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| **10-5 Village sign** | **CLAVERING NEWSLETTER**  **CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL**  **Issue 166 15th March 2021**  **NEW email address: clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk**  ***NB emails sent to the old email address are currently being forwarded***  **Editor: Stephanie Gill** |

**Parish Council Meeting 8th March:**

The Council met virtually by ‘Zoom’, with five parishioners and the District Councillor present in part; apologies for absence from a parish councillor were accepted.

The Chair welcomed attendees. She informed the meeting she had been invited to attend the *Hands* *Off Clavering* AGM on 1st March and that during this she had spoken to explain the writing of a Neighbourhood Plan by a Parish Council with Community Groups, how land outside the development envelope might be allocated under such and that Neighbourhood Plans must be voted on by a referendum.

The Chair advised that the Council had been informed of the re-start of the Green Waste Collection only a few days before the scheduled date, and had not previously been asked by UDC if there were a wish to continue. Apologies were extended to the Balaam family, who allow this collection on their land, for the late notification they received but this was beyond the CPC’s control; thanks also were extended to the Balaam family for their allowing the collection to continue through the coming financial year.

She also gave a reminder that there will be an election for one parish council seat in Clavering this May: nomination papers must be delivered latest 8th April.

The Developer of a planning application under consideration that evening spoke and stated that he considered that the application overcome the reasons for the dismissal of the Appeal by the Planning Inspectorate for a similar application at the site. A Representative of *Hands off Clavering* commented on the same planning application, indicating the objections of its members to the proposed development.

A Parishioner spoke on the posts along the track to Hill Green Chapel and questioned their effectiveness in stopping cars from driving over the green.

A Parishioner stated he could not find any reference to the Code of Conduct Training undertaken by the Parish Council nor any charge levied in the published minutes of July 2018; the Chair stated that she recalled it being under the *Chairman’s Welcome* item, and there had been no cost as it had been delivered free of charge by the UDC Monitoring Officer. A Parishioner referred to the UDC Standards Committee meeting January 2020 which dealt with an investigation and made statements concerning it and asked questions; the Chairman reminded him that the Parish Council’s knowledge of the meeting is restricted to the relating UDC minutes in the public domain. It had not been a public meeting and the UDC Standards Committee had reiterated in their meeting of March 2020 that reports and evidence presented to that January meeting were confidential and all parties attending had been informed of that. The parishioner was asked to contact the Standards Committee if he had any questions.

A Parishioner asked why the Parish Council’s Insurers had not originally agreed that the Parish Council was covered for legal expenses under the ongoing dispute; the Chair responded that it has already been stated publically this was an error on the part of the Insurer. She reminded the parishioner that he had been present by invitation of another parishioner at the Freedom of Information meeting convened to facilitate the inspection of the parish council’s accounts by that parishioner, who wished to formally challenge the 2018/2019 accounts. That meeting had clearly answered the question he now posed and had further detailed how CPC had attempted to recover funds using the services of both the Financial and Legal Ombudsmen. A Parishioner stated that the External Auditor had not responded to all questions raised by the parishioner who had challenged the accounts; the Chair advised that the External Auditor had clearly stated that those unanswered elements were not within its remit to consider as eligible objections.

A Parishioner asked if he could undertake works at Stickling Green; he was reminded of the requirements of the CPC’s insurer for him to be covered and he would be invited to join a Health and Safety Briefing to be arranged when Covid-19 guidance allows for such. A Parishioner indicated he had a solution to the CPC budget but did not elucidate further.

**Of note in the meeting:**

**Flooding and drainage:** Depth Marker posts at Watery Stones:response had been received from ECC Cllr Kevin Bentley, Highways, stating that ECC do not look to provide nor maintain these ‘*as the decisions to drive into any area of water needs to be made by the motorist themselves. As I am sure you can appreciate; we could be potentially picking up a liability where someone claims to have relied upon the signs but encountered problems*.’ ECC is investigating missing signage at Watery Stones; CPC’s questions concerning ‘Liable to Flood’ signs being placed at Lower Way/ Middle St still outstanding. Environment Agency work on The Stort - rescheduled date not advised

**Village Greens:** Shingle spillage onto pavement to be considered at next meeting; Noted that residents at Upper Hill Green were looking at long-term solutions to avoid delivery vans damaging the Green by poor driving actions; Letter to be sent to owners of White Lodge Stud reminding them of their undertaking to repair the Village Green with a date set for the completion of this as the stud is built and operating

**Copse behind Stickling Green Pump:** Immediate area around pump being cut back by contractors, work to larger area deferred (nesting season)

**UDC Hate Crime Ambassador:** Cllr Ryan to take on this role

**Litter Bins:** Agreed to purchase two new replacement litter bins, one for Upper Hill Green (previously removed as broken) and one for The Bridges (in very poor state)

**CPC’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** Resolved to amend allowing an extension of the Clerk’s delegated authority if the CPC cannot legally meet due to Covid-19 restrictions

**Annual Meeting of the Parish 2021:** Further to NALC advice, this will now be Monday 26th April

**Annual May Meeting 2021:**  Further to NALC advice, resolved to move to Tuesday 4th May

**Assets Of Community Value :** Determined to re-apply to list the Fox & Hounds PH as such an asset (listing expired 10th December 2020) and investigate why Upper Hill Green Cricket Pitch had ‘disappeared’ from the UDC listing schedule before considering an application to relist..

**Allotments:** It was advised that a new stopcock is to be fitted by Affinity Water as the current one has seized/has been damaged

**Website:** A review including costings was carried out – no changes to be made

**Village Sign Working Party:** Meeting to be convened

**UDC Town and Parish Council Forum March 2021:** A report was received from Cllr Gill

**UDC Draft Local Plan:** Clerk reminded councillors to pass across comments for collation

**Fuel Poverty:** Report received

**Clerk’s Report:** Received and noted

**Risk Assessment**: Both defibrillators ‘rescue ready’. It was reiterated that operation of a chainsaw by a parishioner on a village green or parish owned land is not covered under the CPC’s insurance

**Finance:** Cheques approved. Unspent Meeting Costs Budget 2020/21- agreed to make a virement of £250 into an Earmarked Fund for Celebrations relating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

**Internal Auditor:** Final report for 2019/20 and Interim report for 2020/21 received

**External Auditor – Challenge to the 2018/19 Accounts**: The External Auditor considered the challenge and concluded “It is our view that the legal fees expenditure is not ultra vires and that the Council gave due consideration to the risks (including costs) of the legal action that it has followed.” The External Auditor determined that the challenge was not accepted for any further consideration. The invoice for the challenge has not yet been received by the Council.

**District Councillor Report:** Report below

**Employment & Dispute:** Discussions held in camera, as considered confidential matters

**Planning Received for PC Comment:**

**UTT/20/2639/OP: Land to the west of Stortford Road:** Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the demolition of ‘Poppies’ and the erection of up to 31 no. dwellings and 38 no. visitor parking spaces for the adjacent school. **CPC strongly object**

**UTT/21/0488/FUL: Fox and Hounds PH:** Proposed erection and alterations to beer garden including the erection of 2no. timber frame structures and a fence and a gate. **Comments made**

**Planning Determined UDC:**

**UTT/20/3268/HHF & 3269/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. Apply traditional lime render with pargetted panels in the same pattern and style as it was originally. **Approved with conditions**

The Clerk continues the process of uploading information onto the 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.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be called as a virtual meeting for**

**Monday 12th April at 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 information.*

**Approved Council Minutes and Financial Statements will be found**

**on the Parish Council website:** https://www.claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk/

**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**

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**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@claveringparish**](mailto:clerk@claveringparish)**council.gov.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**

Parishioners may recall that there was an increase to the Precept levied for the 2019/20 financial year as theCouncil was informed there would be a formal challenge made by a parishioner to its accounts for the 2018/19 financial year. The Council ascertained what was considered to be a conservative estimate for External Auditing of the accounts & the Council’s supporting paperwork, namely £4,000. Furthermore, in January 2019 the Council stated that in the event the costs levied were not as predicted then the expectation was that precept for the 2020/21 would be determined taking this into account. Unfortunately, and in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the External Auditor advised the Parish Council of its findings only on 3rd March 2021. An invoice has yet to be formalised, though indications are that this will be less than the £4,000 currently earmarked.

Under law, Councils are obliged to declare their precepts before 1st March so it will be in the setting of the 2022/23 Precept that the difference between the figure set aside and actual charge will be taken into account. *Clavering Parish Council & CPC Clerk/RFO*

**Village Green Waste Service at Clavering Place Farm, Stickling Green**

This service is available for Clavering and Langley residents only: it is paid for via their parish precepts

**10.30am - 11.30am**

**3rd April ~ 1st May ~ 29th May ~ 26th June ~ 24th July ~ 21st August**

**18th September ~ 16th October ~ 13th November**

**Essex**

**Mobile Library**

~~ Currently suspended ~~

**The Jubilee Field Playground remains OPEN!**

Please use the handsanitiser stations : clean the equipment as advised

~ Keep Your Distance from Other Users ~ Play Safe + Stay Safe ~

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

[**http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads.aspx**](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, etc)

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 info.

**Congratulations** to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Jessica Ashbridge, who has been awarded the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). This is a formal qualification, testing knowledge of all aspects of a Clerk’s work. Well done Jess!!

**District Councillor Report from Cllr. Edward Oliver March 2021**

**Council Tax -** At a UDC Council meeting on23rd and 25th February (it had to be split into two!) the council tax was agreed with a 3.19% or £5 increase for Band D tax payers. This is the maximum increase that a District Council can set. This limitation does not apply to Town or Parish Councils.

**Investments -** The UDC is aiming to invest some £300m into a property portfolio. Considerable concern was expressed at the UDC meeting that there was no ethical policy in place. This concern was caused by the fact that one of the properties is to be tenanted by a company with links to the arms industry

It is also to be noted that the UDC is looking to move its offices from Saffron Walden to somewhere near Dunmow.

**Accounts -** It is still with regret that I have to report that the UDC's 2019/20 have as yet not been finally signed by UDC's external auditors ,as the police have still not as yet completed their enquires. Sadly it has meant that the consolidated draft accounts have had to be deconsolidated so that the accounts of the investment company (Aspire Holdings Ltd) can be filed by the due date at Companies House. This has resulted in additional professional fees of some £6k.

**Monitoring Officer -** UDC has now appointed a new monitoring officer, following the retirement of the previous holder of the position. Ms Jane Reynolds is also a qualified barrister

**Gigaclear Ltd –** Gigaclear Ltd has now announced that they will not be extending their network to Stickling Green, Langley, Arkesden and the surrounding community. This is on the basis that it is "not commercially viable to build to the outstanding properties with the current build technology"

**2020/21 UDC Ward Councillors Initiative -** Can I remind local charities and community groups that I still have a small amount available under this scheme to assist local projects

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**CLAVERING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

**A meeting for the Electors of the Parish to discuss Parish Affairs**

**To be held via Zoom**

**in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)**

**(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**

**On Monday 26th April 2021 at 8pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Welcome by Chairman and introduction of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk.
3. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Clavering Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 20th May 2019
4. Chairman's Annual Meeting of the Parish Report.
5. Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding invited to speak.
6. Uttlesford District Councillor Edward Oliver invited to speak.
7. Representative of the Jubilee Field Committee invited to speak on the challenges for their charity in the past year and anticipated projects/events.
8. Representative of the Village Hall Council of Management invited to speak on the challenges for their charity in the past year and anticipated projects/events.
9. Village Organisations invited to make a short presentation.
10. Questions and comments from Electors.

Stephanie M. Gill

*Chairman Clavering Parish Council 15th March 2021*

***Great British Spring Clean:* 28th May- 13th June**. Hopefully Clavering will take part in this!

Further details next month when more information re. Covid-19 safety measures will be confirmed.

Please remember that car parking on pavements can force children, parents with prams, and the elderly to walk in the road if there is no room to pass.

**Please park courteously on the road at all times**

**and do not obstruct the pavement**

In conjunction with Essex County Council, Solar Together Essex is a group-buying scheme that enables Essex residents to install solar panels at an affordable price,see

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/cut-energy-costs>

**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

Mind in West Essex: 01371 876 641 https://www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/

Essex County Council:  [beta.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus](https://beta.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus)

Essex Coronavirus Action:  [www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusaction/](http://www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusaction/)

Essex Welfare Service:  [essexwelfareservice.org/](https://www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/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>

*There are many organisations currently offering support – if any parishioner is unsure which one may best suit their needs, Uttlesford Frontline or the Citizens Advice Bureau can easily help determine this with you*

**You don’t have to be on benefits to get help**

Are you short of money and struggling to pay for food or other essentials?

Has your ‘rainy day fund’ been used up?

There are lots of reasons why people find themselves in financial difficulty and need help

with money. It may be through [losing a job](https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/redundancy-and-debt.aspx) or a reduction in income.

If your outgoings have risen suddenly, it can become harder to cope with making all the usual payments.

Coronavirus has made many of these problems worse for a great number of people.

Many have seen their income fall. If this has happened to you, we can offer [information, support and guidance](https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/debt-and-coronavirus.aspx).

Our advice is confidential and costs nothing.

We can help you to access:

Local foodbanks and children’s clothes banks Help to pay utility bills or top up oil tanks

* Cold weather payments Budgeting and debt support
* Emergency funds for prescriptions and other household essentials
* Universal Credit and Disability Benefits Benefits for working families
* Support for carers Help from your local council, such as council tax support
* Grants to improve the energy efficiency of your home

Support with job hunting and small grants for education and training

If you're worried about money, don't wait to get help.

Call us on 01799 618840 (Monday-Friday 9.30 am-3.30 pm) or email [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)

Diagram

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Are you able to help a Community Organisation?**

**Clavering Jubilee Field** would welcome a volunteer to take on the task of Secretary to the Committee. It should not be daunting as the Committee only meets six times a year and the Secretary also keeps the diary for agreed events by other users of the field. To volunteer, or for more information, please contact the Chair, Donna on [claveringjubileefield@gmail.com](mailto:claveringjubileefield@gmail.com)

**The Benefice Bugle**: The present editor has decided to retire and a keen replacement is sought.  
The magazine covers Clavering, Langley, Arkesden and Wicken Bonhunt churches & villages.

It contains a letter from the vicar or clergy member each month and details of all church services. The rest of the magazine consists of adverts from local businesses and local village societies plus any suitable editorial.  
Published from February to December each year, it currently uses Microsoft Publisher however if you have skills in another product that shouldn’t be a problem.  
It is run by a small group of volunteers but as Editor you will be responsible for designing and creating the magazine each month. The current editor is happy to answer any questions you may have and will train and assist you for the first few months if that is necessary. Please feel free to contact Craig on 01799 551268

**The Village Bowls, Cricket and Tennis Clubs** are gearing themselves up for when they will be able to return to play. Much ground-keeping and maintenance activity has already been spotted!

The clubs always welcome new members so contact them now so you can be involved from the start!

(The Parish Council website carries contact details for village groups)

Parish

**Before a power cut or gas emergency be ‘Winter Ready’…..**

**Know your free emergency numbers:**

**In a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.**

**Prepare your home:** Keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Register as a vulnerable customer:** Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. You can find out more about the Priority Services Register in London,

the South and East of England by signing up at [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk).

**Keep your eyes open:** Keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours



**Initiative in Clavering Village - Relocation Information**

**A wooden collection chest for donations to the foodbank**

**can now be found by the railings at the entrance to the**

**Clavering Christian Centre on the Stortford Road.**

Donations are removed from the chest at dusk each day.

***Thank you***

Census 2021 Every household in Clavering should have received the information to enable them to complete the Census on Sunday 21st March.

Please make sure that you support your community by participating in Census 2021 as the data it provides informs decisions on transport, healthcare and education in this vicinity, as well as allowing for a possibly fascinating snapshot of the village when personal information is released in 100 years!

For more information go to <https://census.gov.uk/> or on social media @Census 2021

This year is the first year when the census can be completed online, but if you are not able to do this you may obtain a paper form by calling 0800 141 2121.

**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.*