to Members. Members had been requested to raise any matters received by email under correspondence. None received

9. NEW ITEMS.

- i. Placing of UDC Planning in Special measures by HM Government and the implications this could have on future planning applications.

Councillor Foley and Councillor Smith updated Members on the above. This is a technical matter and would concern any development over 10 dwellings or 1 hectare. Developers could either submit an application direct to the Planning Inspectorate for decision. This would have no right of appeal if refused. Alternatively they could submit an application in the usual way to the District Council which would give the district parish councils the right to comment.

- ii. Spring Litter Pick. Sunday 3rd April. 10.00am Meet Village Hall Car Park
- iii. Development Naming. New dwelling, Hill Farm, Radwinter Road to be known as Langdales. CB10 2ET

- iv. School 10K Fun Run May 2nd. Request for sponsorship from the Parish Council

Resolved - to support the school with a donation of £250.00 towards the Fun Run (Cllr. Player)

- v. Garden Waste Skip 2022. May-December 16 visits @ £73.50. Members to decide if the village wishes to participate.

Resolved - to partake in this scheme in 2022. Fortnightly, Fallowden lane Car Park (Cllr. Player)

10. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- i. UTT/21/3021/FUL. Proposed erection of detached building to be used as a village store and tea room with attached public accessible toilets.
Rose & Crown Inn, Crown Hill

Since Withdrawn

- ii. UTT/22/0058/FUL. Proposed conversion of barn to 1 no. dwelling (amendment to previously approved applications UTT/20/0152/PAP3Q). Alterations to existing access and parking areas serving 1 and 2 Hill Farm Cottages
Hill Farm, Radwinter Road

No Comment

- iii. UTT/22/0255/TCA. 1 no. Robinia - 1-2m crown reduction, crown lift to 3.5m 1 no. Maple - reduce overextended limb to balance shape
Jesters Cottage, Walden Road.

No Comment

- iv. UTT/22/0286/TCA. Fell 1 no. oak. Reduce crown all over by 2m in branch length cutting back to suitable growing points 1no. Sycamore
Ashdon County Primary School, Bartlow Road

No Comment

- v. UTT/21/3482/FUL. Erection of detached garage to serve new dwelling approved under planning permission UTT/20/2450/FUL.
Barn adj. Little Mortimers, Water End.

Object.

- a. **The site plan is incorrect. The boundary of the property does not extend in front of Little Mortimers as shown neither does it extend along the Bridleway. It is noted that the Bridleway is shown as a footpath on plan this is incorrect;**
- b. **it is noted that hedges have been removed and the wildlife decimated. The Bridleway is now impassable to horses due to brash not being cleared;**

- c. the owner of Little Mortimers reported to the meeting that the contractor had lit a bonfire burning plastic waste which had caused black smoke to a level of annoyance. This had been reported to the District Council Public Health Department at the time;
- d. there have been continuing access problems to Little Mortimers caused by heavy vehicles damaging the track and, at times, making it impassable.

In view of the above members requested that Cllr. De Vries has this application called in.

- vi. Proposed non material amendment to UTT/21/1754/DFO - insertion of a condition to list approved plan numbers
Land to west of Radwinter Road

No Comment

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED.

- i. UTT/21/3307/HHF Proposed replacement of windows and three external doors
Lowick Cottage, Radwinter Road

Refused

12. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

Resolved - that the accounts for payment, Appendix i, be passed for payment (Cllr. Moran)

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- i. Laurel hedge at the cemetery

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed Chairman

Date

Appendix i

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2022 10th JANUARY 2022 to 21st FEBRUARY 2022

Monies Received	£
Whitehead & Day Headstone & Inscription re Peter Lamb	50.00

Monies passed for Payment	£
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Acorn Services:-

Replace 2 panes of glass at White Horse House	80.00			
Clear weeds under climber at Rectory lane P. Field	60.00			
Village Christmas Tree	<u>270.00</u>			
	410.00			
	82.00	vat	Total	492.00

Ch.No.102687

Uttlesford District Council. Garden Waste Skip 2021/22	1,400.00	Ch.No.102688
A.J. Lighting Solutions. Conversion of light Carters Croft	516.00	Ch.No.102689
A.J. Lighting Solutions. Repair light at Clayes	107.40	Ch.No.102690
Hibbs Walsh Architects. Village Shop/Hub/Café project	1,792.80	Ch.No.102691
D. Green. Ink cartridges	60.98	Ch.No.102692
Andrew Everitt. Verge in centre of the village	450.00	
Hedge at Church Field/All Saints	<u>650.00</u>	
	Total 1,100.00	Ch.No.102693

Grasshopper Lawncare. Treat War Memorial grass	24.00	Ch.No.102694
M. Elsey. Keys Baptist Schoolroom	12.00	Ch.No.102695
D. Green. Minute Book. D. Fitzsamuel-Nicholls	262.00	Ch.No.102696

Balances at Bank on 21st February 2022:-

Current Account:-	£4,018.41
Saver Account:-	£1,071.33
Saver Account:-	£73,990.25

