

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 February 2017

Present:

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

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
Cllr. Henry Bass

Public: 0

1978. Welcome Cllr. Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

1979. Apologies For Absence Received from Cllr. Peter Warren and County Councillor Penny Channer.

1980. 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.

1981. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

1982. To approve Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 The minutes were approved and duly signed.

1983. Matters Arising from Minutes

1983.1 Air Cmdre. Sismore memorial bench on Bell Meadow. No further information.

1983.2 Gate at Bell Meadow – Await information from UK Power Networks.

1983.3 Village Hall Storage – Cllr. Tompkins reported that he has enlisted the help of David Beattie and Paul Clark and they are looking at various options.

1984. Planning – APPLICATIONS

Cllr. Durham informed that there is a planning application for up to 100 dwellings at Land South Of Maldon Road And East Of Hyde Green, Maldon Road, Danbury. Clerk to check details.

1985. Planning – DECISIONS

1985.1 CCC-16/01810/OUT Land East of Runsell Green/North Maldon Road, Danbury
Outline planning for up to 140 residential dwellings. **REFUSE**

1985.2 HOUSE/MAL/16/01353 Holly Lodge, Hop Garden Lane **APPROVE**
Demolition of double garage outbuilding and replacement with cart lodge.

1986. Other Planning Matters

1986.1 Woodham Walter Conservation Area. Various residents have enquired about the VDS and Conservation Area. Cllr. Symons gave a summary of the current situation detailing the chronology of progress and the frustrations that to date the CA or VDS have still not been approved by MDC - although the latest information from Cllr. Penny Channer is that the CA is due to be considered at the March Planning & Licensing committee. It is hoped that the Parish Council can now look forward to this finally being brought to committee and understand the frustrations that this has so far taken almost 4 years. Cllr. Durham noted that he had spoken to Devan Lawson the officer dealing with the CA/VDS at MDC. He understands that they would like to consider the VDS at the same meeting but that they are awaiting comments from the VDS group to the last email. Cllr. Tompkins responded that the information is all completed and that he was awaiting the CA approval which had been understood to be needed before the final VDS document could be submitted. He will contact Devan Lawson and send the latest VDS version tomorrow.

Cllr. Symons also noted that the BBC had made an enquiry to MDC and she reiterated that this information had not come from the Parish Council. The BBC have not made enquiries with the Parish Council. MDC understand that the source of the information had come from someone loosely connected to the Parish Council. Cllr. Symons reminded all councillors that they should follow correct

procedures with regards to Media engagement. It was accepted that going to the media would be a last case scenario having explored all other means and that it would not necessarily end as desired as you have no control over what is reported. It was agreed that a statement about the current situation should be placed in the Parish Magazine in order to keep villagers updated.

1986.2 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. Latest version to be submitted to MDC.

1986.3 Housing White Paper - Cllr. Durham reported that the draft White Paper has been released and there may be some impact on the VDS although it is not known yet how it could be affected.

Neighbourhood Plans are given weight and some areas are rolling VDS's into Neighbourhood Plans which may be a logical move and there are many grants available so costs can be manageable.

VDS's give parishioners a guide to design before they submit an application. NHP's are more powerful and carry similar weight to Local Development Plans, but land for development would be required and building on this land must be deliverable.

1986.4 Enforcement update. Clerk has requested updates about existing case at Warren Lodges.

Clerk to ask if MDC visited Warren Lodges during the closure period. Other current investigations which are awaiting progress reports: Meadows Barn. Lodge Farm. Greenlanes

1987. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1987.1 E-on –Monthly DD – £20.67 (inc. 0.98 VAT)

1987.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

1987.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 30 hours + allowance and holiday pay £471.04

1987.4 Woodham Walter Womens Club – Hire of Hall £128.00

1987.5 A&J Lighting Solutions – Call out/lamp £157.20

1987.6 Mrs J Bannerman – expenses (Postage/stationery) £28.19

1988. Other Financial Matters

1988.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
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Business Reserve A/C

09-Jan-17	Balance			8777.71
13-Feb-17	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		700.00	8077.71

Community Account

09-Jan-17	Balance			694.01
17-Jan-17	UK Power Networks (Wayleave Payment)	9.89		703.90
13-Jan-17	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	700.00		1403.90
13-Jan-17	February Debits		829.04	574.86

1988.2 Quarterly Expenditure review to 31st January 2017. Clerk has provided excel sheet with up to date figures. Chairman to review files.

1988.3 Playground – There have been no invoiced works during this year as the caretaker has dealt with any remedial tasks. It was therefore agreed that funding be carried over to the next financial year as it is expected that there will be significant works required next year.

1989. Reports Of The District & County Councillor Cllr. Durham reported that the Examination In Public of the LDP took place in January. They have submitted major modifications to the inspector and if agreed there will be a 6 week consultation. The inspector will then report to the Secretary of State. They should hopefully know the result by early Summer. Changes in the White Paper have already been incorporated; The MDC budget is due to be ratified and there will be an increase in council tax from MDC or £5 plus increases from Police and Fire and ECC are also increasing by £5 for the Social Care budget but they froze the tax base figure; MDC have a new Finance Director starting soon – Emma Foy and they are recruiting for a new Planning Director;

Cllr. Bass reported that he is looking at Primary School Education in the District and has been involved in looking at ways that MDC could help as part of the strengthening communities agenda. He reported that the majority of failing schools in the district are church schools and that this is being examined.

One of the problems is a lack of affordable housing for teachers and this is an area that MDC are looking at finding ways of incorporating key worker affordable housing into the new garden suburbs.

There is also a need to find governors for some schools and the District Council are looking at ways of encouraging their staff to get involved. It is a concern that currently 40% of pupils are not Secondary School ready when they should be.

Cllr. Channer had sent her report which includes information on: Foster carers; Highways

maintenance; A120 Consultation; Youth Essex Assembly; A130 works; Report re: threats and opportunities in post-Brexit world; Waste disposal – asbestos issues; New school places funding; children granted opportunity to improve libraries; Essex job fairs; New buses for Park & Ride inc. Wi-Fi and air conditioning; Work to encourage former teachers back into the classroom.

1990. Other Council Matters

1990.1 Woodham Walter Common – It was noted that a large tree branch has fallen and obstructed a path on the Common. An EWT Working Party will deal with the branch and clear the path. It has been agreed that the wood from this branch may be removed from the Common by the Warden, this will be done as and when time permits.

1990.2 Bell Meadow Village Association – AGM was held on Friday 10th February 2017. Minutes will be forwarded to clerk for council records including note of new officers.

1990.3 Allotments Association – No information to report.

1990.4 Annual Parish Meeting – Date confirmed for Thursday 27th April. Clerk to begin compiling annual report.

1991. Consultations/Questionnaires

1991.1 Essex Replacement Waste Local Plan – Public Consultation open until 16th February.

1991.2 A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme public consultation. A12 between junction 19 (north of Chelmsford) and junction 25 (Marks Tey). Including junction 20A and 20B at Hatfield Peverel. The closing date Friday 3rd March. You can find all the information on the consultation and a link to the online questionnaire at: www.highways.gov.uk/A12chelmsfordA120widening. Brochure available from MDC offices and there are public exhibitions in various locations. It was agreed that councillors will response as individuals if desired but that no response from the Parish Council was necessary.

1992. Highways

1992.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

1992.2 Community Speed Watch – Essex County Fire & Rescue service are now working in partnership with Essex Police to coordinate this scheme. The village equipment is currently being recalibrated and clerk will then be able to arrange some more sessions in the village. Clerk to attend meeting in early March for update.

1992.3 Bell Junction – councillors considered the poor finishing of verge/reinstatement of grass. There is also concern that water will still by-pass the gully on the corner as the ground is below the level of the gully. Rain has washed off the top soil and parking has made this worse. There are areas that have sunk. The grass needs to be re-instated which should have been done as part of the job. Clerk to write to highways and report that the PC are pleased that works have been done but that it needs to be reinstated better. Action is required soonest for the grass seed to take effect. Cllr. Hughes has some fence stakes which can be used to cordon off the area to stop parking and allow time for the area to re-establish.

1992.4 Little Baddow Road/Spring Elms Lane. It was noted that works are due to take place by BT to install ducting to connect the BT boxes and enable fibre to be laid.

1993. Local Issues

1993.1 Bell Meadow/Playground. 1) Universal Services have completed the annual safety inspection of the football posts. Bracket straightened. Report suggests the nets are in need of replacement. Councillors do not consider the nets need replacing yet and Cllr. Bunn will repair with cable ties.

2) It was noted that the tree which has fallen from wood belonging to the Warren into Bell Meadow has still not been removed. Clerk / Cllr. Warren to enquire. 3) There were no other issues to report and the book was duly signed.

1993.2 Footpaths Report. 1) A large sycamore fell in last month's high winds, blocking FP18 by the old ruins. Thank you Colin & Jenny for its prompt removal and also trimming back the brambles in order to widen the path. 2) ECC contractors have replaced the dilapidated bridge on FP14. With handrails on both sides it makes crossing the stream in The Wilderness much safer! 3) Now that FP16 has been rerouted into The Wilderness behind Falconers Lodge, I've resited the waymark post at its new junction with FP18 in order to aid walkers unfamiliar with the area.

1993.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported that the recent Ofsted inspection result is that the school Requires Improvement. This is a disappointing outcome. An action plan is being put in place by the Head Teacher and new Chair of Governors to address the points raised in the report. They are confident that the school will turn this around and another inspection will take place within 24 months but hopefully sooner this year. Cllr. Symons also reported that a meeting has been arranged to discuss the community playground.

Cllr. Henry Bass then left the meeting room at 9.40pm

1993.4 Crime/Police Report. Cllr. Durham reported that he is concerned about rural crime and is in discussions and due to meet with Chief Inspector Egan, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the

Police G&T Liaison officer to discuss concerns. It was noted that the community need to be better at locking up, be less complacent and make it difficult for would be crime.

1993.5 Litter –Village Litter Pick – Saturday 25th February. (Reserve date: 4th March) Clerk liaising with Colin Warner. Meet at 10am outside the school. Clerk to write to adopt-a-road volunteers.

Flytip along West Bowers reported 7/2/17. Clerk to report litter between Anchor and Warren.

1993.6 Broadband. The information leaflet produced by the Working Group is due to be delivered.

1993.7 Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr. Durham is investigating.

1994. Matters Raised by Local Residents

1994.1 Oil in the brook – reported to clerk by Dave Weedon who had reported to Environment Agency. Clerk has also informed EA who have responsibility for this river.

1995. Correspondence

1995.1 It was noted that various items have been emailed to councillors/are available in the drop box.

1996. Points of Information

1996.1 Pink recycling bags – these can now be collected from Parish Council meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month. Cllr. Durham to report on whether food bags are also going to be available.

1996.2 Village Taskforce – councillors discussed if a taskforce could be arranged with volunteers who could offer odd jobs for sick/infirm/elderly in the village. Anyone interested in volunteering or anyone with any suggestions for jobs to contact clerk.

1997. Date of Next Parish Council Meetings:

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th March 2017 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.10pm

Dated