

**Little Bardfield Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**



**Minutes of the Meeting on 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm
at Little Bardfield Cricket Club Pavilion**

Present: Andrew Davies (Chairman), Colin Simpson (Vice-Chairman), Juliet O'Brien, Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk).

www.littlebardfieldparish-pc.gov.uk

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from County Cllr Martin Foley, and District Cllr Mike Taylor.
3. **Declarations of Interest in any matters on the agenda** – None.
4. **Minutes** – The minutes for the Annual Meeting on 15th May, and the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May were approved. **P: Cllr O'Brien, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav**
5. **Public forum** – None.
6. **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports** – Report appended from Cllr Tayler.
7. **Planning**

7.1 Applications with Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/23/2459/FUL UTT/23/2460/LB	Planning details here	Chequers Little Bardfield Road	Approved
UTT/23/3230/FUL Comments made 16.08.24	Planning details here	Pauls Farm Little Bardfield Road Little Bardfield CM7 4TN	Awaiting decision

- 8.1 **Highways Issues** – Potholes had been reported in Hawkspur Green, some had been repaired, but not satisfactorily. There was a concern that due to road closures that Hawkspur Green Lane would be used as a rat-run. Cllr Foley was asked to provide temporary 'No HGV' signs. The verges were due a cut, Cllr Davies would contact the contractor.
- 8.2 **Community Fund Grant Request** – An update was received. The works on the fire separation and insulation between the Almshouses, was completed, an invoice would be sent and paid from the main PC account.
- 8.3 **Defibrillators** – The defibrillator at the Cricket Field had been repaired at no cost by the manufacturer. The cabinet at Hawkspur Green had drainage holes drilled in the bottom, and was functioning without problems.
- 8.4 **Protected Lane** – No update.
- 8.5 **Parish Council Emails** – The Clerk had contacted Force36 Ltd, to create emails for the Cllrs, and Clerk, and to apply for a .gov.uk domain.

8.6 Bus Shelter Maintenance – The gardener for the Alms Houses had been contracted to carry out bus shelter maintenance, and carry out grass cutting twice a year.

9 Finance

9.1 Payments – Internal Audit CAPALC £175 **P: Cllr Davies, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav.** Payment was required for 100 Parishes membership.

9.2 Quarterly Accounts – The accounts were received.

9.3 Parish Council Treasurer's account balance - £11,575.99 4th September 2024.

Community Fund account (as trustee) balance - £8,695.53 4th September 2024.

10 Items for the next agenda – Budget, Precept.

11 Dates of next meetings – 4th December, 29th January 2025.

12 Employment - Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in accordance with 3d pursuant to Standing Order 11, it was resolved that the Public are excluded from any discussion on this item as it concerns employment **P: Cllr Simpson, S: Cllr O'Brien, All in fav.** The Clerk resigned due to time constraints. She would advertise the position with EALC, CAPALC, and the SLCC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Report from District Cllr Tayler
Regulation 19 of Uttlesford Local Plan

The motion accepting that the Reg 19 document of the Local Plan should be submitted for examination, was passed by the full council on 30th July. This meant that the significant changes in the Reg 18 document as a response to the more than 5000 comments received by the Local Plan Officers were agreed and proposals by a minority of Members to slow down the process were rejected.

It is very important that the timeline for presenting the Reg 19 documents to the Inspector by the end of January 2025 is maintained, so that any new changes which are likely to be made in the Local Plan regulations will occur after presentation and also the previous government were very clear that our Local Plan timetable should be adhered to, or there would be the threat of central imposition of the plan.

We are now in a further consultation period, which has been extended until 14 October. Consultees, which include parish councils and residents, are invited to comment on:

- The Soundness of the plan
- That it has been positively prepared
- That it is Justified
- That it is Effective (meaning that it is deliverable, works coherently with cross border strategies)
- That is consistent with national policy

Unlike the previous consultation for Reg 18, these comments will be presented with the Reg 19 document to the Inspector who could then use them as part of alterations or recommendations that he or she makes to the Local Plan in the form it is finally adopted.

Thus they are very important.

I believe that the Reg 19 document proposes very little change for Little Bardfield and the rest of the Sampfords, stating

We do not propose any development in small villages or at any other smaller settlement or in open countryside. These small settlements are not suitable for development other than very modest infill where it accords with relevant policies in the local plan or neighbourhood plans.

However, I also see that there is a risk that with no development and with it a lack of infrastructure improvement, these very small settlements become unsustainable. One way of mitigating against this risk is via the production of Neighbourhood Plans, and the Local Plan team is very keen for this to occur. A significant problem with existing Neighbourhood Plans

has been the considerable work and cost in their development. However there is the suggestion that a much "slimmer " and more focused plan may be acceptable for parishes which are formed around small communities such as Little Bardfield. I will endeavour to find out if this would be possible.

Comments made on Reg 19 can be made by downloading the Document Representation form from the Local Plan part of the UDC website and emailing it back before 14 October

Signed.....4th December 2024
Cllr Andrew Davies