

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 14th November 2016

Present:

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

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

Public: 0

1919. Welcome Cllr. Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

1920. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. James Rushton and County Cllr. Penny Channer.

1921. 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 to declare and the register was duly signed.

1922. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

1923. To approve the Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2016. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

1924. Matters Arising from Minutes

1924.1 Air Cmdre. Sismore memorial bench on Bell Meadow. Await family instructions.

1924.2 Clerk to chase up letter to ECC re: Flytipping/New rules at civic amenity sites.

1925. Planning – APPLICATIONS

1925.1 16/01810/OUT Land East of Little Fields and North of Maldon Road, Danbury
Outline planning application for up to 140 residential dwellings (including up to 35% affordable housing), introduction of structural planting & landscaping, informal public open space & children's play area, surface water flood mitigation & attenuation, 2 no. vehicular access points: 1 no. from Maldon Road & 1 no. from Runsell Lane and associated ancillary works. All matters to be reserved with the exception of main site access.

Danbury Parish Council is holding a public meeting to decide its response to this application on Tuesday 29th November at 7pm at Danbury Mission. Cllr. Symons to represent WWPC. But the deadline looks to be 15th November – clerk is awaiting clarification.

Councillors considered the proposal and resolved to object to the application and recommend refusal. The Parish Council considers that a development of this size would have a significant adverse impact on the local infrastructure including roads, education and medical all affecting the local population. The infrastructure is already under extreme pressure only to be compounded by the already permitted major developments in Maldon and surrounding areas. There is major concern with the apparent inadequate traffic management provisions where the proposed estate road network meets the strategic primary route (A414) and the number of additional vehicle movements imposed by the development on the A414, the surrounding country lanes and local villages with the resultant road safety, capacity and life style issues.

1925.2 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.

The council's position remains unchanged from the original application.

1926. Planning – DECISIONS

1926.1 HOUSE/MAL/16/00894 Meadows Nursery, Bassetts Lane **APPROVE (DEL)**
Single storey rear extension, infill extension to ground floor front roof overhang, conversion of garage to home office and erection of new detached 3 bay cartlodge.

1927. Other Planning Matters

1927.1 Woodham Walter Conservation Area Consultation. Update from Cllr Durham: *It appears that the CA report will go to P&L on January 19th and this should lead on to the VDS report on March 2nd. Depending on the result of this, I would envisage adoption mid to late 2017. The EIP for the LDP commences on January 7th so with luck all of this should fit in together.*

1927.2 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. Cllr. Tompkins reported that he had met with VDS Chairman Mr David Beattie following comments from the officer at MDC. They have requested information without prejudice regarding the Conservation Area results in order that the necessary alterations to the VDS can commence.

1927.3 Enforcement update. None to date. Clerk to chase up. Cllr. Durham reported that the NW Area Planning Committee are due to hold a special meeting regarding various enforcement issues in the district which need dealing with.

1927.4 MDC Planning & Licensing Committee – decision regarding new delegation arrangements and the Parish trigger. Councillors were concerned that the influence and power of the Parish council has been reduced by this decision.

1928. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1928.1 E-on –Monthly DD £20.67 (inc. 0.98 VAT)

1928.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

1928.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 28 hours & Allowance £341.52

1928.4 Information Commissioner £35.00 (Data Protection)

1928.5 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £30.00 (inc. £20 for wreath and £10 donation)

1929. Other Financial Matters

1929.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
18 Oct 16	Balance			10776.36
14-Nov-16	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		400.00	10376.36
Community Account				
18-Oct-16	Balance			637.82
14-Nov-16	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	400.00		1037.82
14-Nov-16	November Debits		451.13	586.69

1929.2 Budget 2017/18 Councillors are asked to begin budget considerations. Cllr. Durham to confirm if there is to be a Parish cap on the precept.

1930. Reports Of The District Councillor Cllr. Durham reported that the Local Development Plan Examination In Public is due to commence on 10th January at Three Rivers; Maldon Police Station is due to close and will move to MDC offices; MDC are currently working through budget considerations.

1931. Other Council Matters

1931.1 Woodham Walter Common – There is no information to report.

1931.2 Bell Meadow Village Association. Cllr. Durham reported that the committee are due to meet and that the band has been booked for next year.

1931.3 Allotments Association . There was no information to report.

1931.4 Emergency Plan – the document has been updated. Chairman to review and it will then be distributed.

1932. Consultations/Questionnaires

1932.1 Local Bus Network Review Consultation – November 2016 (Including Service 31A)

Proposal: To withdraw Service 31A which serves Woodham Walter. This is the bus which departs Monday to Friday from Woodham Walter at 0725 to Chelmsford returning to Woodham Walter at 1804. Reason for change: The service is currently exceeding the maximum funding level per passenger journey. Consultation Deadline : 3rd January 2017 Links to the survey and information have been uploaded on to the website. Clerk has paper copies of the survey.

Councillors are of the view that this particular bus has very low if any usage by parishioners and that it is likely it will be withdrawn. However, the Thursday and Saturday ‘shopper’ bus service to Maldon is a well-used essential service for the community and councillors would be keen to make sure that this bus should it ever be under threat is fought for.

1932.2 Telephone Kiosk Consultation – The public payphone has been identified and proposed for removal by BT under the 90 day consultation process. The consultation period will close on 8th January 2017. There is an opportunity for the local community to adopt the box.

Councillors agreed that with the low usage (2 calls in the last year) it was difficult to justify a request to keep it as a phone (even with poor mobile reception) but it is a significant and desirable piece of street furniture that councillors would like to maintain as part of the street scene. They unanimously agreed to look into the opportunity to adopt the box and will consider options for its use – e.g, defibrillator, library, art gallery, shop etc. Ideas may be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to respond to consultation.

1933. Highways

1933.1 There are a number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing.

1933.2 Noted works to Memorial Garden opposite Fort Cottage/The Bell. It is understood that the works which took place were to address drainage issues – further works will be required as it was found that the drains have collapsed. Councillors were pleased that after numerous reports both by the parish council and owner of The Bell that highways have finally agreed that there is a problem at this location and have started to take steps to address it.

1933.3 Clerk to report that the manhole cover at the junction of Oak Farm Road/Herbage Park Road is now below the level of the road surface.

1933.4 Clerk to forward information on white line re-painting to Cllr. Durham.

1934. Local Issues

1934.1 Bell Meadow/Playground. There were no issues to report and the book was duly signed. Clerk to contact UK Power Networks regarding location of electrical wires on Bell Meadow prior to installation of new gate.

1934.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr. Warren has had a meeting with John Moran at The Warren regarding the trees on FP12. It has been agreed that when the Warren have replacement equipment they will deal with these; Thanks to Doug Seear for work to help drainage on BR31 which has greatly improved the condition of the track; Thanks to John Brown for removing the dangerous trip hazard on FP37; The rotting planks on the bridge on FP14 will be reported.

1934.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported that she had attended a Standards Committee meeting and there is currently a Local Authority review taking place. The playground meeting will be chased.

1934.4 Crime/Police Report. Concerned to hear of an incident in the village where a resident received a knock at the door from someone who said that she owed £1,000 in taxes and that he needed her to pay in cash immediately. He wanted to go into the house but she didn't let him. She told him that she didn't have any cash in the house. She said that she would go to the bank to get some - in fact she went to the bank and froze her accounts. He hasn't been seen since. As you can imagine, she was very unsettled. Her daughter reported this to the police; Information from D.I. Rob Kirby that the Essex Community Messaging service will be used to provide updates of any offences specific to the area. Councillors and residents are encouraged to sign up to the service; The PCC policy has now been adopted.

1934.5 Litter - No information to report.

1934.6 Broadband. The latest Superfast Essex information maps and Phase 3 information have been updated but offer very little additional information and are inconclusive for Woodham Walter. It is very unclear how many properties will in fact benefit from the scheduled Phase 2 roll out which is scheduled for the central area of the village by next Summer. Cllr. Symons reported that an initial Broadband Working Party Meeting had proved very useful and they are keen to push ahead with looking to see if villagers are interesting in pursuing plans on a private basis. The working party plan to produce a questionnaire for the village. The next meeting will be open to those who feel that have expertise or would like to volunteer to help with the survey.

1934.7 Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr. Durham to investigate further.

1934.8 Church Services – noted that Cllr. Symons had attended the Remembrance Day Service at St Michael's to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr. Rushton will represent the Parish Council at the Licensing Service of Rev'd Sayer at St Margarets on 26th November.

1935. Matters Raised by Local Residents

None

1936. Correspondence

1936.1 Various items of correspondence emailed to councillors/in the drop box.

1936.2 Invite to Civic Carol Service – Burnham. Emailed to Cllr. Symons.

1936.3 MDC Rough Sleepers Estimate 2016. Councillors confirmed that they do not know of any rough sleepers in the parish currently.

1936.4 GEP Consulting – Hydro Power at Hoe Mill. Councillors agreed this was not of interest.

1937. Points of Information

1937.1 Cllr. Tompkins raised the issue of a village historical documents store. There are a number of interesting historical documents that are currently stored in various homes around the village and are not accessible and that it would be useful to have somewhere to keep these items. This includes plans of historic buildings, minutes to village committees, photographs from village events etc. The Essex Records Office does provide safe, secure and protective storage for documents which would ensure that they do not deteriorate but it was acknowledged that this is not very convenient. Cllr. Warren will ask the Village Hall committee to consider if there is anywhere suitable at the village hall.

1938. Date of Next Parish Council Meetings:

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

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

Dated