

## HADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes of Hadstock Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

1. The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting and thanked those that were in attendance. He went onto explain that covid requirements were to be observed and indicated the fire exits. It was noted that the meeting could be filmed or recorded.

4 residents were in attendance in addition to Cllr Albrow, Cllr Nuttall, Councillor Smith and the Parish Clerk

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted Sonia Villiers, Miss Croxton Smith and Councillor Sara Porter

Members of the Council were introduced Cllr Keith Nuttall, Cllr Trevor Smith and Cllr Jude Hannam

3. In 2020 the Annual meeting of the Parish was not held due to Covid-19 but the minutes from Annual meeting of the Parish held in 2019 were accepted. These were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair Cllr Albrow.

4. Matters arising ~

[a] The Parish Council considered the request by Parishioners at the last Annual Meeting of the Parish in 2019, to provide fencing around the play equipment. The project was completed earlier in 2021 which has proved to be a great success.

[b] The Parish Council are still in discussion with Highways & Essex County Council regarding concerns related to speeding.

[c] Ambitions to have use of a Tru-cam have not come to fruition but this would still be pursued.

[d] a portable speed indicator was considered but costs meant that it was not an option for the Parish Council to pursue.

[e] The condition of Lens path at the Linton end has been noted ~ quotes were being sought to carry out repairs and to improve drainage.

[f] Kings Head issues and concerns were still not resolved

5. Councillor Albrow read his Chairman's report for the period since the last Parish Meeting and overview of the Council's financial position. (attached)

6. Open Forum:

A resident thanked the Parish Council for the Welcome Pack recently received which was very much appreciated. Concerns were expressed about the number of HGV's that travel through the Village which is also a conservation area. Could speed bumps be an option?

A resident expressed concerns about communication with the County Council and the fact that the newly elected County Councillor is also a District Councillor and Leader of the District Council. Communication informing the affected Parishes related to road closures was lacking, the need for closures was questionable, the official diversions are ignored and urged the Parish Council to take this up with the responsible authorities. When utilities are to be installed for the new development at Saffron Walden it will undoubtedly cause inconvenience to Hadstock.

Councillor Albrow reassured those present that the Parish Council would continue to try and engage with Essex County Council and Highways. The Parish Council would prepare a list and arrange to have a discussion with County Councillor Martin Foley to highlight the issues of concern and would discuss further at the next Parish Council meeting.

Concerns were expressed about the state of a footpath at Chalky Lane. ~ photos of the affected area would be sent to the Parish Council and they would take this forward.

Concerns were expressed about work being carried out on Sundays at the Kings Head.

A request was made for a wildflower area on the Recreation Ground ~ the chair assured residents that this was already factored into the Parish Land Project but had been delayed due to Covid-19

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:30pm

## **REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HADSTOCK PARISH**

20 May 2021

It was a surprise that the Government chose not to legislate to allow councils to continue with videoconferencing for meetings beyond the temporary COVID legislation which expired on 7<sup>th</sup> May. As a consequence, the Parish Council is faced with the challenge of holding face-to-face meetings to which the public have a legal right to attend and yet meeting all COVID regulations and the restrictions of meeting in the Village Hall. It is also a statutory requirement to hold this meeting no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June. It is hoped that circumstances will allow a further public meeting to be held later in the year so that we can have our usual lively and useful debate.

**Chairman's report** for the period April 2019 (when the last annual meeting was held) to April 2021.

The following is a summary of Parish Council activity over this period.

### **Recreation Ground:**

Installation of fencing around play equipment, new gate from Moules Lane, dog bag dispenser, hand sanitiser station and signage.

Provision of new picnic table.

Start of heritage orchard with planting of 8 fruit trees.

Clearing of overgrown vegetation and tree work as per tree inspection report.

Routine maintenance and repairs. The annual playground inspection gave a favourable report with only minor remedial work required.

**Public Rights of Way.**

Replacement of waymarkers.

Strimming of vegetation (Uttlesford Rangers also help with this on request),

New steps and repairs to handrails on permissive path from Bantons (thanks to a volunteer for this work).

**Speedwatch**

Speedwatch has now resumed with some new trained volunteers.

Discussions with Essex Highways and County Councillor to explore options for reducing speed on Walden Road. (Hopefully resulting in a presentation at next public meeting.)

**Len's Path**

Rotten and broken fence posts replaced (about 20% of total).

Resurfacing of about 30m before Pantiles. (Further work in 2021 planned.)

Discussions involving County Councillor and landowner concerning responsibility for ditch along Linton Road. Flooding is a long-standing problem here. The Parish Council has taken legal advice and believes it has no responsibility under the terms of its lease. Ongoing.

**Village Website**

New website up and running.

**Planning Applications**

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in the Parish. There have been four in Hadstock and two in Bowers Lane which the Parish Council has reviewed and commented on as well as multiple applications for the King's Head. The Parish Council decided to support the application for change of use to residential as it believes reopening as a pub is not commercially viable. After submission of a new application, we also had no objection to plans for alterations to the building. The development of four houses at Yew Tree Place was also supported by the Parish Council.

**Welcome Bags**

There is now a Hadstock Welcome Bag which is given to each new resident.

**Telephone Box and Defibrillator**

A book and DVD exchange has been set up in the old telephone box.

There is a support contract with Community Heartbeat Trust for the defibrillator.

**District and County Councils**

The Parish Council liaises with our District and County Councillors on any matter which is their responsibility.

**Green Skip**

The bi-weekly service is operated by Uttlesford District Council but paid for by the Parish Council.

This is continuing for 2021/22.

**Councillors**

The councillors are Rick Albrow (chair), Keith Nuttall (vice-chair), Trevor Smith, Sara Porter and Jude Hannam. Jude was co-opted in August 2020 and is a very welcome addition. This still leaves us short of a councillor and I would urge you to come forward if interested.

Meetings successfully continued during the pandemic between August 2020 and April 2021 by Zoom.

My thanks on behalf of the Village to all councillors for all their work, much of it 'behind the scenes' and in particular to our very able Parish Clerk, Sara Beckett.

Rick Albrow  
Chair Hadstock Parish  
Council May 2021