

Little Easton Parish Council Minutes

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Minutes of the **MEETING OF LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL** held at the **MEMORIAL HALL** on **WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026 AT 7:00PM**

Councillor	Attendance
Cllr Liam Phillips	YES
Cllr Jacqui English	YES
Cllr Ian Sussams	YES
Cllr Emma Wells	YES
Cllr Chris Brooks	YES
VACANCY	
Dist Cllr Richard Haynes	YES
Cnty Cllr Martin Foley	NO

1 member(s) of the public
 Clerk – Mr Ian Brown

26/013	RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN, VOTE & APPOINT CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027 Cllr Jacqui English nominated by Cllr Emma Wells and seconded by Cllr Ian Sussams; duly appointed 26/013(i) – RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN Cllr Chris Brooks nominated by Cllr Emma Wells and seconded by Cllr Ian Sussams APPOINTED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE Duly completed and signed
26/014	CONFIRM OR AMEND THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES / RESPONSIBILITIES FOR YEAR 26-27 PLAY AREA – Cllr Liam Phillips GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE – Remove item from the representation list until further notice PARISH MAINTENANCE INCLUDING WAR MEMORIAL – Cllr Liam Phillips SPEEDWATCH – Cllr Jacqui English
26/015	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None to approve, all present
26/016	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS None declared 26/016(i) - MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REVIEW THEIR REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND UPDATE WHERE NECESSARY VIA UDC Members advised to review their Register of Interests with UDC
26/017	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 29 APRIL 2026 RESOLUTION – Approve the April 29 minutes; Proposed Cllr Ian Sussams, Seconded Cllr Emma Wells

26/018	CONFIRM MEETING DATES FOR 2026 July 29, September 30, November 25, January 27 2027 and March 31 2027
26/019	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question) None present
26/020 Cllr Haynes Left 7:14	RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Dist Cllr Richard Haynes- Report attached at APPENDIX A
26/021	NOTE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE 26/021(i) – RECEIVE OUTCOME OF ANNUAL REVIEW – Council agreed to move employee to SCP25 to match other employer, back dated to April 2026 and complete LGPS entry deferred from 2025 but to commence from May 2026 and consider adoption of Civility & Respect Pledge, declined in 2025 but noted by Auditor. And we need more Authorisers on the bank 26/021(ii) – APPROVAL TO REDUCE HEDGELINE ADJACENT TO PLAY AREA COME SEPTEMBER Put on September agenda
26/022	FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – REVIEWED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THIS MEETING COMMENCING Finance statement and Budget performance – APPENDIX B 26/022(i) - APPOINT AUTHORISER Cllr Jacqui English 26/022(ii) – COUNCILLORS TO NOTE RECONCILED BANK STATEMENT & BUDGET PERFORMANCE Attached to the Agenda and duly noted by all present 26/022(iii) – APPROVE INSURANCE RENEWAL WITH EXISTING SUPPLIER, CLEAR, £1090.09 (2025 PREMIUM £1,072.95) RESOLUTION – Approve insurance renewal with CLEAR: Proposed Cllr Emma Wells; Seconded Cllr Liam Phillips 26/022(iv) – APPROVE CLERK RAISING PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION DURING PERIODS COUNCIL DOES NOT MEET, INVOICES TO BE REVIEWED AT NEXT AVAILABLE MEETING RESOLUTION – Approve motion: Proposed Cllr Jacqui English; Seconded Cllr Chris Brooks, all present agreed 26/022(v) – MEMBERS TO NOTE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT COMMENTS AND CONSIDER ACTION TO ADDRESS THOSE COMMENTS To ensure in future all Audit related items are minuted as reported to the council and for the Clerk to submit their contract of employment to internal Auditor. Council to minute actions to remedy shortcomings in the audit report 26/022(vi) – COMPLETE AND SIGN ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 26/022(vii) – COMPLETE AND SIGN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 26/022(viii) – AGREE CLERK/RFO TO SUBMIT ALL AGAR DOCUMENTATION TO EXTERNAL AUDITOR RESOLUTION – All AGAR documents duly reviewed, completed and signed, agreed Clerk / RFO to submit to the external auditor along with necessary supporting documentation: Proposed Cllr Jacqui English; Seconded Cllr Chris Brooks, unanimous approval for items vi to viii 26/022(iv) – COUNCIL TO NOTE UPDATED ASSET LIST NOW ON WEBSITE Members duly noted update 26/022(x) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON ANY CURRENT OUTSTANDING PROJECTS

	None to report
26/023	PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS OR APPEALS AND OUTCOMES OR PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS RECEIVE ANY UPDATE ON LITTLE BARNS SITE UTT/26/2599/FUL PROPOSAL: Section 73A Retrospective application for use of site for children's swimming lessons. Change of use and extension of former pool house to ancillary cafe. New parking area, access and associated development. LOCATION: Little Barn Park Road No further comments but note the matter is shown as awaiting decision on the UDC Planning portal
26/024	REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS PLAY AREA – Nothing to report 26/024(i) – CONSIDER IDENTIFYING EQUIPMENT DUE FOR UPGRADE / REPLACEMENT Ask Broadmead Leisure for suggestions 26/024(ii) – CONSIDER REQUEST TO REMOVE TWO LIMBS OVERHANGING PLAY AREA SLIDE Unanimous approval, CLERK to advise tree surgeon PARISH MAINTENANCE INCLUDING WAR MEMORIAL – Gate to be re-stained SPEEDWATCH – No report
26/025	CONSIDER SUGGESTING TO COMMUNITY THE PARISH JOINS 20s PLENTY CAMPAIGN Put in next 5P Mag article
26/026	CONSIDER COMMERORATIVE PLANTING OF DAFFODILS ALONG NEW PATHWAY FENCELINE Clerk to approach SGS for number and pricing for planting in staggered lines
26/027	CONSIDER UPGRADING REMAINING STREET LAMPS TO LED FITTINGS – 2027-2028 Not to be considered for now due to cost and appropriateness in a rural setting
26/028	ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA Ask SGS to remove weeds at War Memorial Adult Gym equipment installation, proposed four items of equipment, awaiting quotations 26/028 (i) CONFIRM APPOINTED CONTRIBUTOR TO 5P MAGAZINE Cllr Emma Wells and Cllr Jacqui English to submit July entry
26/029	DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S) – 29 JULY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING – CLOSE – 20:10

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

Little Easton Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report – May 2026 -Administration and Council make-up - The political make-up of the Council is now as follows:

18 Residents for Uttlesford

10 Conservative

3 Lib Dems

2 Uttlesford Independents

1 unaffiliated independent

2 vacant (Dunmow North and Stort Valley)

Cllr Bianca Donald was appointed unopposed as Chairman of the Council for the year 2006/07 with Cllr Geoff Driscoll as Vice Chairman.

Uttlesford Big Green Festival

This is to take place 5th -14th June and involves a series of events throughout the District including talks, walks, repair cafes and worryingly, something called ‘Wild Child Open Session’. Full details with a calendar of events can be found on the Uttlesford website.

DWP Outreach

DWP are to start a series of appointment-only one to one sessions with a dedicated work coach at Faircroft House, Saffron Walden, to avoid those seeking employment having to travel to Braintree. This service will initially be for the 18 – 24 age group but will ultimately include sessions for older job-seekers.

Local Government Reform

ECC have commenced a legal challenge to the government’s proposed reorganisation of Essex into five unitary authorities. At the same time Harlow, who were to be included with Uttlesford and Epping Forest in a West Essex authority have declared their intention to boycott the re-organisation. Even if the ECC challenge is successful it will ultimately be for central government to determine the form of future local government in the County, which is already complicated by the proposed election of an Essex mayor.

New Local Plan

The determination of planning applications is now being undertaken in the context of the policies of the recently adopted Local Plan. Two planning committee meetings have now taken place in which full weight could be given to those policies. It is clear that they have created some uncertainty for both members and officers and it will take a while before we have any sense of unanimity in the interpretation of the new Plan. At the most recent meeting one application was refused contrary to officers’ advice and another was deferred due principally to a lack of clarity as to what constituted the developed area of the village (this is, it seems, a serious short-coming of the Plan).

Cllr Richard Haynes

APPENDIX B

[illegible]

Outline Budget 2026-2027			
		Net	
	2026/27	2026/27	2026/27
	Budget	Actual	Diff +/-
	25,796	2,720	-23,076
Cost Code	Amount	Amount	Amount
Salary	7,000	611.45	6,388.55
HMRC	1,608	229.51	1,378.49
Clerk Expenses	643	0.00	643.20
Training	107	0.00	107.20
Chairmans Allowance	0	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions	429	0.00	428.80
Insurance	1,286	0.00	1,286.40
Admin, Bank	214	37.50	176.90
Audit, Legal	536	0.00	536.00
Printing & Stationery	30	4.14	25.86
Lighting & Utilities	2,000	124.77	1,875.23
Play Area	804	0.00	804.00
Parish maintenance	3,000	867.93	2,132.07
War Memorial	0	0.00	0.00
Grass & Trees	5,770	760.00	5,010.00
S137 & Grants	268	0.00	268.00
Hall Hire	200	0.00	200.00
Capital projects	1,000	0.00	1,000.00
Website	700	84.99	615.01
Events & Parties	200	0.00	200.00
Professional Fees	0	0.00	0.00
Contingency	0	0.00	0.00
Local & Neighbourhood Plan	0	0.00	0.00
Reserves			
<i>Legal costs</i>			1,000
<i>Elections</i>			1,500
<i>General Reserves</i>			0
<i>Earmarked - Play Area</i>			5,000
Total	25,796	2,720	23,076