

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 9th 11th February 2015

Present:

Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Angus Neale
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. Joanna Symons

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor Henry Bass

Public: 2

1455. Welcome Cllr Peter Warren welcomed those present to the meeting.

1456. Apologies For Absence There were no apologies to report.

1457. 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 to declare and the register was duly signed.

1458. Public Forum There were two members of the public present. Mr David Beattie and Mr John Tompkins were in attendance regarding the Village Design Statement – see minute reference 1467.2. Cllr. Mark Durham reported on the progress of the LDP – see minute reference 1466. Mr David Beattie left the meeting room at 8.30pm

1459. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On Monday 13th January 2015
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

1460. Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th January 2015

1460.1 Vehicle Activated Sign. Councillors were delighted to hear that the application for a Bell Meadow Legacy grant had been successful. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Bunn and continue sourcing additional funding and detailed costings.

1461. Planning – APPLICATIONS There were no applications to consider.

1462. Planning – DECISIONS

1462.2 HOUSE/MAL/14/01080 WAGGERS, HOP GARDEN LANE APPROVED (NW)

Erection of outbuilding incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house.

Councillors were concerned to note the application for this vast outbuilding had been approved due to permitted development rights associated with the previous approval for the house.

1463. Other Planning Matters

1463.1 Notification from MDC regarding planning committee governance arrangements.

1463.2 Cllr's Warren and Symons had attended the NW Area Planning committee to comment on the Waggars application and to hear the outcome of this and the Spring Elms Farm application.

1463.2 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.

It was noted that the decision was deferred by the NW planning committee while technical information on the precise status of the land is confirmed.

1464. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1464.1 e-on –Monthly DD

1464.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

1464.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary/Allowance

1464.4 Mrs J Bannerman – Expenses (Toner)

1464.5 Skippers Ground Maintenance £540

1465. Other Financial Matters

1465.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
12-Jan-15	Balance		600.00	6360.90
09-Feb-15	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		900.00	5460.90
Community Account				
12-Jan-15	Balance			602.52
16-Jan-15	UK Powernetworks (Wayleave payment)	9.52		612.04
09-Feb-15	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	900.00		1512.04
09-Feb-15	February Debits		993.59	518.45

1465.2 Party Tents – Cllr. Bunn continues to investigate bags and tie down kits/sourcing pegs& rope.

1466. Report Of The District Councillor

Cllr. Durham reported that the Local Development Plan is progressing. The housing stage of Examination in Public has been completed. The timetable for the remainder of sessions will run between 22nd-29th June. They are due to get the comments of the inspector on housing at the end of April to say if it is “sound” or not. Each stage that passes offers more weight to the LDP document and this offers more defence against plans which are submitted that are contrary to the emerging development plan.

Cllr. Bass commented that he is optimistic that the 5 year land supply figures have now been established which offers strong protection.

Cllr. Durham also reported the budget for Maldon has been concluded with Council Tax up by 1.5% (equivalent to 5p/week for Band D property; New directors will be in place by the end of the month.

1467. Other Council Matters

1467.1 Vacancy for Parish Councillor. Due to the close proximity of the public elections in May councillors are able to co-opt a member for the interim period by a vote of the present sitting councillors. The position has been advertised on the noticeboard and in the February parish magazine. 1 candidate has come forward and was present at the meeting. Mr John Tompkins confirmed that he would like to be considered for the position before stepping out of the meeting room. After discussion Mr John Tompkins was proposed by Cllr. Peter Warren this was seconded by Cllr. James Bunn and agreed by all. Mr Tompkins was invited back into the meeting room and duly co-opted into the vacant position and will sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting. Cllr. Warren welcomed Mr Tompkins onto the Parish Council.

1467.2 Village Design Statement progress report. Mr David Beattie and Mr John Tompkins thanked councillors for helping to deliver residents letters. So far there had been 3 responses via the website and several other comments. It was reiterated how essential it is to get residents to give their opinion as this adds weight to the document. The VDS team will be displaying the draft document in the village hall during the day prior to Annual Parish Meeting from 11am on Monday 30th March with the meeting beginning at 8pm.

Cllr. Durham was concerned that the document is too lengthy and that a lot of the information is unnecessary and distracting. It needs to be a more technical document just focussing on design. He is concerned that it could give people unrealistic expectations as there will be occasions when a planning decision by MDC will go against the VDS, this could be for a number of technical and legal reasons. However he acknowledged that the VDS document will be a material consideration and give weight when officers and district councillors are considering their decisions.

Mr Tompkins responded that the document is a reflection of the community’s views. It is a Community Led initiative and Section 5 of the document does provide the technical information referred to and he thinks it’s important for planners and councillors to also have the background information provided in the document which helps to provide a broad view of the village and reflects the views of the residents. It is not a prescriptive document and this has been made clear.

Cllr. Neale commented that the document will also be useful to village residents when considering making planning applications as it is a guide to what they can do and not just a document for MDC. Mr Beattie informed councillors that the deadline for comments via the website is 15th March and he asked that councillors encourage residents to view the document and comment. Feedback is a vital part of the process of producing the Village Design Statement. After the deadline the document will be re-drafted to reflect comments received and published again for the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 30th March. The team will be displaying from 11am in the Village Hall.

Cllr. Warren thanked the VDS team for all their efforts.

1467.3 Annual Parish Report – clerk awaits information and reports from local organisations.

1468. Consultations/Questionnaires

1468.1 ECC – Equalities Strategy. Cllr. Rushton will assess and respond.

1468.2 ECC – Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions. Cllr. Durham advised that this was not relevant to the Parish Council and a response was not required.

1468.3 MDC – Consultation for advice services. Cllr. Symons will assess and respond.

1468.4 ECC – Bus Consultation – Cllr. Warren will assess and respond.

1469. Highways

1469.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

1469.2 Noted that a recent survey was completed and some of the minor defects have now been fixed. However the more severe defects with orange paint will be fixed in the coming weeks. Clerk has reported 3 potholes which didn't get this highlighting. (Church Hill, Top Road, Bassetts Lane)

1469.3 Clerk to report potholes at Blue Mills Lane/Rectory Road pull-in area. Query if this is ECC Highways responsibility or Moat Housing.

1470. Local Issues

1470.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** There were no issues to report and the book was duly signed.

1470.2 **Footpaths Report** 1) Application to upgrade FP7 Woodham Walter to Bridleway – case 951. We have received notification that this application was refused and the applicant does not intend to appeal the decision so the case is now closed. 2) Fallen Oak tree across BR31 on path into Woodham Walter common between Spring Elms Lane and the bridge has been cleared thanks to Doug Seear. The remaining large trunk is considered not to be causing an obstruction.

1470.3 **School Report** Cllr. Symons reported that she has liaised with updating the school Equality Statement. She has overseen how PSHE is incorporated into the curriculum and found out how it is taught in school. Cllr. Symons to find out when the painting of the new fence will be completed.

1470.4 **Crime/Police Report** There were no crimes to report. The Street Meets for our area take place in Purleigh.

1470.5 **Litter** February Litter pick took place on 7th February. 10 volunteers on the day plus another 6 volunteers covering other areas on separate days. 30+ bags collected and almost the entire parish has been covered. Thank you to everyone who helped. Clerk to report litter between Anchor/Warren.

1470.6 **Broadband** Cllr. Durham reported that ECC have updated the Superfast Essex map and despite our best efforts with letters and responses to the consultation it still does not include Woodham Walter. Currently neither BT nor Superfast Essex offers a superfast service to the village and we will have to rely on the existing level of service or alternative service providers who offer wireless technology. The Superfast Essex map is very difficult to read and it is expected that it will be updated to make it clearer. Cllr. Bass informed that he is now sitting on a District broadband panel. Councillors remain disappointed that despite relevant evidence being conveyed neither BT nor Superfast Essex seem to have taken on board our information that the service currently offered by BT is not available as advertised and that this seems to be the reason we are not qualifying for the Superfast Essex programme. John Tompkins was asked to forward his research to Cllr. Bass to highlight the problems and Cllr. Bass will then attempt to address.

1470.7 **Telephone Box** Clerk has reported the broken window.

1471. Correspondence

1471.1 Little Baddow PC – Annual Assembly – Wednesday 15th April 7.30pm (Open from 6.30 to view displays from local clubs and organisations). Cllr. Bunn to attend.

1471.2 MDC/EWT – Buckthorn for Brimstone information (emailed to all)

1471.3 Hatfield Peverel PC – Request to designate the parish as a neighbourhood area. Information emailed to all. Clerk to enquire what this means. Councillors would like to be included as consultees.

1471.4 Police Partnership Conference – information emailed to all.

1471.5 UK Powernetworks Certificate of unmetered supplies has been received.

1471.6 Danbury Parish Council – Annual Assembly – Monday 30th March – clerk to offer apologies as this falls on the same night as the Woodham Walter APM.

1472. Points of Information None

1473. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th March 2015 at 8pm in Women's Club. Please also note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 30th March at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.40pm

Dated