

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 September 2013

Present:

Cllr. James Bunn (Chairman)
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Angus Neale
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Joanna Symons

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

Public: 0

1008. Welcome Cllr. James Bunn welcomed those present to the meeting.

1009. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor's Peter Warren and Gill Orford.

1010. 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.

1011. 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. There were no members of the public present.

1012. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On Monday 12th August 2013

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

1013. Matters Arising from Minutes of 12th August 2013

There were no matters arising.

1014. Declaration of Acceptance of Office Cllr. Angus Neale signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office form, clerk countersigned and duly filed. It was noted that Cllr. Neale's Register of Interests form has been submitted on-line to Maldon District Council.

1015. Reviews & Adoptions

1015.1 Employee Annual Review. Cllr. Bunn, Cllr Warren and Clerk are due to meet to finalise.

1016. Planning – APPLICATIONS There were no applications to consider.

1017. Planning – DECISIONS

1017.1 FUL/MAL/13/00371 Somerset, West Bowers Road **APPROVE (NW)**

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

1017.2 OUT/MAL/13/00509 Berberis, West Bowers Road **APPROVE (NW)**

Replacement dwelling.

1017.3 FUL/MAL/13/00640 West Bowers Bungalows, West Bowers Road **APPROVE (NW)**

Replacement of two existing cottages with two new dwelling houses.

1017.4 FUL/MAL/13/00449 1 West Bowers Bungalows, West Bowers Road **APPROVE (DEL)**

Stationing of a temporary mobile home for use whilst demolition of existing bungalow and building of replacement home is carried out.

1017.5 HOUSE/MAL/13/00570 Thornberry, Rectory Road **APPROVE (DEL)**

Rear extension to existing detached double garage.

1017.6 HOUSE/MAL/13/00616 2 Blue Mills Cottages, Blue Mills Lane **APPROVE (DEL)**

Single storey rear extension.

1018. Other Planning Matters

1018.1 APPEAL APP/X1545/A/13/2194906 Land between Beightons & Barrow Cottage, Bassetts Lane.

APPEAL DISMISSED. The planning inspectorate reasons for dismissing the appeal were mainly down to sustainability issues. Councillors noted that the definition of sustainable is largely subjective and down to interpretation as there are currently no formal rules on this area of planning. It is understood that Maldon District Council planning department are looking at defining sustainable and may use a points system to ascertain if an application meets required criteria. This will be a very useful tool for the future.

It was noted that Mr John Williams (who is a neighbour of the site and objected) had been in touch to thank the Parish Council for their support.

1018.2 St Michael's Drainage Easement – Cllr. Bunn continues to look into this.

1018.3 MDC Draft Local Development Plan Consultation 28th August – 14th October 2013. The documents are to be circulated to all councillors and response is likely to be broadly in line with response to original consultation. Councillors to liaise with clerk and response to be drafted, approved and sent to meet deadline. Cllr. Newland to

attend the workshop on 25th September. Councillors discussed Policy H6 Provision for Gypsy and Travellers and noted letter from Great Braxted Parish Council (Minute ref: 1018.4). Councillors concluded that they are opposed to the policy and have concerns that villages that currently have provision for Gypsy and Travellers do not become saturated. Wood Corner with 20 pitches already exceeds recommended targets and councillors would be opposed to any future plans for providing additional provision through intensification and/or improved orientation or expansion of the site.

1018.4 Great Braxted PC – letter re: LDP Provision for Gypsy & Travellers. Councillors concluded that they are opposed to the policy for Gypsy & Traveller provision. See Minute Ref: 1018.3

1018.5 Royal Oak Quarry meeting – 15th October. Clerk to liaise with councillors to find representative to attend.

1019. Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Working Party The group had a successful stand raising the profile of the VDS at Bell Meadow Day and were pleased with the response.

1020. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

1020.1 e-on –Monthly DD

1020.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

1020.3 Douglas Tonks Ltd - Monthly DD: re: Clerks Salary/Allowance/ HMRC/Payroll services.

1020.4 D Wallace (DW Maintenance) re: grass cutting & hedge

1020.5 Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses – postage/stationery)

1020.6 DPL Production Lighting Ltd (re: Bell Meadow Day PA system)

1021. Other Financial Matters

1021.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
12-Aug-13	Balance			8290.61
02-Sep-13	Interest received	1.19		8291.80
09-Sep-13	Transfer to Community Account		800.00	7491.80
Community Account				
12-Aug-13	Balance			573.69
05-Sep-13	Party Tent Hire (Full - Bunn)	75.00		648.69
09-Sep-13	Party Tent Hire (Full - Hamilton)	75.00		723.69
09-Sep-13	Transferred from Business Reserve Account	800.00		1523.69
09-Sep-13	September Debits		943.41	580.28

1021.2 Party Tent bags. Councillors concluded that bags are now required for the 3 newest tents. It was decided that made-to-measure bags which had cost £318 exc. VAT (for 2 sets of x3 bags) were not necessary for the 3 newest tents as they are less frequently used and lower quality off-the-shelf products could be used. The roof and side panels could to be stored in builders bags which need to be sourced and bags for the poles etc to be sourced on-line. Cllr. Durham and Clerk to research size and bags available.

1022. Other Council Matters None

1023. Report Of The District Councillor Cllr. Durham and Cllr. Bass reported that the LDP consultation concludes on 14th October and parishioners and the council are urged to respond. MDC are currently looking into ways of making the planning system more cost effective including looking at reducing the number of applications which are decided by committee. Parish Councils are reminded that reasons for objecting need to be carefully considered and reflect proper planning reasons. Councillors commented that clear guidelines would help parish councillors with the process.

1024. Highways

1024.1 Ref: 2214310: Water on highway/BT inspection chamber – The Street – adjacent to Ferndale.

Investigation continuing. Re-reported by telephone 6/8/13. Tel: This has been inspected but found to be dry, clerk to arrange to send photo evidence when problem reoccurs. Please inform clerk if you notice problem again.

1024.2 Ref: 2207327: Little Baddow Road – blocked or broken drains adjacent to Ranworth to Top Road due to tree roots. Engineer aware and maintenance work is being scheduled. Clerk to reiterate the importance of this maintenance work as the road is extremely dangerous during wet conditions and particularly when it is icy.

1024.3 Ref: 88880: Curling Tye Lane – drainage - investigating ownership of ditch continues. (Re-reported)

1024.4 Ref: 2235961 Little Baddow Road – drainage adjacent to Chamberlain Cottage. Further investigations are being carried out. (Last update 2/8/13) Tele: this has now been passed to engineer.

1024.5 Ref: 2235941 Broken finger post at junction of The Warren. This has been inspected and assessed.(Re-reported 6/8/13) The finger post is rotten and needs replacing.

1024.6 Water leak on path adjacent to Rectory Road properties. Work has now been carried out. ESW telephoned to confirm repair has been made. Any further problems to be re-reported.

1024.7 Ref: 2255992 Pot hole on Manor Road reported 16/8/13. This has been assessed and the hazard has either been resolved or does not meet investigatory levels. Clerk to inspect to see if work has been done.

1025. Local Issues

1025.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** There were no reported problems and the book was duly signed.

1025.2 **Footpaths** Cllr. Warren reported to the clerk as follows: 1) Met with Shirley Anglin, the new PROW Inspector for this area. She has promised to look into the various issues that currently exist on FP36 (the dangerous deep ruts at the western end, a large willow that's sagging over and the concrete slabs in the stream). 2) Three paths blocked by fallen trees have been cleared by the landowners (FP24 by Hoe Mill was blocked by an enormous oak, FP36 by a large willow and FP22 by Blue Mill virtually blocked by a dead tree covered in creepers). 3) Unfortunately due to lack of funds there will be no second cut by ECC this autumn and we will have to wait for the foliage to die back naturally. Brambles are a problem and any pruning by walkers would be greatly appreciated. 4) Cllr's discussed who owns the plantation adjoining The Wilderness but were unable to offer any information. 5) It was noted that Mrs Taylor's application for moving FP16 adjacent to Willow Cottages has been withdrawn due to the cost implications of changing the tenancy agreement etc. Mrs Taylor is now looking into getting permission to move the gap in the hedge a couple of meters away from her drive with a gate and arch to deter cyclists. Councillors await formal notification with interest.

1025.3 **One Place On Wheels** - Woodham Walter. Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Thursday 10th October from 3.15-4.15pm. Village Hall.

1025.4 **School Report** Cllr. Symons reported that she is continuing to investigate school meals. It was also noted that Cllr. Bunn and Cllr. Symons are due to meet with the Chairman of the Governors following correspondence regarding admissions procedures.

1025.5 **Allotments Report** Cllr Orford reported to clerk that following the application for a grant from Edible Essex, she is pleased to announce that it has been granted to WW allotments to the tune of £1,000. This will enable us to add 2 or 3 taster plots and replace the fencing to a higher gauge rabbit proof fencing. This is great for this community scheme. Cllr Orford would like to thank Edible Essex for their support and Pam Seears for her help in gaining this grant. Anyone interested in applying for a taster plot, should speak to Cllr. Orford.

1025.6 **Community Speed Watch** One further volunteer has attended training session and is now part of the team which are due to carry out sessions over the coming weeks.

1025.7 **Litter** No reports.

1025.8 **Tree Management** Cllr. Newland is working on the policy.

1025.9 **Village Shop** Clerk has spoken to the Post Office Field Change Advisor, Graham Simmons about a possible outreach postal service in the village. They are considering what options maybe available and one of the considerations is a location for the service. The Village Hall maybe a possibility and he would like to visit to assess (it maybe possible for the kitchen area to be utilised) and discuss possible hire charges. Clerk is investigating with the Village Hall Committee and will arrange meeting in coming weeks.

1025.10 **Bell Meadow Day** Councillors noted another successful event on Sunday 25th August, Thanks and congratulations to all committee and helpers for doing a great job organising the event.

1025.11 **Essex Wildlife Trust** Chris Wheadon has been in touch to invite interested councillors to attend on Wednesday 18th September 10am. Cllr.'s Warren and Symons to attend.

1025.12 **Police Report** PC Lea Keene reported 1 crime since the last meeting, theft from motor vehicle. Clerk will update on progress of Community Speed Watch.

1026. Correspondence

1026.1 MDC – New Monitoring Officer – Mr Peter Wyatt, Head of Organisational Development has been appointed Monitoring Officer on an interim basis.

1026.2 Oil-club.co.uk information received and circulated.

1026.3 MDC – events equipment disposal. Noted.

1026.4 Women's Club – thanks for grant. Noted.

1026.5 Heritage Open Days in the Maldon District – information on noticeboard re:14/15 September. Noted.

1026.6 St Michaels – thanks for grant and invitation to attend celebrations. Noted.

1026.7 MDC – Senior health event. Noted

1027. Points of Information

1028. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 14th October 2013 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.35pm

Dated