

MINUTES

for the meeting of the Parish Council Meeting

St Mary's C of E Primary School, CM22 7HH

On **Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 8:00 PM**

Those present:

Chair:	Cllr M Strutt
Vice-Chair:	Cllr K Artus
Parish Councillors:	Cllrs V Ambler, K Beadle, D Hunt, K Stedman, C Webb
Officers:	Mrs A Ferraro
Other councillors:	Cllr N Reeve
Members of the public:	15

26/1/1 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Strutt opened the meeting and welcomed the public and Councillors.

Cllr Strutt congratulated Maureen Geddes on being awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the community in Hatfield Broad Oak.

26/1/2 Public Questions

There were no public questions received. A public participation session was held.

26/1/3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given for district Cllr Geoff Driscoll.

26/1/4 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Artus and Beadle declared Other Registerable Interests in the Community Interest Company Broadoak Community Investments. Cllr Beadle has a full dispensation as the Parish Council representative and Cllr Artus has a dispensation to remain in the room and discuss.

Cllr Stedman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as an employee of St Mary's School and an Other Registerable Interest as the Secretary and Treasurer of St Mary's Church.

Cllr Strutt declared a Non-Registerable Interest in the Judicial Review

26/1/5 Code of Conduct – Oral Presentation from the Monitoring Officer

Carolyn Forster, Interim Monitoring Officer at Uttlesford District Council, presented to the council, explaining an offer of training for councillors adaptable to the needs of the Council. She also discussed the future possibility of the summary of any complaints being shared with the Clerk in order for them to be included on agendas to promote standards.

26/1/6 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 10th of December were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposer: Cllr Beadle

Seconder: Cllr Artus

Passed unanimously.

26/1/7 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Reeve provided an update covering the following points:

- UDC is looking to make improvements to housing stock maintenance management, increasing the decarbonisation programme (e.g. insulation).
- Cllr Reeve asked members of the public present whether they were satisfied with waste management over the Christmas period, with a generally positive response.
- Still waiting for the inspector's final response on the local plan (inspectors are on strike).
- Waiting for government decision regarding Local Government Organisation, expected around the end of March
- Cost of living – on UDC website there is a page with helpful information entitled “Ease the Squeeze” or similar.
- The first AGM for Sustainable Uttlesford is on the 5th of February in Saffron Walden.

26/1/8 Committee Chairs/Memberships 26/1/10

- i) Proposal from Cllr Strutt: To appoint Cllr Strutt as the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee and Cllr Hunt as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Seconder: Cllr Artus

Passed unanimously.

- ii) Proposal from Cllr Strutt: To appoint Cllr Hunt as the Chair of the HR Committee

Seconder: Cllr Ambler

Passed unanimously.

26/1/9 Broadoak Community Investments 26/1/11

Cllr Artus talked the Council through the briefing paper approved by the planning working group and provided an apology for late circulation following approval by the CIC board. He explained that at a meeting with UDC to review an earlier draft English Rural identified two criteria that were consider subjective. Those criteria have now been made objective with specific scores in the briefing paper before council.

The company has voted to create a local housing committee to work with the Council to fulfil the local lettings plan, the membership of which is open to members of the public.

Cllr Stedman clarified that no formal vote was being requested at this meeting.

26/1/10 Parish Council information sheet 26/1/18

There was a general discussion about the contents and purpose of the document.

Cllr Stedman proposed delaying voting on the document to the February meeting.

Seconder: Cllr Ambler

Cllr Artus proposed an amendment to do it “when available”. This was not seconded.

For: 6

*Against: 1
Motion passed.*

26/1/11 Confidential topics 26/1/23

It was RESOLVED unanimously that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

The Clerk left the room.

26/1/12 HR Matters 26/1/24

A discussion was held.

The Clerk returned to the room.

26/1/13 Reports of Cllrs Actions and Meetings Attended

Cllr Ambler reported that she had held a ward surgery, with two main points arising regarding parking near the village green and potential council enforcement officers for pavement parking. It was also highlighted that some residents' parking spaces at Barnfield are being taken up by airport commuters.

Cllr Beadle added that there is a wider issue with parking as some residents park wholly on the pavement.

Cllr Strutt explained that the new vehicle entrance has now been signed off, and the long-term solution is a car park at the village green.

Cllr Artus clarified that the judicial review was not mentioned during the ward surgery.

Cllr Strutt updated that he attended a webinar regarding Local Government Reorganisation alongside Cllr Artus and the Clerk, and agreed to circulate notes as requested.

26/1/14 Reports from Committees and Working Groups

Cllr Artus reported that the Planning Working Group wrote an objection to the Stansted and Takeley warehouse applications and approved the local lettings plan matrix presented by the CIC.

26/1/15 Correspondence and Key Task

The Clerk provided an update, mainly regarding potential tree work required which will return to the next meeting with quotes, and a question received regarding police speed checks which the Clerk will follow up.

26/1/16 Highways Matters

Cllr Stedman highlighted that water is running down Hammonds Road, which was unfortunately reviewed by ECC during dry weather. The Clerk to follow up with Highways.

26/1/17 Bush End Ward

Cllr Webb reported that there is an ongoing issue with flooding under the old railway bridge. The possibility of a gauge was discussed.

26/1/18 Village Ward

Nothing to report

26/1/19 Recreation Ground

Cllr Beadle reported that he is still waiting to hear back regarding the junior climbing frame.

26/1/20 Finance

The Councillors noted the payment schedule.

26/1/21 Planning

No comments

26/1/22 Items for next agenda

There was a discussion about potentially moving the date of the February meeting.

26/1/23 Date of the next meeting

Expected date of next meeting Wednesday 11th February 2026 unless changed by decision at this meeting.

26/1/24 Confidential topics

It was **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Cllr Ambler left the meeting and Strutt left the room. Cllr Artus now chairing.

26/1/25 Judicial Review Update

Councillors received a brief update on the judicial review.

Cllr Strutt returned to the room and resumed chairing.

Cllr Strutt closed the meeting.