

Radwinter Parish Council

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Village Hall, Radwinter,
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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 28th May 2024, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richardson, Cllr Halls, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Duck, Cllr Boyden
DCllr Tayler
Luke Brown (Clerk)

0 member(s) of the public

Minutes

24/21 **Nominate and Elect a Chairman for the year 2024/25**

Cllr Richardson nominated and elected as Chairman for the year 2024/25.

24/21.1 **Chairman to sign declaration of acceptance of office**

Newly elected Chairman signed the declaration acceptance of office and witnessed by the clerk.

24/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Davidson, Cllr Rains, Cllr Foley

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

Proposed: Cllr Richardson **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/23 **Public Forum**

None present.

24/24 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this agenda.

24/25 **Minutes**

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th April 2024 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Duck **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/26 **District & County Councillors Reports** (APPENDIX A)

DCllr Tayler gave their report to the council, highlighting the service of the Buffy Bus that does not service Radwinter or the Sampfords, and the rurality of Uttlesford and the types of services that are required.

24/27 **Clerks Report**

Clerk was thanked for their time in office.

24/28 **Action Tracker**

None.

24/29 **Finance**

Resolution: Agree payments for this month.

Proposed: Cllr Duck **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard
Cllr Richardson appointed as authoriser.

Resolution: Approve the purchase of wildflower seeds for planting in Stocking Green.

Proposed: Cllr Richardson **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/29.1 **Grants**

None received.

24/29.2 **Insurance**

The Clerk was unable to obtain the renewal at this time. Renewal due in July 2024.

24/29.3 **The Hundred Parishes Society**

Resolution: Approve renewing the £10 membership to the Hundred Parishes society.

Proposed: Cllr Richardson **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/30 **AGAR**

Deferred.

24/30.1 **Annual Governance Return**

Deferred.

24/30.2 **Annual Accountancy Return**

Deferred.

24/31 **Planning**

No new applications.

24/32 **Recreation Ground & Pavilion**

No update.

24/33 **Village Hall**

Looking to agree a policy for village organisations arranging charity events and keeping costs down for them.

Financially healthy.

24/34 **Highways and Footpaths**

Potholes have been reported and there are a lot of them.

24/34.1 **Footpath 85**

No update.

24/34.2 **Parking**

Clerk to send the petition.

24/34.3 **Speed Indicators**

Spoke to DCllr of Newport as they have recently installed some. No further update.

24/34.4 **Traffic Calming**

A member from Essex highways is due to come to the village to discuss the traffic calming issues.

24/35 **Stocking Green update**

No update.

24/36 **Land at the Rear of Gillon Way**

No update.

Transfer is way overdue the time limit has been surpassed and still no movement.

The issue is between the current landowners and Anglia Water who are in a legal debate.

Members to chase UDC and Enterprise.

24/37 **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Good response from the survey.

Investigating if the school would be willing to help get the children's input.

Hoping to get the neighbourhood plan to the final stage by the end of 2024.

24/38 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

HR Committee.

24/39 **Date of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday 25th June.

24/40 **Meeting Close** @ 8:50 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDIX A

I have had two meetings in the last few weeks, both not directly relating to Radwinter or The Sampfords, but have raised concerns why are some services not available in this community, are they wanted are they needed, and can we do anything to improve availability of them?

The meetings were for services which should be available for all ages, but happened to focus on the young, namely Buffy Bus, and older, namely lunches predominantly for older people in Pam's Place, Thaxted.

Buffy Bus does not visit Radwinter nor anywhere else in my ward, even though it acts as an outreach into the community for early years play and development, elsewhere in Uttlesford. I think I understand some of the difficulties with this service, but should we be doing more? What is available for our children?

Pam's Place is a community centre in Thaxted offering facilities, food, socialisation and friendship. It has been well supported by UDC, and although it is now run as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), UDC still own the building. What similar facilities do Radwinter residents on offer? Again, what is wanted, what is needed and what could be done to address these services?

I was speaking to Peter Holt, the CEO of UDC, and he has sent me part of the Blueprint Uttlesford relating to rural issues. These rural aspects have now for the first time been incorporated into the Corporate Plan. I hope that questions raised through this document can be addressed within our community, to ensure it remains sustainable:

Rurality within Blueprint Uttlesford

With the addition of a major new priority around rurality to our Corporate Plan for 2023-27 – what does Uttlesford District Council bring to the table fully reflecting the rural nature of our district?

As a way into the broader conversation about what it's like to live in our rural area, whether young and rural, growing old in the countryside, or being of working age in our villages and towns – and in particular in understanding rural inequalities, poverty and isolation, and in focusing in on what the district council does (and could do more) to help, below are a handful of focused provocations:

- Rural economy – what facts and figures do we have about the nature of our local economy, its pressures, its changes over recent years? What initiatives do we already have in place? (maybe import one or two of the case studies from the econ dev report)
- Rural digital connectivity – what do we know about this, what are we/could we do about it (Inc DIZ references)
- Rural transport – what are the facts and figures about how people get about, and what the barriers are as issues to address?
- Rural planning – what are the planning issues and opportunities around preserving and enhancing our beautiful rural character, whilst facilitating growth in employment and housing
- Rural climate, ecology and biodiversity – what is the baseline set of issues we face, the challenges over years to come, and the opportunities to act positively to act locally to save our little bit of the planet?

- Rural health – what do we know about our population’s health and the challenges associated with being so dispersed? Get into the isolation and mental health aspects.
- Rural housing – what are the particular issues around rural housing – e.g. oil heating, availability of access to work/learning? What are the rural homelessness patterns?
- Rural crime and safety – what are the crime and disorder challenges in our rural area, and what are we already doing/could we do more on in this regard?

The district council plays a large role on various of these issues, but works with many others – who else should we be roping into this conversation so that we can together take a more effective and holistic approach? E.g. NFU, Rural Community Council of Essex, Parish and Town Councils, Essex Police, the NHS, Essex County Council, FSB, RSLs.

I have also attended meetings regarding the future of waste disposal and recycling and The Local Plan Panel.

Lastly, I was interested that UDC is promoting an Ancient Tree Inventory being created by the Woodland Trust. We are being asked to record significant trees so an online map can be created. This fits with UDC’s recognition of the importance of biodiversity. I will endeavour to find out if it could have any planning significance!

Mike Tayler

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I took this petition and motion to County Hall.

ACTION NEEDED TO BRING OUR RURAL ROADS UP TO STANDARD

Despite strenuous efforts by our Parish Council, District Councillors and County Councillor, reporting to and communicating with staff in ECC Highways Department, we are now deeply concerned about the state of maintenance and delays in getting highway repairs particularly on our rural roads and pavements in this area.

Many of our roads and pavements are now in a desperate state despite Essex County Council going for the maximum increase in council tax. Rural roads rarely have street lighting and the dangers to cyclists and drivers are growing as the roads descend into third world standards of maintenance in many cases.

We have noted that when potholes are repaired, often the repair is not lasting more than a few months. When contractors are sent out to do a job, they often leave potholes a couple of metres away.

Please can Essex County Council produce a realistic plan to start to bring our rural roads up to standard and end the era of “Managed Decline”?

ECC Highways (including footways) Motion to Essex County Council – By Cllr Martin Foley

The Motion

“Council expresses disapproval of the questionable value for money afforded the taxpayers of Essex over the last decade by the current "strategic partnership" model on highway work. Council notes the managed (or unmanaged) decline of the network over that time.

For the future, Council calls upon Cabinet to ensure a contractor or strategic partner be not allowed to mark their own homework.”

Cllr Foley

APPENDIX C
May Payments

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							55,134.69			
01/05/2024	Employee	Salary - April	N/A	BACS	24/08	Y		382.50		382.50
01/05/2024	Employee	Expenses - April	N/A	BACS	24/08	Y		25.55		25.55
01/05/2024	HMRC	TAX	N/A	BACS	24/08	Y		6.20		6.20
01/05/2024	Rec Grnd Cmt	Grant	N/A	BACS	24/08	Y		3,500.00		3,500.00
01/05/2024	EALC	Fees	17674	BACS	24/08	Y		232.00		232.00
07/05/2024	SSE	Electricity	IV00773252/0403	DD				275.38	15.56	259.82
	BT Group	Internet	M105IU	DD				56.62	9.44	47.18
	A&J Lighting	Lighting	38265	DD				48.38		40.32
	Employee	Salary - May	N/A	BACS				382.50		382.50
	Employee	Expenses - May	N/A	BACS				74.80		74.80
	HMRC	TAX	N/A	BACS				6.20		6.20
	Jack Roberts	Grass Cutting	1477/1502	BACS				201.85		201.85
	Hundred Parish Society	Membership Fee	N/A	BACS				10.00		10.00
Totals							55,134.69	5,201.98	25.00	5,168.92
							49,932.71			