

HADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday 26 January 2023

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

Present: Parish Councillors: Rick Albrow (Chair), Keith Nuttall, Jude Hannam, Denise Wells, John Lockton & Parish Clerk Sara Beckett.

No members of the public were present

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, reminded Councillors of the fire safety procedure and announced that proceedings may be filmed or recorded.
2. No Apologies were required
Apologies were noted from County Councillor Martin Foley. District Councillor DeVries was absent
3. Declaration of Members' Interests and notice for dispensations. ~ Cllr Nuttall declared a pecuniary interest related to Item 9 UTT/22/3492/HHF
4. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **24 November 2022** were accepted and approved. **RESOLVED 23/01/04.** The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation** ~ None
6. **County Councillor's report** ~ Cllr Foley had previously sent a report via email and had spoken to the Clerk about Highways issues which were discussed at Item 17
7. **District Councillors report** ~ None
Action points and matters arising from previous meetings:
[a] **The Clerk reported** on the following items ~ Local Plan survey for completion to inform the local plan of the services & facilities of each settlement. This was completed. Clerk to return to UDC.
UDC Parish forum is to be held on 20 February 2023 via Zoom.
Reported faulty light at Bilberry End.
20's Plenty campaign ~ noting that many Councils have supported the campaign.
Trees & hedging invoices sent for re-imburement from UDC.
Invoice to PCC for grass cutting issued.
Barclays bank mandate continues.
All other matters were included for update/discussion on the agenda.
[b] **Councillor's report** ~ Village Volunteer maintenance group has yet to be formally co-ordinated.
Cllr Wells reported on the 2-day Councillor training provided by Essex Association of Local Councils at Gt Dunmow. Cllr Wells had found some of the training useful but overall was disappointed at the content & delivery. Value for money was also a concern. It was also noted that many Councils use Unity Trust banking. NB HPC resolved (22/11/17f) to continue with Barclays Banking
8. [c] **Opportunity for Councillors to update with information** ~ Cllr Lockton expressed concerns related to the possibility of vulnerable residents of the Village. Vulnerability takes many forms and is not necessarily readily evident. This was recognised by councillors as being a good but difficult subject to broach. Some aspects might be included within the emergency Plan and it could be mentioned at the Annual Meeting of the Parish. **ACTION Clerk** as Councillor Lockton requested this be an Agenda item for the next meeting and will prepare a report
9. **Planning Application/s** ~ UTT/22/3492/HHF | Addition of up to 15 solar photovoltaic panels to pitched roof of stand-alone cart lodge/store and garage | Bardsfield Walden Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4NX. Cllr

Nuttall left the room. Hadstock Parish Council (HPC) discussed and **RESOLVED 23/01/09** to support the planning application. The applicant had correctly applied for planning permission and provided a detailed application. In their decision to support the application HPC noted that the cart shed is within the curtilage of a listed building and within Hadstock Conservation Area. The Council also considered the comments submitted by Place Services. The cart shed is modern yet sympathetic to the listed building. The black panels are suitable against the dark slate of the roof and whilst the property is facing the road its elevation above the road, the low pitch of the roof and the slope of the land would not make the installation of photovoltaic panels intrusive to the Village. The Council does not agree with Place Services that the installation on the east facing roof would be detrimental to the Conservation Area and believes the application should be approved in its entirety. The Council also noted that the applicant's ambition of the planning application being in line with the Government's commitment to green investment and achieving net zero by 2030.

Cllr Nuttall returned to the meeting

10. Decisions made by UDC on planning applications None

11. Governance ~

[a] It was noted that the Village green, recreation ground and Village Hall are no longer registered as Assets of Community Value (ACV) with UDC. These were removed on 13 December 2022. The assets are protected within their own rights.

[b] Councillors were asked to consider recipients for the Parish Council charitable donation of £100 for the next meeting. Suggestions should be sent to the Clerk for inclusion on the next Agenda. The donation should be for the benefit of the residents of Hadstock **ACTION item for next Agenda**

[c] Councillors agreed to the amalgamation of the Community Archive website, managed by the Hadstock Society, into the main Hadstock Village website at an additional hosting cost of £75 per year. **RESOLVED 23/01/11**

12. FINANCE 2021/2022

[a] The Clerk/RFO reported that the Chair would be confirming the bank reconciliation and report at the next meeting. The Clerk/RFO confirmed the bank balance and total payments since the last statement and report.

[b] Hadstock Parish Council discussed the amended draft budget for 2023/24 as presented and previously sent with the associated Agenda report. Points noted since considering the draft budget detail at last month's meeting: HPC have been notified of increased charges for hire of the Village Hall per session (£25.00 from £20.00) and the Village Green skip scheme (20% increase up to £88.20 per hour) Allocation for the Kings Coronation event would be compensated by reducing Councillor training. Allocate £200 for Coronation event. Councillor training reduced to £180.00.

The adjustments were made to the spreadsheet at the meeting, agreed and **RESOLVED 23/01/13b** to approve the budget as finalised

[c] Following the approval of the budget it was agreed the precept demand would be £12,040.00. This represented a 9.87% increase for a band D property from £64.61 2022/23 to £70.99 for 2023/24 equalling an annual increase of £6.38. **RESOLVED 23/01/13c.** The Chair & Clerk/RFO completed and signed the demand to be sent to UDC.

[d] The annual playground inspection at a cost of £85.00 + VAT to be undertaken in mid-April 2023 was approved **RESOLVED 23/01/13d**

[e] It was not possible to approve the District Councillor funding of £277.00 as a contribution to the Village Hall specifically towards the oil tank lock, as following communication with the District Council the funding had closed in December 2022 due to elections in 2023. The Clerk informed that Cllr Foley would be looking to assist if at all possible.

[f] To agree and approve payments listed below **RESOLVED 23/01/13f**

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total
101409	Ms S A Beckett	Clerks Salary Month 9 December 2022	526.49		526.49
101410	Ms S A Beckett	Clerks Salary Month 10 January 2023	361.01		361.01
101411	Mr W Richards	Grass cutting, strimming, fuel	1579.00		1579.00
101412	Cancelled				

101413	Mr J Lockton	Re -imbursement hedging	366.59	73.32	439.91
101414	Mr R Albrow	Re -imbursement filing cabinet village hall + suspension folders	95.97	19.19	115.16
101415	Village Hall	Venue hire	100.00		100.00

[g] No invoices were received after Agenda issued.

[h] It was **noted** the use of Clerks delegated powers for payment to HMRC PAYE £110.20 on 09 December 2023.

[i] **GREEN SKIP** ~following the discussion on the budget for 2023/24 and its subsequent approval to continue with the service, the clerk will inform UDC to provide this facility on a 2-weekly basis (15 mins Bilberry End & 45 mins at the Village Green) at a cost of £88.20 per hour **RESOLVED 23/01/13i**

13. Emergency Planning ~ updates were given from Cllrs Wells & Lockton. The plan is emerging and will be a live document. Recognition of the need to comply with GDPR was discussed and it is likely there will be a need to make a redacted document publicly available with HPC holding personal details within a master copy. HPC would act as a conduit to supply necessary information should the need arise.

14. Lens Path ~ no updates or reports to note **ACTION** Village volunteer maintenance group will endeavour to cut back the vegetation.

15. The meeting dates for 2023: It was confirmed that the Ordinary Parish Council meetings will be 23 February, 30 March, 27 April all on a Thursday @7:30pm. The Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18 May 2023 @7:30pm. This will be the first HPC meeting following Elections. Following a brief discussion, the Annual Parish Meeting was changed to be Friday 17 March 2023 @ 8.00pm. Refreshments would be available from 7:45pm **RESOLVED 23/01/15 ACTION** Clerk to confirm VH availability.

16. Tree and hedge planting ~

[a] fruit tree planting on Recreation ground had not been undertaken ~ awaiting delivery of trees

[b] hedge planting at the Village Hall + [c] hedge planting by the pond.

Hedging had been delivered and planted appropriately

17. Highways ~ to receive an update on highways issues and discuss.

[a] Highways ~ The Clerk reported of a conversation with Councillor Foley which was extremely helpful and appreciated. The Highways Panel had held a meeting on 16 January 2023, where it was noted that both Moules Lane & Bartlow Road were still at the validation stage. Cllr Foley felt that for Bartlow Road this was not acceptable and sought to isolate this work away from the Highways Panel allocation. He had previously inspected the area with Sarah Tomlin (Essex Highways Liaison Officer) and personally knew the problems and the impact it was having on drivers and the Village. He requested that HPC supply What3Words locations as this might negate the need for an inspection and allow repairs to be carried out by Essex Highways under a different budget. **ACTION** Cllr Albrow will get the location details and additional photographs

Cllr Nuttall reported that the area of Linton Road adjacent to the ditch will require further work in the future

[b] Speed watch ~ Cllr Nuttall reported that due to the weather conditions no sessions had been organised in the past month

[c] The Clerk reported that a salt spreader had not been identified to date. On reflection it was decided not to purchase one until spring/summer when the costing might be lower especially as most of the salt delivered for this year had been used.

18. Parish Land Report & PROW's ~

[a] No issues had been reported other than the need for the salt bin on Bartlow Road still to be replaced. The Clerk has chased this and will continue to do so.

[b] Village Litter Pick ~ the proposed date of Sunday 12 March 2023 meet at Village Green 10:00am was approved. The Clerk has requested 6 pickers from UDC which Cllr Albrow will collect when notified.

[c] The Clerk has arranged collection of debris for Monday 13 March 2023

19. Recreation Ground Report ~

[a] Cllr Albrow reported that he and a resident had reviewed the trees surrounding the Recreation Ground and that it was considered that no professional tree work was required. There were 2 branches that could

easily be dealt with and some overhanging smaller branches that required removal for ease of maintenance work.

[b] It was confirmed that the recreation ground is in good order however a seat on the picnic bench had split. To review repair after Playground inspection

[c] All play equipment had been visually checked and is useable. The matting area under the swings will need to be swept. **ACTION** Cllr Albrow

- 20. Village Hall Report** ~ Cllr Nuttall reported that as previously notified the Village Hall Committee had reviewed hire charges and an increase will be applied from April 2023. Problems continue with the heating system and problems with the electrical supply are to be attended to. The Friends of the Kings Head had kindly donated a mobile bar from residual funds. Ticket for the Quiz night on 18 March were selling quickly. Work is due to be carried out at the entrance to the Village Hall which requires residents to trim vegetation on Church Path. The committee had discussed an event to mark the Kings Coronation in May 2023 and have decided to hold a picnic on the Village Green on Sunday 07 May 2023. Details to be finalised depending on funding. **ACTION** Clerk to notify of funding that might be available through HPC and to seek information about a possible road close
- 21. The following items were noted for next agenda Co-option, Emergency Plan, Vulnerable residents**
- 22. To note the next Meeting of Hadstock Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 23 February 2023 @7.30pm**
- 23. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:48pm**

..... **Chairman.**

Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 23 February 2023