

HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes (Unapproved) of a Council Meeting

Date: Thursday 7th October 2021

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: OSCA, Henham

Present: Chair N. Baker, Cllrs M. Fisher, S. Lee, F. Frindle, Z. Rutterford, P. Franklin

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr M. Francis, Cllr J. King, District Cllrs G LeCount and P. Lees

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 2 September 2021 meeting was approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising – The Chair welcomed 2 new Parish Councillors, Peter Franklin and Jan King who replace David Marshall and Rob Ryan.

4. Reports and Recommendations

Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:

- (i) **Tree Inspection** – The Arborist has carried out a biannual inspection in August 2021 and his report will be circulated to all councillors in due course.
- (ii) **Village Furniture repairs** – The circular seat by The Cock and the bench by the War Memorial have now been repaired. All other village furniture repairs/annual maintenance including the bus shelter and notice board was carried out earlier this year by our contractor. The Village Dragon Sign has also now been checked over and maintained by our contractor.
- (iii) **Gym/Farm/Church Road** - The Chair has written to the landowner with a view to discussing ongoing maintenance arrangements.
- (iv) **Lindens/village hall** – Some fencing has been replaced, discussions ongoing with resident.

Village Hall – A meeting is being scheduled for November 8th with the Chair of the Village Hall Committee to present their business plan to the Parish Council and to discuss refurbishment.

Speedwatch – A report from Jim Heywood has been previously circulated and put on the village website. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council supports having vehicle activated speed signs in the village and County Councillor Ray Gooding would liaise with Simon Bambridge and Jim Heywood regarding the ECC procedure for obtaining these. ECC provides no funding so the Parish Council would need to fund the purchase of the signage and associated installation/maintenance costs.

Queen's Platinum – Cllr Lee is liaising with the village fete committee regarding rescheduling the cancelled Party in the Park for 4th June 2022. He awaits confirmation from the bands and toilet hire company as to availability.

Parish Boundary Consultation –The GAP Committee of UDC agreed the report which now leads to the final Stage 2 consultation period any interested person or party to comment on the approved recommendations. The consultation period opens on 1 October. To comment on these residents are requested to use this link <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ParishCGR> and make it clear if the comments are being made as an individual or on behalf of the Parish Council. The consultation runs throughout the whole of October 2021.

Defibrillator training – It has been 5 years since the village Defibrillator training was last carried out following the installation of the defibrillator at OSCA. Following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Fisher would liaise with Gillian Foster who kindly manages the maintenance of the defibrillator.

Woodland – The previous report prepared by Will O'Connor was recirculated to all Cllrs. Following an update from Will O'Connor he kindly agreed to provide the Parish Council with an outline plan for the Woodland to consider at the next meeting.

(ii) Finance

Receipts				
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
SOV 100	Oct/Nov 2020 Draw	£794.00		
SOV 100	Dec/Jan 21 Draw	£794.00		
SOV 100	Feb/Mar 21 Draw	£794.00		
SOV 100	April/May 21 Draw	£794.00		
SOV 100	Jun/July 21 Draw	£771.00		
SOV 100	Aug 21 Draw	£374.00		
Village Shop	SOV donations	£68.57		
UDC	precept	£19,971.00		
<u>To Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>(Invoice no.)</u>				
M. Dacey	Clerks salary (September)	£398.38	£0.00	£398.38
The Corporate Christmas Tree Company Ltd (XS425980)	New Villagre Christmas tree lights	£539.98	£108.00	£647.98
Gardner Planning (064.3)	First tranche Bedwell Road Appeal Planning advisor fees	£10,000.00	£0.0	£10,000.00
Gardner Planning (069.4)	First tranche Mill Road/Vernons Appeal Planning advisor fees	£10,000.00	£0.0	£10,000.00
RJS Cleaning (RJS378)	Village windows and signs cleaning	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
Treecology (01300)	Cemetery hedge cutting	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (SB20211936)	External Auditor fees	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
Jenny Wigley (189855)	Barrister fees 3 rd tranche Vernons Appeal	£12,500.00	£2,500.00	£15,000.00
Gardner Planning (064.4)	Final instalment Bedwell Road Appeal planning advice	£10,000.00	£0.0	£10,000.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (22978)	Dog poo bags	£58.04	£11.61	£69.65
Henham Village Shop Association Ltd (H00056)	Post office fees Aug-Nov 21	£2083.50	£0.0	£2083.50
M Dacey	Clerk's salary (Sept)	£398.38	£0.0	£398.38
Simon Lee	Refund for clerk's office 365 subscription	£49.99	£10.00	£59.99
PA Knott (61476)	Grass Cut 1/9, 15/9 & 29/9	£1,305.00	£0.0	£1,305.00

Treasury Management Investment Policy and Strategy 2021/22 – Cllr Fisher confirmed that as part of his ongoing review, it has come to his attention that during lockdown the Parish Council exceeded its investment in Nationwide (Rated A1 (Moody's) A (S&P) A+ (Fitch)). Cllr Fisher advised this is not material as it is in the highest category of approved UK rated financial institutions and some of the deposits have been limited to 30 day notice to give HPC flexibility should other opportunities arise. At the time deposits were maturing and the Parish Council was forced to close its account with Lloyds Bank as they had reduced their rates of interest to virtually zero whilst at the same time, introduced charges which made ongoing deposits a waste of money. Barclays also reduced their rates to almost zero. As it stands many lenders that fit HPC's criteria are either not taking new deposits from institutions like ourselves or the rates being offered are not worth investing. Cllr Fisher therefore proposed to amend the limits to reflect the investment environment

and increase the limit for investment grade financial institutions to unlimited as this still affords the Parish Council the maximum protection whilst at the same time the best returns available in the market at the present time. Proposal seconded by Cllr Lee and approved nem con.

AGAR 20/21 – The external auditors have signed off on the audit with no issues. A notice of conclusion of the audit has been displayed on the notice board and website.

(iii) Planning and Developments

- **UTT/21/2820/FUL** – proposed Change of use from horticulture to class E and B8, Mill Pond Nursery Mill Road
- **UTT/21/2828/HHF**- proposed Demolition of conservatory and construction of single and 1.5 storey rear extensions with a loft conversion over existing footprint with dormers. Erection of double cart lodge to front of dwelling, The Laurels Old Mead Lane
- **UTT/21/2897/HHF** – proposed replacement of existing conservatory with improved wall and roof construction, Bell Meadow End, High Street
- **UTT/21/2704/FUL** - Proposed Change of Land for the creation of a single Gypsy/Traveller pitch comprising the siting of 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan, portable utility building, and the erection of a stables block, Land At North Hall Road

Breaches: Regarding the continuing breaches at Cedar Cottage, UDC enforcement has confirmed the matter has been closed due to it being time barred. Cllr Lee is following this up with District Councillor Lees. The Parish Council planning sub-committee is considering its options.

Appeals:

- **APP/C1570/W/21/3274573 BEDWELL ROAD: UTT/19/2266/OP**– proposed Outline planning application for the erection of up to 220 dwellings. Virtual Inquiry held last month. The Parish Council awaits the Inspector’s decision.
- **APP/C1570/W/21/3272403: LAND SOUTH OF VERNONS CLOSE, CM22 6AF** proposed Outline permission with all matters reserved except access for the erection of 45 no. dwellings. UDC REFUSED 17/2/21. Virtual Inquiry held this month. The Parish Council awaits the Inspector’s decision.
- **APP/C1570/W/21/3273774 (UTT/20/2856/FUL) THE WHITE HOUSE PLEDGDON GREEN** – proposed Demolition of existing stables and erection of 3 no. detached dwellings with associated access and garaging.
- **PINS ref: FPS/Z1585/14A/21 ECC ref: 1036 & 1037 (MM/HIGH/10998) – FOOTPATH APPEAL ALLOWED.** This is an excellent appeal result which re-establishes footpaths long since used by Henham Residents. The Parish Council was able to play a helping role, but huge credit goes to the resident who orchestrated the appeal.

Decisions: n/a

(iv) Highways –

North Hall Road:

(a) **Road Closure:** The Parish Council has been in continuing discussions with all stakeholders regarding the continued closure of North Hall Road and the appalling state of the diversion route via Patmore End. Essex Highways has now awarded the contract and work has commenced.

Travellers Site: An enforcement file has now been opened ENF/21/0204/C and has been allocated to Oliver Sear, a new member of the enforcement team at UDC. A retrospective planning application

has since been made for a travellers site for one pitch. The Parish Council are objecting on the grounds that the egress is exceptionally dangerous and is an inappropriate site.

Hall Road, Henham: The Parish Council previously agreed to pay for the installation of a 40mph buffer zone at this site. Essex Highways previously confirmed the cost of construction is now a fixed price of £9,711.74. We were originally quoted £6k for the signage works. The Parish Council has already paid approximately £3500 plus VAT to get to this stage. Clerk previously liaised with Gregg Speller direct re other 3rd party quotes and the Chair has requested quotations from them, which are awaited. The clerk chased these and no other 3rd parties have been prepared to provide a quote. ECC have now promised to provide funding and the Parish Council awaits further details.

Pledgdon Green Lane/Brick End Road – An application submitted by Cllr Rutterford has been sent to Highways prior to the pandemic for a 20mph limit on the road from the start of the village to Broxted End with a request to repair the damage caused by heavy traffic during the Hall Road closure. County Cllr Gooding agreed to liaise with Cllr Rutterford to progress this matter further. Cllr Rutterford has since been asked to assist a resident in obtaining repairs by EH for the damage and potholes and flooding along Brick End Rd (which passes through Pledgdon Green). County Cllr Gooding agreed to liaise with Cllr Rutterford to progress this matter.

Blocked drains in Old Mead Road - An online application was previously applied for by Cllr LeCount- the clerk has written to Cllr LeCount requesting an update.

School Parking at Sages, School Lane, Pimletts and Carters Lane, Henham – The Headteacher previously requested advice from the Parish Council as to how to solve the ongoing parking issues at the school, although the staggered start and pick up times has improved the situation. It is also hoped the PCSO will also be able to assist with the unsafe parking. The clerk has emailed the headteacher requesting an update.

Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site www.essex.gov.uk/highways (details also on the Henham Website), as the more people who complain regarding Highways matters the more likely something will get done.

5. Correspondence

Sent/Received: notice from resident confirming sale of 2 Wrights Piece, letter from our solicitors regarding right of access re Clifton House

Planning Applications - see 4(iii) above

- Clerk – approximately 200 emails in September 2021

6. Waste and Minerals Development Issues – Nothing to report.

7. SAW (Stop Stansted Expansion) – Manchester Airports Group ('MAG'), the owners of Stansted Airport, have sent a 144-page submission to the Department for Transport ('DfT') which includes a proposal that the current limit on the number of permitted night flights at Stansted should be completely removed. MAG has also told the DfT that it opposes proposed night time bans of the noisiest aircraft types.

8. Governance – Nothing to report.

9. Local Plan – A List of approved sites is awaited from UDC

10. Henham SOV 100 Club draw - Cllr. Fisher was pleased to report that he has had a positive response from residents joining the SOV 100 Club draw following his article in the Dragon and post on Facebook.

September Draw

County Cllr Ray Gooding conducted the draw on behalf of the Henham SOV 100 Club. He drew from a black bag containing 154 lottery balls. The winning numbers were:

1st Prize Number 102 (J Munday) £223

2nd Prize Number 104 (D Brinkley) £108

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £54 Cumulative total £552

Total funds received per draw were £770. Half will be paid in prizes plus the cumulative Christmas Bonus Ball with the balance of £385 paid to Henham Parish Council SOV Funds.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 4th November 2021, 7:30pm at OSCA.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk