



CLAVERING NEWSLETTER

CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL Issue 227
30th March 2026 (23rd March- abridged version for Bugle)
Email address: clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk
Editor: Stephanie Gill

This March edition is late to you as i) the Editor was on a long overdue vacation and ii) had other commitments in other parts of her life.. but here it is now! Happy Easter to all!

Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2026

The Chairman welcomed those attending. Seven members of the public were present, with District Councillor Oliver & Essex County Councillor Gooding present in part.

A parishioner asked questions on an Enforcement matter of which the Parish Council had no knowledge and was asked to submit to the Clerk details of another question raised. A parishioner informed the meeting that Thames Water has stated there is insufficient infrastructure to carry sewerage away from the proposed build of 28 houses at Hill Green, though there is sufficient treatment capacity in the village; it could take up to a year for a sewerage flow modelling to be carried out and a further two years before required infrastructure would be in place. A parishioner noted that there is litter accumulating past the shop towards Stortford and their family have picked this up; they were thanked and also offered the loan of CPC's litter grabbers. A parishioner commented on the parlous state of road surface of the B1038, which ECC is not addressing despite many reports, and that hedging had been removed from a site being developed on the Arkesden Road, despite approved plans showing the hedge to be retained.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) – A written report of the work in the past month was received

Village Green and Parish Land – Agreed that a Working Party, comprising councillors and residents, will be established at the next CPC meeting, with Terms of Reference to discuss and investigate solutions re. damage to the Village Green at the Druce.

Noted that works to clear trees and undergrowth had been carried out without reference to nor with permission of CPC on the Registered Village Green at Butts Green.

Report to Highways re. broken railings at the Horse Pond to be chased via Cllr Gooding.

Overgrown pavement at Blacksmith's Corner - Despite repeated requests to Essex Highways as the area is all in ownership of Essex CC, this had not been cut back. Cllrs Smither and Couchman have now done so.

Grass Cutting Contract – Contractor agreed for a three years contract after usual tender process. Cllr Gill will be covering the **Allotments** representative role temporarily and Cllr Smither will be similarly covering **Byways and Footpath**.

Clerk's Report – The Clerk informed the Council of the work she had carried out in the month. The Final External Auditor's Report had been received and would be circulated to councillors for full discussion at April Meeting.

Defibrillators –Both defibrillators recue ready 6th March.

Training - Cllr Smither has undertaken First Aider training

Policies – Risk Management Policy & Risk Register agreed, Asset Register agreed

Finance –Bank statements received and payments agreed. Council agreed to transfer some funds to its interest bearing account. Virements agreed.

Clavering Spring Clean - Litter Pick agreed for Saturday 28th March - Cllr Gill to coordinate

Employment Matter – Discussed in private and confidential per advice of UDC

Planning for CPC Comment –

UTT/26/0320/FUL: Land to the Rear Of Old Grainbarn Clatterbury Lane Section 73A retrospective application for change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden use. **No comment**

UTT/25/2404/FUL: Land at Hill Green Wicken Road Erection of 28no proposed new dwellings including 11 no. affordable dwellings, 6 self and custom build plots and associated infrastructure. **Further comment made following submission of additional documentation by the applicant.**

Received after Agenda published.

UTT/26/0496/FUL: Hill Green Farm Clatterbury Lane Proposed 2 no. padel court clubhouse building and associated parking

UTT/26/0506/FUL: Land North Of The Bower House High Street Erection of 1 no. self-build dwelling with cartlodge, altered vehicle access and associated landscaping

UTT/26/0554/FUL: White Lodge Stud Butts Green S73 application to vary condition 1 (approved plans) of UTT/24/2994/FUL (S73 application to remove condition 7 (hardstanding) of UTT/18/2429/FUL (Change of use from recreational equestrian to commercial stud business. Erection of a new stable building and new open sided arena on the location of the former tennis court. The existing outdoor arena will be reduced in size and the layout of paddocks will be altered to suit.) - applicant is seeking to remove the condition as there is a second access that can be used for larger vehicles) (allowed at appeal APP/C1570/W/25/3373325) - two small extension to the arena, addition of side sheeting to the arena, erection of a horse walker and the erection of a lunge ring and fence

UDC Planning Decisions:

UTT/25/3334/FUL Barn Adjacent To Starlings, Starlings Green Full planning application for the demolition of an existing barn, and erection of 1 no. self-build dwelling and garage, with associated access (alternative to UTT/25/2263/FUL) **Approved with conditions**

UTT/26/0128/HHF: Edwina Wicken Road Removal of single storey rear extension and side metal flue. Proposed part two storey-part single storey rear extension, removal of centre chimney stack, insertion of new side chimney stack, alterations to fenestration, relocation of front entrance door and internal alterations **Approved with Conditions**

Next Parish Council Monthly Meeting: Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Annual Meeting of the Electorate: Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.30pm

All meetings detailed at Clavering Village Hall

Information including Draft/Approved Council Minutes, Financial Statements, Policies and previous Newsletters will be found on the Parish Council website:

<https://www.claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Fabian Bullen Vice Chairman: Stephanie Gill

Ron Couchman Kym Elliston Frances Smither

Parish Clerk/RFO: Mrs L. Young

email: clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk Telephone: 07340 505410

Parish Council Address: PO Box 13580 HARLOW CM20 9WU

If you are telephoning the Council please leave a message if your call is not picked up immediately. Emails will be responded to in accordance with the receipt acknowledgement.

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 11th April ~ 9th May ~ 6th June ~ 4th July ~ 1st August

29th August ~ 26th September ~ 24th October ~ 21st November

Users of this service are reminded that it is polite to clear up any mess that they may create

The Parish Councils thank the Balaam Family for facilitating this Service at their premises

Essex Mobile Library

Clements Close CB11 4GU (opposite the village shop) 10.30am – 11am

4th April, 25th April, 16th May & 6th June

Also scheduled to stop at Long Ley Langley Upper Green CB11 4RX

3.10pm – 3.40pm 2nd April, 23rd April, 14th May & 4th June

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Councillors can make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. People from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities served are needed to put themselves forward.

The only expectation is that you should be able to commit the time and effort to the role and to attend as many monthly Council meetings as possible.

Clavering Parish Council is responsible for looking after the Dick Ball Meadow, as well as the Registered Village Greens and other parish land that it owns. It owns and leases out the allotments. It provides and maintains the benches and litter bins in the village as well as the defibs at the shop and the village hall.

It also organises the monthly Green Waste Skip service and supports local groups as it is able.

The Council comments on Planning Applications as a statutory consultee and makes representations if needed at UDC Planning Committee Meetings and Planning Inspectorate Appeals and Hearings. The writing of the new Neighbourhood Plan is supported by the Parish Council.

In the past it has co-ordinated village events such as those for the late Queen's Jubilees, VE & VJ celebrations, and of course organises the village litter picks!!

The Council also awards grants to various village organisations for activities/equipment which benefit the community.

**There are four vacancies on Clavering Parish Council - Are you interested??
These vacancies can be filled by a process called co-option.
Applications are invited from local people to join Clavering Parish Council.**

Please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information
Thank you

Clavering Neighbourhood Plan - Our Village ... Our Plan ... Our Voice

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be issuing monthly updates on the Parish Council Facebook Page - do look out for these.

ENORMOUS THANKS to those who took part in the **Clavering Spring Clean**.

Fifteen bags of rubbish were collected by Sophie, Marc, Jumbo, Jules, Sandra, Mike, youngsters Thea and Arthur and their Mother.

Special mention to Alison, Jenny, Martina and Becca who carry out litter picking throughout the whole year around the village - it made the day's task somewhat easier!

Also, Clavering PC was advised that a 'person in a blue car' was spotted cleaning the village's roadsigns recently.

Thank you all for your tremendous Community Spirit!!

Notes of the verbal report given by the District Councillor at the CPC Meeting 9th March

Cllr Oliver was present, but asked fellow District Councillor Gooding to give a report on his behalf.

It was noted that UDC had raised its parking charges by 20% and it was felt this would have a negative effect on businesses in Stansted and Saffron Walden, but challenges to this increase were ignored and a suggested amendment was not passed. It is known that two Residents for Uttlesford (R4U) Councillors have crossed the floor to Reform and therefore R4U does not have overall political control at UDC. This will mean that there will now be the ability for challenges to take place in the decision-making process.

Cllr Oliver apologised as he was experiencing hearing difficulties, but informed the meeting he was aware of certain enforcement issues being investigated by Planning Officers at UDC.

County Councillors Report at the CPC Meeting 9th March

Due to protocols surrounding the pre-election period which commenced 27th March, this cannot be reported on. However, the report does form part of the meeting's minutes which will be published as usual.

Tea and Chat – At Wicken Church & Community Centre Thursdays 16th April, 21st May and 18th June 2pm-4pm All welcome to come along and have a cup of tea, slice of cake, and a friendly chat with friends old and new. No charge but donations are welcomed.

Clavering Landscape History Group – Spring Lectures

Wednesday 1st April: *Historic Houses* Ben Cowell

Thursday 7th May: *The History of Brent Pelham Hall* Jenny Milledge (Garden Historian of Clavering)

At the Clavering Christian Centre at 7.30pm All welcome - Tea/Coffee and Cakes afterwards

Clavering Bowls Club – Opening of the Green Planned for Sunday 18th April

Open Evenings for training and practice: every Tuesday at 5pm, weather permitting, May-September. New members most welcome Friendly tuition and equipment available- just bring flat shoes. For more information contact Lee 01799 550916 or email claveringbowls@gmail.com or see www.claveringbc.org *The Clubhouse and Bowling Green are located at the far side of the Jubilee Field next to the Tennis Courts*

Clavering Friends of St Clare Hospice – Annual Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th May 10am -1.90pm Clavering Village Hall Entrance 50p

Plants + Bric-a-Brac + Toys + Nearly New Clothes & Bags + Paperback Books + Linens + Jewellery + Cakes + Raffle + Tombola + Refreshments + and much more!

Donations being accepted only until 24th April! For more information please contact Jean 01799 550758, Andrea 01799 550425 or Carolyn 01799 521965

Clavering Horticultural Society – Dates for your Diary!

Annual Rose and Flower Show: Sunday 7th June. 9 classes and children's competitions

Annual Flower, Vegetable and Cookery Show: Saturday 25th July. Over 80 classes for all ages and abilities

Royal British Legion –

Ordinary meetings are held every Second Tuesday of the month at 8pm in The Bull PH Langley Lower Green. Do come and join in an enjoyable evening – previous military service is not a requirement as the Legion is open to all who support its work. For more information contact Revd Paddy Cable 01763 258043 or paddycable@gmail.com

Clavering Village Hall – Trustees needed!

The Management of Clavering Village Hall is via a Charitable Trust, which is separate from the Jubilee Field Trust and the Parish Council.

Trustees are responsible for the running and maintaining the Village Hall as a venue. The hall hires in the services of a booking secretary and cleaner.

The Management Committee would welcome new Trustees to share the management load and also the fundraising activities undertaken. There is also a need to appoint a Treasurer from the Trustees.

If you feel able to support this community asset as a trustee, please contact Aimee Balaam, Chairman on claveringvhall@hotmail.co.uk

Clavering Village Hall Fete Committee - The fete is planned for Saturday 13th June but volunteers are needed to keep our village fete alive. Please contact Donna on 07502 338920 or Jack on 07515 759234 for more information.

UDC Community Grants

UDC has a one-off community grant available for voluntary organisations and groups. This is ideal for pilot projects, one-off events or new services. Grants of up to £3,000 are available. The scheme will be open from 1 April and full details will be on the UDC website.

Government Support for Vulnerable Households who rely on heating oil

You may have seen the government announcement of £53m of support for vulnerable households who rely on heating oil.

The support will be targeted to help low-income households in rural communities affected by the recent surge in costs.

The additional funding will be distributed by local authorities via the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which comes into effect on 1 April and replaces the temporary Household Support Fund.

Locally, the fund will be administered by Southend-on-Sea Council on behalf of Essex County Council.

If help is needed before the Crisis and Resilience Fund starts in April, people can apply to Essex County Council for support, but any cash would need to be from existing pots of money.

The Cost of Living Support section on Uttlesford DC website has been updated to make it clear to whom enquiries should be made if any resident needs help with their heating costs. However, UDC officers will be working to ensure available funds are distributed equitably to those in need. *(latest update 26th March)*

Upcoming Elections

Elections will be taking place across Uttlesford on 7th May to elect Essex County Councillors. Poll cards will be issued soon and will be delivered to all registered electors by 10 April. Applications after this date will be sent a poll card during week commencing 13 April.

Key dates:

- **Registration** – for those not already registered to vote, the deadline is midnight on Monday 20 April
- **Postal votes** – anyone who wishes to vote by post and who has not already got a postal vote set up has until 5pm on Tuesday 21 April to apply
- **Proxy votes** – the deadline for new proxy vote applications is 5pm on Tuesday 28 April
- **Voter Authority Certificate** – anyone who does not have the required photo identification (such as a photo driving licence, passport or bus pass) can apply up to 5pm on Tuesday 28 April

When voting in person, electors must take their photo voter ID and this must be the original document – no copies or images on mobile phones.

The elections page on the UDC website includes information for prospective candidates, polling stations and more.

Uttlesford District Council Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service

There are upcoming changes to UDC's housing repairs and maintenance service.

Following feedback from tenants, UDC has decided to bring the service back in-house. This means it will directly manage repairs and day-to-day maintenance instead of using an external provider.

The new arrangement will be fully in place from 1 April.

Managing the work directly is expected to help UDC respond more quickly, keep a closer eye on standards and shape the service around what tenants say is important.

Tenants should continue to report repairs in the usual way, by calling UDC on 01799 510510 or online

UDC Community Grants

UDC has a one-off community grant available for voluntary organisations and groups. This is ideal for pilot projects, one-off events or new services.

The scheme will be open from 1 April and full details will be on the UDC website.

Grants of up to £3,000 are available.

Government confirms decision on new unitary councils in Greater Essex

The Government has announced its decision to progress the creation of five new unitary authorities for Greater Essex.

The decision means Harlow Council, Epping Forest and Uttlesford councils will be replaced

with a new unitary authority for **West Essex** from April 2028.

These five new authorities will replace the current 15 councils across Greater Essex and will be responsible for providing all local services in each area, including waste collections, planning, adult social care, highways, children's services, libraries and more.

Nothing will change until April 2028.

If you wish to receive the CPC Newsletter by email, do send your email address and the first line of your home address to cllr.smgill@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk putting 'I wish to receive the Clavering PC Newsletter' in the email heading.

Please note that under GDPR, your information is kept on a secure database and is used only to send out the monthly CPC Newsletter and its attachments or if there is an emergency situation in the village requiring notification to residents.

Essex County Council DaRT 299 Bus Transport

Please note contact email has reverted to contact@central-connect.co.uk

The phone number remains 0115 777 3187.

Bookings must be made by 18.00hrs the day before you travel – and Monday bookings must be made no later than 18.00hrs on the Saturday and may be made up to 14 days in advance. The contracted buses carry the Flagfinders livery.

N.B. Bookings are only confirmed when advised to be so by Vectare as this is not a taxi service and is reliant upon at least three others making the same journey and there being a bus available.

UDC Welfare Liaison Officers – Jen and Evie welfare@uttlesford.gov.uk

If you need information on how to apply for help or need support with Council Tax, Debt, Rent, Financial Hardship, Universal Credit Shortfall, Cost of Living, Entitlement to Benefits, please make contact with the officers via the above email or phone 01799 510510.

They can assist you with your concerns or signpost you to the appropriate support organisation.

Foul water discharges onto roads or into watercourses?

Report online using thameswater.co.uk. Go to the website and click on 'View and report a problem'. You will be guided through all stages of making the report. You receive a case number and can opt-in to receive updates of their investigation and required work.

No access to the internet? Phone the Customer Service Team on 0800 316 9800

Again you are reminded that it is always quicker to activate an investigation if villagers make the report immediately, as precious time could be otherwise lost.

///what3words Do you know about this app?

The Emergency Services are asking especially those who live in rural areas to consider downloading this free app. As the app has given each 3 metre square of the world a unique combination of three words, using this when contacting the emergency services can pinpoint where help is needed and save precious time in finding those in need.

Hare Coursing in and around Clavering:

The Essex Police Rural Engagement Team reiterate: "If you see hare coursing taking place, ring 999 immediately and provide as much information as you can – for example, a What3Words location, a description of the people involved, vehicle registration numbers, vehicle descriptions and the location and direction of travel....."

".....It is very important that you don't confront hare coursers or put yourself at risk"

Environment Agency

Many parishioners in Clavering take advantage of the free government service to sign up to get flood warnings, especially as the monitoring station for this is located near the Bridges.

More information can be found on www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

or you may register by calling 0345 988 1188

Highways Maintenance Problems – Villagers are reminded that it is always quicker to activate an investigation if you report these online, as precious time could be lost if you contact the Parish Council.

Using this website www.essexhighways.org/tell-us an audit trail is started as you will be given a reference number. It is then easier for our local Essex County Councillor to chase outstanding matters when requested to do so either by parishioners or the parish council. Also the website advises a phone number to call if the problem is severe and considered extremely dangerous to road users or pedestrians.

You can report potholes, broken railings & signs, pavement/kerb/drainage defects, blocked culverts, overgrown trees or hedges, blocked/damaged public footpaths, and etc.

Before a power cut or gas emergency

- **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.

Keep your eyes open: If you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours

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.

There is also a defibrillator on outside of the Bowls/Tennis Pavilion and you may be directed there. 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' (black pouch with green cross) 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

No special training is required & the Emergency Services will guide you through everything