

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 July 2012

Present:

Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Gill Orford (in attendance from 8.20pm to close)
Cllr. David Potter
Cllr. Joanna Symons
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
Christine McDonald (Village Agent)

Public: 1

722. Welcome Cllr. James Bunn welcomed those present.

723. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mark Durham, Cllr. Penny Channer and PC Lea Keene.

724. Code of Conduct/Register of Members Interests Clerk advised that the council will need to formally adopt a new code of conduct and submit the new Registers of Members Interests, however at present the final version and information has not been received. Clerk is due to attend the MDC Parish Clerks Forum on Wednesday and will update councillors accordingly when information is finalised. Councillors resolved that a new Code of Conduct and the Members Interests forms will be adopted and submitted as soon as possible.

725. Reviews & Adoptions Outstanding reviews and adoptions continue to be addressed. Clerk has drafted: Financial Regulations (updated); Financial Risk Assessment; Annual Investment Strategy; Equal Opportunities Policy; Code of Practice for Handling Complaints regarding procedures or administration. These to be reviewed by Cllr. Bunn and Cllr. Newland prior to the August meeting. Cllr. Bunn will review the Insurance documents. Cllr. Newland continues to review the Emergency Plan.

726. Register of Declared Interests There were no interests declared and the register was duly signed.

727. Public Forum

There was one member of the public present, Mr Keith English was in attendance as the applicant of the planning application at 2 Hop Gardens. He explained that the plans are for a double cartlodge style garage which he feels is in keeping with the environment and has been located with careful consideration in order to have the minimum amount of impact in the location. He submitted some supporting information which was explained.

Councillor Bunn thanked Mr English for his comments.

Christine McDonald, the Village Agent congratulated the Parish Council on the excellent Diamond Jubilee report which had been lovely to read. She also submitted the RCCE annual report for circulation and was pleased to inform councillors that the Village Agent project has received funding through to 2013.

728. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On 11th June 2012 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

729. Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th June 2012

729.1 Village Footpath Map (443.1) The matter is on-going. Cllr's. Bunn and Warren are looking at the draft and making some suggestions of landmarks and buildings etc to include. It was suggested that GPS or OS coordinates could be included.

729.2 Noticeboard. (709.2) Clerk has asked Rob Hamilton and awaits a formal quote for repair.

730. Community Led Plans (Cllr. Orford arrived) Following on from the presentation by Sarah Sapsford from the RCCE at last months meeting councillors discussed the information which had been received. Councillors concluded that more thought will be needed before a final commitment or decision can be made. The decision will be affected by the contents of the MDC Local Development Plan which is due to be released the day after this meeting. It was generally felt that a full Neighbourhood Plan which is a pro-growth document, was not suitable to this village. More consideration for a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement is required which may be suitable and useful for the village. It was agreed that if the draft LDP contains something which would have a significant impact on the village this could change things. It was also agreed that any future Conservation Area status would impact on the decision too.

731. Maldon District's Local Development Plan (LDP) Consultation To decide how and when Woodham Walter Parish Council will consider its response to the consultation on the new Maldon District LDP which is part of a public consultation between 10th July – 24th August 2012.

Councillors will view the consultation documents (clerk to send link when available) and depending on the contents and likely impact on the village, will consider if a separate meeting is required in advance of the usual Ordinary Parish Council meeting scheduled for 13th August.

732. Planning – APPLICATIONS

732.1 FUL/MAL/12/00461 Northall Cottages, Cut-a-Twart Lane

Change of use of land adjacent to Northall Cottages from agricultural to residential garden for the sole use of Northall Cottages.

Councillors raised strong objections on the grounds that it is agricultural land and they are generally opposed to a change of use of such land in the parish. Members noted that the property has a large residential garden/curtilage already. The location of the proposed change of use is separated from the dwelling house by a private lane/track so this field is not part of the natural curtilage and councillors are concerned about future development if this application was to be allowed. The location is sparsely populated and the open nature of the countryside should be maintained. The proposed change of use of the land represents an inappropriate use of land within a rural area and domestic use of such land would have a detrimental impact upon the character of this agricultural land. Councillors are concerned that developing the field would set a precedent for other similar properties with adjoining agricultural land in the village. Clerk to write accordingly.

732.2 HOUSE/MAL/12/00520 2-3 Hop Gardens, Hop Gardens Lane

Double garage and storage in the roof.

Councillors raised no objections to the plans but will ask that a condition is placed on any planning approval offering assurance that the roof space is for storage only and can only be used for those purposes ancillary and incidental to the use of the dwelling house and that it will not make a habitable room space. Clerk to write accordingly.

733. Planning - DECISIONS

733.1 FUL/MAL/12/00147 West Bowers Bungalows, West Bowers Road **APPROVED (NW)**

Replacement of two existing cottages with two new dwelling houses.

733.2 HOUSE/MAL/12/00357 Chamberlain Cottage, Little Baddow Road **APPROVED (DEL)**

Demolition of existing garage and erection of double garage barn.

To note the following condition has been included which addresses our comments: *“Condition 4: The detached garage hereby permitted shall only be used for those purposes ancillary and incidental to the use of the dwelling house to which it relates and not for any commercial, business or habitable purposes.”*

733.3 HOUSE/MAL/12/00273 9 Church Corner, Herbage Park Road **WITHDRAWN**

For information: This application has been withdrawn.

734. Other Planning Matters

734.1 Whitegates – Cllr. Newland has reviewed the information and councillors were interested to note how the parameters of the proposal had complied with the rules and resulted in the Lawful Development Certificate.

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

735.1 e-on –Monthly DD

735.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

735.3 Douglas Tonks Ltd - Monthly DD: Mrs J Bannerman – re: Clerks Salary/Monthly Allowance/HMRC and Douglas Tonks Ltd re: Payroll services

735.4 Mrs J Bannerman Expenses

735.5 DW Maintenance

735.6 K&K Dunstan (Printing Diamond Jubilee Magazine)

735.7 Annual Grants to local organisations: Woodham Walter Womens Club £147; Woodham Walter Village Hall £200; St Michael’s Church £189; WM&H Parish Magazine £154; Silver Threads £236; Essex Wildlife Trust £105; it was resolved that there would be a careful review of the Annual Community Grants when the next budget is set.

736. Other Financial Matters

736.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
11 Jun 12	Balance			10649.75
09-Jul-12	Transfer to Community Account		1300.00	9349.75
Community A/C				
11 Jun 12	Balance			521.36
13-Jun-12	Party Tent (Balance - Hamilton)	30.00		551.35
13-Jun-12	Party Tent (Deposit - WWPCC)	40.00		591.35
21-Jun-12	Tadpoles Nursery (Diamond Jubilee Mugs)	96.90		688.25
22-Jun-12	Party Tent (Deposit - Barber)	20.00		708.25
22-Jun-12	Party Tent (Full -Warner)	100.00		808.25
28-Jun-12	Party Tent (Full - Elliot)	75.00		883.25
29-Jun-12	Party Tent (Balance - Barber)	30.00		913.25
29-Jun-12	Party Tent (Balance - WWPCC)	35.00		948.25
03-Jul-12	Party Tent (Full - Maxted)	50.00		998.25
05-Jul-12	Diamond Jubilee Mug Sales	85.00		1083.25
09-Jul-12	Transfer from Business Reserve	1300.00		2383.25
09-Jul-12	July Debits		1870.48	512.77

736.2 Quarterly Budget analysis - There were no questions arising from the budget analysis. Councillors noted that the new financial information was very useful.

737. Report Of The District Councillor It was noted that Cllr. Durham was at the NW Area Planning Committee meeting. Essex County Councillor Penny Channer had submitted a written report which had been circulated to councillors and forms Appendix 1 in these minutes.

738. Highways

738.1 Ref: 1634088 Footpath, Rectory Road. It was noted that Cllr Durham had been chasing at MDC/Moat and that this has resulted in some works to the pavement which began on Friday last week. It was noted that residents Lucy Hermon and Beryl Wareham had both offered their thanks to the Parish Council for efforts to address the problem.

738.2 Ref: E-1639609-1R Vehicle Activated Sign. Clerk continues to chase. Cllr. Channer has also been investigating and reported that the sign should be reinstated in Woodham Walter soon although no date has been set. Clerk to continue to monitor/chase. Councillors to consider budgeting to purchase our own VAS.

738.3 Ref: 74207: Road flooding at Ulting Lock – Chased 3 July – informed that a defect has been raised and will be investigated.

738.4 Ref: 1847972: Restricting HGV traffic – Chased 3 July – informed that they are checking advanced warning signage. Clerk to write again and ask for answer regarding satellite companies.

738.5 Pothole near to Wood Corner. Noted that this has been repaired.

738.6 Clerk to report various highways issues as follows: Woodham Walter sign near Bassetts broken; 30mph entrance gates on Herbage Park Road obscured by vegetation; Hedge on Herbage Park Road is overgrown; Road narrowing and visibility is poor due to overgrown hedge either side of road near Anchor which is near to bend and considered to be a safety issue; Blocked drains in two locations along Little Baddow Road.

738.7 Clerk to enquire if Highways will consider reinstating the annual inspection with the Parish Council which had been very useful in previous years.

739. Local Issues

739.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** The book was duly signed, other than some bottles found there were no incidents to report.

739.2 **Footpath Officer Report** 1) 3 paths have so far been cut but rain has affected progress; 2) regarding the barbed wire at FP24. Cllr. Warren had previously been advised by the PROW officer that it is preferred if barbed wire is not used but if deemed necessary then it should be mounted on the opposite side of the post and have a strand of plain wire mounted above it so that if someone should slip they would be able to grab the plain wire and not the barbed one. The landowner should take careful consideration before putting barbed wire up along a PROW as they could be liable for any injury sustained from the barbed wire by a person using the PROW. 3) It was noted that there is to be a review of the Definitive Paths in the parish next year.

4) Response from Nicky Coleman: *Regarding Woodham Walter footpath 16, They have got a verbal agreement for the footpath to be diverted onto the field headland which is going to be confirmed in writing.*

739.3 **One Place On Wheels** - Woodham Walter. Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Friday 13th July 1pm-2pm.

739.4 **Police Report** The report was read out by the clerk and included details of reported crimes in Woodham Walter between of 1st April and 9th July: Theft of heating oil; Burglary/theft from till; Attempted theft/criminal damage at telephone kiosk. It was also noted that there had been thefts of motor vehicles and a trailer in Ulting. Attention was drawn to an increase in the amount of catalytic converters being stolen from Ford Ranger and/or motor homes. Also theft of Range Rovers and Land Rovers in local area.

It was noted that following a review of the effectiveness of NAP meetings they have been stopped in areas where they are deemed to not be successful (this includes Woodham Walter.) They are to be replaced by an increased attendance by Police officers at Parish Council meetings.

739.4 **School Report** The school newsletter has been forwarded to councillors.

739.5 **Allotments Report** The committee are considering entering a competition for the Best Allotments.

739.6 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** Souvenir magazine has been distributed and has received a very positive response.

739.7 **Village History Project** Cllr. Warren will ask Paul Clark if he would be interested in coordinating. Other volunteers may also be needed.

739.8 **Community Speed Watch** It was noted that 2 sessions have been carried out in June resulting in 10 reported vehicles.

739.9 **Litter** Tyres left at Cut-a-Thwart Lane and West Bowers Road have been reported and cleared.

739.10 **Broadband** Awaiting repeater transmitter to be fitted which should bring further areas of the village under the coverage of Fibrewifi. More information awaited.

740. Correspondence

740.1 Thanks from Womens Club for rose following Diamond Jubilee.

740.2 Chelmsford City Council Local Development Framework – Consultation. Clerk to forward link to councillors.

741. Points of Information

741.1 Cllr. Orford had been told by a parishioner that many years ago there used to be a man who would come along on a regular basis to tidy, sweep and litter pick the village, and asked if this could be bought back.

Councillors felt that funding for this was unlikely but residents are all encouraged to litter pick and tidy the village as they go. It was noted and appreciated by councillors that many people including those who have adopted roads in the village already litter pick. Thank you and please continue!

742. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 13th August at 8pm, Women's Club Room, Top Road.
Date of Meeting to discuss LDP: This to be decided and advertised accordingly.

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

ROADS:

Following the announcement that an additional £11 million is being invested into repairing potholes throughout Essex, a great deal of work has taken place to identify how best to use the money, to achieve the goal of fixing as many potholes as possible.

A programme of work has been produced, which will start in early July and see works being carried out throughout the summer months and finishing in May 2013. We will be repairing the outstanding potholes that we know about between July and October and from November onwards we will be treating some of the road network to ensure that fewer potholes develop in the future.

While over 50,000 potholes were fixed across Essex last year, extreme weather conditions including heavy snowfall in the winter, followed by a hot dry spring and then severe flooding, have caused damage to the county's roads and increased the need for repair.

There is a dedicated Potholes page in the Roadworks Centre section on the website (www.essex.gov.uk/highways). Here, members of the public will be able to find out about the campaign and view the list of roads that we will be visiting. Once the campaign has started, we will also display where the vehicles are working, on a map and will be producing an Essex Highways branded video of the process that will be available through this page.

Whilst the campaign is aimed at fixing potholes that we are already aware of, the public can still report faults through the website or by calling Contact Essex.

This year's Surface Dressing programme will be starting very soon. Surface Dressing provides the most cost effective way of maintaining our road network. The treatment provides about seven to ten years of life for the road. The process is quick and disruption to traffic is significantly reduced, when compared to the traditional resurfacing. It improves the skid resistance of the surface and seals the surface, preventing water penetrating it, which is one of the effects that causes potholes, particularly during the winter time.

This summer we will be laying at least 1.6 million square metres of Surface Dressing across Essex, a third more than last year. This is equivalent to 152 miles of road throughout the county eg Distance from London to Sheffield.

Surface Dressing takes place during the summer months, when the weather is warm and dry.

There is a dedicated Surface Dressing page in the Roadworks Centre section on the website (www.essex.gov.uk/highways). Here, members of the public will be able to find answers to frequently asked questions, to be able to watch a video of how we surface dress a road and see when we will be working in their area. We will also be sending information out through our Twitter account.

A leaflet, explaining the process and how it may affect residents, has been produced and will be put through the doors of properties facing the roads we will be treating. Road signs will be put out in advance, giving starting dates.

Surface Dressing is weather dependant, so dates within the programme may be altered during bad weather.

Surface Dressing Programme for Maldon District:

B1012 Woodham Rd/Lower Burnham Road –Stow Maries -		12/7/2012 -12/7/2012
B1010 Lower Burnham Road - Southminster -		15/7/2012 -15/7/2012
Fambridge Road -	Cold Norton	15/7/2012-16/7/2012
Chelmsford Road -	Hazeleigh	17/7/2012-18/7/2012
Cold Norton Road -	Purleigh	16/7/2012-16/7/2012
Lower Burnham Road -	Purleigh	16/7/2012-17/7/2012
Ulting Road -	Maldon	18/7/2012-18/7/2012
Chelmsford Road -	Woodham Mortimer	18/7/2012 -18/7/2012
Witham Road	Wickham Bishops	30/7/2012-31/7/2012
Station Road	Wickham Bishops	31/7/2012- 31/7/2012
Ulting Hall Lane	ulting	01/8/2012 -01/7/2012

MEALS ON WHEELS CONTRACT:

Following a competitive tender process Essex County Council is set to award Sodexo a three year contract to deliver Meals on Wheels service across Essex.

The new contract comes into place on 1 October 2012 which will see meals supplied to around 1,350 customers in Essex. The food supplier will remain as Tillery Valley, customers will still receive the quality and choice of meals that they are accustomed to.

FINANCES:

Essex County Council's draft statement of accounts for 2011/12 reveals that the finances are managed robustly. The budget for the financial year was set against a backdrop of austerity, with the Council needing to make 100m of savings.

The Council is on course to make £370m of savings as part of the first stage of an ambitious programme to modernise working practices and become more efficient and exceeds the original saving target of £300m.

As part of the programme the Council has reorganised and restructured many areas. The number of officers being paid £50,000 has reduced from 459 in 2010/11 to 434 in 2011/12 while the number earning over £50,000 has fallen from 879 to 650. The amount paid on members allowances has also fallen following a reduction in the number of committees and the number of posts with a special responsibility allowance.

The Council's internal auditors have recognised that the pension fund is well run with the highest possible rating re: risk assurance. However, the pensions' deficit (shortfall needed to meet pension liabilities present and future) has increased due to volatility of the stock and bond market caused by the national and international economic situation.

Essex County Council's commitment to working effectively and efficiently was underpinned by the Cabinet reporting that it had achieved an additional £7m savings over its tough target of 101m for 2011/12.

This further supports the aims of the Council's ambitious programme to modernise practices and make it more efficient. The first stage of this programme of work runs for four years until April 2013, is currently on course to make £370m (as detailed earlier) in savings and efficiencies.

These savings have been achieved despite the Council facing challenging grant settlement from the Government to help cover the cost of running its services. The additional savings will be placed in the Council's reserves to help prepare for the anticipated reductions in the levels of government funding in future years.

HELP THE COMMUNITY FIGHT WASTE:

Enthusiastic residents who want to help their communities to recycle more and waste less had another chance to become an Essex Waste Buster.

Another Waste Busters training event took place on Sunday 1 July at the Clacton Volunteer Centre.

Waste Busters is a waste-reduction community volunteering scheme which helps to spread the word about home composting, food waste and reuse. The scheme has nearly 40 volunteers signed up and is looking for new members.

You can find out more by contacting Louis Phillips at louise.phillips@essex.gov.uk or on 07717 867166.

No matter what age or background, any Essex resident can become a Waste Buster. All they need is enthusiasm to improve the local community and a contribution of just 30 hours per year to the scheme, which could include the hosting of drop-in sessions and workshops to talking to community groups or writing press releases and articles to get those creative juices flowing.

Everyone who volunteers will receive full training, travel expenses and a free 12-month subscription to the Garden Organic charity on completion of ten hours of volunteering.

LANDMARK CONTRACT AWARDED FOR TREATMENT OF ESSEX WASTE:

Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council have signed a 25 year contract with a consortium of Urbaser and Balfour Beatty for the treatment of Essex Waste.

The Urbaser and Balfour Beatty consortium will build a Mechanical and Biological Treatment facility which will treat household waste collected at the kerb side, trade waste collected by Essex Local Authorities, street sweepings and all non recyclable waste re recycling centres across Essex and Southend.

Subject to gaining planning permission the, the new facility will be built on a site at Basildon. As well as treating waste the facility will incorporate a visitor education centre for the benefit of the wider community.

The construction of the facility will create up to 250 employment opportunities, once completed will create 85 full –time jobs,as well as apprenticeship places. Construction will begin in early 2013.

ESSEX RECYCLING FIGURES ON THE UP AGAIN:

Latest figures show that Essex households are recycling and composting more than ever before. Nearly 52% of household waste is now being recycled or composted, an increase of around 2% from last year.

The impressive recycling rate of 51.95% ,for the year ending March 2012,demonstrates how Essex residents have embraced the new recycling services that have been introduced by Essex Councils, committing themselves to high recycling. It is expected that the recycling rate will continue to increase further once these new services have been running for a full year.

The County Council and District and Borough Councils will be building on this success by continuing to work closely together to develop new and existing services to ensure recycling opportunities are accessible to all.

Not only is less waste being sent to landfill, but the total amount of household waste being produced by Essex households is also reducing. In the most recent 12 months the amount of waste generated has reduced by almost 10,000 tonnes, approximately 1.5%.

BUS SERVICES IN THE DENGIE PENINSULA:

Essex County Council was pleased to announce that, subject to clearance of cabinet member decision and completion of a mandatory standstill period, a new four year contract, operating from 26 August 2012 has been awarded to continue running bus services on behalf of ECC on the Dengie Peninsula.

Stephensons of Essex will continue to operate services D1,D2,D4 and D6 broadly in line with current timetables and with some enhancements to the D4 on a Saturday.

The little used D5 service will be replaced by a new Demand Responsive Transport service. This will operate from 6am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, serving the parishes of Stow Maries, Althorne and Fambridge.

Since May 2011 ECC has worked closely with local representatives to establish views and priorities of people on the Dengie Peninsula, developing timetable options to put out to tender.

ESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE SCORES WELL IN HM INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION INSPECTION.

Essex County Council was pleased that during the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection held in February 2012,it was recognised that the performance of the Essex Youth Offending Service is encouraging.

The Inspectors score the service on whether improvement is needed within three areas of work: safeguarding work; risk of harm to others work and the likelihood of re-offending work. In all categories Essex scored above the England average.

JUST OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE TURN OUT TO SEE THE OLYMPIC TORCH ON ITS FIRST DAY IN ESSEX:

Initial estimates suggest that approximately 311,500 people came out to see the Olympic Torch during the first day of its journey through Essex.

The following figures give a breakdown of the number of people estimated to have watched the Torch in each location:

Colchester	50,000
Hatfield Peverel	6,000
Maldon	10,000
Rayleigh	30,000
Southend	45,000
Hadleigh	35,000
Basildon	65,000
Grays	20,000
Brentwood and Herongate	35,000
Chelmsford	20,000