

HADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council held on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting via Zoom and informed all that proceedings were being recorded for the benefit of accurate minutes. **Present:** Parish Councillors Rick Albrow, Keith Nuttall, Trevor Smith, Jude Hannam & Parish Clerk Sara Beckett. District Councillor James DeVries. Three members of the public present.
2. Apologies for absence were received with reasons stated from Cllr Porter and approved **RESOLVED 21/01/02** No apologies for absence were received County Councillor Walsh.
3. **Declaration of Members' Interests and requests for dispensation.** None received. Councillors were reminded of the need to keep up to date their Register of Members' Interests.
4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 10 December 2020** were received and approved. **RESOLVED 21/01/04** The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public Participation** A member of the public spoke to the following items
 - [a] Expressed concerns about the muddy conditions at the end of Len's Path (Zoo end) It was suggested that scalping might be a suitable dressing and wondered whether a working group could be formed and urged the Parish Council to consider this.
 - [b] Expressed concerns about the condition of the Village end of Len's Path
 - [c] Two bridge at Bowers path are muddy and slippery
 - [d] B1052 road which is often impassable due to flooding in conjunction with the flooding at Little Walden effectively means the Village is cut off
 - [e] Bridge on Chalky Lane requires attention this is a PRow but may be out of the ParishThe Chair was cautious of forming working groups at this time. Scalping are heavy and might need a longer-term solution. Bark chippings might be an option and would be discussed under the appropriate Agenda item.

A member of the public wished to put forward his views on revised plans that he had presented to the council for the Kings Head. This mainly concerned the proposed extension. He now recognised that the previous plans for the extension were not subservient to the main buildings. It would now be less visible He was seeking the views of the proposed plans or advise on how to improve it
The Chair advised that the Council would not be able to comment until a formal application is presented to the Council for consideration with an opportunity for public consultation but welcomed the engagement and commitment to improve the outside appearance and concerns of the Village. The concerns expressed by the Parish Council when the planning application was considered in October 2020 were reiterated.

A member of the public wished to thank the Parish Council for achieving the required work to the hedges and over grown vegetation on Bartlow Road

6. **District Councillor Report** ~ Cllr DeVries reported
The UDC website has a Citizen engagement portal to encourage participation with the Local Plan
Stanstead Airport Appeal has a link via UDC website to enquiry portal with timetable and appeal Library
Covid-19 ~Free PCR testing is now available from Turpin's Bowls Club behind the Leisure Centre at Saffron Walden. This is for people who are asymptomatic available to book online. Business support grants are

available from either Central Government or Essex County Council don't delay in applying if assistance is required.

UDC Budget has been amended to take account of Covid 19 and 2020/21.

The ward member innovative funding has been reinstated meaning that Councillor DeVries was now awarding £500 to the Parish Council.

The Chair allowed a supplementary question from a member of the public which was to thank the District Councillor for engaging with the planning application related to the Kings Head but was disappointed that the issue of a UDC condition to advertise the property for sale for one year was not adhered to.

The Chair thanked Councillor DeVries for attending with his contribution to the meeting and requested that he might write a piece for the Village magazine.

7. **County Councillor report.** ~ The January email report from County Councillor Walsh was noted (previously circulated)
8. **Clerks Report** ~ other than items to be discussed on the agenda
 - [a] Contract accepted for fencing awaiting delivery of supplies which will inform start date
 - [b] Awaiting reply re Rangers work
 - [c] Agenda routinely on Hadstock Info
 - [d] Tree survey disparity is being investigated
 - [e] Expiration of funding granted will be reviewed.
9. **Councillors Report** ~ other than items to be discussed on the agenda
 - [a] Sanitiser for recreation ground was investigated no real alternative ~ tub of wipes to be removed and continue with liquid sanitiser
 - [b] Authorisation of work for emergency work on the recreation ground including gate post delegated powers used
 - [c] Millennium project to have separate access and pages on Village website at no charge to Parish Council
 - [d] local information to be on web site when training (which is delayed due to Covid-19) completed to allow this to happen
10. **Planning applications received** ~ None
11. **Planning application decisions received** ~ None
12. **Uttlesford District Council Local Plan preparation** ~ The Local plan remains out to Consultation with a call for sites. The Chair requested that a Councillor might like to take the lead in the future.
13. **Lens Path** ~ Following on from the member of the public's comments, the situation and how best to resolve the issues at both ends resulted in the decision that to resolve these issues it would be beyond the scope of a working party. It is a footway and cycle path so surface needs to be suitable. ACTION The Clerk to seek contractors for quotes.
14. **Lockdown Support Fund** ~ Lockdown support as offered by UDC was discussed, a scheme for those in need. If the Parish Council becomes aware of a need then the person(s) could be directed to the scheme.
15. **Councillor Training** ~ the new schedule of training had been sent to all. The training by EALC is excellent. Cllr Hannam showed an interest in the Planning Course. It was proposed that the fee of £70 be approved for Cllr Hannam to attend the planning course as described in April 2021 **RESOLVED 21/01/15**
16. **Highways/Speed watch report** ~ Cllr Nuttall
 - [a] **Highways** ~ Cllr Nuttall reported on the continuing deliberations of the responsibility of the land (road side) of Len's Path on Linton Road. The history of correspondence between Essex Highways, the land owner and the Parish Council were discussed. The last correspondence received left the matter between the land owner and Highways. The land owner would review the lease and report to Highways. No further contact has been made or received. The lease has again been reviewed and researched by the Parish Council so a view could be taken.

It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter (the detail of which was discussed) to send to the land owner. It was acknowledged that a dialogue should be opened to resolve the matter and action can be taken. **RESOLVED 21/01/16[a]**
 - [b] **Resumption of Speed watch** ~ Due to continuing lockdown, speed watch has not been in operation.

Cllr Nuttall reported that some new interest from volunteers from the Village to participate in Speed watch had been shown. Cllr Nuttall had been informed that online training was now available ~ to review

17. Highways Transport defects report ~ The Chair had itemised the data received from UDC so that it is now purely relevant to Hadstock which was extremely helpful. This new abridged document will be very useful in relation to the PRoW mapping and recording the work undertaken.

The Clerk had emailed Cllr Eke (the sender of the Highways Defect Report) to inquire of the outcome of the issues stated, as completion dates are not recorded ~ No response to date.

18. Recreation Ground Report ~

[a] Cllr Smith reported that the bark chippings had been delivered and will be placed in the affected area. Everywhere is extremely wet. The Recreation Ground is being well used and the dog fouling situation is still good. Cllr Nuttall reported that the emergency work to the post and gate will commence next week.

[b] & [d] Goal post stoppers have been ordered for the goal post

The play equipment has had some minor maintenance carried out and all is usable.

[c] The Tree Survey report will be forwarded to the resident to enable the identified work to be carried out.

[e] Councillors were asked to formally approve that the Clerk had used delegated powers to authorise necessary emergency work to the Recreation Ground play equipment and repairs to the gate + post and authorise future payment **RESOLVED 21/01/18[e]**

19. Parish Land Project (Design and management of all land owned by the Parish Council in addition to the Recreation Ground) ~ It was reported that the hedges need to be trimmed back prior to the fencing being erected. Discussion with a resident who is familiar with the required work and has equipment to undertake it followed. Councillors decided that a fee of £100 per day for a maximum of 5 days be approved to allow for the necessary maintenance work required to be carried out, which will then enable the fencing to be erected. It may also be possible to carry out some of the routine work described in the tree survey report. The resident would oversee the work to be carried out by a contractor. Material (the waste) would be left in a row and when conditions allow would be removed permanently. The resident was thanked for his contribution to the debate and outcome **RESOLVED 21/01/19**

20. Finance Report 2020/21

[a] The Finance report and bank reconciliation to date for November 2020/21 was discussed and noted and would be signed by the Chair.

[b] to agree and approve payments listed below and to note that the Clerk used delegated powers to issue a cheque to HMRC for PAYE £203.20 **RESOLVED 21/01/20[b]**

[c] The Clerk updated the Council on the Invoices received after the Agenda was issued. Identified below
* **RESOLVED 21/01/20[c]**

Cheq #	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total
101288	HMRC	PAYE	203.2		203.2
101289	Ms S A Beckett	December Salary	270.87		270.87
101290	Mercer	Tree Survey	480.00	96.00	576.00
101291	Mrs J Hannam	Welcome bag reimbursement	258.00	51.60	309.60
101292*	Hadstock Society	Welcome bag Village books	140.00		140.00
101293*	Ms S A Beckett	Clerks January salary	346.07		346.07
101294*	LexisNexis	Clerks book	119.00		119.00
101295*	Mr T Smith	Bark chippings for recreation ground reimbursement	70.00	14.00	84.00

[d] The predicted expenses for the remainder of 2020/21 as discussed at the last meeting has seen very little change. Councillors discussed the presented and proposed budget detail for 2020/21. There is now a projected overspend of £65 compared to the predicted overspend of approximately £6000 this time last year which would have come from reserves. The Parish Council is now in a better financial position than

was anticipated due to the successful funding that has been sought and achieved for the expense of the fencing for the recreation ground. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk for achieving this. There will be additional expense for the recreation ground. The normal major outstanding expenditure at this time of year is the Green Skip but this will have been reduced because the service was stopped at times due to Covid-19. No information received from UDC about the continuation of the service for the next financial year or possible costs. **ACTION** Clerk will continue to chase and cc Cllr Devries.

There is no change to the budget for 2021/22 since discussion at the last meeting in December.

The Parish Council has a healthy amount in reserves of approximately £12000 for 2021/2022.

The budget as prepared and presented was approved **RESOLVED 21/01/20[d]**

[e] Following an informed discussion, it was proposed to agree to demand a precept of £10,412.00 which represented an increase of £227 to the Parish Council income but this represented no % increase for the contribution of Council Tax payable by Village residents. Therefore, on a band D house for 2021/22, it remains as £62.19 for the second year running, having seen an increase of .67pence for 2019/20 a 1.1% increase. Unanimously agreed **RESOLVED 21/01/20[e]** the Chairman and Clerk would complete the required form. **ACTION** Clerk to arrange to notify UDC. **ACTION** The Chair to write piece for magazine with detail.

21. Village Welcome Packs ~ Cllr Hannam

[a] Cllr Hannam gave an update and presented the bag which had been purchased and printed. It was thought that contents should be a copy of the most recent Parish Magazine, the Millennium Village book and a card from a local artist which would have a hand written message from the Parish Council. It was reported that a more artistic footpath map had been discussed but it was decided to keep with the footpath map already in existence as it was more useful.

ACTION Chair to write the welcome piece for the Welcome bags to include a link to the web site and identifying the Parish Councillors.

ACTION Cllr Hannam to deliver to neighbours and write a small piece for magazine

[b] It was recommended to gift 3 bags to the originator of the art work for the bag design

It was decided to sell the bags for £5.00 to those interested either bank transfer or cash. Cllr Hannam would oversee any collection of cash. **RESOLVED 21/01/21[b]**

22. Village Hall Report~ Cllr Nuttall reported that the Village Hall was still closed for use due to Covid-19 restrictions. The roof had sprung a leak but was in hand

23. Parish Land Report & PRoW's

Councillors were advised that the Chair had received 2 written reports of horses using the footpaths in the Village. Councillors felt it was appropriate to submit a piece to the Magazine and Hadstock Info and to the owner/tenants of the paddocks on track going to Penn Farm. The aged issue of horse manure being dropped over the paddocks fencing to the Linton Road pathway footpath has reared its head again. The owner of the paddocks has been contacted to inform the users but to date the unpleasant situation remains. To review

When the weather improves Councillors will undertake a survey to report the conditions of the footpaths in and around the Village. After the March meeting Councillors can look at the map, divide areas, commence walks and prepare written reports which would describe the responsibility and work required. Particularly looking at areas that require cutting back, hand rails, steps. Compare with report provided by Essex County Council and update.

24. Correspondence ~ The Clerk reported an email received requesting permission to use a photograph on the Village web site for an article to be written by a member of the public. Having contacted the Hadstock Society, who 'own' the copyright, the Clerk replied welcoming the use of the photograph 'Emma Swan' provided it would be correctly acknowledged in the article.

25. Items that were considered for next Agenda ~ future projects e.g., the pond on Bartlow Road, new or additional play equipment ~ Councillors to consider

26. To confirm the date of the next meeting ~ Thursday 25 February 2021

The meeting closed at 21.49pm.

..... Chairman.

Signed as a true record and **RESOLVED** to approve on 25 February 2021