

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ULTING PARISH MEETING HELD AT ST.GILES CHURCH, LANGFORD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30PM

Those present: Cllr Irene Allen (Chair), Cllr Jenny Clemo, Cllr Colin Ashby and Theresa Trotzer Wilson (Clerk)

Members of the public: 0

Apologies: Cllr Lester Magness, Cllr Lesley Kinder, District Cllrs. Simon Morgan and Mark Durham

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 20th May 2025

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20th May 2025 were read aloud by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record. Due to the unavailability of the minute book, it was agreed that the Chairman would physically sign the minutes at the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Irene Allen gave the following report:

Firstly, may I once again give a very hearty vote of thanks to everyone on the Parish Council for their sterling work in the past year. We all lead busy lives, and it's not always easy to be available for meetings, even though they are only once a month. I would also like to take this opportunity to give very grateful thanks to Theresa, our Clerk, who has done some quite amazing things this past year, and who keeps us on our toes.

We have been faced with challenging planning proposals, especially that of the enormous Maldon Salt building and all the associated noise and light pollution, and the loss of wild habitat which was home to many species of bird – the Nightingale being one of them; something that was wonderful to listen while lying in bed at night – for me at any rate.

I would also like to record grateful thanks to everyone who took part in the Litter Pick on 14th March. When I was delivering the last newsletter to neighbours in Ulting Lane, I was spotted by one of the small daughters, who exclaimed "Mum, Irene's at the door!" When I handed over the newsletter, the flier announcing this year's litter pick fell out, and the small daughter gave a whoop of delight, saying "Mum, a litter pick!" I can honestly say I have never had such a greeting to a proposed litter pick before and was delighted. It seems that little Amelia needed to undertake a litter pick to gain a Brownie badge – we certainly didn't have that one when I was a Brownie. Amelia and her sister and mother were there waiting for us at the start of the event, and managed to collect three bags of rubbish. Both girls asked if they could take part next year...! I took the Maldon Road end of the B1019 up to the bridge, which was quite scary at times, but it was rewarding to hear cyclists, and some car drivers say "Thank you." I am always appalled at the amount of litter we pick up – do parents not teach their children not to drop litter anymore? Mine certainly drummed that into us. Sadly, there was no Art Show this year, and it was such a shame that an event that had been going on for so many years had finally come to an end. However, there are moves afoot that the Museum of Power might host it with its contacts with the Maldon Art Club, but also one of the Village Hall Committee members has said she might be willing to take it on for the village hall, so we will wait and see what happens. It would be such a shame if this wonderful, and highly respected event, should be discontinued for ever.

Thanks are due once again, to Colin Ashby and his team for keeping the churchyard and cemetery of St. Giles' looking so good, and to Alan Marks and his sons for keeping the green in Ulting Lane well mown.

Finally, I would like to record my own thanks to those members of the public who attend and take an interest in what goes on in our communities. It can often be a lonely and rather thankless task being a Parish Councillor, especially when decisions of a contentious nature are taken at a higher level, ones that local people do not agree with, and we have to explain that we have no control over District Council actions and the public can sometimes over-estimate our powers. However, we aim to do our best for the communities that we serve, so thank you all for your support.

4. Items from parishioners.
None

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19:46pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: