

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 August 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, A Chapman (Chair), G Chapman, P Churchouse, B Hallett, M Hessing (Vice Chair), L Naggs A Keeler, and U Rasiule

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk), County Cllr John Spence and 1 member of the public

24/25.42 Apologies for absence

Cllrs S Berlyn, N Orange and P Sutton

24/25.43 Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations of interest

24/25.44 Public Question Time

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

Essex County (ECC) Cllr John Spence advised that his Cabinet responsibilities had been expanded to include Children Social Care, however assured Members that his priority remained supporting the local councils and residents in his division. He noted that Chelmsford City Council were reviewing the objections received for the Local Plan, including those for Hammonds Farm and that despite the work carried out at Papermill Lock to improve the access and parking, there was still issues relating to inconsiderate parking. He also noted that a swan and cygnet had been killed there recently. In terms of the closure of St Peters, Cllr Spence advised that over 5,000 responses had been received by the Integrated Care Board and that as Chair of the Essex County Council Health & Wellbeing Board he was trying to get a meeting arranged with the NHS before their decision in September.

Cllr Spence advised that the Members Highways Initiative would concentrate on specific areas in future rather than being spread out across the division and noted that Well Lane was to be closed for certain periods for footpath works and road resurfacing. Cllr Spence asked if the Parish Council would considering writing to the ECC Portfolio Holder for Highways and John Whittingdale MP in support of a traffic light system at Well Lane to replace the current crossing. Cllr Spence also reminded Members that community groups could still apply for funding through the Locality Fund and Community Initiative Fund.

Cllr Hessing asked if Cllr Spence was aware of the number of objections to the proposed inclusion of Hammonds Farm. Cllr Spence believed there to be around 4,500 to 6,000 which Chelmsford City Council will need to respond to. Cllr G Chapman noted that a resident had been in contact regarding a hole in one of the roads which contained unconnected cables that had to be filled in as the road work licence had expired. Cllr Spence asked for the details to be sent onto him.

24/25.45 To approve Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 4 July 2024

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July 2024 be approved and signed as a true record

24/25.46 Reports from Committees

24/25.46.1 Community Engagement

The minutes of the last meeting as published.

24/25.46.2 Environment Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published. The Chairman advised that at the meeting in July, discussions were held regarding using The Conservation Volunteers and our grounds contractor for works at the Community Woodland, obtaining quotes for tree work and highways

24/25.46.3 Facilities Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published. The Chairman advised that at the last meeting a Working Party had been set up to discuss carparking management as both carparks were often full with people parking all day for work and that residents and Leisure Centre users often found it difficult to park. The Working Party would report back to the committee who would, in turn, report to council.

24/25.46.4 Health & Wellbeing Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published. The Chairman advised that the next Health & Wellbeing event was being held on Saturday 21 September, volunteers for the Parish Council table should contact the Clerk

24/25.46.5 Leisure Centre Committee

24/25.46.5.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published.

24/25.46.5.2 RESOLVED: that the purchase of 5 tables, 2 coffee tables, and 20 chairs as recommended by the Leisure Centre Committee be approved, and if the proposed sofa is not available then the Clerk source alternative options up to the cost of £1,200 per sofa for the next committee meeting, proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Raisule all agreed

24/25.46.6 Planning Committee

24/25.46.6.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published.

24/25.46.6.2 The Chairman advised that a Go Fund Me Page had been set up by Little Baddow Parish Council in respect of raising monies for legal expenses in objecting to the inclusion of Hammonds Farm in the Chelmsford City Council Local Plan and that around £9,000 had been raised so far

24/25.46.6.3 It was noted that the email/letter that was to have been sent to Chelmsford City Council with respect to the inclusion of Hammonds Farm as a preferred option in the Local Plan had been deferred

24/25.46.7 Resources Committee

24/25.46.7.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published.

24/25.46.7.2 RESOLVED: that the Council would approve and adopt the Financial Regulations as recommended by the Resources Committee, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed

24/25.47 Reports from Village Organisations

Cllr Hessing advised that Little Baddow Parish Council had received funding for a Carers Club, running every 3rd Thursday. The service would be available to residents from Danbury and surrounding villages

24/25.48 Community Engagement

There were no matters for community engagement

24/25.49 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr Churchouse queried the cancellation of the quarterly Sunday Farmers Market – the Clerk advised that a regular booking had been taken for the room and that the markets had not been well attended

Cllr Keeler advised that Dart & Arrow Taxis are no longer in operation

24/25.50 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 25 September 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date