

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 March 2017

Present:

Cllr. Joanna Symons (Chairman)
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. Peter Warren

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

Public: 0

1998. Welcome Cllr. Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

1999. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. John Tompkins, Cllr. Jenny Hughes, Cllr. James Bunn and County Councillor Penny Channer.

2000. 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 register was duly signed.

2001. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

2002. To approve Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th February 2017

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

2003. Matters Arising from Minutes

2003.1 (1994.1) Oil in the brook – clerk has had email communication from Mr Keep at Ferndale who has been in liaising with Environment Agency regarding oil. It is understood that a leak has been found and pipework replaced at his property. Mr Keep has complained that the Parish Council did not visit to notify of the leak. Clerk has pointed out that she did not know where the leak was coming from and felt that it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency to investigate. Councillors noted Mr Keep's criticism.

2004. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2004.1 For information only

NMA/MAL/17/00218 White Gates Cottage, Herbage Park Road
Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission of FUL/MAL/15/01346 (Removal of condition 2 of approved application FUL/MAL/13/00083 (Demolition of existing house and garage, erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage accessed from existing site entrance). Date of Decision: 07/06/2013. Reduce the size of the dwelling with some minor internal and elevation changes) Amendment sought: To continue the parapet wall around the perimeter of the building to increase the depth of 3 windows on the left-hand flank wall to substitute a window on the left-hand side of the rear elevation for bi fold doors and to alter the external finish on the side extension from render to brick.

2005. Planning – DECISIONS

2005.1 FUL/MAL/16/01404 Falconers Lodge Offices, Oak Farm Road **REFUSE**
Retrospective – Use of building as single dwelling house.

2005.2 FUL/MAL/16/01373 The Warren Lodge Park, Herbage Park Road **APPROVE(NW)**
28 new holiday lodges with associated infrastructure and access.

Cllr. Symons reported that she had attended the NW Area Planning meeting to make representations to the committee on behalf of the Parish Council who had objected strongly to this application.

However, after discussions the majority decision of the committee was to approve the application.

2006. Planning – APPEALS

2006.1 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.

To note that an appeal has been made against the council's decision to refuse permission.

Councillors do not consider any further written representation should be made by the Parish Council to the inspector.

2007. Other Planning Matters

2007.1 Woodham Walter Conservation Area. Councillors were pleased to note that the Planning & Licensing Committee at MDC agreed to the Woodham Walter Conservation Area along with the Article 4 direction to the 10 buildings listed in the report: Church Cottage, Lynton House, Ash Cottage, 1&2 The Maples, 1&2 Almshouses, Severn House, 1&2 Brick Cottages, Wendover Cottage, Ferndale and Fort Cottage.

2007.2 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. It was noted that the VDS was deferred by the P&L Committee to enable amendments to satisfy the officers recommendation and ensure that the VDS adheres to the Maldon District Design Guide (which is an emerging document that is just about to be released for Public Consultation). This will be done in conjunction with the Interim Director of Planning, Chairman & Vice Chairman of P&L and ward members. It will then need to go before the P&L committee again for approval.

Chairman/Clerk reported that they have been liaising with our District Councillors, County Councillor and MDC representatives along with the Interim Director of Planning to let them know that we were disappointed to learn that the VDS had not been approved - especially because the Officer's report to the committee concluded that the VDS is in general compliance with the District's Replacement Local Plan and the emerging LDP policies and advised the P&L Committee that with minor modifications mainly in response to the Conservation Area, that it could be formally endorsed. In response correspondence was received outlining the sticking points and Chair/Clerk have met with VDS leaders to find mutually acceptable compromises to move the project to a conclusion. It is acknowledged that a lot of work has gone into producing this document over the last 4 years and it is frustrating that the advice now being issued from MDC is directly contrary to previous advice received.

Chairman/Clerk will continue to liaise with the VDS committee and MDC to alter the VDS to a document that is satisfactory to all and hope that this can be done in time for the P&L Committee meeting on 27th April.

2007.3 Enforcement update. Awaiting updates for current investigations Warren Lodges, Meadows Barn, Lodge Farm, Greenlanes. Cllr.Durham to enquire about enforcement proceedings at Falconers Lodge Offices.

2007.4 Chelmsford City Council 17/00089/OUT Land South Of Maldon Road And East Of Hyde Green, Maldon Road, Danbury. Outline planning application for up to 100 dwellings with public open space, drainage and landscaping with all matters reserved except access into the site.

Consultation deadline 21st March. Councillors agreed to object to this application along the same lines as the recent objection to the application at Runsell Green.

2007.5 MDC Planning Manual and Toolkit – clerk has requested hard copies. Cllr. Durham has supplied a copy for circulation.

2008. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

2008.1 E-on –Monthly DD – £18.68 (inc. 0.89 VAT)

2008.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

2008.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 36 hours + allowance £421.04

2008.4 EALC (Planning Briefing – Cllr. Symons) £45.00

2008.5 HMRC ¼ ly payment £146.20

2008.6 Mrs J Bannerman – expenses (toner cartridge) £75.72

2009. Other Financial Matters

2009.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
13-Feb-17	Balance			8077.71
13-Mar-17	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		550.00	7527.71
Community Account				
13-Feb-17	Balance			574.86
22-Feb-17	Allotments Association refund min ref: 1968.5	55.00		629.86
13-Mar-17	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	550.00		1179.86
13-Mar-17	March Debits		730.58	449.28
13-Mar-17	UK Powernetworks (Wayleave Payment)	5.75		455.03

2009.2 Quarterly Expenditure review to 31st January 2017. Cllr. Symons confirmed that she has carried out a review of the accounts and bank statements as part of our system of internal control. All found to be in order.

2009.3 End of Year Accounts to 31 March 2017. Clerk to begin working on the end of year accounts.

2009.4 Barclays Savings Account – it has come to the attention of the clerk that Barclays are no longer paying interest on accounts with less than £1m. Clerk to investigate alternative community savings accounts.

2010. Reports Of The District & County Councillor

Cllr. Durham reported that he had held a meeting with Police representatives to discuss Rural Crime. He was assured that more emphasis will be placed on rural crime including current operations such as Operation Gallileo which is targeting hare coursers.

The police station at Maldon is due to move into the Maldon District council offices in the summer.

MDC held a job fair for the Care sector last week which proved very successful.

Interviews are taking place for the Director of Planning.

It was noted that Cllr. Channer had submitted her report by email and this has been forwarded to councillors, including information on: Essex libraries are hosting a month-long series of events for people of all ages as part of the Essex Book Festival; ECC working with boroughs, districts and care providers, is asking residents to consider working in the care sector to help fill the high number of vacancies and improve the lives of elderly and vulnerable people. The 'be the reason...' message is part of The Gift of Care campaign launched last year to change the perception of working in social care and reduce the recruitment shortfall; A record number of children who are due to start secondary school for the first time in September have been offered their parents' top preference of school; There are fewer unemployed young people in Essex thanks to the work being done by the Essex Employability and Skills Unit.; A series of exciting events helped ambitious young people kick start their careers as part of Apprenticeship Week which started on 3 March 2017; Digital leaders have stated that health and social care providers could see the biggest benefit from public sector digital services when polled at the Smart Essex Digital Summit. In order to prepare for the challenges of the future, ECC must ensure that digital plays a central role in the way we deliver public services. Our ambition is for Essex to lead the way in identifying the best use for digital services and how they can support how we live and work.

2011. Other Council Matters

2011.1 Woodham Walter Common – No information to report to date.

2011.2 Bell Meadow Village Association – Minutes from the AGM have been received. To note that the elected officers of the committee are as follows: Chairman – Mark Durham. Vice Chairman – Ivor Brearly. Secretary – Kerry Boswell. Treasurer – Ken Rennie. Cllr. Durham reported that plans are coming together for this year's event.

2011.3 Allotments Association – To note 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. It was noted that there are still some empty plots.

2011.4 Annual Parish Meeting –Thursday 27th April. Clerk has begun compiling annual report.

2012. Consultations/Questionnaires

2012.1 Maldon District Design Guide – consultation expected but not yet available

2012.2 Police and Crime Commissioner's Public consultation which closes on 10th May.

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/LocalCaseForChange

2013. Highways

2013.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

2013.2 Community Speed Watch – The village equipment has now been recalibrated and clerk will now be able to arrange some more sessions in the village. Clerk attended meeting on 9th March which outlined the ways in which the Essex Fire service are supporting the Police in this initiative. It was emphasised that they have now got in place sufficient staff to administer and support teams.

2013.3 Bell Junction – Highways initial response to our complaint about the state of the verge after drainage works were completed was met with the statement that *This issue has been investigated, risk assessed and recorded in line with our [Maintenance Strategy](#) as not requiring immediate action at this time. This will be considered for inclusion in future planned works. At this stage no specific dates or timescales are available for future works at this location.* Clerk has now responded with a robustly worded email copied into County Councillor Channer. Cllr. Durham will also investigate further with the Local Highways Panel. Work to reinstate the area is now time critical as grass seed needs to be sown as soon as possible.

2013.4 Rectory Road – footpath resurfacing works – reports of damage to Village Hall car park have been investigated and found to be minor.

2013.5 Cycle Route signpost on triangle at junction of West Bowers Road/Stivvy's Road. Clerk/Councillors were initially dismayed at the appearance of the sign which was considered obtuse and dangerous, but as it has since been removed no further action is required.

2013.6 Old London Road – It was noted that works to repair the barrier are due to take place.

2013.7 Little Baddow Road – Blocked drain between Stivvys Road and Bunsay to be reported.

2014. Local Issues

2014.1 Bell Meadow/Playground. 1) Football nets - Cllr. Bunn is awaiting equipment to carry out repair. 2) Cllr. Warren reported that he has spoken to Warren and they have agreed to attend to the fallen tree. He will remind them as it has not been done yet. 3) Air Cmdre. Sismore memorial bench on Bell Meadow. Clerk has spoken to family and they are keen to proceed, liaising with Rob Hamilton regarding the concrete base. 4) Gate at Bell Meadow – Await information from UK Power Networks. 5) No further issues were reported and the book was duly signed.

2014.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr Warren reported: 1) FP16, WM Road/Tom Tit Lane. Broken handrail and fingerpost damage - this has been reported for repair 2) 4 trees on FP12 between Warren and Water pumping station were dealt with by the Warren, unfortunately Storm Doris has since resulted in further trees which need clearing! 3) Storm Doris also caused a tree to come down on FP22 between Wilderness and Blue Mill Lane. We are grateful to Lee Carter who cleared this very promptly.

2014.3 Annual Tree Inspection – Cllr. Warren reported that he had carried out the inspection and all trees were found to be looking sound. As it was not possible to see dead branches without leaves it was agreed that the Annual Tree Inspection Policy should be amended to inspections in early spring and also in the summer. Clerk/Cllr. Warren to change policy for next meeting.

2014.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported on meeting held at school to discuss Community Playground issues. There is a need to find a solution to locking the school gate to improve security at the school. Cllr's conclude that security should be the responsibility of the school and that the Parish Council cannot be expected to take on this role. Clerk to investigate automatic gate locking device.

2014.4 Crime/Police Report. Hare Coursing operation currently running, any sightings should be reported to the Police.

2014.5 Litter – 1) Clerk arranged a successful village litter pick with 28 bags of litter collected by 12 volunteers. More or less the whole parish was covered. Thanks to Colin Warner for collecting and storing litter. 2) Litter between Warren and Anchor was reported and cleared by Chelmsford City Council very promptly 3) Wheel in ditch along Hoe Mill Road reported. 4) Fly tipped fridge along Curling Tye Lane reported.

2014.6 Broadband. The information leaflet has now been delivered and has generated several responses. Clerk to enquire for the latest situation with Superfast Essex.

2014.7 Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr. Durham will liaise with the Local Highways Pane.

2014.8 Zig Zag Lines – clerk is working on application to extend the zig zag lines opposite Top Road. We have spoken to the school and Tadpoles both of whom are supportive of the proposal and have agreed to write letters to accompany the application. Cllr. Warren reported that he had spoken to Gary & Jackie at the Queen Victoria and they were also supportive. Evidence of support is now required – clerk has prepared a simple petition to gather signatures. Any other comments can be made via email to the clerk.

2014.9 Village Hall Storage – Cllr. Tompkins continues to investigate.

2014.10 Village Taskforce – only 1 response offering to help! Cllr. Durham suggests putting an advert in the parish magazine to gather more support.

2015. Matters Raised by Local Residents None

2016. Correspondence

2016.1 Various items have been emailed to councillors/are available in the drop box.

2016.2 Invitation to attend Danbury Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 24th April. Cllr Symons to attend.

2016.3 RCCE 2017 Essex Village of the Year Competition

2016.4 Invitation to attend Little Baddow Council Annual Assembly on Wednesday 5th April. Cllr. Rushton to attend.

2016.5 Compost Giveaway – Danbury Country Park - 7th April

2017. Points of Information None

2018. Date of Next Parish Council Meetings:

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 10th April 2017 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 27th April at 8pm in Village Hall.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

Dated