

Little Easton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council Meeting** due to be held at **Memorial Hall** on **WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023 AT 7:00PM**

Councillor	Attendance
VACANT	
VACANT	
Cllr Rebecca Fowell	NO
Cllr Emma Wells	YES
Cllr Simon Benstead	YES
Cllr Peter Bright	YES
Dist Cllr Michael Tayler	YES
Cnty Cllr Martin Foley	NO

12 member(s) of the public
 Clerk – Mr Ian Brown

With the resignation of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman the first item of business was the appointment of a Chairman for this meeting; Cllr Peter Bright was duly appointed

22/117	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Rebecca Fowell, sickness and Cnty Cllr Martin Foley, sickness Apologies duly noted and approved
22/118	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING None declared
22/119	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 30 NOVEMBER 2022 RESOLUTION – Approve minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2022; Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead, seconded Cllr Emma Wells – Unanimous approval
22/120	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coronation year, Street party, PC invited to collaborate ➤ Potholes, Manor Road, volunteer request to help fill from aggregate pile in Mem Hall car park ➤ Query whether planning amendments are sent to PC ➤ Request for FP stile to be changed at churchyard to posts to reflect that used elsewhere ➤ PC Stile audit recommended ➤ Trees around playing-field part of three year maintenance plan
22/121	RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Cnty Cllr Martin Foley report – APPENDIX A Dist Cllr Michael Tayler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Plan workshops held behind closed doors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rt Hon Michael Gove MP Levelling UP Agenda and how it impacted on planning policy and the Local Plan were discussed ➤ Potential advantage to overall housing numbers ➤ Neighbourhood Plan may become valuable in the future but locally the community is desperate for volunteers ➤ Reg18 delayed, potential for a revised Local Plan ➤ ECC Devolution proposals yet to be published ➤ Next workshop meeting scheduled 20/02/2023
22/122	NOTE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE Full report - APPENDIX B
22/123	<p>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve finance statements and approve payments; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright, Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – Unanimous approval Cllr Rebecca Fowell to authorise payments (only remaining authoriser) Finance statements – APPENDIX C</p> <p><i>Due to very recent, last minute resignations it was agreed that the remaining members of the council be added to the bank mandate with immediate affect to become Authorisers and able to view the account; those members being Cllr Peter Bright, Cllr Emma Wells and Cllr Simon Benstead. And to remove the resigned members from the bank mandate, Sarah Sidgwick and Katy Rodwell – CLERK to ACTION</i></p> <p>22/123(i) – AGREE BUDGET 2023-2024 RESOLUTION – Approve BUDGET 2023-2024 at £43,135; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells, Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – Unanimous approval</p> <p>22/123(ii) – AGREE PRECEPT 2023-2024 RESOLUTION – Approve PRECEPT REQUEST at £28,500; Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead, Seconded Cllr Peter Bright, – Unanimous approval</p> <p>22/123(iii) – PROGRESS THE PC THREE YEAR PLAN Plan under development, ongoing, proposal to be placed on PC website</p> <p>22/123(iv) – CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF VAL EVANS AS INTERNAL AUDITOR RESOLUTION – Approve appointment of Val Evans as Internal Auditor; Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead, Seconded Cllr Peter Bright, – Unanimous approval</p>
22/124	CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS (NAC) Council agreed to not pursue this matter, citing it is a member of the Essex Association of Local Councils who are affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils who are themselves affiliated to the LGA. No additional membership expense was necessary.
22/125	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON LOCAL PLAN – CLLR PETER BRIGHT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Rt Hon M Gove MP, bill allowing local government to set housing needs numbers. ➤ Query sent to UDC John Clements, Interim Local Plan and New Communities Manager; response advised Easton Park neither ruled in or out. ➤ UDC to maintain vigilance on outcomes from the Levelling Up agenda. ➤ Outcome from recent Stop Easton Park (SEP) meeting – to improve communications with the parish. ➤ Current expected target date for the Local Plan acceptance is 2025.
22/126	<p>PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS OR APPEALS AND OUTCOMES None to consider</p> <p>FEEDBACK - Easton Park 1200 Homes Inquiry commenced 05 July held at the repurposed Winfresh site in Little Canfield No outcome as yet to enable further comment – Item to remain on the agenda</p>

22/127	<p>RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM CLLR EMMA WELLS ON THE MANOR ROAD REPAIRING RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>Current historical document makes no provision for liability towards Manor Road, however, the council does have a responsibility for the maintenance of the playing-field verge adjoining Manor Road. Item to appear on a future agenda post the May elections</p>
22/128	<p>RECEIVE PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SPECIFICATION OF NEEDS PRIOR TO ANY ACQUISITION OF .GOV DOMAIN NAME AND ASSOCIATED EMAIL ACCOUNTS PLUS INDIVIDUAL CLLR LOGIN TO ONLINE OFFICE FILES AND FOLDERS</p> <p>Item to be deferred until post May elections when a full assessment of needs and options will first be completed</p>
22/129	<p>REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – RESPONSIBILITIES MAY CHANGE</p> <p>WAR MEMORIAL – Cllr Emma Wells – Three current estimates, site visit required to consider scope of works for specialists and that for non specialist contractors</p> <p>MEMORIAL HALL – Cllr Katy Rodwell & Sarah Sidgwick – No report, will need new appointment</p> <p>PLAY AREA – Cllr Rebecca Fowell – No report, (noted gate close open to improvement, Clerk to contact play area inspector)</p> <p>22/129 (i) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON ACQUISITION OF SIGNAGE - Ongoing</p> <p>GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE – Cllr Katy Rodwell – No report, will need a new appointment</p> <p>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – ALL CLLRS – Community suggested Coronation event to be arranged with assistance from the PC</p> <p>HIGHWOODS QUARRY – Cllr Katy Rodwell – No report, will need a new appointment</p> <p>PARISH MAINTENANCE – Cllr Rebecca Fowell – No report</p>
22/130	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROPOSALS TO INSTALL PATHWAY FROM MEMORIAL HALL TO PLAY AREA – CLLR SIMON BENSTEAD</p> <p>Specification of works / options being developed to enable going out to tender; item decision to wait until post May election</p>
22/131	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROPOSALS TO INSTALL MULTI PURPOSE CONCRETE BASE AT SITE OF BEACON TO ENABLE SWAPPING OUT FOR CHRISTMAS TREE – CLLR SIMON BENSTEAD</p> <p>Specification of works / options being developed to enable going out to tender; item decision to wait until post May election</p>
22/132	<p>RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM RURAL CRIME MEETING – CLLR PETER BRIGHT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Main focus, Farming Community ➤ Various representations from the Police ➤ 221 Farms across Uttlesford ➤ 8 to 10 Officers to patrol Essex plus useful access to Helicopter support ➤ Rural theft and Hare Coursing major concerns ➤ Police offer to attend PC meeting ➤ Crimestoppers, an anonymous reporting service ➤ Essex Farm & Rural Watch, similar to Neighbourhood Watch ➤ Horse Rider volunteer scheme, to encourage riders to report potential rural crime whilst out riding <p>Full report – APPENDIX D</p>
22/133	<p>CONSIDER ATTENDING ELECTION BRIEFING OFFERED BY EALC FOR £45 PER ATTENDEE</p> <p>CLERK to attend and report to members</p>
22/134	<p>ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA</p> <p>Those items carried over from this agenda</p> <p>22/134(i) APPOINT CONTRIBUTOR TO 5P MAGAZINE</p> <p>Cllr Emma Wells</p>

22/135	DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S) – 22 FEBRUARY 2023 – 7pm – CLOSE – 8:38pm
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Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

County Councillor Martin Foley – January 2023 report

Apologies, I am unable to come to tonight’s meeting as I have covid.

I understand Mike Tayler will be with you tonight

Highways

As soon as I am over covid and I will confirm a visit with Sarah Tomlin and Danial Jackson to follow up on outstanding highways issues.

I will speak to Sarah on Monday via Zoom and get an update on Local Highways Panel.

Youth Strategy

As you know , I am chair of ECC Youth Strategy Group and I am Working with Parish Councils and Church Groups to help them develop youth provision/youth clubs and youth club support in this area I am pleased to see a growth in Youth Clubs in Uttlesford Area.

Something of particular interest to me as Chair of a Youth Strategy Group... This is a very important issue right now.

“At Essex County Council’s (ECC) Full Council meeting on 10 May 2022, a motion by Cllr Martin Foley (Thaxted County Division) was carried with regard mental health services for young people. The motion stated that a referral be made to ECC’s Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PAF) to undertake a joint review, with its findings reported back to Full Council on Tuesday 13th December 2022”

I have been working with councillors from all parties and none at Essex County Council (I really enjoy that) as Chair of Uttlesford Youth Strategy Group and of course in my role as County Councillor . Cllr Carlo Guglielmi from the administration made an excellent chair of the Task and Finish Group to bring to pull this report ready for full council after over six months of meetings with the various stakeholders

ECC 2023-24-budget-proposals

ECC has huge financial problems ahead and a dire shortage of staff on Highways which will cause delays in work being done.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/eccs-2023-24-budget-proposals-revealed#:~:text=Balancing%20this%20with%20the%20need,fenced%20to%20Adult%20Social%20Care.>



APPENDIX B

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE LEPC

18 JANUARY 2023

Resignation of chairman and vice chairman

Request for play area gate to be silenced if possible, possibly with some rubber strip to the closing faces? **CLERK to contact play area inspector for suggestions plus latch for the gate**

Cricket club advised they are to hang advertising banner in front of porch area during matches. **PC wish to discuss this matter further with the CC, CLERK to ACTION**

The MHMC have paid their annual rent for the use of the hall plus submitted their annual accounts.

The investigation into the new gate opening at Mill End has still not been concluded and reported upon by Enforcement. **Noted debris now strewn across the road from the field entrance on what is a blind bend which could be dangerous for anyone on two wheels, CLERK to advise Enforcement Officer**

Letter of thanks received from EHAAT for the kind donation from the PC for the invaluable work of the Air Ambulance

Request from SSE (Stansted Airport Watch) for annual subscription renewal at £10. **Council approved renewal, CLERK to ACTION**

All other matters are covered by the Agenda

APPENDIX C

LEPC December 2022 Finance Statement											
Precept	32,364							Budget	Net Exp	Diff +/-	
								32,364	16,514	-15,850	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net	Centre	
Opening Balance						65,973.59	0.00		0.00		
02-Dec	Employee	November expenses	November doc	FPO	Y		4.50		4.50	Admin	
02-Dec	MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	1086	FPO	Y		84.00	14.00	70.00	Grass	
02-Dec	Broadmead Leisure Ltd	Play Area inspection Q1	2443	FPO	Y		336.00	56.00	280.00	Play area	
02-Dec	HP Inc UK-IB	Printer Ink	59157	FPO	Y		3.33	0.56	2.78	Stationery	
02-Dec	Rowley Fencing	Play area fencing	1861	FPO	Y		3,408.00	568.00	2,840.00	Play area	
02-Dec	S Smith	Parish maintenance	31/32 of 22	FPO	Y		260.00		260.00	PM	
28-Dec	Employee	WFH	N/A	S/O	Y		26.00		26.00	Admin	
28-Dec	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO	Y		639.85		639.85	Clerk	
12-Dec	Activ Web	Web services	8527	DD	Y		42.00	7.00	35.00	Web	
15-Dec	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	36793	DD	Y		24.30	4.05	20.25	Lighting	
15-Dec	Essex Tree Brothers	Tree Works phase 1	Inv 493	FPO	Y		2,700.00	450.00	2,250.00	Trees	
20-Dec	Drax Energy supply	Lighting electricity	2229/2230	DD	Y		46.57	2.22	44.35	Utility	
31-Dec	Unity Bank	Quarterly charge	N/A	Debit	Y		18.00		18.00	Admin	
Dec						65,973.59	7,592.55	1,101.83	6,490.73		
Opening Balance						58,381.04	0.00		0.00		

LEPC January 2023 Finance Statement

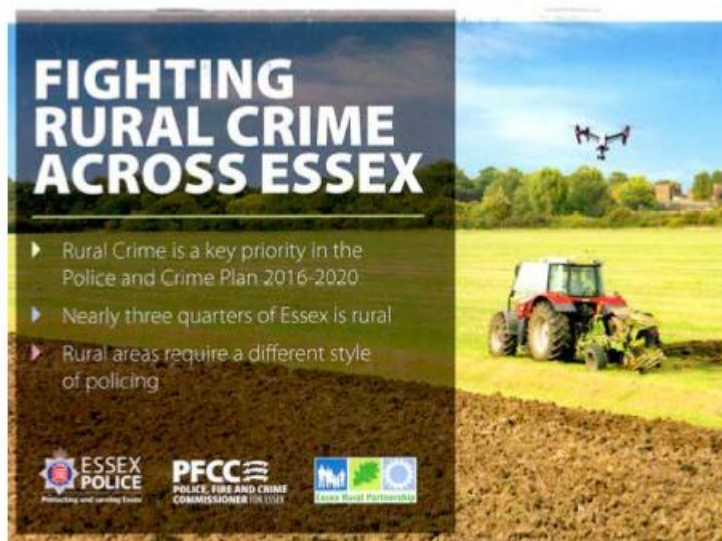
Precept	32,364							Budget	Net Exp	Diff +/-
								32,364	17,327	-15,037

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net	Centre
Opening Balance						58,381.04	0.00		0.00	
12-Jan	UDC	Grant - play area	N/A		Y	500.00				Income
12-Jan	Activ Web	Web services	8715	DD	Y		42.00	7.00	35.00	Web
16-Jan	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	36882	DD	Y		24.30	4.05	20.25	Lighting
	DRAX Energy supply	Lighting electicity	9163/9164	DD			48.11	2.29	45.82	Utility
	Employee	WFH	N/A	S/O			26.00		26.00	Admin
	Employee	Expenses	January Doc	FPO			4.50		4.50	Admin
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO			415.65		415.65	Clerk
	HMRC	Quarter Tax / NIC	PAYE	FPO			260.81		260.81	Clerk
	Viking - IB	Paper /6	9671817	FPO			5.47	0.92	4.56	Admin
Jan						58,881.04	826.84	14.26	812.59	
Opening Balance						58,054.20	0.00		0.00	

Rural and Farm Crime Event

11th January, 2022

Takeley Old School Community Centre



The issue of rural crime in Uttlesford is a cause for concern. Over the past two years Essex Police, Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership (CSP), local landowners have worked together in an effort to tackle problems like vehicle and equipment theft, hare coursing, fly-tipping, dogs that are dangerously out of control, burglaries and wildlife crime. The event aims to reconnect both old and new generations of farm and landowners across Uttlesford and follows up on the success of the partnerships project - Reaching Our Rural Communities. Most attendees were farmers with the addition of some councillors.

Rural Engagement Team (RET)

Presentation by Police Sergeant Ben Felton

Since 2020 the team consists of ten police officers responsible for rural crime across Essex. Rural crime primarily consisting of (but not limited to):

- Hare coursing
- Plant theft
- GPS theft from farm machinery
- Unauthorised encampments
- Wildlife crime
- Heritage assets crime
- Illegal fox hunting
- Badger baiting
- Disruption to nesting birds
- Fly tipping

The team generally work from 8:00am to 10:00pm, sometimes later depending on circumstances and with weekend coverage.

To report a crime (in progress or not) phone 101 or online at essex.police.uk. Rural crimes will be redirected or assigned to the team. For exact location of a crime the what3words app is recommended.



There are some 221 farms across Uttlesford. Prior to 2020 farms suffered an inordinate level of rural crime with theft, trespass and hare coursing dominant and feeling unsupported by the police. Since 2020 RET has been expanded as part of Essex Police's aim to provide visible policing. Despite being a small team covering the county RET has had spectacular results. Over the past year 37 hare coursing events (prevalent during the winter) have been broken up with perpetrators having their dogs and vehicles confiscated. This is down 30% from the previous year due to use made of the police helicopter to aid tracking and subsequent arrests.

Unauthorised encampments (travellers) are down 70% because travellers who perform blatantly illegal acts are moved on and out of the county with warnings of more serious legal repercussions should they return.

PS Felton related several stories with photos and videos of the work RET do in Essex. In one notable and comical case a conference at Audley End of seven RETs from across the country was interrupted by reports of hare coursing activities in another area of the estate. The criminals were shocked when their activities were broken up as seven forces descended and arrested them all.

Should any group wish the RET to attend and give an overview of their work, contact Ben Felton by e-mail: 74973@essex.police.uk.

CrimeStoppers.

Presentation by Stuart Rawlins - Essex CrimeStoppers

CrimeStoppers are an independent charity and promise 100% anonymity to anyone who has information on a crime to provide information. CrimeStoppers is NOT Crimewatch.

CrimeStoppers are particularly interested in rural crime because it is repetitive and organised and without information it can't be tackled. Criminal gangs exploit local wildlife, environment and communities, putting those who live and work in the countryside under threat.

Whilst information about crime, and particularly in an emergency, should be reported via 999 for a variety of reasons (primarily retribution) people may not want to talk to the police. This is where CrimeStoppers can be trusted because all contact is anonymous. Your name or any other form of identification will not be asked for. There is no judgement. Information provided to CrimeStoppers will be passed to the police for their assessment after any information that could be linked to the provider is anonymised.

You can contact CrimeStoppers by telephone 0800 655 111 or via the Internet crimestoppers-uk.org. (Even your IP address is scrambled to prevent anyone identifying you.)



Essex Farm and rural watch & Horse rider volunteer scheme

Presentation by Sarah Wright - Citizens in Policing

Farm and rural watch is a free Essex Police led Watch scheme focusing on rural and farming issues, and is aimed at farmers, ruraly located businesses and organisations, people involved in rural pursuits and local residents in isolated or sparsely populated rural locations.

Farm and rural watch does not replace Neighbourhood Watch in rural communities but complements such schemes with more targeted and in some cases additional information.

The aims are:

- Improve communication between the rural and farming community and the police
- Encourage rural communities to undertake appropriate crime prevention measures
- Reduce opportunities for crime to occur in farming and rural communities
- Encourage everyone to report crimes and suspicious activity as soon as possible
- Strengthen community spirit, enabling working together to protect property
- Provide Farm Watch signs to deter criminals and anti-social behaviour

The Horse rider volunteer scheme trial for the county commenced in Uttlesford and has proved so successful it has been rolled out elsewhere. It utilises riders to be extra eyes and ears in rural areas. A horse can uniquely go where police vehicles (even 4x4s) cannot. Riders have the ability to see over hedges and note where things don't look right.

Volunteers are invited to an introductory session on observation and reporting. You will be added to the fortnightly report Essex Watch newsletter regarding rural and heritage asset crimes happening in the area.

As a rider you are warned not to confront any suspects and not to put yourself at risk from harm. Observation and reporting is all that is required.

You can express interest by e-mailing: essex.watch.liaison.officers@essex.police.uk with the subject title 'Horse Rider Volunteers'.

