

ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



DRAFT MINUTES of the ONLINE MEETING of ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL held via Zoom on

Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Rod Higgins (chairman), Robert Patmore (vice chairman), Chris Coady, Satu Lawrence, Rupert Bull, Ted Buttlng, Cllr. Edward Oliver and Steve Coltman (clerk).

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Public Speaking:** None
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None
4. **Minutes of the meeting of 19th October 2020:** Agreed
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of**
 - 5.1 White Paper on Planning
Clerk agreed to send out the submitted version of the council's comments rather than the first draft originally sent!
 - 5.2 Christmas Card competition
There had been a good response with fifteen entries across two categories. A winner from each class had been chosen and initial batches of 50 of each had been printed. Cards would be sold at £1 each or £4 for five. Twentyfive pence from each card would be donated to a charity yet to be decided.
6. **Planning matters**
 - 6.1 New Applications
 - 6.1.1 UTT/20/2430/FUL Deans Meadow Amendment to access
The parish council agreed that this amendment should only be considered as a new application and not as an amendment to the original application for the new house at the rear. However, the council agreed to still comment on this amendment and agreed to object on the following grounds:
 - a) The removal of the hedge and verge to provide the visibility splays would be detrimental to the street scene and cause harm to the Protected Lane.
 - b) A proper inspection of the onsite conditions was necessary.
 - c) It was noted that a previous application for an access in this location had been refused by UDC for the reasons given at a) after a site visit by members of the planning committee.
 - 6.1.2 UTT/20/2802/CLP 6 Quicksie Hill Annexe in rear garden
Clerk explained that this was an application for confirmation of permitted development rights. Although there were some doubts as to whether the proposal met all of the conditions, the parish council agreed to let UDC decide whether or not this application met the requirements for permitted development and would therefore offer no comment.
 - 6.1.3 UTT/20/2714/FUL Land at Wood Hall Plot 5 new dwelling.
The clerk corrected the suggestion that this application was using up an extant permission and is, in fact, another new dwelling. The Parish Council were concerned

about yet more traffic down the single track access road and agreed to raise this as an objection.

6.2 Determinations

6.2.1 UTT/20/2047 Griffin Cottage Garden room Approved

7. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Oliver had previously circulated his report which highlighted three main areas of work for UDC

- a) The Stansted airport appeal would be going ahead in the new year despite all the restrictions currently in place.
- b) The Local Plan was moving forward with the latest round of consultations. These could all be accessed via the website.
- c) UDC's finances rely heavily on a property portfolio.

8. Playing Field Report

Chairman reported that the new hand sanitizer was in place and some social distancing signs had been renewed at the Parish Council's expense.

9. Village Hall report

Rupert Bull reported that the hall was now closed again to all activities during the current lockdown restrictions. It was noted that the income of the village hall had been very limited for the year and suggested that the Parish Council look at ways to support it. It was agreed to look at this in the budget.

10. Activities

The Christmas card competition had been well received – see item 5.2.

Rupert Bull suggested that the Parish Council start planning now for a summer village celebration to mark the end of lockdowns (hopefully by then). The general feeling of the Parish Council was that this was too early to making any plans for 2021 and that we needed to get through Christmas first.

11. Highways Nothing to report

12. Correspondence As circulated via email

13. Finance

13.1 Balance

Current Account £9679.69

13.2 Invoices

The following invoices were agreed for payment:

BH Grounds maintenance	£ 408.00	inc. VAT
365 Direct (hand sanitisers)	£ 39.78	inc. VAT
Community Heartbeat Trust	£ 151.20	inc. VAT
S Lovegrove (strim graves)	£ 60.00	

Donations agreed in the budget

Arkesden Village Hall	£ 200.00
Arkesden Village News	£ 200.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau	£ 50.00
Essex Air Ambulance	£ 50.00

13.3 Preliminary Budget 2021/22

There was some discussion about increased donations to village organisations and maintaining the precept at current levels despite a large carried forward balance.

The clerk agreed to look at these proposals in conjunction with some extra expected costs to see what impact they would have on the budget. A proposed budget would be circulated before the next meeting. Time constraints prevented any further discussions on this item and it was proposed to put "Finance" earlier in the next agenda.

14. Further Discussion Points

14.1 Hedgehog Highways

Satu Lawrence asked the Parish Council to support an initiative to promote the creation of a Hedgehog Highway through the back gardens of the village. It was agreed that this would be a good village participation idea, especially for the children, and agreed to support the proposal through flyers, posters etc.

14.2 Gigaclear

Clerk requested permission to send a letter of support to Gigaclear on behalf of the residents still seeking a faster broadband service. Although Gigaclear had not delivered on their promises over the last few years, it is the only realistic solution to the problems of the outlying areas. The Parish Council agreed, although reports of Gigaclear's performance were not good.

14.3 Consultations

Clerk confirmed that councillors were receiving the latest information direct from UDC on the latest round of consultations on the Local Plan.

14.1 Resignation

Clerk announced that he would be standing down in six months at the May 2021 meeting. This should mean that the AGM (x2?) will be over, the year end accounts complete and the annual return ready for signature. By leaving then, he hoped that a new clerk would be well settled in before the next round of Parish Council elections in 2023.

The announcement would be in the latest edition of the Village News and hopefully a new clerk can be found from the village without having to resort to external advertising.

15. Date of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Rod Higgins (Chairman)

Steve Coltman (clerk)