

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 25 April 2025
4. Matters arising
5. Parish Council summary report on the period since the last Parish Meeting
 - County Councillor Martin Foley
 - District Councillor John Moran
6. Open Forum: Local Government electors may raise any issue of interest or concern to the village.
7. Report from Sustainable Hadstock (in Parish Council Report)
8. Invited guest from Uttlesford Food Bank 30 mins
9. Close of meeting at 19:30

5 mins

25 mins

The fire safety notice will be read and the meeting may be filmed or recorded.

Des Ashton

 Uttlesford
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Annual Parish Council Meeting

Welcome and Apologies

Purpose and Overview

Past work, ongoing challenges, and future priorities.

Transparency and Engagement

We must be transparent & accountable.

Talk to me if you would like to join the Parish Council.

We encourage engagement & participation.

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Highways – Key Issues



❑ Dangerous Junction Location

The junction of Walden, Linton, and Bartlow Roads is a recognized high-risk area due to frequent accidents and narrow bends.

❑ Speeding and Traffic Safety

Speeding through the village despite the 30mph limit contributes significantly to safety concerns and accident risks.

❑ Large Vehicle Challenges

HGVs and large vehicles often struggle to navigate the bend safely, sometimes mounting pavements and endangering pedestrians.

❑ Need for Intervention

Without action from Essex Highways, the risk of collisions and serious injury remains high, demanding urgent road safety measures.

Highways – Ongoing Problems and Actions



❑ Walden Road Issues

Walden Road faces drainage failures, collapsing road sections, overgrown vegetation, and verge damage with no permanent fixes yet.

❑ Additional Road Concerns

Potholes and flooding on Linton Road and exposed BT cabling on Bartlow Road create safety and maintenance challenges.

❑ Traffic Speed and Enforcement

Speeding and heavy vehicle traffic cause ongoing problems; community volunteers support speed monitoring despite limited enforcement.

❑ Council Actions and Challenges

The Parish Council presses for repairs, challenges enforcement limits, and explores **vehicle-activated signs** amid approval complexities.

Planning and Development



Development Applications Overview

The Council reviewed diverse applications from small householder proposals to major developments over the year.

Objections to Major Developments

Objective objections were raised for new dwellings at Coal Shed site and Stansted Airport expansion due to environmental and traffic concerns.

Heritage Building Support

The Council supported converting the Control Tower on Bowers Lane with conditions to preserve heritage character.

Community Engagement

Efforts were made to improve sharing of planning information with residents and to consider tree and routine planning applications.

Recreation Ground – Improvements



❑ Installation of New Play Equipment

New play equipment was installed and warmly received by families and children, enhancing recreational opportunities.

❑ Safety Repairs and Inspection

Annual safety inspection led to prompt repairs, ensuring facilities remain safe and fit for all users.

❑ Community Comfort Enhancements

New benches installed and a memorial plaque reinstated to improve comfort and celebrate community heritage.

❑ Cost Saving Measures

Free remedial work on the climbing tower by the manufacturer saved the community additional expense.



Village Facilities and Maintenance



❑ **New Picnic Table Installation**

A new hexagonal picnic table was approved, funded jointly by the Parish Council and Sustainable Hadstock, illustrating community partnership.

❑ **Vandalism Challenges**

Intermittent vandalism causes damage to facilities, creating financial strain and disappointment for the community.

❑ **Telephone Box Maintenance**

The village's listed telephone box is scheduled for repainting, aiming to be ready before the village fête.

❑ **Community Responsibility**

Investment and shared responsibility are vital for maintaining village facilities enjoyed by all residents.

Sustainable Hadstock



❑ Biodiversity Improvement

The group has enhanced local biodiversity, supporting wildlife and improving the village environment significantly.

❑ Pathways Accessibility

Pathways team actively maps and improves public rights of way to ensure better access and maintenance for all.

❑ Information Board and Signage

Ongoing work on a new village information board and signage helps residents and visitors understand the area better.

❑ Community and Volunteer Support

The project is supported by grants and volunteers whose dedication creates lasting positive impact in Hadstock.

Home Energy Solutions

- Gained significant grants and made change
- Village Hall:
 - Increased overall Hall insulation
 - Installed solar panels and 'home' battery
 - Installed electrical flow water heating
- St Botolph's Church
 - Initiated a professional Energy Blueprint
 - Thermal camera – loaned out
 - Energy talks at the Community Pub



Nature & Biodiversity

- On the Recreation Ground:
 - A new copse of 70 native trees
 - Larger no 'cut' area for wildflowers
 - Planted 10 new trees in cleared copse
 - Put up a Tawny Owl box
- Summer Bird and Butterfly surveys
- Nature survey of Hadstock Wood by Village team and Essex Wildlife Trust – sent to owners with recommendations
- Nature talks at the Community Pub
- Display and Quiz at the Fete
- Green Team – clearing our pathways



Coming Up

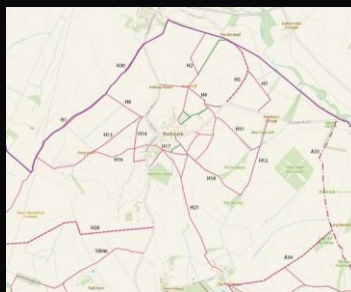
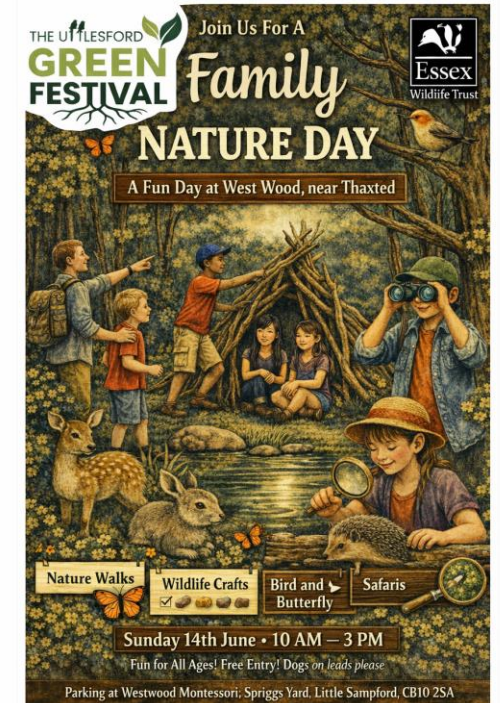
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What is important for you? Let us know...

- Supporting Sustainable Uttlesford
- The Uttlesford Big Green Festival
5-14 June: 20 events
Our team supporting Energy Event (13 June)
Leading Family Nature Day, Thaxted (14 June)
- St Botolph's Energy Blue-Print Results
- Village Hall new floor and insulation
- Community Energy for Hadstock – what next?
- Nature Surveys and display at the Fete this summer
- Hadstock Wood – apply pressure for change
- New Wayside and Pathways signs – a UDC and 100 Parishes initiative
- Next talk: Cornwall Wildlife Trust (Matt) (26 June)



14 June



Governance and Council Operations



❑ **Commitment to Good Governance**

The Council adheres to high standards, legal requirements, and best practices ensuring effective governance.

❑ **Communication Updates**

New official email addresses introduced for councillors and Clerk to improve communication with residents.

❑ **Financial Transparency**

The 2024/25 audit was completed without comments, indicating sound financial management and accountability.

Finance and Precept

❑ Parish Precept Overview

The parish precept for 2026/27 is £16,627, marking a small increase of £3.86 for a Band D property.

❑ Transparency and Communication

Council commits to clear communication through the village magazine and website updates on finances and other matters.

❑ Responsible Financial Management

Council balances rising costs with ensuring value for money to reassure residents about careful finance management.





Priorities & Participation

❑ Council Key Priorities

Focus on solving highways issues, completing signage projects, and enhancing the Recreation Ground this year.

❑ Resident Participation

Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for residents to suggest ideas and raise concerns to the Council.

❑ Acknowledgements and Vacancy

Thanks to my fellow councillors and our families, the clerk, volunteers, and you – the residents

Come and join us, we have one vacancy!!

❑ Closing and Questions

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