



# CLAVERING NEWSLETTER

**CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL** Issue 232 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Email address: [clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claveringparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Editor: Stephanie Gill

## **Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

Given the length of the agenda, the meeting commenced at 7pm. Five members of the public, District Cllr Oliver and Essex County Cllr Gooding present in part. A parishioner warmly thanked whoever had been responsible for ensuring the SpeedWatch training took place, which had happened the previous week.

**Standing Orders:** Following advice from the UDC Monitoring Officer, Standing Orders were amended regarding dispensations. Councillor's dispensations were recorded in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan agenda item.

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)** – Report received on work to date.

**Defibrillators** – Replacement pads on order. Both defibs 'rescue ready'.

**Clerk's Report** – The Clerk informed the Council of the work she had carried out in the month. Problems with CPC basic mobile phone noted but Clerk has overcome these. Castle Water refunded the late payment and interest charges levied.

**Allotments** – Spare land cut under Clerk's delegated authority for H&S reasons as grass brittle and walkers still walking through allotment land to access footpaths,

**Bridge over Stort at Druce** – Agreed to send letter to Environment Agency, Essex County Council and adjoining landowners to establish existing ownership.

**Lower Hill Green** – Following agreement to allow the small number of bee orchids, common spotted and purple pyramid orchids to seed, along with later flowering wild flowers, the cut was agreed for 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Bus Passenger Transport Representative Report and Demand Responsive (DRT) Bus** – The DRT bus serving Bishop's Stortford has been removed, as has the direct bus to Braintree. Cllr Gill detailed work undertaken so far investigating this as was not pre-advised, including contact with neighbouring parishes, district and county councillors.

**Thames Water Sewerage Issue Vassars Field/Stortford Rd junction-** Agreed to send letter to Thames Water in support of parishioners requesting investigation and resolution

**Asset of Community Value-** Agreed to re-nominate the Upper Hill Green (Cricket Pitch)

**Finance** – Bank statements and Q1 Accounts received and payments agreed.

**NPSG Site Selection and a Complaint** - considered in Private and Confidential per advice.

## **Planning for CPC Comment:**

**UTT/26/1899/FUL: Land East Of Clatterbury Lane** Proposed erection of 5no. dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, and new vehicular access9 amended scheme to that approved under planning UTT/25/1308/FUL as amended by UTT/261238?FUL to include landscaping as on-site Biodiversity Net Gain **No comment**

## **UDC Planning Decisions:**

**UTT/26/1451/HHF: 10The Hyde Stortford Road.** Proposed side and rear extension and cart lodge.

**Approved with conditions**

**UTT/26/0948/FUL: Land at Hill Green, Wicken Road** Erection of 28no proposed new dwellings, including 10no. affordable dwellings, 6no.self build and custom build plots, and associated infrastructure. **Refused**

## **Planning at Inspectorate**

**Appeal Ref: 6013670: Land at Hill Green, Wicken Road** Erection of 28no proposed new dwellings, including 11 no. affordable dwellings, 6no.self build and custom build plots, and associated infrastructure,. Determination will be by written representations. Latest comment to be made 9<sup>th</sup> September  
CPC agreed not to comment further given its initial, extensive representation.

**Monthly Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 7.30pm**

**All meetings usually 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](mailto: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    29<sup>th</sup> August ~ 26<sup>th</sup> September ~ 24<sup>th</sup> October ~ 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
29<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> September, and 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Also scheduled to stop at Long Ley Langley Upper Green CB11 4RX  
3.10pm – 3.40pm    27<sup>th</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Essex County Council and Demand Response Transport Buses serving Clavering**

On July 27<sup>th</sup> the previously held bus contract for the Demand Responsive Transport route 299 was passed over to a new company, DigiGo. Despite reassurances from Essex County Council Passenger Transport that the new contract was a like-for-like services, even before the first week of use it was discovered that the direct services to Bishop's Stortford and Braintree were no longer being provided by the new contractor. CPC was advised that this had not been the understanding of the officers in ECC Essex Passenger Transport Department. It was advised that a complaint should be raised.

The initial complaint was raised with ECC Cllr Mark Webster, who holds the Highways and Transport Portfolio on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Subsequent complaints have also been raised concerning matters such as change of bus stops in Saffron Walden, including that people could not reach Tesco as before.

CPC has been in contact with Parish Councils and Parish Meetings which have been affected by these service removals –even Steeple Bumpstead.

Matters have been raised with local UDC councillors, and also the UDC Cllr who is responsible for Communities, and ECC councillors asking them to pursue this matter on behalf of the bus users.

The response from Cllr Webster was eventually received on 12<sup>th</sup> August, though it only addressed the matters raised in the first complaint.. It stated:

*The purpose of taxpayer supported bus services is to provide access to essential services; which the re-designed service in your area does via a direct connection into Saffron Walden. The re-designed service also maintains access to existing journeys to Bishop's Stortford, via a connection with the 301 bus service operated by Stephenson's. This 301 service operates Monday to Saturday on an hourly basis, with journeys starting at 6:26am and running until 9:27pm at night. DigiGo will link into the 301 at Newport and Quendon. We aim to work with Stephenson's to put an integrated ticket in place and both services accept concessionary passes.*

*For clarity, the re-designed DigiGo services offers:*

- *An enhanced service, Monday to Sunday, 7am until 10pm daily*
- *Increased capacity compared to the previous contract*
- *Bookings up to 7 days in advance*
- *Group bookings for up to 10 passengers*

- *Single fares from £1.87–£3 under the Government's £3 Fare Cap*
- *Free travel for concessionary bus pass holders after 9am on weekdays and all day at weekends*
- *Booking via an app from September, to increase and diversify use of the service*

This response is being followed up especially as the Digigo website contains a statement that it cannot guarantee onward bus connections are met.

Furthermore, the suggested journey greatly elongates previous travel times. Cllr Webster did not suggest how Braintree could now be reached - possibly as that involves buses from Clavering to Saffron Walden, then onwards via Thaxted to Dunmow, with a further change for the bus to Braintree.

To learn more about Digigo DRT3 to Saffron Walden, which also covers Quendon and Newport per the above statement by Cllr Webster, please go to <https://www.travelessex.co.uk/digigo/3>.

It appears that travel to Audley End station is covered, but Farnham is excluded...

In this zone, DigiGo operates 7 days a week from 7am to 10pm (excluding bank holidays).

As part of its launch offer, all travel in this zone is free until 31 August 2026.

Journeys can be booked up to 7 days in advance by calling **03330 137 138** (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm). Next day journeys must be booked by 5pm on the previous working day

.As well as travelling between destinations within the zone, DigiGo state they can take you to key 'TravelEssex Connect Points', making it easier to continue your journey further afield, including: Saffron Walden High Street, Saffron Walden Community Centre, Saffron Walden County High School, Elsenham train station and Newport.

It has been noted that the minibuses used by DigiGo struggle to take shopping aids and golf clubs, as the previous contractor could...

## **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.

**Friendly reminder re. the Allotments.** The allotments are owned by Clavering Parish Council, but there is no public right of way through them, nor are they public open space.

Allotments holders are licensed to occupy their plots, for which they pay a rent.

It has come to the Parish Council's attention that members of the public are walking their dogs through the allotments. Whilst it may be a lovely walk amongst the growing plants, please may the Council ask that villagers cease this practice out of respect for the allotment holders. **Thank you**

## **Notes of the Verbal Report given by the County Councillor: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

Cllr Gooding informed the meeting that he is investigating ECC grant funds that he may access for parishes in his division, given the change in administration and the new requirements of such funds.

The Local Highways Panels no longer exist under the new administration, so it is no possible to instigate any local parish initiatives as before. It is also very difficult for councillor to access officers, as they could previously when they even had a 'Highways Buddy' assigned to each councillor, as new contact protocols have been introduced.

Adult Social Care issues will need to be addressed in the near future, with suggested government changes including means testing, and with a growing elderly population there will need to increase funding rather than just balancing the books.

On the removal of the DRT bus to Bishops Stortford, he had been advised internally that there was an alternative service being provided and agreed to speak afterwards Cllr Gill to ensure he was fully appraised of the facts.

## **Notes of the Verbal Report given by the District Councillor: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

Cllr Oliver stated that he felt that, other than planning matters, much is slowing down at UDC pending the outcome of the judicial review of Essex's Local Government Reorganisation. It seems that officers are unsure of which way future projects must be addressed, especially as Harlow Council is now an interested

party in the review. This has meant that UDC has been unable to liaise with Harlow Council and Epping DC to consider future possible plans.

**Tea and Chat – At Wicken Church & Community Centre Thursdays 20<sup>th</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October 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 Church**

**Coffee and Crafting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 12noon at the Christian Centre** Bring your latest project, knitting, crochet, needlepoint, crossword, or just come for a chat!

**Harvest Festival Event & Proposed Reordering Project– Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 1pm to 5pm at Clavering Church Free Entry** Flowers, Teas & Cakes, Local Artists, Crafts , Preserves, Children's Trail Community Engagement Presentation at 3pm

**Quiz Night– Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7 for 7.30pm at the Christian Centre £10ph.** Teams of 6. Contact Juliet at [tudormid@gmail.com](mailto:tudormid@gmail.com) for a table

### **Royal British Legion –**

**1940's Night – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September Doors Open 7.30pm Clavering Village Hall**

Guest Band: Skyliner a 9 piece swing band. Fish & Chip Van 8pm – 9.30pm Tickets £20ph, available from Clavering Village Shop, The Bull Lower Langley and RBL Committee Members.

**Arnold Hitchcock Memorial Lecture. Speaker: Lucy Lewis – the first female bomb disposal officer. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.15pm for prompt start at 7.30pm Langley Community Centre** Refreshments available £5 entry to cover speaker's fee and expenses

**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](mailto:paddycable@gmail.com)

### **Clavering Landscape History Group**

**Ludgate Memorial Lecture – *Eileen Ludgate: her life and legacy* Speaker: Jacky Cooper Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**

***The Impact of the Norman Conquest* Speaker: Prof. Stephen Church Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 7.30pm**

***The Bayeux Tapestry* Speaker :Elizabeth Allan Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm**

For more information contact [mrsjacquelinecooper@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjacquelinecooper@gmail.com). All meetings at Clavering Christian Centre

### **Clavering Bowls Club –**

**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](mailto:claveringbowls@gmail.com) or see [www.claveringbc.org](http://www.claveringbc.org) *The Clubhouse and Bowling Green are located at the far side of the Jubilee Field next to the Tennis Courts*

**Diary Date: Annual Bowls Quiz Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Clavering Friends of St Clare Hospice– Quiz Night**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 7pm for 7.30pm Clavering Village Hall** Tickets 12.50ph include Luxury Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses, tables of 8. Tickets available from Carolyn 07773 137666 or Tina 07584 296784

**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](mailto: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.**

### **UDC Welfare Liaison Officers – Jen and Evie [welfare@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto: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.

### **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"

### **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](http://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](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk).

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

### **Foul water discharges onto roads or into watercourses?**

**Report online using [thameswater.co.uk](http://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.

## 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](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) or you may register by calling 0345 988 1188

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### 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**