

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held at 8pm in Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.

Monday 14th February 2011

Present:

Mark Durham (Chairman)
Angus Neale
Claire Robinson
Colin Warner
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk) Christine MacDonald (Village Agent)

Public: 1

393. Welcome Cllr. Durham welcomed those present to the meeting.

394. Apologies For Absence received and accepted from Cllr. David Potter and Cllr. James Bunn.

395. Register of Declared Interests No interests were declared and the book was duly signed.

396. Public Forum

396.1 Ivor Brearley was in attendance to ask how the Community Speed Watch initiative was progressing and to report that the street light opposite his house is now working but that the ivy clippings were still partially blocking the path. Clerk explained that the process of organising the CSW is proving frustrating but we are still trying. Cllr. Warner to remove ivy. Mr Brearley then left the meeting room.

396.2 Arthur Harlow had contacted the clerk and offered his apologies for not attending but would like to raise his concern following news reports of reductions to rural bus services. He is very concerned that the bus serving Woodham Walter is not withdrawn, it is well supported and essential. Last Saturday there were 17 passengers on board. Clerk has not received any information that this service specifically is currently under threat and the tender has only recently been renewed.

Mr Harlow has also reported his concerns to the Village Agent.

396.3 Cllr. Durham agreed to move agenda item 14.9 in order that Mrs Christine MacDonald the Village Agent could speak and then leave the meeting. See minute ref: 406.9

397. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 10th January 2011. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

398. Matters Arising

398.1 (257.3) School Playground – Clerk visited the school and has now got copies of receipts of equipment and installation. Clerk has also printed off information from the Creative Play website giving details of safety standards, material specifications and technical specifications with European Standard EN1176. Information to be kept on file with the dual use agreement.

398.2 (391.1) May District and Parish Elections – It was noted that Election paperwork is expected at the beginning of March. This will detail the statutory timetable of events and begins with the publication of the Notice of Election which will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board outside Chapel Stores. Every 4 years the Parish Council has to have an election – if the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies a poll will not be required.

399. Planning – APPLICATIONS

399.1 FUL/MAL/10/01058 Meadows Barn, Bassetts Lane
Erect balconies to front and rear and change window design in midstreys and additional dormer to rear elevation.

Application documents circulated to all councillors prior to 3rd February deadline. All councillors objected to application raising the following observations/concerns. The site is situated in a rural location designated a Special Landscape Area and the proposed plans would have a detrimental impact on the rural character of the area. The balconies would overlook neighbouring properties. There is inconsistency with the measurements of the balconies on the plans so that the precise size is not clear. Clerk has written accordingly.

400. Planning - DECISIONS

400,1 FUL/MAL/10/00901 Meadows Barn, Bassetts Lane **REFUSED**
Erect cart lodge and gardening store.

401. Other Planning Matters

401.1 Falconers Lodge. Cllr. Durham and Cllr Robinson attended a meeting with a surveyor from Barclays Bank, Mark Woodger (MDC), Conservation Officer (MDC), Enforcement Officer (MDC) Essex County Council & English Heritage. This had been a very interesting and informative meeting, a report from surveyor is expected in 4-6 weeks. Now that the location including Woodham Walter Ruins and surrounding area is designated as Scheduled Monument of significant importance, archaeological exploratory trenches requiring permits and supervision of English Heritage will be required before any work to remove spoil can take place, which will also be subject to permits and supervision. The owners (Barclays) are obliged to carry out enforcement work or MDC will prosecute.

401.2 Hoe Farm – it was noted that some trees have been removed including a large old lime and 2 horse chestnuts. It was noted that as there are no relevant conditions on planning approvals and no TPO's at this location which is just outside the conservation area, no infringement has taken place.

401.3 Meadows Barn – it was noted that an outlet pipe discharging into ditch was reported to MDC who confirm that relevant permission has been granted and no infringement has taken place.

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

402.1 e-on – Monthly DD – noted the account is currently £107.72 in credit (Minute Ref: 331.1)

402.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

402.3 Clerks Salary + Allowance/Expenses

402.4 A&J Lighting Solutions – invoice for call out re: part night timer reset

402.5 Woodham Walter Village Hall Assoc. - £10 deposit for Annual Parish Meeting hire.

402.6 A&J Lighting Solutions – invoice for call out re: repair of street lamp on The Street

403. Other Financial Matters

403.1 Royal Wedding – it is understood that Woodham Walter Village Hall have now decided not to organise an event so no grant has been requested.

403.2 Receipt of Wayleave payment from UK Power Networks £8.16

403.3 Receipt of VAT repayment (Period 01/04/09 – 31/03/10) £439.69

403.4 Receipt of money from sale of Mike Woodcraft books. Clerk noted that the total now received is £260. There are now only 10 books remaining at Old Chapel Stores. Payment to Alzheimer's Society will be made at the March meeting.

404. Report Of The District Councillor No report received.

405. Highways

405.1 Clerk reported that there have been major changes at ECC Highways department and our officer is no longer working in the department. They had no record of clerks most recent maintenance reports. There is now a new procedure for reporting defects. It is still early days so information on an annual inspection is not yet available.

405.2 Clerk has requested salt for salt bin. Ref: 3047205

405.3 Safety Concerns reported/chased Ref: 3047207 re: Herbage Park Road – loose surface dressing and rocks/stones on triangle at Curling Tye Green. Although councillors thought that the road had been swept since the last meeting.

405.4 Cllr Warner to visit Mr Pearce to discuss debris on corner of triangle at junction of Curling Tye Lane/Manor Road which was felt to be hazardous.

405.5 Letter from resident in Bassetts Lane concerning drainage. Cllr. Warner updated councillor's that land owner at Elwy Cottage is to have his ditch cleared out as this was felt to be the problem. Clerk to write to Mrs Barber.

405.6 ECC – Hoe Mill Bridge, The Causway, Ulting & Woodham Walter. Noted there is now a 3 Tonne Weight Restriction. Order 2011 which came into effect on 21st January 2011.

405.7 Cllr. Warner has attended the Berberis on Church Hill and Ivy growing over the giveway sign at Oak Farm, also overhanging oak branch on Old London Road.

405.8 Clerk to report concern that rotten finger post is now in dangerous condition at junction of The Warren on Herbage Park Road.

406. Local Issues

406.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground** The book was duly signed, no reported incidents.

406.2 **Footpath Officer Report** Cllr Warren reported 1) ECC have built a new footbridge on FP6 between Bassetts Lane and Retreat Farm and put in 3 new waymark posts on brideway BR2 to the east of Retreat Farm. 2) Two rotted waymark posts on BR31 in Woodham Walter Common plus two on FP18 by Falconers Lodge have been reported to ECC and need replacement. 3) Extra or replacement waymark discs have been nailed up on paths FP3, 4, 6 and 34.

406.3 **Crime Report for Woodham Walter.** No report. The One Place on Wheels visits are now on a Friday from 1-2pm. Next visit which includes the mobile police vehicle – Friday 11th February and Friday 11th March 1300-1400 at WW Village Hall.

406.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** No information received.

406.5 **School Report** No information received.

406.6 **Allotments Report** No information received.

406.7 **Community Speed Watch** Clerk despondent that so far no response has been received from PC England despite several emails and 2 phone calls. Clerk has now contacted CSW coordinator to seek advice.

406.8 **Litter** The February litter pick took place on Saturday 12th February – thanks to the 14 adults and 2 children who attended it was very successful. The new litter pickers and hoops were a great help. Thanks to the adopt-a-road volunteers who have already litter picked their areas, we were able to focus on other roads not covered by this scheme and have now litter picked more or less the entire parish plus the section from The Warren to The Anchor. Herbage Park Road, Manor Road, Cut-a-Twart Lane & Old London Road produced vast quantities. Colin took 47 bags, (last year there were 25) plus 12 armfuls and 11 tyres to the dump but noted in future we will need to make formal arrangements for disposing of the litter. Clerk to write and enquire.

406.9 **Village Agent** Mrs MacDonald commented that the recent bus consultation which was well responded to by residents of Woodham Walter had resulted in the continuation of the 9am bus pass use time and not the proposed 9.30am start. Mrs MacDonald reported that Village Agents are able to help with the Digital Switchover which is coming to this area soon. There is funding available to advertise the service and she will look into ways of distributing the information via the parish magazine. Mrs MacDonald also enquired if councillor's had any specific issues with Sky Lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns) as she understands that there is currently an attempt to get them banned. Councillor's accepted that they posed some risk (minor fire hazard which could increase in Summer/litter/danger to animals) but that as helium balloons are also big litter problem, the sky lanterns cannot be singled out. Councillor's concluded that whilst they can see the potential harm they do not want to be part of a petition to ban them.

406.10 **Mike Woodcraft Report** Last 10 copies are available in Chapel Stores.

406.11 **Street Lights** Clerk has reported the timing issues with the village street lights. These have now been reset but at least 1 is still not correct (Top Road), A&J are investigating problem with manufacturer as the timer is a sealed unit. Councillors/residents are asked to keep a watching brief and report any further issues to clerk. The lights should be off between Midnight and 5am. Clerk spoke to A&J Lighting regarding ivy cuttings left on The Street (outside Ferndale) and to report malfunctioning street light. He did not know who had cut the ivy (not one of his contractors so a mystery) but will attend to fix the light.

406.12 **Collapse of bank** Correspondence received from resident at Ferndale regarding the collapse of the bank into the stream bordering Ferndale House. Reported to Environment Agency, landowner and Footpath Officer Nicky Coleman at ECC.

407. Miscellaneous

407.1 Annual Parish Meeting & Report – Village Hall has been booked (thanks to the Marshal Arts Group who agreed to change their regular booking). Clerk has begun producing the Annual Report and written to contributors requesting reports by 20th February.

407.2 Census Day – 27th March 2011. Information on the reasons and importance of the Census.

408. Correspondence

408.1 MDC Residents Survey – closing date 28th February 2011. Available on line at www.engageessex.org.uk

408.2 MDC Walk your way to London 2012 – event information on noticeboard.

408.3 Junior Rangers – 2011 Monthly events – on noticeboard.

408.4 MDC Schedule of meetings 2011/12

408.5 Little Baddow PC – invitation to attend Annual Assembly on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm

409. Points Of Information

409.1 Cllr. Durham & Cllr. Neale offered their apologies for the March meeting. Clerk to monitor agenda items and anticipated attendance and reschedule meeting if necessary.

409.2 Cllr. Warren asked if we had been included as part of the consultation process on the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape consultation. Clerk has not received any information and will enquire.

409.3 Cllr. Robinson is interested in opinions about the Parish Magazine in her new role as Editor, content and advertising were discussed.

410. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 14th March 2011.

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.40pm