

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 12th August 2013

Present:

Cllr. James Bunn (Chairman)
Cllr. Peter Warren (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Gill Orford
Cllr. Joanna Symons

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

Public: 3

988. Welcome Cllr. James Bunn welcomed those present to the meeting.

989. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Penny Channer.

990. 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 or considerations of dispensations to consider.

991. Public Forum To receive the views of members of the public on items of business on the agenda or other village matters to be considered by the council.

PC Lea Keene and PC Bennett were in attendance and reported that there have been 6 offences in the parish since the last report. (Attempted theft in Manor Road; Theft from motor vehicle in Rectory Road; Theft of mobile phone in Blue Mill Lane; Bike stolen from shed in Blue Mill Lane; Generator stolen from Warren Golf Club). Councillors were concerned to note the increase in crime this year. PC Keene informed that she has seen a general increase in rural crime in the district recently. PC Keene's area is vast including Woodham Walter, Wickham Bishops, Woodham Mortimer, Ulting, Langford, Great Totham, Little Totham, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'acry, Tolleshunt Major and Knights. As well as these villages her area now also covers Heybridge. Councillors ask clerk to write to the Police Commissioner to raise concern about the increase in crime and note the huge area which the Neighbourhood officer now covers.

Cllr. Bunn thanked PC Keene and PC Bennett for the report and they then left the meeting room at 8.12pm

992. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On Monday 8th July 2013

Minute No: 984.2 – Footpath Report. Cllr. Peter Warren requested that the footpath report should be amended to read: *The meeting was opened up to the public and Ms Katy Haines reported that there are several problems on FP 6 between Retreat Farm and Bassetts.* The Chairman advised that this would be amended.

Subject to the above amendment the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

993. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th July 2013

993.1 (941.4) School place appeal – it was noted that the appeal by Ms Buckley had been successful and the child offered a place at the school starting in September. Ms Buckley has been in touch with the clerk to offer her thanks for the support of the Parish Council. It was also noted that the Chairman of the Governors has indicated that he will write to the Parish Council in due course outlining the position of the school on the matter as the Board of Governors remains concerned that the Parish Council supported the appeal, they want the Parish Council to be made aware of the implications for the school. Discussion concluded that councillors remain adamant that they have a duty to support and represent parishioners and that they would be likely to take the same course of action should the situation arise again in the future. The outcome of the appeal is down to Essex County Council/Admissions/appeal process and not the Parish Council. It was noted that if the admissions procedure had been followed correctly councillors wouldn't have expected the appeal to have been successful and that it was therefore likely that a mistake had been made during the original allocation of places. Councillors ask clerk to write a letter to the Chairman of the Governors outlining the view of the Parish Council. It was also acknowledged that the Parish Council should consult with the school on a more formal basis should the situation arise again in the future.

994. Reviews & Adoptions

994.1 Employee Annual Review – carried over to September meeting.

995. Planning – APPLICATIONS

995.1 HOUSE/MAL/13/00616 2 Blue Mills Cottages, Blue Mill Lane

Single storey rear extension.

It was noted that a response had been sent outside of the meeting. Having consulted with neighbours and councillors there were no objections raised.

995.2 FUL/MAL/13/00640 West Bowers Bungalows, Best Bowers Road

Replacement of two existing cottages with two new dwelling houses.

It was noted that a response had been sent outside of the meeting. Having consulted with councillors there were no comments to make, as this application was to correct an error in the original application which was approved.

996. Planning – DECISIONS None**997. Other Planning Matters**

997.1 FUL/MAL/13/00449 1 West Bowers Bungalows, West Bowers Road

Stationing of temporary mobile home for use whilst demolition of existing bungalow takes place and building of replacement home.

To note the revision of the description of the proposal, no further comments needed as councillors had assumed that the application included for use while building work takes place.

997.2 FUL/MAL/13/00371 Somerset, West Bowers Road

Change of use of agricultural land to a tennis court and provision of associated fencing.

To note the revision of the description of the proposal, no further comments needed as councillors had assumed that the application was for change of use of agricultural land and associated fencing.

997.2 APPEAL APP/X1545/A/13/2194906 Land between Beightons & Barrow Cottage, Bassetts Lane.

Awaiting decision from planning inspectorate.

997.3 St Michael's Drainage Easement – Cllr. Bunn continues to look into this.

997.4 Meeting Rural Housing Need. Letter from Paul Gayler, Strategic Housing Manager, MDC. Councillors concluded that they would aim to be sympathetic to an appropriate development in the village although it is also a fact that there are very limited if any suitable locations in Woodham Walter. Whilst anecdotally they accept there may be a demand for affordable housing in the parish this is not a formally established fact. It may be possible to include questions to more formally establish a local need during the Village Design Statement process. It was agreed that the clerk would invite Mr Gayler to attend a future meeting to discuss as it would be preferable for any development to be village led and not forced upon. This bearing in mind the MDC agreed Draft Local Development Plan which establishes that 345 rural dwellings will be required over the 15 year plan period to fulfil the housing development quota in the district, so there will be pressure to find sites.

997.5 MDC Press Release re: Revised Spatial growth scenarios and strategic site allocations. Noted.

997.6 Royal Oak Quarry Liaison Group – Cllr Newland volunteer to represent WWPC

998. Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Working Party Cllr. Newland reported that the group had been to see the RCCE. They would be having a display to raise awareness at the Bell Meadow Day event and they are working on a programme of works and budget requirements.

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

999.1 e-on –Monthly DD

999.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

999.3 Douglas Tonks Ltd - Monthly DD: re: Clerks Salary/Allowance/ HMRC/ Payroll services.

999.4 D Wallace (DW Maintenance) re: grass cutting & hedge

1000. Other Financial Matters

1000.1 Summary of Accounts to date

| DATE | ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL | AMOUNT IN | AMOUNT OUT | BALANCE |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|------------|---------|
| Business Reserve A/C | | | | |
| 08-Jul-13 | Balance | | | 9090.61 |
| 12-Aug-13 | Transfer to Community Account | | 800.00 | 8290.61 |
| Community Account | | | | |
| 09-Jul-13 | Balance | | | 525.33 |
| 07-Aug-13 | Party Tent Hire (Full - Manning) | 50.00 | | 575.33 |
| 07-Aug-13 | Party Tent Hire (Full - St Michael's PCC | 75.00 | | 650.33 |
| 12-Aug-13 | Transferred from Business Reserve Account | 800.00 | | 1450.33 |
| 12-Aug-13 | August Debits | | 876.64 | 573.69 |

1001. Other Council Matters

1001.1 Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Maldon District Council's Election Officer has confirmed that we do not have to hold a full election as MDC did not receive 10 letters from parishioners requesting one. Councillors are therefore instructed to co-opt a councillor. Having followed due procedure and advertised the vacancy Cllr. Mark Durham proposed that Mr Angus Neale be co-opted to the position, this nomination was seconded by Cllr. Andrew Newland. There being no other nominations Mr Angus Neale was unanimously elected to the position. The Chairman welcomed Mr Neale back onto the Parish Council. Clerk informed that Mr Neale should sign his declaration of acceptance of office at the next meeting and submit his Register of Declared Interests on-line in due course. Clerk to provide relevant information and advice.

1002. Report Of The District Councillor Cllr. Durham reported that at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 8 August 2013, Council endorsed the Draft Maldon District Local Development Plan (with minor amendments) and Proposals Map for public consultation. The public consultation will commence on **Wednesday, 28 August 2013 and end at 5pm on Monday, 14 October 2013**. A leaflet and questionnaire will be sent to every household and business in the District, and the Council will hold a series of consultation events to enable as many people as possible to come and find out more information and ask any questions. The LDP will be completed and adopted by Council in 2014. The LDP sets out the vision and objectives for how the District will be developed over the next 15 years. The LDP will outline where and when strategic development should take place, and will be used to guide the delivery of employment, homes, retail, community, facilities and infrastructure provision in the future. The Plan will outline principles and criteria for all new developments, taking into account the identified needs and constraints in the District related to housing, economic prosperity, health and well-being, natural environment, built heritage, infrastructure and services. This includes the distribution of growth including a rural allocation of 345 dwellings across the district over the next 15 years. Cllr. Durham also noted the current trend for Solar Farm applications in the area including one at Jackletts Farm in Danbury and one at Hill Farm, Great Totham.

1003. Highways

1003.1 Ref: 2214310: Water on highway/BT inspection chamber – The Street – adjacent to Ferndale.

Investigation continuing. Re-reported by telephone 6/8/13

1003.2 Ref: 2207327: Little Baddow Road – blocked drains adjacent to Ranworth to Top Road. Maintenance work is being scheduled. (Clerk to call back)

1003.3 Ref: 88880: Curling Tye Lane – drainage - investigating ownership of ditch continues. (Re-report)

1003.4 Ref: 2235961 Little Baddow Road – drainage adjacent to Chamberlain Cottage. Further investigations are being carried out. (Last update 2/8/13) (Clerk to Call back to ask)

1003.5 Ref: 2235941 Broken finger post at junction of The Warren. This has been inspected and assessed.(Re-reported 6/8/13)

1003.6 Water leak on path adjacent to Rectory Road properties. Clerk reported to ESW and notes that blue paint is now evident – along with a large puddle!

1004. Local Issues

1004.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground**. The book was duly signed, there were no reports.

1004.2 **Footpaths** Cllr. Warren reported that he has investigated the issues raised at the last meeting. The drainage problem on FP6 is likely to be a spring as it is currently dry. There are a few issues regarding FP36 (various landowners) including work required to a tree which has been reported to the relevant landowner; another landowner has agreed to add cutting of section to list of jobs; he will contact Essex & Suffolk Water who are thought to be responsible for a tree which looks dangerous; at the new bridge the old concrete which was not removed has now been dumped in the stream, he will report this to get it removed; concern regarding ruts in a field which are hazardous. Cllr. Warren agreed to raise these various issues on FP36 with the PProfW officer.

1004.3 **One Place On Wheels** - Woodham Walter. Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Thursday 10th October from 3.15-4.15pm. Village Hall.

1004.4 **School Report** Cllr Symons reported that she will be conducting a school dinners survey on behalf of the governors.

1004.5 **Allotments Report** Cllr. Orford reported that there is still one plot available and that she has had interest from several people regarding taster plots.

1004.6 **Community Speed Watch** To date 2 new volunteers have come forward. Clerk continues to try to arrange teams to monitor.

1004.7 **Litter** it was noted that there had been a large fly tip along Curling Tye Lane which had been duly reported to MDC and subsequently cleared.

1004.8 **Tree Management** Cllr. Newland is working on the policy.

1004.9 **Village Shop** Continuing to investigate the possibility of an outreach service which would visit the village on a regular basis and provide post office services. No further update available as contact is on annual leave.

1004.10 **Bus Service** The No.5 service has now settled down to the new timetable. It was noted that from September the 31 service will be operated by First Essex Buses who are taking over from Travel with Hunny. Hopefully this will improve the service currently experienced Monday-Saturday. No timetable changes are indicated at the moment.

1004.11 **Bell Meadow Day** To note that this is on Sunday 25th August and the committee are doing a great job organising the event. More entries are encouraged for the competition tent.

1004.12 **Essex Wildlife Trust** a) wish to arrange meeting with councillors to inform about works at Woodham Walter Common and action to stop additional tracks being made. Councillors agreed to invite a representative to attend a future meeting. b) Buckthorn for Brimstones – appeal for sites to plant brimstones. Cllr's would be happy to have plants to infill gaps in hedge at Bell Meadow. There may also be sites that could be allocated at Woodham Walter Common.

1005. Correspondence

1005.1 MDC Town/Parish Council Reception – 4th October 2013 Cllr. Bunn to attend.

1005.2 MDC Community Resilience Workshops. Noted.

1005.3 Essex Legal Services – notification of Confirmed Order on Definitive Map Modification No.548 (Bridleway 2 Woodham Walter). Noted.

1005.4 Saltmarsh75 – Two day challenge along the Essex Coast on 5th /6th October. Noted.

1005.5 Walk Your Way to Rio – series of guided walks including 7 mile walk from Woodham Walter on 28th August at 11 am, meeting at Village Hall. Noted.

1005.6 MDC – Conservation & Design Awards 2013 nominations invited. Noted.

1006. Points of Information None

1007. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9th September 2013 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

Dated