

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Baptist Schoolroom at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Ms. Jane Gray, Mrs. Melanie Horrigan Mrs. Michelle Lee and John Moran

Cllr. Martin Foley (ECC), Mr. David Green (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs. Alice Olley

**2. Public Representations.**

Mr. Chris Pardue reported that he was in the process of arranging a site meeting with Nigel Brown (Planning Policy ) UDC at the “reservoir” Butlers Lane. He would provide Cllr. John Moran with any relevant information.

Mr. Dean Foster sought clarification for his wife as to why certain items did not appear of the agenda and requested better information and communication for the village. The Chairman would contact Mrs. Foster to discuss.

Mr. Stuart Hastie, Treasure of the Village Hall Committee, raised various matters regarding the running of the village hall. These would be referred to the Trustees

Mrs. Sue Smith, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, asked when a meeting would take place between the RCC Village Hall Representative, the Village Hall Committee and the Trustees. The Chairman said that this would be arranged following the next meeting of the Trustees.

**3. Short Address by Councillor Foley on County Council matters**

**Highways**

An update from the Local highways Panel will be sent out by separate cover. Money is apparently now very tight at ECC despite Uttlesford residents paying £40m a year in council taxes to ECC to provide services needed to keep our roads in good order. Many councillors feel we are not getting good value for money to the extent that there has been a move to ask “that the chairman of the LHP to be replaced by one who is prepared to work to protect residents.

We have at last had a meeting of the Local Highways Panel to go over work to be done for the remainder of this year. The fact is because of lack of resources and people they are very far behind.

In fact most work at ECC Highways had been frozen to lack of resources.

Potholes still a major problem in this everywhere ...they are being fixed but slower than they should be and ECC have a massive backlog...despite hundreds being chased up and done in UDC area last year. (I chased up 23 today in this area alone) I am continuing to work with a cross party group to force better rural road maintenance and face the problem that the current administration are in real terms spending less than they need to maintain our roads to a good standard.

I have just come back from France ...we once used to joke about their poor roads but what I have seen they are now 100 percent better than ours.  
Attached is Uttlesford Highways works.

### **Recycling Centres**

I understand there has been a REDUCTION in recycling looks like an INCREASE in local fly tipping with this system...the trial goes on with some adjustments.

### **Final Report- Mental Health Services for Young People**

As I mentioned in recent reports , I put a motion to ECC Full Council regarding some worrying trends and issues that had been brought to my attention ( as **chairman of Youth Strategy Group** ) and visiting some schools in UDC area. As a result a Task and Finish Group was set up with the aim of tackling the issues raised the early findings are attached. Sadly the administration at ECC have now stopped the work of all Youth Strategy Groups... but in Uttlesford Youth Initiatives Group will continue and I will work with them as ECC Liaison Councillor UYIG.

### **Library**

I led a local campaign to keep local libraries open and making them more interesting. The simple truth looking ahead is for everybody to join a library and use it or we may not have some of them long.

### **Youth Clubs**

As you know I am very keen on Youth Clubs and will support here in any way I can. Whilst I was Chair of Uttlesford Youth Strategy Group we have almost doubled the amount of usage and new clubs are opening in this ECC ward. In Thaxted for instance we have gone from 37 members to about a hundred over the last year...the new skate park is very popular ...helped with Grants from UDC and ECC. We have had considerably less youth crime/incidents as the youth club has grown. Visiting skaters from all villages welcome with a bit of notice. Just shows what can be done with a bit of the right investment.

Further reports on specific forwarded by Councillor Foley are held on file.

Councillor Foley added that there would be no 20mph limits in villages in the short term whilst the effects of the 20mph limits installed in Saffron Walden were being assessed.

Cllr. Mrs Lee joined the meeting at this point.

#### **4. Short Address by Councillor Moran on District Council matters.**

Bin Collections. There had been a problem with the garden waste collections due to problems working from the new depot and crewing matters.

Maintenance of Council properties. Councillor Moran had spoken to the Lead Member regarding the delays and ongoing maintenance with council homes.

Local Plan. The recent Government proposal for developments in urban areas had been noted. The Draft Plan is due in November and the need for two and three bed properties rather than four and five bed properties had been noted. The call for sites

had produced one site in Ashdon on farm land to the north of Walden Road between All saints Close and "The Lamb"

**5. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2023/24**

**Resolved** – that Cllr. John Moran be elected Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2023/24 (Cllr. Elsey)

Cllr. Foley left the meeting at this point

**6. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Moran declared an interest in that he is a District Councillor.

**7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be signed as a true record (Cllr. Elsey)

**8. Matters Arising from the above Minutes**

i Playing Fields:-

a. Rectory Lane. .

Equipment in good order. There had been some minor vandalism:- the rope to the slide mound had been stolen; the sign at the top of the steps was missing; glass had been found by the swings; locks to the adjacent school field had been damaged and needed replacing on two occasions. There was evidence of alcohol being brought on to the site with beer cans and a whiskey bottle in the litter bin. Rubbish and litter had been left scattered round the field. The litter problem has arisen following the break-up of schools for the summer. There had also been unsocial behaviour both at the playing field and Rectory Lane causing concern to residents.

Clerk's Note: I visited the playing field on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July. I report as follows: Additional beer bottles and beer cans in the litter bins; Rizla (roll your own) cigarette paper on the grass indicating "roll your own" taking place; used nappy hidden in the grass at the top of the field. The field was relatively clear of litter some litter having been picked up by a resident the previous evening. Litter bins full. Bags changed and left at bottom of the steps.

Advice had been sought from the Police who said that all incidents, however minor, should be reported to enable an overview to be formed. PC Carl Wright and PCSO Keely Twitchett had visited the village and discussed the problems. PCSO Twitchett would be making regular monthly visits to the village when she would hold a monthly surgery in the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom. Members and residents were very pleased that this had been done and that the village would benefit greatly from a local low key police presence.

Bench at All Saints. Bench delivered, constructed and waiting delivery to site  
(Action Cllr. Moran)

- b. Lease of land adjacent to All Saints Close.

**Resolved** – that this item be removed from the agenda (Cllr. Elsey)

- ii. Highways: Traffic Management.

Nothing further to report. It was understood that the proposal for the 20mph scheme in Ashdon was in validation.

**Resolved** – that the possibility of purchasing and installing new flashing speed reduction sign would be investigated (Cllr. Ms. Gray)

- a. Report on decision of the Local Highways Panel. Condition of the gulleys in Radwinter Road, Crown Hill and Water End

Cllr. Foley had previously reported that the report from Daniel Jackson (Highways Engineer) was awaited. Any improved drainage scheme in Radwinter Road would be very expensive and would not attract funding at this time. Matters regarding drainage from the building site in Radwinter Road were ongoing. (Action Cllr. Foley)

- b. Speeding and Highway Matters

- i. To receive a report from Cllr. Moran and Cllr. Mrs. Lee on the discussions regarding a 20mph limit through the village and county wide.

No further progress. See Item 3 Cllr. Foley's report

- ii. To receive an update from Cllr. Mrs. Lee on the roadworks from Dean Crossroads, Horseheath to Linton.

Works ongoing

- iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

A meeting of the Trustees would be convened Time and Date to be arranged.

It was noted that the fire alarm had gone off in White Horse House. The alarm had been silenced and property had been entered but no problems could be found. It had been agreed with the tenant that a key safe be put up to enable access should it be required in future. (Action Chairman)

- iv. Community Led Housing.

- a) Update on the proposed houses adjacent to All Saints Close

Meeting with the CEO of the District Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1100 UDC.

- v. Neighbourhood Watch.

Any vandalism or unsocial behaviour however minor should be reported to the Police to enable an overview to be formed and subsequent action taken.

## **9. Correspondence**

- i. Bus Consultation 14<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> October. To be advertised on the village web site, the Village Magazine and in the two bus shelters. (Action Cllr. Ms. Gray)

It was noted that £2.00 fares were available on buses to Cambridge.

- ii. Rail Fares. Reduced rail fares to London are available for £10.00. Telephone Greater Anglia.

## **10. New Items.**

Allotments.

The Chairman had been trying to contact Mr. Ray Herbert regarding the formation of an Allotment Association. The matters concerning raised beds would be discussed further when the future administration of the allotments and the allotment association had been resolved. (Action Chairman)

## **11. New Planning Applications**

- i. UTT/23/1501/LB. Internal alterations to provide better access and storage, and refurbishments to toilets  
Ashdon Village Hall

**Since Conditionally Approved**

- ii. UTT/23/1433/TPO. 1 No. yew – reduce height by one third and shape  
Chapel farm, Radwinter Road

**Since Approved**

- iii. UTT/23/1437/DOC. Application to discharge condition 3 (landscaping) and 11 (Biodiversity lighting design) attached to UTT/21/1754/DFO.  
Land to the west of Radwinter Road

**The condition of the trees needs closely monitoring as they were planted in times of very low rainfall. The future maintenance of the landscaping, trees and hedges will require closely monitoring to ensure all specifications are met. The screening to the valley in particular needs careful maintenance and the hedge needs further planting to strengthen and enhance it.**

**Cllr. Moran to investigate and advise.**

- iv. UTT/23/1676/HHF. Proposed new double garage and conversion of existing single attached garage to boot/utility space  
Fairview, Church Hill

**Reference Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan Design Code ASH4, Development Code ASH7**

**The garage is not a subordinate building to the proposed house. No dimensions have been provided. The position of the proposed garage will exclude light from the house. Given the overall sensitivity of the site adjacent the Church End Conservation Area more information is required on materials. Must conform to the Ashdon Design Code for Church End.**

- v. UTT/23/1687/PDE. Prior notification of enlargement of dwelling house by construction of additional storey under Class AA of the GDPO – addition of 1 storey maximum height 9.4m

Fairview, Church Hill

**Reference Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan Design Code ASH4, Development Code ASH7**

**There will be increased run off from the hard surfacing thus causing water to run down Church Hill into the River Bourne and increase the likely hood of flooding problems in the village. There is inadequate detail on the plans to meet the AAA Specification. All existing trees must be retained. There must be screening to the eastern aspect to shield the property from the open countryside. The roofline appears excessively high particularly as the site is on rising ground and is very visible from the national long distance footpath the Harcamlow Way and the unspoilt open countryside.**

**Given the sensitivity of the site more information regarding the type of materials to be used is required to ensure it conforms to the Ashdon Design Code SCA2 (Church End)**

- vi. UTT/23/1552/CLP | Use of property for residential care and support.  
Great Mortimers, Water End

**The Parish Council requests that this application is called in to enable an informed discussion and view to be made on future policy regarding this type of application. It is also requested if change of use app is required. The number of persons providing necessary care should be determined.**

**Noted: Cllr. Ms. Gray did not comment on this application.**

**Appeals.**

- i. UTT/22/2309/FUL. APP/C1570/W/23/3316005. Proposed erection of 2 no. detached dwellings accessed from existing access on Church Hill, with associated works.

## **12. Planning Applications Determined.**

- i. UTT/23/0447/HHF. Proposed side and rear extensions, replacement roof, and proposed double garage  
Fairview, Church Hill

### **Refused**

- ii. UTT/23/0767/FUL. S73 application to vary condition 16 (Accessible and adaptable dwellings) of UTT/21/1754/DFO (details following outline application UTT/18/1429/OP for 4 dwellings). From "The dwelling hereby permitted must be built in accordance with Requirement M4(2) (Accessible and adaptable dwellings) of the Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document M, Volume 1 2015 edition. REASON: To ensure a high standard of accessibility, in accordance with Policy GEN2 of the Uttlesford Local Plan (adopted 2005), the SPD entitled "Accessible Homes and playspace" and the Planning Practice Guidance, into "Where possible, the dwellings hereby permitted to be built in accordance with Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document M, Volume 1 2015 edition"  
Land to the west of Radwinter Road

### **Refused**

- iii. UTT/23/0895/FUL. Conversion and adaption of redundant barn to 1 no. residential dwelling and cartlodge.  
Barn at Spriggs Farm, Water End

### **Conditional approval**

- iv. UTT/21/2636/LB. Proposed renovation and refurbishment works. Internal works including decorating/replacing/repairing windows, doors, door frames, linings and architraves, exposed timbers, walls, floors and ceilings throughout. Erection of protective timber cladding. Works to improve fire protection including plastering and fire door. External works including removal of windows and infill openings. Insertion of new window opening. Removal of existing corrugated roofing, rafters and posts over current smoking area. Repair/ replace fascias and soffits, cast iron gutters and downpipes, window openings, frames, cills etc. Make good render, replace external timber wall claddings. Replace defective brickwork and repoint. Defective roof tiles replaced. Remove existing brick wall at rear of car park and reduce ground levels to provide additional car parking.  
Rose & Crown Public House

### **Refused**

**Noted; that Mr. Dean Foster, co-owner of the Rose & Crown, had previously informed the meeting that this had been refused on a technicality and was currently under discussion with the District Council.**

- v. UTT/23/1040/FUL. First floor extension and amendments to existing garage to create 1 no. dwelling.  
5. Church Hill.

### **Conditional Approval**

- vi. UTT/23/0907/FUL. Upgrade of pumping station infrastructure to comprise a larger control equipment kiosk and a wider concrete base in order to improve resilience of the asset in the face of increased incidence of drought and increased demand for water augmentation and transfer.

**Conditional Approval**

**12. Finance.**

- i.. Accounts for payment

**Resolved** – that the Accounts (Appendix i) be passed for payment (Cllr. Elsey)

- ii. To receive the Internal Auditors Report and accounts for the fiscal year 2022/23

**Resolved** - that the Accounts (Appendix ii) for the fiscal year 2022/23, the Internal Audit and the Annual Governance Statement be approved (Cllr. Moran)

**13. There were no “Items for the Next Agenda”**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 10.13pm

Signed  
Chairman

Date



**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**  
**12<sup>th</sup> JUNE to 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

Monies Received.	£
Peasgood & Skeates. Purchase of grave & Internet re Brian Darling	165.00
H.J. Paintin. Burial of ashes re Ron Dunkley	35.00
H.J. Paintin. Interment fee re Linda Smith	165.00
Interest BPA 1/4/23 - 30/6/23	2.24
Interest BPA 6/3/23 – 4/6/23	129.10

Monies passed for Payment

NPower. Electricity may Account	42.90	Ch.No. 102863
D. Green. Stationery	76.18	Ch.No. 102864
D.Green. Telephone /Broadband	22.32	Ch.No. 102865
Fenland Leisure. Zip Wire stanchions. Rectory Lane	7864.00	Ch.No. 102866
Grasshopper Lawncare. War Memorial	28.00	Ch.No. 102867
D.Green. Leisure Bench. Bench Church Field	500.40	Ch.No. 102868
UDC. Election Expenses	52.47	Ch.No. 102869
MD Landscapes. Village grass June Acc	807.66	Ch.No. 102870
D. Green Telephone/Broadband	22.32	Ch.No. 102871
D. Green. Kaspersky Computer protection	32.99	Ch.No. 102872
N.Power. Electricity. June Account	38.07	Ch.No. 102873
EALC. Training Course (Cllr. Mrs. Lee)	360.00	Ch.No. 102874
D. Green. Stamps	15.20	Ch.No. 102875

Balances at Bank on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023:-

Current Account:-	£6,804.22
Saver Account:-	£1,075.94
Saver Account:-	£58,782.41

