



Minutes of the Elsenham Annual Parish Meeting held via Zoom at 8pm, Thursday 22 April 2021

Present:

Cllr. G Mott (Chairman), Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public:

19, including Cllr. P Johnson, Cllr. P Clear, Cllr. F Lambert, Cllr. R Franklin, Cllr. M Jackson, Cllr. J Minor, Cllr. A Buonocore, Cllr. I Curlewis, Cllr. S Waite, Essex County Cllr. R Gooding and District Cllr. P Lees.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence** Cllr. J Rayment.
- 2. Minutes:** the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26 April 2019 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. County Councillor's Report - Cllr. R Gooding (RG)

The pandemic has had a significant impact on everybody's life in the last year. One concern, generally and nationally, is the effect of children being off school and having to stay at home, this has led to tension in some families. The statistics that have come from the Social Services for Essex has been concerning, but not as bad as other districts. Early intervention has helped to keep the numbers in Essex down. There has been a slight rise in the number of children that are in care, but nothing significant, as the figures do tend to fluctuate. There are 1120 children in care in Essex currently, which is significantly fewer than the number eight years ago. This is good, because the one thing that we know is that the life chances for children that are in care are significantly worse than those that can be maintained within their families. The numbers have reduced because of early intervention, the best place for a child to be is with their families, even if there is tension there, the support around that is better than the child being in care and moved from one foster parent to another and the challenges this brings with it. The education and life chances for children in care are particularly bad.

We hear a lot about Youth Services which is provided through youth centers and other similar places. These have been closed for the last year and has disenfranchised young

people and the outlets they have, as there is nowhere else for them to go and play table tennis, snooker and get the support they need.

What Essex has done is to concentrate on either face-to-face meetings or virtual meetings with youth workers and many of the young people that Essex has the most concerns about. The ones that attend the youth centers are not the ones that are the most concerning, as they are engaging, the young people that Essex are more concerned about are the ones standing in shop doorways and hanging around in vulnerable places where drug dealers are ready to pounce on them. The remote service that has been set up has been quite successful and allowed a lot of young people to access the support that they need.

Basildon hospital is the center where a lot of young people that have been the victim of knife crime are taken. Police support and intervention in this hospital has not worked very well in the past, young people that have just been stabbed often do not want to talk to the police, but they seem happier to talk to youth workers. ECC have set up a team of youth workers that have been engaging with the young people with surprisingly good results. Young people that have been taken into hospital with a stab wound are often happy to help, it is also the ideal time to get them away from that lifestyle. The package that has been set up at Basildon Hospital has been adopted nationally and ECC are hoping to roll it out in Harlow and Colchester Hospitals.

One of the great concerns is the impact of the loss of education during the pandemic. There are three parts to this, the academic, the lack of socialization for young people and the impact of the family unit. ECC has put together an educational task force. This is to look at young people that have slipped in their academic achievements and to get that back online, to get socialization in place and address any loss of aspiration, which may be due to exams not being sat and how it may affect their options going forward. Most of all we put hope back into the minds of young people, to get them to achieve as high as they can, so they do not spend their lives feeling they have missed out.

All of Essex have adults with learning disabilities, with some living their lives in challenging situations. ECC have a slight shortage of help and accommodation, so if there is any opportunity in any of the villages to convert centers for these people to live worthwhile lives, please contact ECC.

ECC offer Essex Community Learning, which provides training for about 12 thousand people across the county. This offers a great chance for adults to socialize which is so important after being in lockdown for over a year.

ECC has set up a Climate Change Commission, this is moving forward and producing some particularly good proposals. It is more important to do something than just declare an emergency. The nine new schools that ECC are building at present are all going to be net-zero buildings, so we are getting into that profile. It is not so easy to do refreshments or extensions on existing school buildings.

Questions from members of the public.

Could we have further information regarding the Educational Task Force?

Cllr. Gooding replied, £1.5million has been allocated to support a new Educational Recovery Task Force, which will lead and oversee the educational recovery of all Essex children. It is at a very early stage, it is not there to tell teachers how to teach, it is going to be there to support the schools with any facilities or additional packages that may be required to enable the education to be rolled out, particularly around the fall out regarding any mental health issues, where schools will need additional support as this may be outside of the teachers remit. It will also help support programs like Holiday Hunger, where families find themselves struggling. The task force will also be looking at the fallout of the exam issue and helping young people achieve their potential. It is being set up to minimise the impact of the pandemic to the best extent.

Grove Hill is a problem for everyone that lives in this village. There is presently an ongoing works party regarding the traffic problem on Grove Hill with Highways, members of the Stansted Parish Council and residents of Stansted. Elsenham is not being represented. So as Highways acknowledge that there is a problem at Grove Hill why does Essex Highways not object to more houses being built in Elsenham?

Cllr. Gooding replied, Grove Hill is a problem and the work that is being carry out at present is to address the problems that the residents living on Grove Hill have. There is a traffic survey in progress which is assessing the movements of vehicles using Grove Hill, this had to be stopped while the country was in lockdown and is due to commence next week.

In terms of Highways responses to planning applications, Highways must have a sustainable and legally valid reason to recommend an objection, which they do not always have. Grove Hill is a problem, it is a Victorian built road taking 21st century traffic.

North Hall Road has been closed since November 2020. Newspaper articles are reporting that it is taking so long because the repairs must last 120 years. When can we expect to see this road open?

RG replied, North Hall Road is still causing major concerns, there seems to be disbelief that this is a difficult and complex project. Great care is required regarding the services that are buried in the road which includes a water main, there are also overhead power lines that must be considered. Some bore holes are being dug in the next couple of weeks to test the ground and soil condition, and negotiations with the service companies are incredibly significant. There is also a short supply line which needs to be identified as to its exact position. There is an issue on gaining access to do the work, and an agreement needs to be drawn up with the adjacent landowner. The negotiations with the Environmental Agency are complex, they are asking for a retaining wall adjacent to the river which would be a major piece of work on its own, this must be built before the road can be replaced. All this work is going on now and the intention is to appoint a contractor in the new financial year, which is within the next month.

The Government gave money to ECC to encourage cycling as part of the Covid recovery. Why wasn't Uttlesford in receipt of any of that money when all the other districts were allocated funds?

Cllr. Gooding replied, there is a very simple answer to this question but due to purdah I cannot answer it at this meeting, as it could be conceived as political, so I will email the answer directly to you.

4. District Councillors Report Petrina Lees (PL)

It is nice to see so many members of the public here this evening. It has been a funny old year with the pandemic, and it seems so long ago that it all started. I want to make it clear how well this village responded to the lockdown. Elsenham was a flag ship in the good neighbouring networking, and we showed others how to respond. So, 'a well done' to Elsenham.

UDC and ECC have done admirably in maintaining their services, not one member of staff at UDC was furloughed during that time and as an example some office base staff were out with the refuse teams. Staff at UDC had to do their normal everyday job and then extra jobs because of the pandemic. The Finance Officer had to deal with giving out grants that were authorized by the Government, the Housing Team department were involved with the environment services.

The people that should have praises when it comes to the vaccination program is the NHS and all the volunteers that have given up their time to help.

A regular report is given in the Elsenham News so hopefully everyone has read those. UDC have set up £1 million economic recovery plan, because we are all aware that life is going to be tricky when we all come out of this lockdown.

Due to the climate emergence that UDC declared, Cllr. Pepper has now got her action plan ready for climate initiatives. There is also a dedicated Climate Officer, this is a first for UDC.

UDC have 129 houses in progress at this time and are looking at building 200 council houses, plus one disabled bungalow, which is being built in Elsenham.

I think everyone is fed up with planning, as far as UDC are concerned planning applications are being refused, local government decisions are being overturned by Planning Inspectors. UDC are looking at whether they need to bring in their own highway's consultant. There has also been a study of the Planning Department to look at the effectiveness and how it can be improved.

The new local plan continues to progress steadily. Please respond to all the consultations. UDC are now at the 'Call for sites' stage.

UDC have given out £386,000 to volunteer sector which includes Citizen Advice, Sight Support, Uttlesford Travel and St Clair's Hospice.

The ward initiative fund was spent this year on Daisy May's Farm, the local cricket club laptops for children at the local schools and mental health improvement.

Questions from members of the public.

When will UDC have made sufficient progress on the new local plan to have some defense against the developers?

Cllr. Lees replied. The time frame for the new local plan is 2023, it is not possible to go any faster than that. The timeline is on UDC's web site. UDC are going to be speaking to Parish Councils about getting some interim building which may help, Parish Council would have to be supported about getting the number of houses required for the five year's housing supply.

What is meant by 'these builders' when the local plan is agreed would someone just wanting to build one dwelling on land, they own be classed the same as a developer who wants to build 100 houses?

Cllr. Lees replied. A local plan does not mean that builders cannot put in applications, it does however mean that UDC have more control over the number of houses being built in a village. If that village has reached the total new houses specified in the local plan, further large developments can be refused on the grounds that the specified number of houses in the local plan has now been reached and UDC believe that is enough.

5. Presentation of the New Community Hall

Cllr. Johnson presentation covered the following points:

The need for a new hall.

The present Village Hall.

The present Memorial Hall.

How the village has grown in the last 10 years.

A map showing the position of the land for the new hall.

Proposed visualizations.

An example of the layout of the rooms.

An example of the site plan.

The budgetary cost estimates.

What may affect the costs.

Sources of funding for the project.

Additional funding.

Taking out a PWLB loan.

The cost of a hall loan.

What this would mean to the village.

How much extra each household would have to pay.

Progress to date.

Next steps to be taken.

Challenges, new hall viability.

Challenges, project finances.

Questions from members of the public.

When were the estimates obtained from the architects and what has the Parish Council done so far to raise money for the village hall?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The Parish Council has spent an amount of money in securing the work carried out by Whitworth and Wilby & Burnett to provide alternative costings to the one provided by UDC. EPC provided a list of rooms and sizes to UDC. UDC then arranged for a quantity surveyor to carry out the work which resulted in the Founded Studios quotation, this was given to EPC. The quotation included the build cost and the project management cost, it stated that EPC could have a new hall for £900,000. EPC arranged for two other quotes so a comparison could be made.

The two quotes EPC arranged increased the total costing for a New Hall to between £1.5 million to £2.6 million.

EPC have not held any fun raising activities. From a personal view the amount of money that could be raised by events would be exceedingly small to the amount of money that was required. There is however a reasonable amount of time for fundraising to be carried out, as the £310,000 from Bovis Homes is not going to be made available anytime soon. Bovis Homes has still to sign the Section 106 agreement, and until that is signed between UDC and the developer, the planning permission that grants Bovis the right to start building is not legal. 50% of the contribution is due before the first occupation and the remaining 50% is when 50% of market dwellings on the development are occupied.

On the funding side, it is achievable, other villages and towns like Saffron Walden, have achieved it. When do you envisage the working group getting together?

Cllr. Johnson replied. Now that we have got to the stage of presenting the new community hall to the village, we can now start to think about forming a Parish Council village representation working group to push this project forward and organize fund raising. The proposal to co-opt residents on to the working group can take place at a Parish Council meeting. We must ask the village ‘are you behind us?’

District Cllr. Lees said that the Parish Council could raise their precept as much as they liked and would not have to hold a referendum.

What are the current thoughts on the current ownership/management on the hall? Strongly suggest affording any kind or shared ownership.

Cllr. Johnson replied. Under the agreement of the Section 106 agreement the land would be transferred to the Parish Council, shared ownership is something that I personally would not support or recommend to members of the council.

Some of the residents living on Kingswood are astounded that after 4 years the Parish Council are still only at the thinking stage.

With all the additional council tax from the extra housing in Elsenham did anyone have the foresight to put that additional funding away towards the new village hall?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The derelict piece of land has only been there since David Wilson Homes finished the additional 20 houses. The land has still not been transferred to the Parish Council, for reasons outside the Parish Council's control, David Wilson Homes still own the land.

The Parish Council gets all its funding on an annual basis through the precept, the precept is paid by all the residents. EPC has set aside, to a degree, a certain amount of money for the community hall, but to set aside significant sums of money the precept would have to be increased considerably. Because of the uncertainty up to now of the 106 contributions and the transfer of the land everything has been in limbo, so it has not been easy for the Parish Council to make solid progress with the project.

In a realistic time scale how long are we looking at?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The contribution from Bovis will not be paid for at least another year. The Parish Council could go ahead with the contributions from Crest Nicholson and David Wilson Homes, however, to do this the Public Works loan would have to be increased to compensate. Once the Bovis payment is received this could go towards reducing the public works loan.

Why didn't EPC begin fund raising 3 or 4 years ago, so once the payments from the developers are received, work on the new hall could start straight away?

Cllr. Johnson replied. In hindsight that may have been a good idea, but we are here now, and we need to go forward.

If a referendum is held and the village vote not to increase the precept, what will happen to the land?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The contributions from the section 106 agreements would be handed back to the developers, I am not sure about the land, it may be possible that the land would remain in the hands of David Wilson Homes, who could develop it.

Cllr. Mott replied. The section 106 is a legal contract between Uttlesford District Council and the developers. Uttlesford District Council are responsible for the drawing down of the contributions and for the transfer of the land and the Parish Council have found it extremely difficult to make any progress with Uttlesford District Council who have been exceedingly difficult and dilatory.

On the Fairfield application there is a provision for a football pitch, so will Elsenham Youth Football Club still require the playing field and if they do not, will the changing rooms be required in the new hall?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The Fairfield application is just for one junior football pitch and changing rooms, so the changing rooms in the new hall would still be required.

The site boundary land issue, we need to do something about it.

Cllr. Johnson replied. The Crown Estate who was the original party that procured planning permission to the David Wilson Homes site, sent details and drawings to the Parish Council that shows a strip of land that ran from the gate on Leigh Drive all along the western fence of the playing field and then turning right along the northern fence of the playing field. This strip of land is controlled by Crest Nicholson. Unless this strip of land is resolved there is no way for people using the community hall site to walk across to the playing field, they would have to go round and through the gate at Leigh Drive. The Parish Council have spoken to Uttlesford District Council many times about this and are told that efforts are being made.

Cllr. Mott replied. In June 2020, the Parish Council held a meeting with Uttlesford District Council and were told that the land would be sorted out by the end of the following week. This was not the first meeting that had been held with Uttlesford District Council. The Parish Council have found it extremely difficult to make any progress with Uttlesford District Council.

Scouting is growing in the village, could any future section 106's accommodate a scouting hall?

Cllr. Johnson replied. The problem with section 106 agreements is that they are drawn up by Uttlesford District Council and the developer when outline permission for a development is granted, all the planning applications in the pipeline have already agreed their section 106 with Uttlesford District Council.

Cllr. Mott asked for a show of hands on whether the residents present would be prepared to pay an increase in the precept to fund part of the new community hall.
17 were in favour, 3 against.

6. Chairman's Report, Parish Meeting, 22 April 2021, Cllr. G Mott

Owing to the pandemic, it is two years since the last, normally annual, Parish Meeting. First, I will acknowledge my predecessor, Stewart Pimblett, who decided to stand down as Chairman soon after that last Meeting. He had been on the Parish Council for something like twenty years, with two stints as Chairman, most recently for a further 2½ years when the position unexpectedly became vacant. He has not severed all links with the Parish Council and remains as a much-valued co-opted member of our Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee, EROWOS for short.

Next, I must thank Louise Johnson, our clerk. We are fortunate indeed to have Louise on the strength. She is a model of efficiency, answers questions, produces agendas and minutes, holds the whole thing together, in a thoroughly professional way. She is much the most valuable member of the Parish Council team and I thank her for it.

Louise is also our Responsible Financial Officer, a separate role from clerk. Her input is essential to the Finance Committee, whose Chairman, Peter Johnson (no relation to Louise), ensures that a tight hold is kept on the parish's purse-strings. We can only spend what we receive, and our main income is through the parish precept, part of the Council Tax. [For the two years 2020 to 21 and 2021 to 22 the total precept each year was set at

£82,500, which means that for a middle-of-the-range Band D house for the current year the parish precept was £60.71, which is only just over 3% of the total Council Tax bill.]

I will also mention here our other employees, our litter collectors, Bill and Sandra Smith. They are so keen to keep the parish tidy that their enthusiasm had to be restrained when they wanted to resume their activities rather too soon after the lockdown was eased.

In addition to Stewart Pimblett, two further councillors have resigned since the last Parish Meeting: Alana Warwick and Evelyn Chong. Our thanks to them both, particularly in setting up the Parish Council's new, much improved, website. Thanks, are also due to the ongoing co-opted member of the Communication Committee, Annie Gleeson, who provided useful continuity for the new members.

New councillors in the last two years are, firstly, Jackie Rayment, and then, in a notable triple-headed acquisition last October, Andrew Buonocore, Inge Curlewis and Sue Waite. It is a matter for satisfaction that all three of these latest recruits come from new developments in the village. Three such developments have been completed during the last two years: Isabel Drive, Franklin Drive and Oak Drive. We would like to think that all new residents have integrated successfully into the Elsenham community.

The Playing Field Committee has been chaired for many years by Pete Clear. In the annual awards made by the Essex Playing Fields Association our playing field and children's playground received high awards in both 2019 and 2020. Recent major expenditure has been on a path immediately inside the entrance to the children's play area. The Flowerbeds Committee has continued to make the village a more pleasant place to live, under the knowledgeable chairmanship of Moyra Jackson (who is also the vice-chairman of the Parish Council). A word of thanks here to co-opted member and general handyman Allan Hathaway,

EROWOS depends mostly on its co-opted members - Stewart Pimblett, already mentioned, Margaret Shaw, who acts as secretary, Paul Salvidge, who chairs the meetings, Heather Salvidge, who is also the tree warden for the Parish, Dave Verlander, and Kevin Wood. EROWOS maintains the Spinney, off Stansted Road, together with its wildflower area, and tries to ensure that Essex County Council abides by its responsibility for the upkeep of footpaths in the parish (an increasingly difficult endeavour).

Matters concerning transport, notably the local bus service, are within the remit of Ray Franklin. Ray has been a member of the Parish Council for the extraordinary period of 54 years - I can only think that he must have lied about his age when he joined.

Frances Lambert and John Minor continue to give sterling service to Community Speed watch and are out regularly - but irregularly - helping to keep down the speed of traffic in the village. Frances is to be congratulated on a Long Service Award from the police in October 2019 for her role and dedication to Speedwatch. Also, under the general heading of maintaining law and order, it was decided to accept the offer of underwriting a Police

Community Support Officer, with Stansted taking a 50% share and Elsenham and Henham 25% each.

Planning matters have occupied a good deal of Councillor's time. It is expected that construction work will start later this year on 130 homes to the west of Hall Road. The scheme includes land made available to the County Council for construction of a new nursery school. Outline applications for three sites were allowed at appeal towards the end of last year. Up to forty dwellings were agreed on the site off Rush Lane and Robin Hood Road. Fairfield's appeal for 350 houses was allowed on a site which is half in Elsenham parish and half in Henham parish. Our friends and neighbours on Henham Parish Council appealed to the High Court against the Inspector's decision, but were unsuccessful, as of yesterday. An appeal was allowed against refusal of 99 new homes, comprising 61 off Isabel Drive to the north-west and 38 off Stansted Road adjacent to the motorway. Detailed applications are yet to be made for these three schemes.

In a decision earlier this month, Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee refused unanimously an application for 220 homes off Bedwell Road to the north, on a site bordered on one side by the motorway and on the other by the railway. There will undoubtedly be an appeal.

Another application for up to 50 dwellings on the south of Bedwell Road has yet to be determined.

The biggest problem with resisting new developments rests with UDC. The Council does not have a five-year housing land supply, and it does not have a Local Plan, the latest attempt having been rejected by Government Inspectors in January 2020. Also, Essex Highways often object to proposals, but then withdraw their objections under pressure from developers.

There are some incidental benefits in the way of Section 106 agreements with developers. Peter Johnson has already given his presentation on the proposed new Community Hall. The Parish Council decided to adopt the play area at the junction of Isabel Drive and Barley Way, which comes with the promise of a maintenance contribution. The play area off Hailes Wood was not accepted, as it was felt that the quality of the equipment is poor. Also, it was decided not to take up the offer of adopting the whole of the southern area of the Crest Nicholson development, including the trim trail, since the site has not been brought up to the standard prescribed in the application documents.

Nearby, the area of allotments off Smith Road, which is off Franklin Drive, to the south of Stansted Road, and adjacent to the motorway, was eventually made over to the Parish Council. There are only a few allotments left - if you are interested, you need to jump in quick and contact Louise. It is good to see allotment holders taking possession and imposing their own identities on their plots, by way of individual layouts, sheds, benches, some splendid scarecrows, and so on. It is pleasing also to observe the holders diligently and industriously at work cultivating their plots - in fact, the path alongside the allotments has become one of my favourite walks.

After the enormous surprises since the last Annual Parish Meeting, two years ago, who knows what might happen before the next? It is probably best not to know.

7. Parish Council Financial Report - Cllr. P Johnson

The Elsenham Parish precept for the last financial year (2020 – 2021) was set at £82,500 and I am glad to report that this year's precept (2021 – 2022) remains at £82,500. At first glance this appears to mean a zero-percentage increase in our precept over last year. However, Uttlesford District Council's precept calculator app tells us that, in fact, our new precept constitutes an overall 2.55% increase. Confused? I must admit I was, but to put this into a more understandable form, the 2.55% increase equates to an extra £1.51 (Band D) for the average household.

You will see from the summary of last year's financial accounts that our income totaled £88,000 made up from of a Precept of £82,500 plus other additional income items from allotments, playing field, cemetery, and grants.

The Council's outgoings formed a total expenditure of £84,420, which covered a wide range of items, the major costs being made up of:

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| Staff Costs (wages) | £32,917 | Clerk, Litter Pickers |
| Village Maintenance | £15,715 | Grass Cutting at £8,220, PCSO at £4,873 |
| Administration | £9,276 | Insurance, Legal/Planning Advice, Subscriptions |
| Playing Field | £6,928 | Football pitches, litter, play equipment |
| Memorial Garden & Flowerbeds | £4,594 | Maintenance, plants, and materials |
| Allotments | £1,620 | St. Mary's Church and Smith Road |
| Open Spaces | £1,480 | Spinney, other open space land |
| TOTAL | £72,530 | (86% of expenditure) |

The demands on the Council's finances over the last financial year have been many and varied; nevertheless, we have been able to manage our finances and have not needed to draw unexpectedly from our financial reserves, which we hold both to cover unexpected or emergency expenditures and to hold monies for projects and known future expenditures.

The recent surge in developer planning applications for new housing in and around Elsenham has made it necessary for the Council to seek legal and planning advice to assist in our responses and objections to the planning applications and appeals.

Unfortunately, these costs can be seen as an unwanted drain upon the Council's finances, but are nevertheless necessary, if Elsenham is to have any chance of repulsing developers continued drives for new homes to be built. Regrettably, these drives by developers are continuing and therefore the Council must continue to challenge the developers' plans and proposals.

With Elsenham increasing in size – the village has grown from 980 homes in 2011 to its current total of 1,440 homes; an increase of 47% in a little under 10 years - there are growing demands upon the Council to support and maintain the increasing number of facilities that come with the village's expansion. Recently, new allotments and additional children's play equipment have been handed over to the Parish Council, which will need to be managed, inspected and maintained, all at additional cost to the Council. Fortunately, some of these added costs will be offset by S106 maintenance contributions being paid to the Parish Council by developers, but this is not always the case, and any extra costs must be found from within the Council's annual budget.

Going forward, the Council's finances are currently in a healthy state; however, careful management of income and expenditure will need to be continued, particularly as we are likely to be facing further challenges and demands upon our finances. A potential major project is the provision of a new community hall on land gifted by a developer via a S106 agreement. If this project does proceed; major sums of money will need to be secured and managed; something in which the Parish Council will be involved.

8. Open Forum.

There is going to be a boundary review in 2021, will EPC be asking for the housing on the Fairfield and Bedwell Road sites to be incorporated into Elsenham Parish?

Cllr. Mott replied. This is a very good question and something that EPC will have to address in the future.

Cllr. Johnson added. UDC tend to review parish boundaries to try and keep a balance in residents and voting. With the extra housing in Elsenham and Henham each village could go back to having their own district councillor.

How do residents put themselves forward to volunteer for working groups on the Parish Council?

Cllr. Mott replied. Please contact the Parish Clerk, Louise. All Parish Council business is conducted through the Clerk.

Cllr. Mott closed the meeting with the following statement

Thank you to all councillors, and co-opted members for all they do. It is all voluntary, of course, and we do it, well, for love of the village, and because I suppose we feel that we can make a contribution. So, thanks to all those who have contributed to village life, not just councillors, but all those volunteers in the many activities which I did not even attempt to mention, since if I had we would have been here till midnight and beyond.

The meeting closed at 21.25pm.