

**GREAT EASTON AND TILTY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 29<sup>TH</sup> 2020 AT 7.30pm**

**ONLINE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Paul Kelly – Mark Claxton – Tristan Martens – Fiona Down – Julia England – Peter Neale – Nicole Thake

**Clerk:** Wendy Hall

**Residents/Guests:** Cllr Michael Taylor, Zoe Oakes, David Oakes, David Bloxham, John Lewis, David Hahn, Mike Ferris, Neil Moore

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone attending

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Martin Foley

**3. Declaration of Members Interests**

Paul Kelly GECA, SSE, Tristan Martens Essex Wildlife, SSE, Mark Claxton GECA, Fiona Down SSE, Tilty Church, Tilty Church Warden, Conservative Party, Stop Easton Park, Peter Neale GECA, Nicole Thake DHCA.

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020, having been circulated prior to the meeting were agreed.

**5. Matters Arising NOT on the Agenda**

Nothing to report.

**6. Public Forum**

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending he asked Michael Taylor if he had anything to report, Michael Taylor advised that Cllr Martin Foley was unable to attend as he was at a UDC Finance meeting. He provided the following information relating to the pandemic, there had been an increase in cases this week from 65-67 in Uttlesford we are on Tier 2 level and there had been 702 cases and 63 deaths. In relation to the local plan he advised that there would be a meeting every two weeks and topics would be reviewed every four weeks, he stated that there is going to be the following website, [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan) this is to be used by residents to make comments etc, this should be live from Friday 30/10/20.

Mike asked if there was any update regarding the railings and depth gauge, Paul Kelly advised that the gauge had been replaced and the railings will be discussed under highways.

**7. Nomination of Swan Public House ACV**

Tristan asked if this could be deferred to the next meeting as those involved were unable to attend, this was agreed.

**8. Grass Cutting**

Tristan advised that he had spoken to Steve Smith regarding the grass cutting, this was agreed 3 years ago we have the option to extend for a further 3 years he said that he does a good job and there are some areas that need tightening up on, he would like to extend the contract as per previous agreement with a 2.5% increase per year. Nicole asked if it was wise to extend for a further 3 years due to the Burns Playing Field issue, Paul said that we are not bound by a contract and can increase or decrease the cuts as needed. Grass cutting was agreed to continue as per current terms.

**9. Village Hall**

Paul Kelly advised that the Village Hall is still closed to private hirer's, however there is a keep fit class that are using the hall and adhering to the current COVID 19 guidelines.  
Expenses 5 Parishes Advertising £20.00, Income £0.00.

## 10. DUFC/Burns Playing Field.

Paul Kelly provided the following update,

- DUFC took up playing at Burns in back in 2018.
- At the start of this year (JAN/FEB meetings) the first complaint was made regarding the discourteous parking of vehicles in Abbey View and surrounding roads during match days
- The PC said they would look into this and engaged with DUFC to establish what they could do about it.
- DUFC came back with proposals to alleviate this situation, such as car-share, drop and go as well as stronger communications to their home and away teams, in particular to consider local residents when parking in Duton Hill.
- The idea was to monitor this and assess how it may work.
- You will all know that the COVID situation was gathering pace at this time and inevitably lock-down prevented all sports from being played for the remainder of the season.
- In September, training and play by DUFC resumed and again similar complaints over parking were re-iterated.
- The PC engaged with DUFC and it was clear that the steps they would have liked to put in place could not be effected, due to FA Guidelines on COVID safety (car sharing etc).
- At the same time Gigaclear works were about to commence in Duton Hill and in particular Abbey View, so DUFC agreed to suspend playing for a month.
- Currently that suspension still exists and there will be no playing/training for the immediate future.
- DUFC in consultation with the PC have made commitments over measures they will put in place once play resumes.
- During this time the PC has also engaged with residents in Duton Hill/Abbey View to get a broad feeling over this situation.
- Overwhelmingly, most people spoken to are happy to see football being played at Duton Hill, but mention the problems over parking. Some of you are here at this meeting.
- The PC agree that parking is the core issue here and if that can be addressed then hopefully we can reach a solution that works for all parties concerned.
- The PC is continuing to look at ways this can be improved and will report on further progress and/or any decisions it makes in due course.
- Paul Kelly feels that this has to be mentioned.... It is no secret that feelings may be running high but that is no excuse for finger pointing, making rude and unfounded accusations against members of the PC, or indeed anyone else. This is completely unnecessary
- Throughout this whole episode, the PC has asked for patience and cooperation on all sides. This is not a matter for any confrontation; it should not become a 'them and us' situation and we should all be considerate for each others position.
- The PC will determine the outcome to this situation having completed its due diligence and will not be pressed/bullied into making 'knee-jerk' decisions.

A resident of Abbey View, Zoe Oakes stated that she was confused as they had met with several Councillors last week and lots of issues were raised and asked would there be no play until there problems had been addressed. Paul said that the PC have held various meetings with residents/DUFC and there are various solutions they are looking into. David Bloxham asked if the residents would be included in any votes that take place regarding the future of the football club, Paul replied and said that the residents would be kept up to date regarding any decisions; it is the PC's responsibility as Trustees to the playing field to ensure that the original intentions in it being gifted to Parish Council are upheld. The PC acknowledges the issues raised concerning parking etc. and it will be for the PC to make the final decision on this. David Oakes said that he feels the PC are being very unreasonable and vague with their responses and the residents should be made a priority, Paul responded that we are taking all things into consideration and the PC need some time work towards a solution as the PC have a responsibility to both the residents and DUFC in this matter.

## 11. Reports from Representatives

### Planning

UTT/20/2608/HHF  
UTT/20/2712/OP

The Sparrows Duck St  
Annexe at The Folly

See Notes Below  
See Notes Below

### **The Sparrows Duck St**

Tristan advised that he had shared comments from a neighbour, it was agreed that Paul would put together comments to be submitted to UDC as previous planning applications for the same property.

### **Annexe at The Folly**

Wendy advised that she had received comments and photos from a resident that she had shared with all Councillors, all agreed they had received this. Paul asked for volunteers to look at the application and take this on to provide comments to UDC, Fiona and Peter agreed to take this up.

### **Planning Application Determined**

UTT/20/1457/FUL	Knowlesbury, Gallows Green	Refused 15/10/2020
UTT/20/1268/OP	Attwood House, Duck St	Refused 14/10/2020

### **Playing Fields**

Mark Claxton advised that Miss Piggy still needs to be replaced in Great Easton.  
Tristan advised that he feels the PC should look into planting some mature trees to Burns Playing field, it was agreed to place this on the agenda for next month's meeting.

### **Footpaths**

Tristan advised various footpaths had been ploughed over however the fields had been seeded and the footpaths will naturally form as they are used.

### **River Interest:**

Tristan advised that the river is low and slowly rising, it is very overgrown, Mike Taylor advised that his wife is River Warden for Thaxted and they have the same problems.

### **Road Safety/Highways**

Peter advised that 19/12/2019 a BMW got stuck in the ford and the railings came down, these are still down and next time the ford floods this could happen again and they need replacing Paul replied and said that he has emailed Risa Long and Simon Walsh on various occasions and is still awaiting a reply, Mike Taylor stated that he had also emailed Rissa Long and still had no reply, unfortunately the monthly meetings with Highways have been cancelled due to COVID, he will continue to chase up. David Hahn asked why the PC can't just replace them, Paul replied and said he had been told that Highways must carry out these works, we are not allowed to do this, he asked why we can't issue a county court summons as it is a risk to life, Paul advised that we have to work within our remit but agrees that it is more urgent with winter approaching, Fiona also advised that the railings were still broken in Duton Hill, Mike Taylor asked for the information to be sent to him.

Paul Kelly stated that he had also still not received any reply regarding the application for the speed limit in Gallows Green, Mike Taylor also said he had not received any reply but feels that due to the survey information where an average speed of 38 was recorded this could be the reason, Paul said that the survey was inaccurate as it was taken during a time when roadworks were being carried out. He will continue to chase.

Tristan said that it was agreed to move the sign at Maynard House approx. 3 years ago this still hasn't happened, everything lays with Essex County Council Highways, Mike Taylor requested an email with details and he will chase.

Julia advised that she had sent a photo re: Tilty to Coldharbour Road and the mud etc left by the farmer, she has heard back from Simon Walsh and he will look into this.

Zoe Oakes, resident in Abbey View stated that there is a speed problem in Duton Hill especially from Delivery drivers, Paul stated that they can apply for a citizen speed trap however when this has been suggested before, it has proved hard to find volunteers to carry out this. The PC would support such a move if residents can form a group. Mike Taylor advised that they use the new website mentioned earlier to make comments on these problems.

Fiona advised that she has reported the hedge at the bottom of Duton Hill to the land owners, photos have also been sent and she is awaiting the maintenance team to follow up.

**Airport**

Paul advised that he had spoken to SSE about the PC supporting their response to MAG’s recent appeal regarding the recent decision to prevent expansion. This may include a personal statement on behalf of the PC at an upcoming hearing to be arranged. SSE assured him they have matters in hand and will continue to liaise with the all local PC’s.

**12. Clerks Correspondence**

A donation £100 to Citizens Advice was agreed.

Expenses were as follows Clerk Salary x 1 £303.33, Grass Cut x 2 £945.56

**13. Any Other Business**

Paul advised that at the last meeting the PC website and Councillor Emails were discussed. The figure was £399 PA for this service. It was agreed by all councillors to take up this service and that we should use the website more. Julia to liaise and set this up.

Website needs to be updated to remove Jacqueline Marling and replace with Nicole Thake

Paul advised that there will be no normal Remembrance Service - there will be a service in Great Easton arranged by Ron Gilder only a small number can attend and will be carried out under COVID regulations, there will be a wreath laying as per previous years and John Lewis advised that Alan Spinks normally lays one on behalf of DHCA.

Fiona advised that she has spoken to the Chairman of Broxton and a UDC Councillor regarding a Local Neighbourhood Plan. Little Easton are quite advanced and she feels that we should work together. Paul advised that he had spoken to the Chairman of Little Easton and that they had only just formed a steering committee comprising local residents and councillors to undertake their plan. Paul had also spoke to Martin Foley regarding a Neighbourhood Plan. Fiona to make more enquiries and advise further.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

**Date of Next Meeting Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Chairman.....Date.....**