

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISHALL PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday, 20th November 2018 at 7.30pm in the
South Hall, New Village Hall, Crawley End, Chrishall.**

PRESENT: Cllr David Thomas (chairman), Cllr Ian Pitfield, Cllr Jane Holloway, Cllr Steven Parish, Cllr Stephen Foote, Cllr John Kay, Cllr Tracey Slade, Cllr Sheena Lashko.

Clerk: Belinda Irons

PUBLIC: 9

18.154 Apologies for absence: none

18.155 Other absences: Members absent without offering apologies: none.

18.156 Declaration of Members Interests:
(disclosable pecuniary/pecuniary/non-pecuniary):
Cllr Kay: Village Hall Committee: PC representative
Cllr Pitfield: Planning: Sawkins Cottage: pecuniary

18.157 Public Discussion: limited to 15 minutes
Parishioner complaint about the Clerk. Specifically that the Clerk:

1. Influences policy and decisions of the council in pursuit of her own agenda.
2. The clerk has a tendency to step outside the remit of her role and this is only going to increase.
3. Recommendation that a Councillor is appointed as Treasurer to oversee the financial affairs of the Council.
4. A complaint to Uttlesford District Council will be made without delay pending the response of the Parish Council.

Broad Green: who proposed the agenda item.

Broad Green: objection to proposal x 3.

Broad Green: why was this not an agenda item on any previous agendas.

Jigneys Meadow is owned by a local family.

18.158 Chrishall Village Hall: proposal to replace the highway boundary wall with a knee rail with half costs to be paid by Chrishall Parish Council.

Cllr Slade made the meeting aware that parishioners present were using inappropriate language within private conversations whilst the meeting was in progress. Cllr Slade attempted to re-open the public adjournment to allow the parishioners an opportunity to express their views.

The Chairman commented that he had not received estimates, quotes or invoices for the proposed fence.

Cllr Kay commented that Guy Rackham had emailed the specification with a cost from one company and has requested the Parish Council pay half the costs, which amounts to £950 (nine hundred and fifty pounds).

Cllr Slade suggested that the security of the site and enhancement of the frontage should be considered.

Cllr Pitfield commented that the Village Hall Committee do an excellent job and the Parish Council should not 'micro-manage' them.

Cllr Foote asked if a quote for repair has been sought. The Chairman advised that this had been done, and a repair would cost £170 (one hundred and seventy pounds).

PROPOSAL: that Chrishall Parish Council agrees to half fund a new knee rail fence to the front boundary of the Village Hall car park. PROPOSED: Cllr Kay, seconded Cllr Pitfield. Agreed: 3. Objection: 2. Abstain 1. MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY.

NOTE TO THE MINUTES 1: *Following questions from the public the Clerk would highlight that Guy Rackham contacted the Clerk and told her to put this item on the agenda.*

NOTE TO THE MINUTES 2: *Due to the personal verbal attack made by a parishioner against the Clerk, she was in a state of shock and therefore unable to properly advise the Parish Council that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations state any expenditure over £500 (five hundred pounds) requires three estimates as a minimum. The Clerk would therefore advise that the decision is ultra vires and cannot be upheld. **Ultra Vires.** [Latin, Beyond the powers.] The doctrine in the law of corporations that holds that if a corporation enters into a contract that is beyond the scope of its corporate powers, the contract is illegal.*

NOTE TO THE MINUTES 3: *An email from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to Cllr Kay and forwarded to the Chairman and the Clerk indicates that the proposal by the VHC*

includes replacement of the boundary panel fence with a picket fence, which the Parish Council was not made aware of at any meeting. The email also indicates that the contractor the VHC want to carry out the works is in the employ of the Chairman of the VHC and also carries out works for Councillor Pitfield. Cllr Kay declared an interest at the start of the meeting.

18.159 Broad Green: proposal to instruct BEAMS Ltd to carry out a full survey regarding the potential for registration of Broad Green as a Conservation Area:

Cllrs Pitfield & Foote questioned which Councillor had instructed this item be put onto the agenda, where the proposal arose and asked for an explanation for the reasoning. Cllr Holloway commented that she had discussed it with the Clerk and the Chairman. Cllr Holloway further commented that the term 'Conservation Area' appears to be frightening. Uttlesford District Council is in the midst of assessing areas within the District for registration. A Conservation Area designation simply means that the architecture and habitats local to that area are afforded a level of protection. It does not mean that development cannot take place. Many properties in Broad Green are listed and are worthy of such protection.

Cllr Pitfield questioned why it was on the agenda and commented that this was poor governance. He further commented that there was no background provided and why wasn't the whole village considered.

The Chairman commented that any Councillor can ask for any item to be raised on the agenda.

Councillors present agreed that this item should be deferred to the January 2019 agenda for more information to be gathered.

PROPOSAL: That Chrishall Parish Council herewith agrees to instruct BEAMS Ltd to carry out a full survey to assess the potential for registration of Broad Green as a Conservation Area with Uttlesford District Council, in the sum of £1,000 (one thousand pounds)

18.160 Planning: Cllr Holloway

Cllr Pitfield left the meeting at 19.52

Cllr Holloway commented this was a very uncomfortable situation, but the Parish Council should be consistent in its decision making process, and should follow the same guidelines it has used when assessing previous applications.

UTT/18/2938/FUL Sawkins Cottage, Broad Green
Erection of a 3 bedroom detached dwelling on land adjacent to
Sawkins Cottage, accessed via a new entrance crossover;
compound for ground-mounted solar panel array in field to rear
of Sawkins Cottage to serve both properties.

Planning application

*Objection: outside the development boundary, design not
appropriate.*

**PROPOSAL: That Chrishall Parish Council objects to the
planning application submitted for Sawkins Cottage.**

PROPOSED: Cllr Holloway, seconded Cllr Kay. AGREED AND
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stansted Airport:

UTT/17/1640/SO Scoping Option under Town and Country Planning
Act (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017: proposed
increase in annual passenger numbers to 44.5 million:

Uttlesford District Council granted permission but the application was
subsequently 'called in' by the Minister.

Cllr Pitfield re-joined the meeting

18.161 Date of next Parish Council Meeting:

Local Government Election: 2nd May
Declaration of Members Interests to UDC by 4th June

2019: Tuesday:

8th January, 5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 14th May (APM &
APCM), 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th
November.

Meeting closed at 19.57