

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 8th February 2010

Present:

Colin Warner (Chairman)
Mark Durham (Vice Chairman)
James Bunn
Angus Neale
David Potter
Claire Robinson
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk)

Public: 1

178. Welcome Cllr Warner welcomed those present to the meeting.

179. Apologies For Absence

180. Register of Declared Interests There were no interests declared, the book was duly signed.

181. Public Forum Mrs Ursula Lawton attended the public forum to request a salt/grit bin be placed in the region of Little Baddow Road between Top Road and The Bell junction which has been a great concern during the recent icy weather. The hill has been a particularly dangerous stretch of road and there have been a number of incidents over recent weeks. The site line out of Top Road is very poor due to overgrown beech hedge. Mrs Lawton would be willing to help scatter salt/grit in poor weather. Mrs Lawton also commented on the bend below Lodge Farm on Old London Road which has a poor site line now that the trees/hedge has become overgrown. Could some branches be cut back to help vision. In the summer the visibility is particularly bad due to the overgrowth. The railings along this stretch are also in need of attention.

Councillor Warner thanked Mrs Lawton for making these points, and informed that these highway issues will be discussed during agenda item 13. Mrs Lawton left the meeting at 8.10pm.

182. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 11th January 2010. These were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

183. Matters Arising

6.1 Report on Community Led Planning seminar attended by Cllr. Potter. This seminar was run by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to encourage and inform Parish Councils how to carry out Parish Plans/Village Appraisals/Village Design Statements. These are the conclusion of a survey to ask residents what they want, need and expect in their community. They can also agree planning regulations for the village which the District Council would be obliged to consider when dealing with planning applications. The completed plan would take several years to complete and be an expensive procedure including professional advice costs (although grants are available). It is understood that Danbury Parish Council carried out the process at a cost in excess of £13,000. The reports become outdated and so the process quickly becomes endless. It would require someone prepared to devote a huge amount of time, energy and resources to the project. Cllr Potter concludes that he does not feel it is really suitable or necessary for Woodham Walter but that it had been useful to attend the seminar to draw these conclusions.

Following Cllr Potter's report councillors discuss the pros and cons of producing a such a report.

- The Parish Council already consider each planning application as it comes along and consult with neighbours as part of that process.
- Parish Council meetings are always open to the public to attend and make any comments they would like about planning matters or any other village issues.
- The Annual Parish Meeting also allows residents to express any concerns, ideas or comments about the village.
- Councillors feel they have a broad overview of the village and residents and that the village works well.
- Recent comments from Rev. Malcolm and the Village Agent Christine McDonald have backed up this conclusion that Woodham Walter is a wonderful village.

Cllr Warner thanked Cllr Potter for attending the seminar. Paperwork from the seminar will be circulated and a final conclusion will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 8th March.

6.2 (176.1) Overgrown Beech hedge at junction of Top Road/Little Baddow Road. Cllr Warner has spoken to the owner and been informed that it will be cut back in due course. He will telephone her again to request the work is done before the nesting season begins.

184. Planning – APPLICATIONS

184.1 FUL/MAL/10/00014 Orchard Bungalow, West Bowers Road

Alteration to roof to form bedrooms accommodation and replace existing conservatory.

This application is for alterations to a planning application approved in 2005 with additional windows. The work has commenced/been completed so these changes are retrospective. Cllr Potter concludes that the changes are

not significant and cannot be seen by neighbouring properties. Councillors agree they have no comments to make, clerk to write accordingly.

185. Planning - DECISIONS

185.1 TPO/MAL/09/01011 The Shrubbery, Curling Tye Lane **APPROVE (Delegated)**
TPO 06/77 – T7 (Beech) Fell Tree, T15 (Horse Chestnut) – Remove tow branches over the highway and reduce height of crown by 6m and reduce overall size of crown by up to 3m to balance.

185.2 FUL/MAL/09/01023 1 Redbrick Cottages, The Street **REFUSE (Delegated)**
Off Road Parking space beside house.

“The proposal, by way of its lack of inter-visibility between pedestrians using the highway and potential users of the proposed access would represent a danger to highway safety..”

185.3 FUL/MAL/09/01033 Wood Hall, Little Baddow Road **APPROVE (Delegated)**
Change of main roof direction, basement and side extension.

186. Other Planning Matters

186.1 Falconers Lodge. Update during the month that the site is on the market. No further information.

186.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. Awaiting response.

186.3 Noted: Wind Farm at Bradwell has been granted permission. MDC disappointed.

186.4 Noted: Major application for a Wind Farm at Southminster has been received by MDC.

Councillors are concerned to see another application in a similar area and feel that the results of Bradwell should be seen before approving any more. It is regrettable that the success of the Bradwell site risks a proliferation of similar projects in the Dengie Peninsula. Councillors also concerned about the long-term plan for removing the turbines when they come to the end of their life cycle. Clerk to write with objections, copy to Southminster Parish Council.

186.5 FUL/MAL/09/00791 Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/A/10/2121012/NWF : Meadows Barn, Bassetts Lane. Councillors very concerned that this appeal is not successful. They are in agreement with MDC's reasons for refusal and also continue to be concerned that the lack agricultural usage was not part of the reason. Just because it is not relevant to policies does not mean that it is not relevant.

Questions were raised regarding the nature of construction which councillors are given to understand included a beam and block floor which would surely make the building unsuitable for agricultural purposes. Councillors ask clerk to request from MDC if we are able to view the Building Regulations drawings?

Councillors more than happy to discuss with inspector any queries and will be interested to attend the Appeal hearing. Clerk to write letter reiterating previous comments and querying why the barn has not been used for agricultural purposes and the applicant has not tried to find an agricultural use. Councillor's Potter & Bunn to advise clerk. Clerk will also send the inspector copies of letters sent in objection relating to previous applications at this site.

187. To Authorise Any Payments Due The following payments were approved and cheques duly signed.

187.1 e-on – Monthly DD

187.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

187.3 Clerks Salary + allowance

187.4 RCCE Community Led Planning £25

187.5 WW Women's Club £104 for hire of club room. 187.5 WW V Hall Assoc. £10 deposit re: hire of hall.

188. Other Financial Matters

188.1 Receipt of Wayleave payment from EDF £7.94

189. Report Of The District Councillor

190. Highways

190.1 Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Licence to Plant. Application process proceeding. Clerk to chase up as planting needs to be carried out in the very near future.

190.2 New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.

190.3 Village Gateways lining. Nothing further to report.

190.4 Sustrans National Cycle Network Signposting. No further correspondence received.

190.5 HGV signs. Clerk contacted Jackie Roerig re: HGV sign at Runsell Green which has been knocked over. This will be looked at along with decision/installation of new sign on A414. Councillors hope that this will achieve less HGV traffic through the village which is a big problem.

190.6 Pot Holes – Good news, some orange lines have been painted along Herbage Park Road. Clerk has been informed work to repair is due to be completed before the end of March.

190.7 Salt/Grit Bins – info received. They can be sponsored by Parish Council for flat fee of £350 per bin which includes supply, installation and maintenance. Location must be agreed by Highways. Usually yellow in colour but can be supplied in green or black. Councillors discuss the best location for a bin and conclude that the priority location is at the junction of Top Road/Little Baddow road on the grass verge probably green in colour. Could argue that there are numerous locations in the village which would benefit from salt/grit bins but this section of Little Baddow Road is of the highest priority. Other locations could be considered in the future or even look into the possibility of privately financing via the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange site meeting (including annual inspection), Cllr. Durham to attend.

190.8 Little London Lane – correspondence received from Martin & Victoria Emmison from Ravens Farm and Victoria & James Nolan at Little London Cottage regarding poor condition of road. Councillors agree to include an inspection when Highways visit for their annual meeting. Clerk to arrange. Noted that the likelihood is that this will take a considerable period of time to achieve. Clerk to respond to residents.

190.9 Pot Hole just off highway – Old London Road. Had note to say this will be looked at again and defect criteria reviewed.

190.10 Following Mrs Lawton's comments, Councillors discussed the overgrown trees at bend near Lodge Farm on Old London Road. This area will also be included in annual inspection although the trees in questions are thought to be on private land so owner may need to be approached. Railings also need inspecting.

191. Local Issues

191.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed, no reported incidents.

191.2 **Footpath Officer Report** 1) ECC have started to improve the signposting in Woodham Walter Common. New waymark posts and discs have appeared along BR 31 at it's junctions with FP 38, BR 10 and FP 7. 2) Two dead trees that had fallen and partially blocked FP 18 close to the ruins of the old hall have been removed.

191.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** Nothing received, clerk has written again. Councillors disappointed that recently we have not to have been kept in touch with matters from the Police. Clerk to visit One Place On Wheels which is due to visit village on Wednesday 10th February and Wednesday 10th March.

191.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: no details received.

191.5 **School Report** None received.

191.6 **Allotments Report** The AGM is to take place in March. Rabbits have gained access and solutions were discussed.

191.7 **Community Speed Watch** Clerk to ask Ivor Brearley if he will attend a CSW Conference on 30th March.

191.8 **Litter** A few incidences of fly tipping have occurred and been reported to MDC. (Curling Tye Lane/Stivvy's Road/Oak Farm Road). Clerk informs that the fly tipping on the drive of Falconers Lodge cannot be removed by MDC as it is on private land. Clerk has informed Church & Hawes who are marketing the site for sale. Great concern that rubbish is very unsightly and could encourage further fly tips. Continue to monitor. Reminder that litter pick takes place on Saturday 13th February meeting at 10am at school. Clerk/Cllr Warner have reminded adopt-a-road volunteers to do a litter pick so that these areas should not need to be covered.

191.9 **Village Agent** Councillors pleased to learn that as it stands at present there is not a great need in Woodham Walter which goes to show how well the village works. Village Agent can still be contacted if required.

191.10 **War Memorial** – Councillors decide that a discussion on what residents would like to see at the Memorial Garden will be included as an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th April.

191.11 **Annual Parish Meeting** Clerk has sent letters inviting local organisations etc to submit written reports with a deadline of 1st March. The report will then be compiled and printed in time for distribution with the April Parish magazine.

192. Correspondence

192.1 MDC Press Release re: Community Hospital Maldon. Council concerned about lack of progress.

192.2 Correspondence received from Zoe Coates. Councillors had received circulation documents and conclude that no further comment is necessary.

192.3 Oil Buying Group for Woodham Walter and local villages. Tim Lodge contacted clerk with details of group he is setting up with the aim of coordinating buying patterns to reduce tanker traffic in our village whilst saving money on heating costs. If enough people are interested and a delivery of 10,000 litres can be ordered then significant discounts from oil suppliers can be negotiated. More information and/or to register can be found on line at: www.oilbuyinggroup.co.uk Cllr. Warren commented that the proposed buying dates may not necessarily coincide with personal requirements, clerk will enquire about this. Tim Lodge is keen to receive feedback on the initiative.

192.4 Invitation to attend Little Baddow Parish Council – Annual Assembly on Wednesday 17th March at 7.30pm. Cllr. Potter & Warner will try to attend.

192.5 Little Baddow Fun Day & Pop Concert to be held on 26th June at playing fields.

192.6 ECC – Street Lighting PFI. Clerk to respond.

192.7 Essex & Herts Long Distance Walkers Association. Two walks due to pass through Woodham Walter on Sunday 11th April. Request permission to erect gazebo on Bell Meadow to serve refreshments. Councillors approve and glad to welcome walkers. Clerk to contact and notify there should be no sale of alcohol and litter to be collected.

192.8 Sport Relief Mile – Maldon Promenade Park on Sunday 21st March.

192.9 EALC – Standing Orders For Local Councils. Clerk to request copies and investigate.

192.10 MDC – New Chief Executive announced as Fiona Marshall.

192.11 SLCC Essex Branch - Annual Training Day. Clerk to attend on Saturday 20th March in SWF.

193. Points Of Information

194. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th March 2010

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 10.00pm