

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 11th January 2010

Present:

Colin Warner (Chairman)
Mark Durham (Vice Chairman)
James Bunn
Angus Neale
David Potter
Claire Robinson
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk) District Councillor Sheila Young

Public: 1

161. Welcome Cllr Warner welcomed those present to the meeting.

162. Apologies For Absence

163. Register of Declared Interests

164. Public Forum Mr Dean Buffoni was in attendance regarding Agenda Item 7.1 FUL/MAL/09/01033, Wood Hall Planning Application in order to answer any questions councillors may have. The previous application has been refused and changes to the dormer windows have been made in accordance with MDC suggestions for flat roofs. The chairman agreed that Mr Buffoni would be invited to speak during the agenda item if councillors had any further questions.

165. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 14th December 2009. Cllr Potter requested that the wording in Item 159.3 be changed to better reflect the discussion that had taken place. All councillors in agreement that the word "would" in line 5 of the paragraph be changed to "could". The change was duly made in the minute book and initialled by the chairman. The minutes were then approved and duly signed.

166. Matters Arising Other than items already on the agenda, there were no further matters arising.

167. Planning – APPLICATIONS

167.1 FUL/MAL/09/01033 Wood Hall, Little Baddow Road

Change of main roof direction, basement and side extension.

Councillors felt that the modifications made were an improvement on the previous application; that the roof was now less imposing and more attractive. The property is set in a remote location and cannot be seen by neighbouring properties or from the road. Councillors found the wording "incongruous feature" in the refusal note to be absurd and do not agree with this as a reason for refusal. They fail to understand the planning officers reasons for refusal as the property is not overlooked and is not unattractive. It was also noted that planning permission for an extension has already been granted and these plans are alterations to that approval. Councillors support the application. Clerk to write accordingly.

168. Planning - DECISIONS

168.1 FUL/MAL/09/00893 Wood Hall, Little Baddow Road.

REFUSE

Two storey side extension incorporating basement and re-design of the roofscape to the building.

"The proposed two storey side extension with basement and redesign of the roofscape, by reason of its size, mass, bulk and design would fail to accord with the scale of the existing dwelling house, resulting in a dominant and incongruous feature in the locality. Furthermore, the proposed extension, as a result of its increased width and height, excessive roof form, use of external surface materials and design would introduce an urban feature alien other local rural landscape identified for its landscape value as a Special Landscape Area."

168.2 LDE/MAL/09/00838 & 00839 1&2 Hawkins Farm Cottages, Little Baddow Road

APPROVE

Claim for Certificate of Lawfulness for existing residential use – occupancy in breach of condition 2 planning permission EEC/MAR/485/61 for a period in excess of 10 years prior to the date of this application.

169. Other Planning Matters

169.1 Falconers Lodge. Clerk to contact MDC for update.

169.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. No further information. Clerk to request update.

169.3 Noted that the application at Redbrick Cottage is due for decision on 27 January. ECC Highways have been consulted and made an objection on grounds of safety.

170. To Authorise Any Payments Due The following payments were approved and the cheques duly signed.

170.1 e-on – Monthly DD

170.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD Noted the increase to VAT.

170.3 Clerks Salary + allowance

170.4 NSALG (RE: Allotment Membership renewal)

171. Other Financial Matters

171.1 2010/11 Precept. There were no alterations and the councillors duly approved the budget. The agreed precept requirement remains the same as last year at £10449.00 making a price per Band D property of £36.79. Clerk to send off necessary Precept request paperwork to MDC.

171.2 Audit & Risk Assessment Training Day – Friday 12th February. Clerk to enquire about attending.

171.3 Noted receipt of VAT repayment for 2008/09. £325.97

172. Report Of The District Councillor Mrs Young reported on changes in the Planning Department at MDC with the resignation of Head of Planning Services, Alan Storah who has been replaced by Jennifer Burns. Mark Woodger has replaced Peter Le Grys so the planning department is getting back to full capacity.

Regarding the decision on the new Chief Executive position at MDC, discussions are ongoing and a final decision/application process will happen soon. Discussions are also ongoing regarding the college and new hospital in Maldon, both of which are still in the pipeline.

Councillors are concerned that there are currently too many chiefs in Maldon District Council and that there needs to be 1 person in charge who is accountable. Continuity needs to be achieved.

It was also noted that any decisions made may change again in 2 years time with the local elections!

Mrs Young also reported on dog fouling in Woodham Walter and specifically along Top Road which is still a problem. Councillors agree that dog owners be reminded that they should clear up after their animals and that dog waste bins are provided in the village along Top Road and at Bell Meadow.

Mrs Young thanked councillors for their time and left the meeting room at 9.05pm.

173. Highways

173.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Licence to Plant. Application process proceeding. Clerk to send off latest request for information.

173.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.

173.3 Village Gateways. Nothing further re: line painting.

173.4 Sustrans National Cycle Network Signposting. Further correspondence received and request for stickers to be attached to existing posts. Councillors conclude that stickers on existing posts is acceptable and in many cases has already happened but they are adamant if there are no existing road signs we should not need cycle signs. They strongly object to any new posts being erected. Clerk to write accordingly.

173.5 HGV signs. Jackie Roerig reports that the signage is being looked at and will hopefully be improved. Councillors concerned that any new signs are erected in the correct place.

173.5 Councillors ask clerk to check whether there will be a parish boundary sign along Tom Tit Lane.

174. Local Issues

174.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The record book was duly signed. There were no issues reported.

174.2 **Footpath Officer Report** there were no issues to report.

174.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** No report received. PCSO has been invited to attend future meeting.

174.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Noted meeting took place on Thursday 7th January, at WW Village Hall.

174.5 **School Report** No report.

174.6 **Allotments Report** No report.

174.7 **Community Speed Watch** No report.

174.8 **Litter** Date set for village litter pick: Saturday 13th February. Meeting at 10am at the school with appropriate reflective clothing/gloves. If there is snow it will be postponed.

174.9 **Village Agent** Clerk reported that Christine McDonald has produced a winter weather information sheet which will be left at the shop. Councillors discuss any referrals particularly during the bad weather but feel that everyone in the village has a support network around them. If anyone has any problems that they feel the parish council can help with they can contact the clerk or if they would like a referral to the village agent, Christine McDonald can be contacted on 0800 9775858.

174.10 **War Memorial** Cllr Bunn had spoken to Del Butcher who was against any changes at the existing War Memorial shelter but he would not be against something new at the Memorial garden. Cllr Neale proposed that we inform village that the existing memorial will remain as it is. He is glad that the issue has generated interest and raised awareness of the memorial garden. Councillors in agreement that the existing memorial should remain unchanged but that we will continue to explore the possibility of marking the Memorial garden in some way. Cllr Bunn and Cllr Warner to talk to other local residents before next meeting

174.11 **Annual Parish Council Meeting** – The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was set for Monday 12th April which is the same day as the April parish council meeting but as we are moving to a new format whereby annual reports from the village associations will be distributed in a printed Annual Report in advance of the meeting so that the individual reports will not need to be read out at the meeting. It is felt that this method will reach out to more residents in the village and be a great improvement. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the Village Hall followed by refreshments. The April Parish Council meeting will then follow. Clerk to write to village organisations in order that reports can be collated into a separate booklet which will be distributed with the April parish magazine. Deadline for reports will be Monday 1st March.

175. Correspondence

175.1 ECC – Trading Standards information.

175.2 MDC – several press releases have been received over the past few weeks regarding refuse collections during the snowy weather. This information has been forwarded by email to councillors and others whose email addresses clerk has in the village. If anyone else would like to be included in this information in future please email clerk to request. Information is also updated on the MDC website www.maldon.gov.uk

176. Points Of Information

176.1 Cllr Robinson reported that a resident has complained about the beech hedge on the corner of Top Road/Little Baddow Road which overhangs the footpath. Cllr Warner to speak to owner.

176.2 Cllr Robinson had been asked if a new gateway had been installed adjacent to Redgates into Herbage Park? Cllr. Durham informed that this is an existing entrance which had recently been cleared.

176.3 Discussion regarding dangerous road conditions during recent snowy/icy weather particularly on the stretch of Little Baddow Road between Top Road and junction at The Bell. This hill has been a big problem in the past few days and several minor incidents have occurred. Cllr Bunn enquired if the road is not going to be included in the gritting schedule that a salt bin be placed in this location. Cllr. Warner had received a letter from a parishioner requesting a salt bin at the junction of Bassetts Lane/Spring Elms Lane. There was concern that the bins may look unsightly but that this may be a compromise worth considering. Clerk to enquire with highways.

176.4 Clerk to check Village Appraisal seminar for Cllr. Potter & Warner to attend.

177. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th February 2010

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.50pm