

MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.
Held at 8.00pm in Woodham Walter Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.

Monday 10th April 2017

Present:

Cllr. Joanna Symons (Chairman)
Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Jenny Hughes
Cllr. John Tompkins
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
Cllr. Henry Bass (In attendance until 9.35pm)
Mr David Beattie (VDS Working Group Chairman) (In attendance until 9.10pm)
Cllr. Penny Channer (In attendance from 9.15pm)

Public: 0

2019. Welcome Cllr. Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

2020. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. James Rushton.

2021. Disclosure of Interests/Consideration of Dispensations To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 6-10 inclusive of the Code of Conduct for Members. (Members are reminded they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

There were no interests declared and the book was duly signed.

2022. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

2023. To approve Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th March 2017

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

2024. Matters Arising from Minutes

2024.1 (1994.1) Oil in the brook. Further correspondence received from Mr Keep regarding oil in the brook and general condition of the stream. Cllr. Symons will investigate further.

2025. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2025.1 ESS/MAL/17/00305 Woodham Walter C of E Primary School, The Street
Retention of 2 class bases for a temporary period until 31 August 2022 without compliance with Condition 2 (time limit) attached to planning permission CC/MAL/07/12
Councillors support the application.

2026. Planning – DECISIONS

2026.1 NMA/MAL/17/00218 Whitegates Cottage, Herbage Park Road **APPROVE**
Application for non-material amendment following granting of FUL/MAL/15/01346.

2027. Planning – APPEALS

2027.1 LDP/MAL/16/01165 Barn 1 and Barn 2, Lodge Farm, Old London Road
Claim for Lawful Development Certificate for proposed development. Change of use of two agricultural buildings to residential.

Await decision

2028. Other Planning Matters

2028.1 Woodham Walter Conservation Area. Formal notification that the P&L committee resolved to designate a Conservation Area in the village. The Parish Council have also received notification of option to respond to proposed Article 4(1) direction. It was noted that the map still has some mistakes, Cllr. Durham will check this.

Councillors support the Article 4(1) direction.

2028.2 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. Cllr. Symons outlined the work that has taken place by the VDS team in liaison with Chairman/Clerk and MDC, since the last meeting and the fact that due to delays in receiving information back from MDC, the deadline for the April P&L committee meeting has been missed. Concerns raised that if Simon Rowberry, the Interim Head of Planning is not in position at the June P&L Meeting, that a new incumbent could insist on further changes. Cllr. Durham confirmed that a line needs to be drawn and indicated he was reasonably confident that as Mr

Rowberry is a specialist in the area of VDS and the document has been examined in great detail, he would expect these amendments to be final, but it is ultimately the committee who will decide. Mr Beattie noted the frustration felt at the proposed changes but concluded that the majority of points could be agreed with.

Cllr. Tompkins noted that many of the points now being highlighted for removal were put in at the request of previous Planners at MDC, and he therefore has no confidence in the department. It is very annoying and disrespectful and does not recognise the huge amount of work that has gone into creating the document only to have to now remove.

General discussion agreed that in order to achieve an approved VDS that the changes should be made.

The committee went through the alterations page by page and agreed the changes. Regarding removing the arrows, MDC contend that the views are not necessarily publicly accessible and so should be removed, Cllr. Tompkins disagreed with this. However, the Parish Council felt that as the description is available in the text, removal of the arrows was agreed.

Threats to Character – Cllr. Tompkins maintains that there are threats to character which should be noted by people making planning applications. MDC originally asked for this page to be put in. The discussion concluded that the page should be removed. However, it was acknowledged that the implication for reformatting the document is huge. It was therefore suggested that it could be replaced by information on the Conservation Area and Article 4 direction which has now been approved. There would need to be confirmation from planners that this is going to be acceptable before work to create page commences. Cllr. Durham to enquire.

Regarding Page 26. Request from MDC that Para 1 and 2 are removed. Discussion concludes that these paragraphs are setting the scene and would like to understand the reason that they are suggesting removal. Cllr. Durham will enquire.

Regarding Page 27-41, removal of crosses. After discussion, it was concluded that the narrative explains the diagrams and it was agreed that the crosses will be removed.

Page 28,31,32,33,34, removal of drawings. Cllr. Tompkins maintains that the drawings directed people who don't understand building terminology he is also concerned that without the drawings the document is vanilla. Cllr. Durham agreed that they add to the visual appeal of the document.

It was suggested that adding a subject heading above the pictures "What is a..." would make it clear that the document is not inferring what is right and wrong but giving examples. The Parish Council were in agreement and concluded they would like to keep the pictures with the proposed subject heading added. Cllr. Durham will enquire if this would be acceptable.

Page 30, remove cross. It was agreed to remove the cross. As a result, Cllr. Tompkins will also look into removing the right-hand satellite dish or failing that, then removing the right hand house from the picture.

Page 35 & 36, removal of crosses was agreed.

Page 37, tone down para 2. Agreed to reword.

Page 38, remove road sign. Agreed to remove.

General request to remove "should have/be" from document. It was agreed that rewording will be possible, Cllr. Symons suggests a meeting be arranged with Cllr. Tompkins and Mr Beattie to go through these changes.

Cllr. Durham confirmed that he will speak to Simon Rowberry to discuss the points raised and expects he can get back to the Parish Council this week. The deadline for meeting the June P&L agenda is likely to be 19th May, so it should be achievable to meet this. Failing that the next meeting is 20th July. Mr David Beattie then left the meeting room at 9.10pm

Cllr. Penny Channer arrived in the meeting room at 9.15pm

2028.3 Enforcement update. Awaiting updates for current investigations Warren Lodges, Meadows Barn, Lodge Farm, Greenlanes.

2028.4 LDP consultation starts on 17th March and closes on 28th April. Noted, but no comments.

2029. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

2029.1 E-on –Monthly DD – £20.67 (inc. 0.98 VAT)

2029.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

2029.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 40 hours + allowance £473.36 (includes 12 hours for producing annual Parish Report). Please note that the hourly rate increased to £12.564 from 1st April as per the NALC/SLCC National Salary Award notification agreed in May 2016. Clerk confirms that Final EPS for 2016/17 has been E-filed with HMRC.

2029.4 Mrs J Bannerman – Expenses £61.98 (inc. £10.33 VAT) Domain renewal.

2029.5 LJ Print (Annual Parish Report) £189.08

2030. Other Financial Matters**2030.1 Summary of Accounts to date.**

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
01-Apr-17	Opening Balance			7527.71
10-Apr-17	Transferred to A/C 60978876		800.00	6727.71
Community Account				
01-Apr-17	Opening Balance			455.03
10-Apr-17	Transferred from A/C 40622818	800.00		1255.03
10-Apr-17	April Debits		769.03	486.00

2030.2 Barclays Savings Account –Clerk is investigating alternative community savings accounts. Information so far suggests that interest paying accounts are available but only in conjunction with a paid for Current Account, negating the benefits of moving accounts. Clerk to continue research.

2030.3 Noted the receipt of paperwork regarding the Annual Return year ended 31 March 2017. Clerk to prepare necessary paperwork, contact the internal auditor and carry out the statutory duties accordingly. The Annual Return will be authorised at the May Parish Council meeting to ensure it meets the necessary deadlines.

2031. Reports Of The District & County Councillor

Cllr. Durham reported that a new Director of Planning is due to be appointed; The council are approaching the end of the municipal year; The government has allowed fees for planning applications to increase by 20% so long as the money is used in planning department. MDC have implemented this increase.

Cllr. Channer reported that Chelmsford City Council have included in their LDP a site for 1000 houses on land adjacent to the MDC boundary in South Woodham Ferrers. There is also a site on the Sandon side of Danbury for houses. Braintree District Council have recently approved an application for houses near the Witham junction of the A12. It was acknowledged that all of these sites are likely to impact on the Maldon District infrastructure. Cllr. Channer confirmed she will submit an Annual Report as an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting.

2032. Other Council Matters

2032.1 Woodham Walter Common – No information to report to date.

2032.2 Bell Meadow Village Association – Cllr. Durham reported that event planning is progressing.

2032.3 Allotments Association – Noted that the AGM is to be held on 13th April 2017. Cllr. Rushton is unable to attend so Cllr. Peter Warren to attend as Parish Council representative.

2032.4 Annual Parish Meeting –Thursday 27th April. Annual Parish Reports have now been received from the printer and distributed to councillor’s for deliveries. Clerk to arrange for agenda and copies of reports to be sent to relevant persons.

2032.5 Pensions Regulator - Clerk to complete Pension Regulator information.

2032.6 Annual Tree Inspection Policy – amendments to the policy were approved and the new policy duly adopted. Clerk to request Annual Survey information from Essex Wildlife Trust.

2033. Consultations/Questionnaires

2033.1 Maldon District Design Guide – consultation expected late Spring.

2033.2 Police and Crime Commissioner’s Public consultation which closes on 10th May.

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/LocalCaseForChange

Cllr. Bass then left the meeting room at 9.35pm.

2034. Highways

2034.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

2034.2 Community Speed Watch – clerk is progressing with initiating sessions.

2034.3 Bell Junction – Cllr. Channer has followed up our complaint with a Member Enquiry and received a more positive response from Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Cllr Eddie Johnson

Officers have recently visited the site to assess the area in question and have confirmed it has been subject to settlement and vehicle overrun. Remedial top soiling works are being arranged now the weather is improving. Consideration is also being given to how we can further improve this location, with the intention to install a kerb line around the radius to route water around this, retain the topsoil and deter vehicle overrun and train the water into the second gully.

In addition to the above, there is a parking issue on the verge beyond this radius which I understand is heavily used by customers of the pub (The Bell) opposite and apparently this occasionally extends to part of the radius. The kerb line may reduce this although the area opposite the pub is well established as an unofficial parking area and officers are therefore reluctant to extend any works to this area.

It is anticipated the top soiling and additional kerbing works will be completed early in the next financial year.

Councillor Symons thanked Cllr. Channer for the intervention. Councillors agreed that kerbing will help the situation and are pleased that works to improve this area will take place soon.

2034.4 Old London Road – the barrier repairs have not taken place yet. Clerk to enquire.

2034.5 Road closure notifications for Manor Road from 8th June for 14 days re: BT works to excavate a pole. Spring Elms Lane from 4th June for 14 days and Little Baddow Road from 19th June 2017 for 12 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes cabling works specifically Duct Overlays - Lay Duct 54/56 in cw to link existing BT Boxes to facilitate spine cabling works.

2035. Local Issues

2035.1 Bell Meadow/Playground. 1) Football nets - Cllr. Bunn is due to carry out repair. 2) Fallen Tree - Cllr. Warren noted that some work to remove has taken place, he will remind The Warren 3) Air Cmdr. Sismore memorial bench. Councillors were happy for Josh Warner to carry out plinth work. 4) Gate at Bell Meadow – Await information from UK Power Networks. 5) Clerk to arrange with MDC to cut the grass. 5) It was noted that the school playground has remained closed through the holidays as no solution to locking/unlocking has been found. 5) No further issues were reported and the book was duly signed.

2035.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr. Warren reported that the footbridge on FP12 at the Water Pumping Station had been vandalised. This was repaired very promptly by ESW but sadly vandalised again since. He will report again; Suggestion received that the footpath where it emerges onto Blue Mill Lane from Mead Pastures is very dangerous. Councillors agreed that the best measure will be a “Beware of road sign” attached to the gate to warn walkers. Clerk/Cllr. Warren to investigate; Notification of Re-routing of FP5 in Woodham Mortimer, around the gravel extraction site. Councillors support the proposal.

2035.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported that the school are working hard to improve the Ofsted inspection rating and have put several measures in place to address concerns; Parents have been supportive of the proposal to increase the zig zag lines; Regarding the gate closure for access to the playground outside of school hours it was noted that this has been closed through the Easter holidays. A request for volunteers to lock/unlock is in the Annual Parish Report and will be in the parish magazine. Research for a suitable automated lock is on-going. Cllr. Durham pointed out that opening/closing of the facility should be the responsibility of the school who are currently in breach of the Community Playground agreement.

2035.4 Crime/Police Report. Cllr. Durham reported he had met with Police and the Maldon District is now in a special Gypsy & Traveller system of less tolerance and special efforts are now being taken; PCC Roger Hirst is due at MDC meeting on 18th April.

2035.5 Litter. It was noted that the fine for throwing litter from a vehicle has increased to £150.

2035.6 Broadband. Anomalies on the Superfast interactive map have been forwarded to Superfast Essex. Notification of road closures and notification of planning permission for box at Tom Tit Lane – for information (and encouragement!) only:

TELPN/MAL/17/00369 Tom Tit Lane, Woodham Mortimer

Installation of high speed broadband cabinets.

2035.7 Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr. Durham is awaiting a response from Cabinet member.

2035.8 Zig Zag Lines – clerk is working on application to extend the zig zag lines opposite Top Road. Gained support from several parents who have signed petition in support. Letter of support received from Tadpoles. Other local notes of support also received. Cllr. Durham informed that the process is likely to take until 2018/19.

2035.9 Village Hall Storage – Cllr. Tompkins continues to investigate and will write a written report in due course.

2035.10 Village Taskforce – No further volunteers following advert in parish mag.

2036. Matters Raised by Local Residents None

2037. Correspondence

It was noted that various pieces of information were forwarded to councillors electronically. No responses required.

2038. Points of Information

2038.1 Cllr. Tompkins pleased to report that St Michael’s Church now has 2 Churchwardens elected, Michael Bradbrook and Paul Clark. Curate Julie is due to be ordained on 2nd July.

2039. Date of Next Parish Council Meetings:

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 8th May 2017 at 8pm in Women's Club.
Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 27th April at 8pm in Village Hall.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.15pm

Dated