

**Little Bardfield Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**



**Minutes of the Meeting on 24th January 2024 at 7.30pm
at Little Bardfield Cricket Club Pavilion**

Present: Andrew Davies (Chairman), Colin Simpson (Vice-Chairman), Juliet O'Brien, Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk), one Parishioner, Cllr Foley, and Dr Cllr Tayler.

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **Apologies for absence** – None.
3. **Minutes** – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 29th November 2023 were approved **P: Cllr O'Brien, S: Cllr Simpson, All in fav.**
4. **Declarations of interest** – None.
5. **Public forum** – A Parishioner reported that on 17th December, Highways had closed a road in Hawkspur Green for pothole repairs, however when they attended the site, as there was water in the areas for repair they went away again, leaving the road in a worse state than before. The new road side mirror for exiting Styles was to be installed on 26th January.
6. **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports** – Reports were received. Cllr Tayler updated the position UDC's Local Plan – it was reported that the Local Plan would be come into effect in June 2025. There had been a good response to the public consultation. ECC had made comments about schools and highways. There were concerns about small local primary schools. He also reported that there would be a more uniform approach to planning applications of listed properties, striving towards creating environmentally sustainable changes to listed buildings. There was a discussion about protected lanes, which shared similar protections with listed buildings, Hawkspur Green Lane was protected, the last survey was carried out in 2015. There were queries over who is responsible for the maintenance.

7. **Planning**

7.1 Applications requiring comments

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/23/2459/FUL UTT/23/2460/LB	Planning details here	Chequers Little Bardfield Road No Comments	Awaiting decision

7.2 Applications with Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision
UTT/23/2474/LB	Planning details here	Almshouses Little Bardfield Road	Approved
UTT/23/2667/HHF	Planning details here	Pauls Croft Little Bardfield Road	Approved
UTT/23/1987/LB	Planning details here	The Old Rectory Little Bardfield Road	Refused

8.

8.1 Flooding – It was reported that works to raise a curb outside a parishioner’s house have made a big difference, and the property has not flooded. The drains near Hill Hall have been cleared recently, however it was felt that run off from the property plus debris from the lane would soon block them again. The culvert works had ceased for now.

8.2 Community Fund – An update for Lightsource on projects that had been funded by the Community Fund would be provided by the Clerk. The Cricket Club had approached the Council about further funding. A request had been approved in 2022. A new application would be required for future projects.

8.3 Community Fund Grant Request – A request from a Parishioner from the Almshouses was received for car repairs for £649, in December. The Cllrs agreed on the payment due to its urgent nature. The decision was ratified. **P: Cllr Simpson, S: Cllr O’Brien All in fav.**

8.4 Defibrillator Hawkspur End – New pads were needed for the defibrillator in Hawkspur Green, the Clerk would order them, and send the pads to the Parishioner that monitored the defib. The defibrillator at the Cricket Club was not working again. The Clerk would contact Intermedical, as the device was faulty, due to batteries not holding a charge.

8.5 Parish Council Emails – Quote received from Force36 for £3.33 plus VAT for annual licence per user per month, or £3.96 plus VAT for a monthly licence per user per month. They also quoted £70 per annum for .gov.uk domain. The costs with the current website provider would be investigated.

9. **Finance**

9.1 Bank Accounts – £ £11,187.13 it was noted balances and bank reconciliation with cashbooks on the Parish Council Treasurer’s account and (as Trustee) on the Community Fund, on 19th January 2024.

9.2 Payments – The bush shelter and bush besides it needed tidying, the gardener for the Almshouses would be approached.

10. Items for the next agenda – Defibrillators, emails.

11. Dates of next meetings - 15th May, 11th September.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.47.

Prepared by Jessica Ashbridge, Clerk to Little Bardfield Parish Council
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Signed.....15th May 2024