

Arkesden Parish Council

The Village Hall,
Arkesden,
Saffron Walden,
Essex,
CB11 4HB
<https://arkesdenvillage.com/>



Arkesden Parish Council Meeting

Meeting date: 26 January 2026

Meeting time: 7.30pm

Meeting location: Arkesden Village Hall

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence / Election of Meeting Chair

Present: Jonathan Boon, Holly Greenhow, Mark Newey, Wendy Dyce, Beth Savory (Clerk) and Cllr Paul Gadd

Apologies: Alistair Mclean, Sophie Garrod and Cllr Edward Oliver

Chair: The Council voted Holly Greenhow in as Chair (Jonathan proposed; Mark seconded)

Minutes: Beth Savory

2. Public Speaking

NTR

3. District councillor's report

NTR

4. County councillor's report

Cllr Paul Gadd provided an update on flooding and drainage issues affecting the parish, confirming that work has been booked in for the 18/19 February to clear the drain at Newlands End and that the pothole repair will be chased when this work has been completed.

On highways and transport matters affecting the parish Cllr Gadd updated that the badger sett in the middle of the footpath at ///blemishes.socialite.blissful, has been reported and he is awaiting a response from the PROW officer.

With regards to education Cllr Gadd updated on a Cabinet decision to provide about £2m in s.106 funding to the Saffron Academy Trust to enable them to build a specialist SEND accommodation block for up to 40 pupils, due to be completed by August 2026. The proposal is to site it in the car park at

the front of SWCHS. There is currently no specialist school provision in Uttlesford. Ofsted and the CQC are currently carrying out a SEND inspection of Essex.

On ECC matters Cllr Gadd updated on the Local Government Reorganisation – the Government’s public consultation on the 4 options submitted to them by the Essex councils closed on 11 January. The Government also wrote to the Councils proposing reorganisation asking for their views on whether to postpone the May 2026 elections again. If elections do go ahead, Cllr Gadd’s understanding is that it is intended that:

- ECC councillors would be elected in May 2026 for a 2-year term to 2028;
- In May 2027, there would be elections for the “shadow” new unitary authorities;
- District elections due in May 2027 would be postponed, so that district councillors would serve another year;
- In May 2028, district and ECC councillors would stand down and the “shadow” unitary councillors would take over.

If the elections do go ahead, they would be on the basis of the new boundaries under which Arkesden and Langley will move from the Saffron Walden division to Newport.

5. Declaration of interests

NTR

6. Minutes of 17 December 2025 meeting

Minutes from the December meeting were approved and signed during the meeting.

7. Matters arising from 17 December 2025 meeting

- Replacement defibrillator

The Clerk confirmed that the replacement defibrillator has now been paid for and is pending installation.

- APC cards

NTR

- Badger sett impacting footpath

An update was provided as part of the County Councillor’s report.

8. Ongoing Matters – Cllr Areas of Focus Updates

- Website (JB)
NTR
- Potholes (MN)
NTR
- Speed Limits (SG)
NTR
- Neighbourhood Watch
NTR

9. Planning Matters

- New Applications
 - **UTT/26/0059/DOC** - Application to discharge condition 13 (materials) attached to UTT/24/2673/FUL- Buildings To The Rear Of Mulberry House, Wenden Road
 - **UTT/26/0063/TPO** - Proposed works to 1 no. Chestnut - reduction of branch lengths by 3m all over for general maintenance, safety and to increase light to properties and to 1 no. Yew - reduction to top branch lengths by 3m and lower branches by 5m as tree has grown abnormally due to nearby Chestnut and is reducing light to properties, also for general maintenance and safety. - The Beehive, Wicken Road
 - **UTT/26/0133/TPO** - Crown lifting of 2 no. Ash to remove low hanging branches and improve access and safety, crown lifting of 1 no. Ash to remove low hanging branches impacting fencing, to improve access and due to it crossing neighbouring boundary, crown lifting of 1 no. Walnut to remove low hanging branches to improve access and safety- Bramley Cottage, Clatterbury Lane
 - **UTT/26/0140/TCA** - Removal of 2 no. Ash to maintain healthy growth of nearby TPO trees and allowing more light into the garden, Crown lifting of 1 no. Maple due to impact on nearby fencing - Bramley Cottage, Clatterbury Lane
- Determinations
 - **UTT/25/2528/HHF** - Detached cart lodge and store - 3 The Byre, Newland End Lane – **Refused**

- Enforcement

NTR

10. Playing Field report

Councillors commented on the success of the Arkesden advent windows which was organised as a fundraiser for the playing field.

11. Village Hall report

NTR

12. Highways and road closures

- Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Long Lane, Arkesden due to commence on 30th January 2026 for 5 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertakes parapet repair works. <https://one.network/?tm=GB146920615>
- Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Church Hill, Arkesden due to commence on 9th February 2026 for 3 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Affinity Water undertakes pipe repair and renewal works. <https://one.network/?tm=GB147221611>

13. Finance

- Balances

The balance on the 26 January was £8,739.59. Payments since the previous meeting include the Clerks salary, quarterly HMRC costs, grass cutting costs, tree surgeon costs and the cost of the replacement defibrillator, including the first year of support costs.

- Invoices/Expenses

NTR

14. Residents' Concerns / AOB

- Memorial bench –

Councillors discussed a request from the family of Clare and Tony Camp for an alternative location of the memorial bench. While Councillor's understood their wish for the bench to look out over the village, they felt that the most suitable position on the village green would still be back-to-back with the existing bench, facing towards the church, rather than next to the existing bench. The existing bench is one of the quieter spots used for seating but people often stand behind it while waiting for weddings, during services, on Remembrance Sunday and at other village events, and Councillors felt the bench would therefore be well used in that spot. Bulbs have also been planted around the church, which should make it a particularly lovely area to sit and enjoy.

15. Date of the Next Meeting – 16 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall