



# CLAVERING NEWSLETTER

## CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL

Issue 160 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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***The Parish Council considered restarting delivery of 150 paper copies of the Newsletter after such was suspended in March 2020, but has determined that this is still not advisable. The Newsletter continues to be posted on the PC website & the PC Noticeboard at the shop. It is sent to villagers who have given permission for their email address to be used for this. If you wish to be added to the list of email recipients, please contact the Clerk.***

### **Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020:**

The Council met virtually by 'Zoom', with four parishioners in attendance; the County Councillor was present in part and the District Councillor sent a report.

The Chair welcomed all and announced that Nigel Cook had resigned from the Parish Council; she asked that thanks be recorded for his work over the past few years concerning many aspects of Council business. She confirmed the Government advice under the new *Rule of 6* for Parish Council meetings has been reiterated and, via EALC, the PC been advised to meet 'virtually' and not face-to-face. A parishioner spoke on the clearing of the copse behind the Pump at Stickling Green and an expected Appeal against the UDC decision for land adjacent to Sidestream. A parishioner spoke on making safe a track across Upper Hill Green and gas connection to a property. A parishioner asked for details of the Parish Council's 'Easement Grant' for a community group.

Of note in the meeting:

It was determined to respond to the Planning White Paper Consultation. There would be no comment on the Stansted Airport Appeal as no comment had been made on the initial application.

Refurbishment of a track across Upper Hill Green was permitted as was a new gas connection to existing mains.

Trees: An arboriculturist report on the Dick Ball Meadow trees was received; agreed to instruct tree surgeon for urgent work to deadwood near path there. Agreed plum tree in serious decline at Lower Hill Green be removed. Quote accepted to remove willow tree near Pond Cottage/Cricketers as tree infected. Determined no action currently required to chestnut at Church End: silver birch at Coleshill to be further inspected. Offer of free trees from UDC to be taken up to replace those felled at Hill Green. Essex Forest Initiative survey to be completed; 2021/22 budget for tree work may need increasing. Copse behind pump at Stickling Green: Agreed maintenance should be undertaken this autumn especially as copse adjoins footpath. Present contractor to be contacted as bramble strim in contract appears not to be taking place on a regular basis. Brambles to be cut back to pump; tree surgeon to quote on work required to fell/make safe dead wood.

Draft Risk Assessment Policy presented for comment before finalisation/adoption at October meeting. Agreed that this year it would be impossible to provide for the 'Carols on the Green'

Allotments: Rents will be increased to £10 p.a. per plot as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Bonfire Guidance per existing Allotment Rules remains the same.

Given Covid-19 guidance, agreed to allow Jubilee Field Committee to use the Council's Zoom subscription (via the PC Trustee) to facilitate the Jubilee Field's AGM

The Clerk's Report included that the Uttlesford Highway Rangers had been requested to refurbish four village benches; that permitted work had started on re-instating a drive at Stickling Green; that UDC had confirmed it is UDC who determine all matters on a complaint and whether a complaint made against any councillor, parish or district, should be taken to a hearing.

New defibrillator installed at village shop; both village defibrillators 'recue ready'

The External Auditor notified receipt of documentation for the exempt status of the Parish Council; the Internal Auditor signed off the AGAR without qualification (full written report to follow); agreed to appoint Mr Maurice Howard as the CPC's Internal Auditor for 2020/21

A parishioner exercised rights to inspect and question the 2019/20 Accounts on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

*In camera*, the Clerk's Annual Review was noted and NALC revised recommended payscales received.

### **Planning Applications Received for PC Comment:**

**UTT/20/1840/HHF & 1841/LB: Hill Cottage, Middle Street:** Remove existing external cement render on the non-original 70's and 50's extensions. Install a timber batten to allow for PIR insulation boards to increase the U value of the extensions. Insulate the ceiling of the bedroom in the 70's extension. Install black weatherboard cladding to match the outbuilding. **No Comment**

**UTT/20/1971/HHF: Mill End, Mill Lane:** Erection of a stand-alone garden room to be used as an office, games room and storage. **No Comment**

### **Planning Applications Considered by UDC:**

**UTT/20/0786/FUL: Hazeldene, Langley Road:** Proposed demolition of 2no existing out-buildings and erection of 1no detached dwelling with detached garage **Refused**

**UTT/20/1397/HHF: Jobest, Stortford Road:** Demolition of garage, two storey rear extension, loft conversion and 2 no. dormer windows to front elevation **Approved with conditions.**

**UTT/20/1509/LB & 1508/HHF : Peacocks, Clatterbury Lane:** Partially rebuild and extend existing modern extension to rear. **Approved with conditions**

**UTT/20/1628/OP: Land To The North Of Eldridge Close:** Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access for up to 9 dwellings (Class C3) including, public open space, sustainable drainage systems, landscaping and all associated infrastructure and development.

**Refused**

**UTT/20/1917/LB & 1916/HHF: Paddock View Stickling Green:** Erection of first floor extension including removal of lean-to slate roof, new front porch, conversion of barn including removal of roof, erection of single storey extension to link house to converted barn, erection of detached two bay cart shed and erection of greenhouse **Withdrawn by applicant**

The Clerk continues the process of uploading information onto the new PC website.

Please contact the Clerk if you wish to access any information that is not yet posted there, or if you find a mis-posted document. There is a direct messaging link from the website.

**Approved Council Minutes and Financial Statements will be found on the Parish Council website:**

[www.claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk) Please note this is the final, updated website name.

**Draft Council Minutes are posted on the Parish Council Board and the website.**

**The Council meets the second Monday of each month.**

**The next Agenda can be found in the week before each Meeting on the Parish Council's notice board by the Post Box at Clavering Shop, and the Parish Council website with the latter also providing the supporting meeting documents**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be called as a virtual meeting for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm  
On application, the Clerk sends over the Zoom Meeting invitation details to parishioners.

Hybrid participation by telephone may also take place; please contact the Clerk for more information.

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### **Information Links:**

Clavering Parish Council: <https://www.facebook.com/claveringparishcouncil/>  
Clavering Village Group: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/584326808323632/>  
Clavering and Langley Coronavirus Community Help Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1493303037497469>

Uttlesford Community Response: 03333 408218 or [communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
Uttlesford District Council: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
Uttlesford Frontline: [www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk)

Essex County Council: [beta.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus](http://beta.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus)  
Essex Coronavirus Action: [www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusaction/](https://www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusaction/)  
Essex Welfare Service: [essexwelfareservice.org/](http://essexwelfareservice.org/)

Citizens Advice Bureau: 01799 618840 or [www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk)  
Kemi Badenoch MP: <https://www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-and-guidance>

### **Village Green Waste Service**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October : 31<sup>st</sup> October : 28<sup>th</sup> November**

This service is available for Clavering and Langley residents only (paid for via their parish precepts)

## **The Essex Mobile Library Service has recommenced:**

26<sup>th</sup> September : 17<sup>th</sup> October : 7<sup>th</sup> November

10.30 – 11 am

Outside the Clavering Christian Centre, Stortford Road

### **THANK YOU**

It seems to be that time of the year when hedges grow overnight and their brambles suddenly snake out to attack unsuspecting passers-by. If you do own such a hedge, your efforts in cutting it back are greatly appreciated by pedestrians.

Cars parked on the narrow pavements in our village can unfortunately force children, parents with pushchairs, and the elderly to walk in the road if there is no room to pass.

Please do park courteously on the road so as not to obstruct the pavement.

### **Jubilee Field Management Committee**

*There is a possibility that the AGM may now be postponed, please check on the PC Notice Board and Village Facebook Page for updates.*

**Annual General Meeting of Clavering Jubilee Field (Registered Charity No: 277011)**

**Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 8pm.**

**All persons registered in the Parish of Clavering are invited to attend this meeting but only those over the age of 18 are entitled to vote.**

**If you wish to attend, please contact the Clavering Jubilee Field Management Committee by email at [claveringjubileefield@gmail.com](mailto:claveringjubileefield@gmail.com) so we can send you the link to the Zoom meeting**

*By order of the Chairman D Duckworth 8 July 2020*

### **Clavering Bonfire Night Committee**

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place for large gatherings, we are sad to announce that this year's bonfire night will not be able to go ahead. We look forward to returning next year with a "big bang". **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, 7 November 2021**

### **District Councillor September Report - Cllr Edward Oliver**

August in District Council terms is normally a quiet period because of holidays etc.

August 2020 has been even more so as far as councillors are concerned. Most officers are working from home and all meetings are zoomed based.

However there is activity as UDC is involved in the Stansted Airport appeal, drafting the new Local Plan and considering its response to the Government's Planning White Paper. With regard to the last point UDC has issued a summary to all Town and Parish Councils in the district to assist in their understanding of the Paper, should they wish to be involved in the consultation process. The main problem would appear to me to be that the White Paper seems to assume all Districts have an agreed Local Plan. This as we all know does not apply to UDC.

This White Paper is hoping to have the new planning regime in place by the end of this parliament (just over 4 years time). So UDC will presumably continue with producing its plan, and until that is in place the 2005 plan will still be operative

Due to staff working from home, odd problems arise since it becomes difficult to get timely responses to issues.

### **County Councillor September Report - Cllr Ray Gooding**

Being responsible for Education and Skills, the main work in the past months has been to return children to school. It was pleasing that 90% of schoolchildren were in school on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> September, especially considering in 'normal times' between 4% and 5% are absent on any one day. An increase in the number of parents opting to home-school has been noted. There is a concern that where this involves new starters who were due to attend a popular local school, this decision may mean that there will be no local place available at a later stage as the original space would have been offered to another child, possibly from another area.

There has been an increase in the daily rate of recorded Covid-19 infections in Essex, with the 'most infected area' moving around the County on a daily basis.

There appears to have been a letter circulated by a UDC Councillor which infers that a District Council may amend speed limits on local roads. It appears this inference was not made in relation to the speed reduction measures introduced re Covid-19 for safer pedestrian movements especially in town centres/shopping areas. Only the County Council may alter speed limits, after consultation.

## Clavering Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) Update

Following a prolonged period of closure during the Covid-19 pandemic, the VHMC undertook a risk assessment and took the steps required to reopen the facility for permitted activities from September. The Hall was deep cleaned for reopening and will be cleaned by our new cleaner on a regular basis to maintain the usual standards for letting.

If you wish to hire the hall, please get in touch with our bookings secretary, Catherine Baker, [claveringvhall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:claveringvhall@hotmail.co.uk) and she will provide you with the up-to-date booking conditions.

These include a period of 30 mins before and after your let for you to clean and to set out your activity under the prevailing guidelines. It will be for each group to consider the risks and management of meeting and the proposed use of the Hall and compliance with the *rule of 6*.

The AGM will occur on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in the Hall, following the prevailing guidance on hygiene and social distancing, and there will be a Zoom option to attend as well.

We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as possible, although our bookings and revenue are likely to be reduced for a considerable time. We are taking steps to address this but hope we have enough reserves to carry us through it. Happily, we have had several enquiries for weddings in 2022!

## Information received on 15<sup>th</sup> September from NALC re face-to face Council Meetings

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 came into force on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

This amends the Health Protection (*Coronavirus, Restrictions*) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020 or "the Principal Regulations", so that people may not participate in social gatherings, in any place, in groups of more than six people, unless they are members of the same household, two linked households or one of the limited exemptions.

The view of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is that although the Principal Regulations have now been amended to permit Local Councils to hold in-person meetings on Covid-19 secure premises (they were newly added as an exemption to the *rule of six* gathering limit), their position remains unchanged. NALC highly recommend that Councils continue to meet remotely.

Further on 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government updated its guidance to deal with meetings at section 3d. They continue to recommend that where PC meetings can take place digitally, without the need for face-to-face contact, they should continue to do so.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?mc\\_cid=058af33dc0&mc\\_eid=ae16321a13](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?mc_cid=058af33dc0&mc_eid=ae16321a13)

## DEFIBRILLATORS AT THE VILLAGE HALL and VILLAGE SHOP

If you have to make a 999 call, the call handler may decide that the defibrillator is required.

You will be asked if you are able to go to the village hall or the village shop to get the defibrillator, but this would usually only happen if someone else is able to stay with the person in need, as phone contact with the emergency service must be maintained at all times.

The call handler will give you the code to open the yellow metal box beside the hall or shop entrance doors

The hall's defibrillator is the small carry case – like a child's play-doctor kit – that is kept in the metal box.

Take the 'Ready Kit' (transparent pouch), the 'Covid-19' pack and the carry case.

The shop's defibrillator is in a shoulder bag with the 'Ready Kit' in a small black bag attached to its strap.

**ONLY THE SHOP'S DEFIBRILLATOR CAN BE USED WITH PADS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS OF AGE – THESE MUST BE TAKEN FROM THE CABINET ALSO AND ARE CLEARLY MARKED.**

When you are back with the patient, open the defibrillator: you will then hear an automated voice giving instructions. IF NEEDED, REMOVE THE ADULT PADS AND ATTACH CHILD PADS.

The call handler will also talk you through all that you must do and when the paramedics arrive they will take over from you.

### REMEMBER

**The defibrillator can go to the patient**

**No special training is required**

**The Emergency Services will guide you through everything**

*If a villager wishes to familiarise themselves with either machine, please contact the Parish Council Chair to arrange this with her. The defibrillators are checked at least once a month to ensure they are rescue ready.*

## Do you know the types of Right of Way? (Source: ECC Highways)

### Footpaths

A footpath is a highway over which the public has a right of way **on foot only**. A footpath should be at least 1 metre wide across a field where crops are growing, and 1.5 metres wide where it passes around the edge of a field.

### Bridleways

A bridleway is a highway over which the public has a right of way **on foot, horseback and on all types of bicycle**. There may also be a right to drive animals along a bridleway, and this will be made clear within the Definitive Statement.

### Byways

A byway open to all traffic (BOAT) is a highway over which the public is entitled to travel **on foot, horseback or pedal cycle and by motorised vehicle of all kinds, including horse-drawn vehicles**. Although legally open to all vehicles, a BOAT is used mainly by the public for walking or riding.

Most byways do not have a sealed surface and may not be suitable for certain vehicles. Vehicles that use a byway must be taxed, insured and have passed their MOT check just as they would be on the road.

Please note that motor vehicles are prohibited on some Byways by Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). These restrictions can be permanent, seasonal or temporary. Please see Essex Highways website.

### Restricted Byways

A restricted byway allows right of way **on foot, on horseback; leading a horse, riding a bicycle or using any other vehicle that is not mechanically propelled**.

#### On all Public Rights of Way you may:

- Take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair, but you may encounter stiles on footpaths and be aware the surface may not be suitable at certain times of the year
- Take a dog under close control, preferably on a lead.  
Provision does not need to be made for dogs at a stile
- Take a short alternative route around an illegal obstruction.  
This includes a non-reinstated cross-field path
- Move an illegal obstruction sufficiently to get past.

#### Website Link to report Highway problems to Essex County Council

<http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads.aspx>

This website page can be used to report problems (such as potholes, traffic lights not working, pavement/kerb/drainage defects, overgrown trees or hedges, blocked/damaged footpaths, and more). We encourage parishioners to use this service as we find that Essex CC responds more swiftly to problems reported on-line and also a reference number for the report is generated immediately.

This link can also be used to check outstanding queries, road closures, gritting routes and bus information.

#### Public Inspection of Parish Council Accounts 2020: Exercise of Public Rights

Due to Covid-19 the inspection period is 1<sup>st</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October, inclusive.

The relating notices are posted on the Council's website and on the notice board by the Village Shop. These include all contact information to allow for inspections at reasonable notice, the Government's prevailing Covid -19 requirements for face-to-face meetings and CPC's safeguarding policies. CPC upholds an Elector's rights to inspect, question and challenge accounts.

#### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

*Chair:* Stephanie Gill: *Vice Chair:* Robert Clayton:

*Councillors:* Brian Barrow: Richard Carter: Ron Couchman:

Mike Patmore: Martina Ryan: Rebecca Stanford:

*Clerk:* Mrs Jess Ashbridge: 07986 914991 Email: [clerk@claveringvillage.org.uk](mailto:clerk@claveringvillage.org.uk)

**Parish Council Address: Clavering Clerk. PO Box 1376, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 0GS**

**The Clerk's availability to parishioners is usually Tuesday 11am-2pm & Thursday 11am-2pm**