

HADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25 February 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, Sara Porter & Parish Clerk Sara Beckett. Two members of the public present.
2. Apologies for absence were received and noted from County Councillor Walsh & District Councillor James DeVries.
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 21 January 2021** were received and approved with an amendment of adding the word* 'work' The roof had sprung a leak but * was in hand **RESOLVED 21/02/04** The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public Participation** A member of the public spoke to the following items:
 - [a] Wild East are promoting re-wilding by pledging 20% of private gardens and for organisations such as Parish Councils to pledge and wondered whether an area in the Recreation Ground might be suitable.
 - [b] Might the Parish Council tell the Village more about the work that is being carried out on the Recreation Ground.

The Chair referring to [a] suggested that the member of the public might like to investigate this further and to promote the scheme to the Village and also suggested that an article in the Magazine to inform would be welcome. [b] reports have been in the Magazine but the project overall has been delayed due to Covid restrictions. To note that the Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 was cancelled where an update would have been provided.

A member of the public spoke to the following items:

 - [a] The previously agreed work for the recreation ground had been carried out and the work identified in the tree survey has been completed apart from the planting of a replacement tree.
 - [b] The light in Bilberry End was again not working.

The Chair referring to [a] expressed thanks for the work that had been undertaken and sought confirmation that the waste cuttings would be removed. The Clerk referring to [b] assured the resident that this would be actioned.
6. Report from District Councillor ~ Cllr DeVries had sent his late apologies and would forward a report
7. Report from County Councillor ~ Cllr Walsh had sent his apologies. His report previously circulated to all was noted
8. **Clerks Report** ~ Lens path was an Agenda Item
 - Tree delivery for recreation ground immanent
 - Contact details for the Rangers is still awaited
 - Defective data report still awaited
 - Green Skip ~ increase of 3% anticipated but service will be provided
9. **Councillors Report** ~ Items covered by the Agenda
10. **To consider and resolve a decision on Planning Application/s**

Planning applications were received by the Parish Council on 16 February 2021 as below for The King's Head

 - [a] UTT/21/0453/FUL and

[b] UTT/21/0452/LB

Hadstock Parish Council noted these planning applications.

Hadstock Parish Council will hold a Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 18 March 2021 to discuss and Resolve a decision to the planning applications UTT/21/0453/FUL & UTT/21/0452/LB **RESOLVED 21/02/10**

11. Decisions made by UDC on planning application/s ~ UTT/21/0189/DOC | Application to discharge condition 8 parts 3,4 and 5 (validation report) attached to UTT/19/2853/FUL | Yew Farm Yard Linton Road Hadstock CB21 4NU Conditions discharged in full.

12. Uttlesford District Council Local Plan preparation ~ a further Theme 6 Biodiversity was noted

13. Lens Path ~ The Clerk updated Council with the details of a quote received from a contractor who had made a site visit. The quote was discussed in detail. Councillors wished for the quote to be clarified for the work at the Village end and authorised the Clerk to accept the quote having confirmed the detail and informing the Contractor that a Councillor would meet prior to commencement. It was felt that the Zoo end needed to be considered further to identify the source of what might be making the area so wet. This will be further discussed with the contractor. A member of the public thanked the Council for acting so quickly in organising the work to be carried out.

14. Highways/Speed watch report ~

[a] Linton Road flooding ~ Cllr. Smith reported that he had recently met with the land owner related to Len's Path on site, it was a very cordial meeting with both parties eager to resolve the matter. The land owner gave Cllr. Smith sight of an unsigned document/map which had not formed part of the lease. Cllr Smith would request a copy. A written report had been sent to all Parish Councillors and to County Cllr. Walsh. Cllr. Walsh had responded that he would get his operational team to investigate. A response to that was received earlier in the day which he acknowledged was not helpful as it was felt no action by the operational team was required. Cllr Smith further responded to Cllr. Walsh that the situation has considerably deteriorated since it was last reviewed several years ago and regularly floods. Cllr. Smith invited Cllr. Walsh and his team (Flood and Highways) to meet with him and the land owner and awaits a reply.

Responsibility of the ditch which is flooding was discussed. Cllr Nuttall reported that an informal legal opinion had been sought and it was felt that the Parish Council should seek a formal legal opinion of the lease and map attached to it not only for the benefit of the current situation but for future clarity. Subject to legal opinion, [1] No wording within lease indicates that the Parish Council is responsible for the ditch. [2] Map attached to lease shows the extent of the land leased and does not appear to extend to the ditch. Cllr Nuttall will seek further information to proceed with obtaining formal advice.

The Chair wished to make it clear that the legal responsibility for the path, the issue of clearing the ditch and the degradation of the verge are all separate issues. It was noted that as a matter of courtesy the Parish Council might inform the land owner of the work undertaken as per clause 3.7 of the lease.

[b] The temporary removal of B1052 weight restriction 28 February – 1 March was noted

[c] Resumption of Speed watch ~ Cllr Nuttall gave an update that an email had been received with a survey attached suggesting that Speed Watch reporting might be watered down and that the administration was depleted. Cllr Nuttall emailed County Cllr. Walsh to express his alarm and to request that this should not be the case who in turn contacted the Police and Fire Commissioner who it was reported felt the same as Cllr Nuttall as would many as Speed Watch was a very valuable exercise to support the Police on a voluntary basis. Cllr. Nuttall will continue to pursue.

[d] No other highways issues were reported, apart from the usual abundance of potholes

15. Recreation Ground Report ~

[a] It was reported that trees and branches/bows at the boundary below Meadow House with the field belonging to Mr Smith need attention. **ACTION** Cllr Albrow will review

The placing of bark at the entrance to the recreation ground had worked well, Cllr. Smith was thanked for arranging this.

[b] The play equipment was reported to be usable. Repairs had been carried out to the climbing frame.

It was reported that debris had been left following repair work. **ACTION Cllr Albrow** will review.

[c] The work referenced in the tree survey has been carried out **ACTION Cllr Albrow** to review and will write a report.

[d] **ACTION Cllr Albrow** will review the work carried out at the boundary of the recreation ground. It was reported that the work required, prior to the fencing, had been satisfactorily completed.

- 16. Green Skip** ~ The Clerk reported that this service is due to commence in April 2021 with a possible increase charge of 3%. It was **RESOLVED 21/02/16** that the Clerk should authorise the commencement of the service with an increase of up to 3% if necessary.

17. Parish Land Project (Design and management of all land owned by the Parish Council in addition to the Recreation Ground

[a] Cllr Nuttall reported that the fencing should commence from 08 March 2021. **ACTION Councillors** will arrange access.

[b] Cllr Albrow reported that the Heritage fruit trees are scheduled to be delivered the next day (26 February) Volunteers had offered assistance to plant them. In addition to the Wild East project discussed earlier, eForests were seeking public accessible areas, to plant trees free of charge. It was felt that whilst this was a welcomed and interesting initiative it was not appropriate for Parish Council owned land.

- 18. Grants** Councillors considered the 2020/21 District Councillor's Ward Initiative for £500 ~ following a discussion it was **RESOLVED 21/02/18** that the Clerk should liaise with Cllr DeVries and present either retrospective invoices for items or work already carried out and paid for by the Parish Council (the repairs to the gate/ play equipment + Hadstock books) or use for a replacement bench on the recreation ground. **ACTION Clerk**

19. Finance Report ~

[a] The Clerk reported that the Bank reconciliation had been sent to all. The Report will be completed when a more recent Bank Statement has been reconciled.

£3500 Grant funding had been received from Essex County Council through EALC for the Parish Land Project.

The contribution to grass cutting of £360.00 from the Parochial Church Council has been received

[b] The payments listed below were considered by Councillors and **RESOLVED 21/02/19b** to authorise payment

[c] No late invoices for payment have been received since the publication of the Agenda

[d] It was noted that delegated powers were used by the Clerk for payment of

[i] Cheque Number 101296 **RESOLVED 21/02/19di**

[ii] Cheque Number 101297 **RESOLVED 21/02/19dii** details of which are included below

Cheq #	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total
101296	Steve Hermitage Fencing	Emergency repairs to play equipment on Recreation Ground & initial work to gate & post	345.00		345.00
101297	Steve Hermitage Fencing	Emergency repairs & replacement to gate & post Recreation Ground	585.00		585.00
101298	Ms S A Beckett	February Clerks salary	278.45		278.45
101299	Mr M Cowling	Recreation maintenance	500.00		500.00

- 20. Village Welcome Packs** ~ Cllr Hannam reported that Welcome Bags had been very well received by new residents to the Village. A piece has been prepared to go into the Parish Magazine and it would also state that the bags would be available for sale at £5.00. The bags have been a great success and a very good initiative by Cllr. Hannam and thanks were expressed.

- 21. Councillors discussed & considered future projects that the Parish Council might undertake.**
 [i] Clear out pond on Bartlow Road and provide a bench, but to check ownership of pond
 [ii] Play equipment for the recreation ground
 [iii] Pond on Walden Road
 [iv] Cllr Porter had placed some items such as books DVD's etc in the Phone Box. It was welcomed and thanks were expressed. It was suggested that some shelves might be put up and generally make it more usable and appealing.
 [v] Linton end of Len's Path to be cleared
 [vi] Through the wood with pond past Chalky Lane there is a bridge that might need attention ~ Cllr Hannam to enquire about ownership
- 22. Village Hall Report** ~ the Hall was still closed. Ideas for future events or use of the Hall would be welcome.
- 23. Parish Land Report & PRow's ~**
 [a] Councillors had a general update & discussion then
 [b] Councillors consider quotes received for repair work to steps and bridges on permissive path between Bantons and Arnolds Lane. It was reported that Cllr Nuttall and a resident of the Village had offered to carry out the necessary work to make safe and useable. This was welcomed on the basis that any materials obtained and used would be reimbursed by the Parish Council **RESOLVED 21/02/23c**
 [c] No other issues reported.
- 24. Future meetings of the Parish Council** The clerk reported that legislation to hold virtual meetings such as the Parish Council had been proceeding with via Zoom will cease after 07 May 2021. Many Councils are planning to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting before that date as it is still unclear if the legislation would be extended. The Annual Parish Council meeting should be held in May. The Annual Parish Meeting should be held between March and June. Council felt that the legislation should be extended and will review.
- 25. Annual Parish Meeting** ~Cllr Nuttall suggested that as an Annual Parish Meeting was not held in 2020 a written Annual report could be provided to update residents with the work of the Parish Council. It was suggested that a Public meeting could be held in September
- 26.** No correspondence to report
- 27. Agenda Items for the next meeting** ~Cllr Hannam reported that she has been attending a Community Development Course which was designed to encourage a wide range of people to come together with their own skill sets, such as had been demonstrated through the Covid pandemic. Cllr Hannam to report at the next meeting and will be an Agenda item
- 28.** Councillors discussed future dates for Parish Council meetings and the following was **RESOLVED 21/02/28**
Thursday 25 March 2021 via Zoom 7:30
Thursday 29 April 2021 via Zoom 7:30
Thursday 27 May 2021 (Parish Council AGM) 7:30

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9:40pm

..... Chairman.

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