

Radwinter Parish Council

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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 28th April 2025, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richardson, Cllr Duck, Cllr Halls, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Rains, Cllr Boyden, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Foley, Cllr Tayler and the Clerk.

Minutes

25/56 **Apologies for Absence**

None

25/57 **Public Forum**

Firstly a member of the public thanked the Parish Council for replacing the speed signs on the main road. They confirmed that they had noticed the difference in traffic speeds already.

Secondly, a number of people raised concerns regarding the potential planning application for a solar farm on the road between the refill barn and Stocking Green. The presentation at Swards End village hall earlier in the day had proven to be relatively uninformative.

The main concerns raised were:-

- The solar panels will be visible from the road and will run along the side of the footpath.
- The angle of the panels could cause glare from the sun onto the road and impact traffic.
- The high voltage cable will run along the main road to the point of connection in Swards End. The road will need to be dug up and the disruption time period is unclear.
- Pile driving for the site could last 22 weeks.
- The construction of the solar farm is expected to last 44 weeks in all and concerns were raised around the noise from the pile drivers and other machinery during this time.
- Concerns around the level of noise emitted by the converters once the project is complete.
- Potential impact on wildlife especially deer herds that cross that area of farmland.

Cllr Tayler to review the local plan to establish if any provisions made for such developments.

25/58 **Members' Declarations of interest**

Cllr Halls confirmed that he was part of the team replacing the Churchyard fence, towards which the parish council had paid a grant.

The Clerk advised that she was involved in 1st Radwinter Cubs, who had submitted a grant application to the PC for camping equipment.

25/59 **Minutes**

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 31st March 2025 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard

25/60 District & County Councillors Reports

Unitisation of councils progressing, with five new unitary councils proposed.

The hope is that Highways will improve once unitisation complete.

Currently the Highways panel has suspended logging new work due to amount of work currently scheduled.(would take about 11 years to complete what is logged at current rate.

It is unclear whether the UDC local plan will be adopted by new unitary council, or what will happen in 5 years when review is due. Cllr Tayler has received no response on this matter. Rural emphasis needs to be maintained as UDC is a rural council but potential new Unitary Council likely to be far more urban.

In addition to unitary councils, the government is expected to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority for Greater Essex.

See also Appendix A

25/61 Clerks Report

Tender received from C Low re spring cut and Outdoor Jack re Plough Hill path.

It was Resolved that both should be accepted.

Proposed Cllr Halls **Seconded** Cllr Davidson

Cllr Halls produced an invoice for the clips purchased to fit new speed signs in the sum of £63.71.

It was resolved that the Clerk should pay the invoice.

Proposed Cllr Richardson **Seconded** Cllr Davidson

The Clerk confirmed that the first 50% of this years precept had been received into the bank.

Purchase Order received from ECC regarding grass cutting. The clerk was asked to determine which areas this covered.

25/62 Action Tracker

Cllr Richardson went through the action tracker and relevant updates made.

25/63 Finance

Payments list as circulated prior to the meeting was approved.

Clerk to set up payments and Cllr Richardson to authorise

A&J Lighting	Service fee	£48.38
A&J Lighting	Repair costs	£ 157.80
BT	Broadband	£51.01
SSE	Electricity	£2.19
SSE	Electricity	£5.47
SSE	Electricity	£8.07
Employee	April salary	£436.24
EALC	Affiliation fees	245.90
Outdoor Jack	Verges	£53.30
RCCE	Membership fee	61.80
V E Day organisers	Grant towards expenses	£200.00
Hundred parishes	Annual Subscription	£10.00

Friends of Radwinter Church	Grant towards fence replacement	£2000.00
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Proposed Cllr Davidson **Seconded** Cllr Halls

Action JP & DR

25/63.1 **Budget 2025/25**

The Budget was compared to actual expenditure to date for 2025/26 and discussed, together with current reserves. It was agreed that reserves should be reviewed by Councillors ahead of next months meeting and adjustments recommended, with particular reference to Village Improvement reserve.

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

25/63.2 **Review any grant applications**

Application received from 1st Radwinter Cubs for £1,000 towards new camping equipment. Full grant was awarded.

Proposed Cllr Rains **Seconded** Cllr Davidson

25/64 **New Planning Applications**

None

25/65 **Recreation Ground & Pavilion**

No meeting held

25/65.1 **Recreation Ground steering committee**

Response received from Recreation ground committee agreeing to meet up with PC working party regarding new lease and responsibility for maintenance of recreation ground.

Copy of response to be circulated to Councillors via email.

Action JP

25/66 **Village Hall**

Nothing to report as next meeting scheduled for 3rd April.

25/67 **Highways and Footpaths**

25/67.1 **Plough Hill Footpath**

Quote from Outdoor Jack agreed.

25/67.2 **Speed Indicator project**

Thanks to Cllr Halls and Eddie Graves for their work on the installation of the signs.

25/68 **Stocking Green update**

Cllr Gerhard confirmed verge had been ploughed and wild flower seeds applied. Unfortunately a horse had been ridden across the verge shortly after.

25/69 **Neighbourhood Plan**

CLlr Richardson confirmed the business survey was about to be sent out and the next meeting was in May. Draft plan expected to be issued over the summer.
Subscription to online maps was discussed. Councillors to review and vote on next month.

25/70 Annual Parish Meeting

After reviewing availability of Village Hall, date of Wednesday 21st May was selected.

25/71 Hundred Parishes

Clerk had circulated an email regarding potential grants for village projects. Cllrs to consider ahead of next meeting. Potential sign for Pavilion considered, Clerk to forward email to Recreation ground committee for consideration.

25/72 Matters to be Raised by Members for the next agenda

- Solar Farm
- Potential switch of broadband supplier (Cllr Gerhard to review)
- Identify village improvements needed.
- Bollard for centre of village
- Online maps subscription

25/73 Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 19th May 2025

25/55 Meeting Close @ 8.52 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Note for Radwinter Parish Council 28th April 2025

Housing repairs and maintenance

The contract that UDC had for maintenance and repairs of their housing stock with their joint venture holders, Uttlesford Norse Services, has now come to an end. After a rigorous process a new contractor has been appointed, Axis Europe. From 1st April, this company will be delivering maintenance services, representing an important step in the commitment to improving these services.

Information on how UDC tenants can report the need for a repair is available on the UDC website

Housing tenant census activity

A specialist market research company has been appointed by UDC to carry out a census-type exercise with its housing tenants. The purpose of this exercise is to update existing data and to collect any new information about tenants, particularly those who have any vulnerabilities, so that a more bespoke service can be offered in the future. The company carrying out the survey on UDC's behalf is called Acuity. They will be contacting our tenants by telephone and email in the coming weeks.

They will not be asking for things such as financial information. If any tenants are unsure or are concerned about being contacted, they should call their housing officer or the council direct.

The dates have been announced for the independent examination of Uttlesford District Council's Draft Local Plan.

Planning Inspectors Guy Davies and William Cooper have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to carry out the examination, which will determine whether the plan is 'sound' and complies with all the legal and procedural requirements.

As part of that process, a number of hearing sessions will be held, from 10 June to 19 June, with three reserve days of 29, 30 and 31 July, should matters not be completed during the scheduled two weeks in June.

More information about the examination, including guidance notes to explain many of the administrative and procedural arrangements, as well as the hearing programme, can be found at: www.localplanservices.co.uk/uttlesfordlpexamination

All documents related to the Local Plan, including the Inspectors' initial matters, issues and questions, are also available on the council's website: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-plan-examination