

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 11th July 2016

Present:

Cllr. Joanna Symons (Chairman)
Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Jenny Hughes
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. John Tompkins
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)

Public: 0

1846. Welcome Cllr. Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

1847. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Durham, Cllr. Bass and Cllr. Channer.

1848. 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.

1849. Public Forum

1850. To approve the Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th June 2016.

Minute ref: 1831.1 abbreviation error was changed to read Air Cmdre. The minutes were then approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

1851. Matters Arising from Minutes

1851.1 Air Cmdre. Sismore memorial bench on Bell Meadow. Await response from family.

Confirmation from MDC planning that we do not need planning permission for the bench as it comes under our permitted development rights.

1852. Planning – APPLICATIONS None

1853. Planning – APPEALS

1853.1 FUL/MAL/15/00047 Land adjacent to Whitegates, Herbage Park Road
Residential development comprising 11 dwellings. Appeal ref: APP/X1545/W/15/3130915
Cllr. Warren and Cllr. Symons reported that the appeal had been concluded on 21st June. Await decision from inspector – there is no timescale as to when this decision will be made.

1854. Planning – DECISIONS

1854.1 HOUSE/MAL/16/00476 North Hall Cottages, Cut-a-Thwart Lane APPROVE (NW)
Rear extension to existing cart lodge forming a garden room.

1854.2 COUPA/MAL/16/00572 Lodge Farm, Old London Road REFUSE (DEL)

Prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development.

1855. Other Planning Matters

1855.1 Woodham Walter Conservation Area. Cllr. Tompkins reported that immediately prior to the meeting a draft of the proposed Conservation consultation document had been received from MDC which on initial inspection he considered to be a sympathetic document. The document will be circulated to all councillors.

1855.2 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. Cllr. Tompkins reported that the officer had again indicated that they were considering making additional comments. Councillors considered that as some information has now been received from MDC that the draft letter to Priti Patel MP would be put on hold.

1855.3 Enforcement Investigations – No updates received.

1856. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1856.1 E-on – Monthly DD £17.23 (inc. £0.82 VAT)

1856.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

1856.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 28 hours & Allowance & Holiday pay £441.12

1856.4 DW Maintenance £170

1856.5 Grants to Village Organisations: Woodham Walter Women's Club £163.00; Woodham Walter Village Hall Association £220.00; St Michael's Church £208.00; Essex Wildlife Trust £115.00

1856.6 RCCE Membership of Rural Community council of Essex £48.00 (inc. £8.00 VAT)

1856.7 August Payments : It was agreed that in lieu of an August Meeting that Councillors approved payments for the 4 regular payees: E-on DD; A&J Lighting Solutions DD; Clerk Salary 28 hours & Allowance and Holiday Pay £444.32; and DW Maintenance (await invoice). Clerk will arrange for cheques to be duly signed.

1857. Other Financial Matters

1857.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
13-Jun-16	Balance			14374.66
11-Jul-16	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		1400.00	12974.66
Community Account				
13-Jun-16	Balance			688.45
28-Jun-16	Party Tent Income (Newland)	100.00		788.45
11-Jul-16	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	1400.00		2188.45
11-Jul-16	July Debits		1406.29	782.16

1857.2 To change signatories on bank account. Paperwork has been submitted to bank – await confirmation of changes. Changes will be notified. It takes 5-7 days from when they get all the information.

1857.3 Quarterly Budget Review to 30 June 2016 Information was distributed to councillors. Chairman will carry out a review of the accounts books and bank statements.

1858. Reports Of The District Councillor Cllr. Durham had submitted a written report which was read out:

Refuse Collections. The change to the new system is settling down although there have been a few issues with green waste collections etc. The contractor has drafted in additional staff and supervisors for the transition period during which the routes are being closely monitored. Given the significant change in collection methods, there have been fewer missed collections than we experienced at the last change.

MDC launched its new website last Wednesday and it is much clearer and easy to navigate than the previous version.

Devolution continues to be a hot topic both nationally and in the county. Negotiations are still progressing for a combined Essex authority, but the sticking point as always is the requirement for an elected Mayor. This is echoed across the country but at a conference last week, The Secretary of State emphasised that the full transfer of powers and money is dependent on having a Mayor. We do not know whether this will change should there be a different Chancellor later this year.

1859. Other Council Matters

1859.1 Woodham Walter Common. No information to report.

1859.2 Bell Meadow Village Association. Plans continue to be made for the August event. Received County Parish Holding number from Rural Payments Agency regarding having livestock at the show.

1859.3 Allotments Association. No information to report.

1859.4 Emergency Plan – on-going. It was noted that the school have submitted a copy of their Emergency Plan and the Parish Council will send a copy of our plan when complete.

1860. Consultations/Questionnaires None

1861. Highways

1861.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

1861.2 Several roads are due for surface dressing.

1861.3 Winter Salt Bag Scheme – Clerk to register again for this scheme and note that we have sufficient salt.

1861.4 Flooding – there were a number of issues with flooding during the recent bad weather. Not least of which was the flooding of two properties on The Street and at The Bell car park. This has been reported to highways with a request for a meeting with the inspector.

1862. Local Issues

1862.1 Bell Meadow/Playground. 1) Rotten gatepost. & Field Barrier/Gate. It was agreed that the quote received from Andrew Upson should be accepted. 2) There were no issues reported and the book was duly signed.

1862.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr. Warren reported that Lee Hughes has made an excellent job of clearing the ditch into the wilderness so that FP19 has quickly become much dryer. There are a number of trees which have fallen and are blocking footpaths which have been reported to landowners. Footpaths generally are very overgrown and blocked in places and we await the ECC team who are due to come and do the annual cut. The gate at FP19 adjacent to the school is still dangerous and despite numerous reports has still not been inspected. Cllr Warren/Clerk will write to Cllr. Channer to ask her to intervene with Essex County Council in this matter and also regarding the dangerous tree on FP36 which is now very dangerous and has also been reported on many occasions over several months.

1862.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported that Colin Bennett is leaving the school after several years as the Chairman of the Governors. The school held a very successful fete at the weekend

1862.4 Crime/Police Report. No reports available.

1862.5 Litter. Nothing to report.

1862.6 Broadband. County Broadband James Salmon had provided councillors with a presentation of the service offered. County Broadband have been going for 14 years they have two major investors, The Church of England through the Diocese of Chelmsford and an independent investor. They have recently been working with Colchester Borough Council and are accredited to BDUK. Their service is available in 130 parishes around Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. This is a wireless network delivered by aerials not cables. They also provide telephone services.

BT fibre when it comes to the village will go to the cabinet then it will be down copper wires to individual properties and the further you are from the cabinet the slower the speed becomes.

The County Broadband Service is not affected by distance as it does not rely on wires. They can offer different speed options from 2mg to 32mg (technology is improving all the time so this should increase this in the future). They require Distribution points around the parish which become network hubs and then each property will need an antenna about the size of a sky satellite dish to point at the distribution point. The cost of the project is likely to be in the region of £12-£15k to bring it to the village. In order to fund the initial start-up they would seek upfront payments for 5 years of broadband this would depend on the package (there are range of tariffs available) but could be for example in the region of £1000 which could mean that if 15 people were prepared to take out a contract for 5 years of broadband that the project could get up and running. They would seek to utilise the villagers to help publicise and ask the Parish Council to support. They will then hold a public meeting to see if the village are interested, depending on this, they will then carry out a door to door survey to work out feasibility. County Broadband would also install a village hotspot which would provide open access in a central location of 2mg up and down. Properties that host the networks get free access (power is required which is approx. the power of a 60w lightbulb).

From the village meeting to getting the service up and running could take in the region of 3 months.

They have a manned office M-F 8am-8pm, Sat 9-12, Sun – Closed but have plans to increase this. The network is monitored down to each individual access point.

Question regarding contention ratio. There are a number of different tariffs - It is possible to get a guaranteed speed on an individual network but there is a cost associated with this! Then there is a Business Tariff which has a 20:1 ratio and the Residential Tariff is 49:1. 32mg max speed is shared but it is only occasionally that all 49 people would be using at the same time and generally they achieve 24-32mg most of the time.

There was question raised about the funding of Superfast Essex for the central area of the village which is due by June 2017 and whether installation of a County Broadband service would have an adverse impact on the investment of Superfast coming to the village – this will need to be investigated.

It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to in mid September and that before this research would be carried out regarding the impact on the Superfast Essex schedule although it was acknowledged that there are significant numbers of properties who will not benefit from Superfast Essex and who will probably be very interested in the County Broadband Service.

John Brown from the village and Cllr. Symons are due to attend the Superfast Essex meeting on 13th July and will report back.

1862.7 Wheelie bin stickers – These have now arrived and are available to properties in the 30mph zone: Rectory Road, The Street, Herbage Park Road, Oak Farm Road, Little Baddow Road. Clerks has distributed some but there have not been many requests – hopefully when people see them they will start asking. Councillors also have a supply and guidance sheet.

1862.8 Vehicle Activated Sign – no update - clerk enquiring

1862.9 Bus Service – Clerk attended Passenger Transport Representatives Meeting on 17th June to discuss services due to be reviewed in 2017 where the cost per passenger journey criteria may put the service at risk. This includes service 5 and 31a through Woodham Walter.

1862.10 Village Defibrillator – Cllr.. Tompkins raised the idea of purchasing a village defibrillator and councillors were generally supportive of the idea. It may be something that the Bell Meadow Village Association would consider funding. The estimated cost is in the region of £1000 + the casing and training.

1862.11 Living Landscapes – Colin Warner has agreed to represent Woodham Walter on the committee.

1863. Correspondence

1863.1 Various items of correspondence emailed to councillors.

1863.2 Mrs Sue Williams had written a letter of thanks for advice and help with a recent planning application.

1864. Points of Information

1865. Date of Next Parish Council Meetings:

There will only be a Parish Council meeting in August if a planning application is received, the date will be duly advised.

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th September 2016 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.15pm

Dated