

Minutes of a Meeting of **Manuden Parish Council** held in the **Community Centre** on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018** at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr J Kershaw (Chairman)  
Cllr J Archer ( Vice Chairman)  
Cllr S Hannington  
Cllr K Hardy  
Cllr E McLean  
Cllr F Womack  
Cllr R Dale-Cooke

In Attendance: Mr C Bartram(Clerk)

36 Members of the public 32 left after the first point on the agenda.

Apologies D Cllr J Loughlin, C Cllr R Gooding

There were no Disclosures of Interest.

Minutes of  
Previous  
Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Matters  
Arising

Following an article published in the Parish News from **Foundations Children & Family Service** and the distribution of an unsigned leaflet (copy attached) throughout the village, there was a great deal of interest from parishioners regarding what is happening with the proposed children's home

Prior to the meeting the Council had published a letter explaining the role of the Council in the village, some of its activities and the limits of its powers. (Copy attached)

There followed many questions expressing concerns about the quality and reputations of the staff and their motives for setting up the home. Villagers were worried and concerned over the emotional problems the children may have and the problems they may bring, the safety and security of the home and the amount of supervision that the children would need. There were comments on the suitability of the village for such a home, the lack of public transport connections and whether there are enough activities for the children in a tiny village. A large number of the villagers present appeared to suggest that, if possible, a way should be found to prevent the home from opening.

Councillors tried to address these concerns and to allay some of the fears being expressed as they had asked very similar questions when the company presented their plans in September 2017. The Council then spoke of all the investigations they had made and the measures they had taken but, in the end they had to admit that, as the company had received a Certificate of Lawfulness from UDC, there was very little they could do to oppose the home, should they wish to do so, as the company would be operating within their legal rights.

Prior to the meeting, the company had confirmed that they have completed their preparations for Ofsted inspection and that they are now awaiting Ofsted. It is understood that the Ofsted inspection will include a thorough investigation of their financial details, staff qualifications and records and the suitability of the premises.

It was pointed out, several times, to the meeting that the staff are very willing to open their doors to parishioners in order to discuss their plans and they wish to have good relationships with the village; their telephone number was on offer to anyone who wished to contact and to visit them. One member of the public pointed out that, if the home does obtain Ofsted approval it would be in the interests of the village to try to develop a good relationship with them, to which several councillors were in agreement. As some villagers were concerned about contacting the staff directly themselves, the Council offered to compile a list of questions to present to the staff should anyone wish to submit them to the Council.

The Council were still concerned with the state of **4 Mailers Lane** and the Clerk agreed to call UDC Housing to find the latest situation. Cllr Archer reported that there had been some repairs to the **War memorial lettering** but more needed doing. There was very little to report on the progress of **Gigaclear** although there had been some activity with the application for way leaves.

The **Village signage** for MVCC in particular is still a frustrating topic as it is difficult to establish the application process for obtaining a sign. In addition it was noted there had been severe damage to one of the village signs following a recent car accident.

Cllr Hardy was very pleased to say that a new **Village Green Rubbish bin** has been positioned and the old one sent to be re-cycled. The possibility of arranging a **First aid course** was discussed and agreed on. The Council were pleased to hear that a **Chip Shop Van** would be beginning a three month trial starting 6<sup>th</sup> March and continuing on various Tuesdays at MVCC. All were encouraged to attend the **Village Clean up on the 24<sup>th</sup> March** starting from Manuden House at 10:00 am

#### Other issues

The Council agreed to ask groups to limit their **AGM reports** to be read at the AGM and published in the Parish News to 200 words in order to speed up the AGM and to save on printing space ...should organisations also wish to produce a longer version to be published on the village web site that would be fine. The Council also agreed to finance one free copy of the Parish News for all village households which is likely to be the edition following the AGM

The Council agreed to continue with the **UDC Green Waste Collections for 2018** and the Chairman agreed to complete an **Essex Highways User Survey** on behalf of the Council.

The Council agreed to send **Council Meeting agendas** out on Manuden Mail and to include a **link to the Village web site** to see the Council Minutes

#### Sub Committee Reports

**Open Gardens.** Singalong to Oliver had been another sell out success with profits being used to make a £ 600 donation to Pancreatic Cancer research, a £200 donation to Grove Cottage as well as purchasing a new park bench for MVCC. The Council thanked everyone involved for their marvellous efforts. The next singalong will be on 13<sup>th</sup> October with **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** and future dates are being planned for 2019 and 2020. The Open Gardens committee also reported they were pleased that the event this year will be sponsored by Russell Properties Estate Agency.

**Footpaths** It was commented that, in general, the footpaths around the village are in a good state of repair thanks, in many cases, to our local farmers and landowners. It was

noted, however, that there are a couple of footpath signs that need replacing and it was discussed how this may be done.

**Scarecrow Trail** This will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. With a **Sports and Hobbies** theme.

Plans

**Applications Received:**

Conversion of garage loft space and addition of 2 conservation roof windows  
Hill House 12 Carters Hill Ref. No: UTT/18/0250/HHF *No comment was made*

**Applications determined**

UTT/18/0393/NMA Non Material Amendment to UTT/17/0631/HHF - Change plain clay tiles on roof to Redland double roman tiles. 30 Butt Lane Manuden

Fell 1 no. Horse Chestnut.

5 Watts Yard The Street Manuden Ref. No: UTT/18/0017/TCA | *Status: Decided*

Reduce height of run of Elder, Holly and Hawthorn Trees to approximately 6ft.

5 Watts Yard The Street Manuden Ref. No: UTT/18/0019/TCA *Status: Decided*

Non Material Amendment to UTT/15/0498/HHF - Positional change to detached garage with games room 85A Mallows Green Mallows Green Road Manuden

Ref. No: UTT/17/3621/NMA *Status: Approved*

Finance

The Council approved the following cheques

Uttlesford District Council ( fo Green Waste Collection Skip) .....	£1188.00
Katrina Hardy ( to pay for the Village Green rubbish bin).....	£450.00
Ace of Spades ( Invoices 3663 and 3704 Church grass cutting).....	£540.00
Marmax ( for 2 benches) expected to be .....	£843.60

This will leave us a balance of £9792.11 in our accounts

Items of Interest

The Council were concerned that there had been some **damage to a tombstone** in the Upper Churchyard and were pleased to hear that the PCC had notified the police. The Clerk agreed to write to Essex Highways regarding the **zig zags** outside the Village School and to report the **blocked drains** outside the Alms houses. It was also noted that we will have to appoint a **Data Protection Officer** to meet with new guidelines. The **row of trees** at the top of Stewarts Way has now been trimmed.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10:14pm

Date of the next meeting **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April**