

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 13th January 2015

Present:

Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. Joanna Symons

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
Public: None

1436. Welcome Cllr Peter Warren welcomed those present to the meeting. Cllr. Mark Durham took the chair of the meeting due to Cllr. Warren having a cough.

1437. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Angus Neale, Cllr. James Bunn, District Councillor Henry Bass and County Councillor Penny Channer.

1438. 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 were 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.

1439. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

1440. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On Monday 8th December 2014
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

1441. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th December 2014

1441.1 Broadband. Despite best efforts it is not expected that the Superfast Essex service will be made available to Woodham Walter.

1441.2 Vehicle Activated Sign. Costs are estimated to be in the region of £3000 for the equipment. Plus additional costs for posts and battery/solar panel. More research into data download is required. Funding options will be looked into from several sources including seeking a grant for example from the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund who require match funding. This would hopefully be made up from a Bell Meadow Legacy Grant which will be applied for in the coming weeks. As this would be of benefit to all residents of the village it is hoped that the committee will look favourably at the application. Councillors will ask that assuming the grant from ECC (or alternative) is successful that Bell Meadow fund the remaining cost of the equipment and then the Parish Council will fund the cost of erecting the posts and ongoing running costs.

1442. Planning – APPLICATIONS

1442.1 OUT/MAL/14/01160 LAND ADJ. SPRING ELMS FARM, SPRING ELMS LANE

Outline application for removal of two former poultry sheds and erection of one dwelling and detached garage.

Clerk read out letters/emails from local residents raising objections to this application.

After debate councillors recommended the granting of outline consent for this proposed development taking into account the need to reutilise brownfield sites and the need to support a managed number of appropriate additional dwelling units in the Parish. However, the Council is mindful of the recent Planning Inspectors decision relating to the nearby Land between Beightons and Barrow Cottage, Bassetts Lane (OUT/MAL/12/00820) which was refused primarily on the grounds of sustainability. With the exception of the current application site being brownfield in nature the two sites would otherwise appear to have very similar sustainability characteristics.

1443. Planning – DECISIONS None

1444. Other Planning Matters

1444.1 St Michael's Drainage Easement. Document has now been completed, signed and filed.

1444.2 HOUSE/MAL/14/01080 Waggers – clerk to check date when application is due to be decided at the NW Area planning committee. Councillors agree that the PC should attend this meeting and exercise the right to make a comment during proceedings.

1444.3 West Bowers Bungalow – Cllr. Durham informed that he had spoken to Mr Warner regarding the French larch weather boarding on the new build property. There is currently a condition that it be painted black but in consultation with the conservation officer it has been suggested that it be allowed to weather naturally to see how it looks as it is felt that it will be more natural in the environment. Depending on this the owner may apply for permission to lift the condition. Councillors agreed this was a good idea and that the property was looking very nice.

1445. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1445.1 e-on –Monthly DD

1445.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

1445.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary/Allowance/Holiday Pay. It was noted that the NALC and SLCC had approved a national pay scale rise, payable from 1st January. Cllr. Mark Durham proposed that this be awarded to Clerk, this was seconded by Cllr. Peter Warren, all in agreement.

1445.4 Woodham Walter Womens Club – Hire of Hall 2014

1445.5 National Allotment Society (This will be reimbursed by WWAA)

1445.6 Essex Wildlife Trust (Replacement for grant cheque 101244 dated 11th August 2014 which has been lost)

1446. Other Financial Matters

1446.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
08-Dec-14	Balance			6960.90
12-Jan-15	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		600.00	6360.90
Community Account				
08-Dec-14	Balance			596.14
12-Jan-15	Credit from cancelled cheque (EWT)	105.00		701.14
12-Jan-15	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	600.00		1301.14
12-Jan-15	January Debits		698.62	602.52

1446.2 Budget requirements & Precept. Councillors examined the information provided and discussed the required budget including the usual day to day running of the council, annual grants to local organisations plus allowing additional expenditure during 2015/16 for Village Design Statement, Election expenses and funding towards the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign.

Cllr. James Rushton proposed and Cllr. Andrew Newland seconded that a 5% increase to last year's precept be requested. The figure of £10724 will be requested from Maldon District Council (this is made up of £10294 from MDC plus provisionally £430 from LCTS grant) this equates to a figure of £38.63 per band D property. Last year's figure was £37.90 so in fact the actual % increase to residents is less than 5% - this is due to fluctuations in the tax base figures and alterations to grant funding).

1446.3 Party Tents – Cllr. Bunn/Cllr. Newland continues to investigate bags and tie down kits/sourcing pegs & rope.

1447. Report Of The District Councillor / County Councillor Cllr. Channer's report has been emailed to all councillors.

Cllr. Durham reported that he had met recently with Planning Minister Brandon Lewis MP to try to secure protection for rural areas following the LDP. This had not been entirely successful although he did say that Planning Inspectors must take into account advanced stages of the draft LDP;

Examination in public is due to start next week but due to the additional information submitted this may have to be delayed; MDC have amended the planning committee structure for applications of 50+ houses which will now be decided by the whole council not just the area committee in order to ensure decisions are equally judged.

1448. Other Council Matters

1448.1 Village Design Statement progress report. The committee would like to have their report available for viewing during the day preceding the Annual Parish Meeting on 30th March (and at the meeting). The additional charge for the hall booking will be £62 – councillors agreed to fund this expenditure. Councillors had viewed the draft document and were impressed with the amount of work which has gone into collating all the information and producing the document. However they did have some comments about some of the information included and felt that the document was too long. They did not think that the quoted statements should be included on each page or indeed in the

document at all. This information is part of the evidence gathered and individual comments along with the charts are not relevant to the final document. The pie charts and anecdotal information could possibly be included on the website for information. The document's key aim should be to establish design features. There should be a clear statement of how the document will be used for planning. It was felt that it overstates its power in places. Councillors ask if it has been to the RCCE for comment yet? Councillors felt that the statement "affordable village housing" could be misinterpreted and that "mixed dwellings affordable to a broad range of people" would be a better summary. The Listed Buildings list should be worked on to make it more logical. Cllr. Warren will attend the next VDS Working Party meeting and discuss councillors concerns and comments. A representative of the Working Party will be invited to attend the February Parish Council meeting. Discussion regarding printing concluded that councillors do not think it is necessary for each household to receive a colour copy of the document, it will be sufficient for the document to be made available on line in pdf format. However it may be necessary for some copies to be printed and the VDS Working Party have also asked for larger versions to be printed for a display at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors agreed to increase the budget for 2015/16 from £500 to £750 which will have to cover all costs including hire of hall, display printing and printing of documents.

1448.2 Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 30th March – due to elections in May the Annual Parish Meeting will be a month earlier this year. Councillors confirm that they would like clerk to arrange for the Annual printed report to be produced. Councillors agreed that in order for the report to be as up to date as possible that they would distribute the reports during the 2 weeks preceding the meeting.

1449. Consultations/Questionnaires None

1450. Highways

1450.1 There are a large number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

1450.2 Noted that several hedges have now been cut including Little Baddow Road and Herbage Park Road this has made a big difference and clerk has received several comments from residents about the improvement both for vehicles and pedestrians.

1450.3 Holly bush along Rectory Road has been given a good cut back thanks to Mr Harding which has solved the problem of encroachment over the footpath. Mr Harding noted that the offending bush is on highways land but has been maintained by him over the years, but that this may not be possible in the future. Councillors may therefore need to consider including this on the maintenance contract or relying on highways to attend. Thanks also to Orford family for clearing away branches.

1451. Local Issues

1451.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** There were no issues to report. The book was duly signed. It was noted that works to cut back the trees has commenced to good effect although due to poor ground conditions this work has not yet been completed.

1451.2 **Footpaths Report** Other than mud there were no specific issues to report.

1451.3 **School Report** No information to report.

1451.4 **Crime/Police Report** No reports in Woodham Walter although warnings of oil thefts in the district generally.

1451.5 **Litter** February Litter pick dates – clerk has arranged with Colin Warner for either 7th or 28th February depending on weather.

1452. Correspondence

1452.1 Email from Keith Amatto regarding the speed restrictions along Little Baddow Road/Spring Elms Lane. Councillors sympathised with his concerns but think it is very unlikely that the speed restriction will be changed.

1452.2 Email from Jenny Plumb regarding Tom Tit Lane. She is concerned that residents are directing lorry deliveries along Tom Tit Lane. This road has a 6'6" width restriction in force and is therefore unsuitable for lorries. The lane is in a poor state at present due to the heavy rainfall causing mud on the road and lorries using the grass verges has made this worse.

1453. Points of Information

1453.1 It was with regret that councillors learnt that Cllr. Andrew Newland offered his resignation with immediate effect due to personal reasons. Chairman thanked Cllr. Newland for his service to the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange necessary procedure for filling position.

1454. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th February 2015 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.40pm

Dated