

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Women's Club Room, Top Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 10th August 2009

Present:

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

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk)
District Councillor Sheila Young

Public: 0

- 76. Welcome** Cllr Warner welcomed those present to the meeting.
- 77. Apologies For Absence** Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. James Bunn.
- 78. Register of Declared Interests** Cllr. Angus Neale declared an interest in Planning Application FUL/MAL/09/00576, 10 Church Corner as it is his next door neighbour's property. There were no other interests declared, the book was duly signed by Cllr Neale and clerk.
- 79. Public Forum** There were no members of the public present.
Clerk had spoken to Arthur Harlow who reported that some brambles were overhanging the path opposite Dobbins, The Street. Cllr. Warner will cut them back.
- 80. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 13th July 2009.** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 81. Matters Arising**
- 81.1 Party Tents (29.3) Cllr Robinson/Cllr Durham re: storage boxes/bags. Progressing, measurements due to be taken in the next week.
- 81.2 (74.1) Cllr Robinson reported that the footballers had not been seen on Bell Meadow recently.
- 82. Planning – APPLICATIONS**
- 82.1 FUL/MAL/09/00576 10 Church Corner, Herbage Park Road
Two storey rear extension and porch.
Cllr Neale having declared an interest left the room. It was noted that planning permission was originally approved in 2004 under FUL/MAL/04/0125. This permission has now expired and this is a re-application with the original plans. Councillors had no objections. Clerk to write accordingly. Cllr. Neale returned to the meeting.
- 82.2 FUL/MAL/09/00624 Albany Orchards, Old London Road
Erection of Garden wall and entrance gates.
New application with additional planting after FUL/MAL/09/00392 was refused. Councillors had no objections. Clerk to write accordingly.
- 83. Planning - DECISIONS**
- 83.1 FUL/MAL/09/00331 Waggars, Hop Garden Lane **APPROVE (Delegated)**
Erection of shed to be used as grooming room to extend current facilities.
Conditions to safeguard the amenities of neighbouring residents: High level windows on southern flank wall shall be fixed shut. Soft Landscaping works to southern boundary to be approved and constructed prior to use.
- 83.2 FUL/MAL/09/00350 The Spindle, Bassetts Lane **APPROVE (Delegated)**
Erection of external staircase to cartlodge.
- 84. Other Planning Matters**
- 84.1 Falconers Lodge. Cllr Potter reiterated his concerns with regard to the enforcement proceedings at this location. Contamination clearance can be an extremely expensive operation and he is concerned that if Maldon District Council take direct action to clear the site, that this will impact on local council tax payers. Cllr. Potter suggests that MDC lean hard on the new owners (thought to be Barclays Bank, who would have insurances etc.) to carry out the work. It is the responsibility of the landowner to adhere to the enforcement notice. Cllr. Potter asked District Councillor Sheila Young to discuss the site with MDC Planning Officers. Councillors remain concerned at the environmental impact of the spoil at the site, we do not know what has been buried and sample analyses should be done. There is a major water course running near by. Clerk to write to Gordon Nisbett, Senior Enforcement Officer at MDC (copied to Alan Storah and District Councillor Sheila Young). Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Potter.
- 84.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. (Nothing Further)
- 85. To Authorise Any Payments Due** The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.
- 85.1 e-on – Monthly DD 85.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD
- 85.3 Clerks Salary + allowance 85.4 Blackwater Landscapes
- 85.5 Silver Threads £204 (NB: Annual Grant – incorrect amount on cheque last month)

86. Other Financial Matters

- 86.1 Noted receipt of funding from ECC Making The Links re: Street Lighting Replacement £1463.20
- 86.2 Noted letter received from Barclays Bank regarding new terms and conditions.
- 86.3 Noted 24p bank charge.
- 86.4 Noted 78p Interest received.
- 86.5 Noted receipt of Party Tent income.

87. Report Of The District Councillor Mrs Young was pleased to announce that Maldon District Council have decided the public will now be allowed to speak at Planning Meetings. This will be trialled first at Burnham. Maldon will wait until after the instalment of a lift so that access to the room is available to all. There are various procedures to organise and Mrs Young felt that if it is properly managed, with a time limit for speakers etc that the idea will be a success. Councillors were very pleased with this decision and thanked Mrs Young for the efforts she had made to achieve this.

Mrs Young also reported that the Chief Executive of MDC had resigned. Fiona Marshall and Hazel Berrett are to take over for the time being until a decision on how to proceed has been made.

Cllr. Potter commented to Mrs Young that he had recently attended a Maldon District Local Strategic Partnership Consultation event (Core Strategy Development Plan) and had been disappointed with the evening. It is obviously a complicated matter not made clearer by the end of the meeting. He did not feel that he had been given the opportunity to offer opinion as part of a consultation. Mrs Young will pass this on.

Mrs Young also commented on the plans for a Vocational College in Maldon which would be a good thing if issues with the location can be resolved.

Mrs Young was reminded that she was going to speak to a parishioner regarding grass cuttings which have been piling up on the highway verge along Little Baddow Road. Councillors noted that grass clippings or general garden waste should not be left on the highway verge. There is a **Free Collection service** where residents can dispose of garden waste located at the junction of Rectory Road/Blue Mills Lane from **08:45 to 09:15 on Saturday mornings**. This service runs from the first Saturday in March until the last Saturday in November. There is also a scheme where residents can lease a garden waste wheelie bin from Maldon District Council and have it emptied from the kerbside weekly between March and November and fortnightly during December, January and February.

88. Highways

- 88.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Awaiting information re: Licence to Plant
- 88.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.
- 88.3 Village Gateways. Last info received - Date for installation 17th August. Clerk to write and confirm.

89. Local Issues

89.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed. Cllr. Warren had spoken to Dave Weedon and requested a new catch for the gate opposite the church. Councillors disappointed to note that the football nets appear to have been vandalised. Cllr. Durham to remove them for Bell Meadow Day and repair them. Clerk informed that Blackwater Landscapes confirm Bell Meadow hedge will be cut in time for bank holiday weekend.

89.2 **Footpath Officer Report** Cllr Warren reported: 1) Two large trees came down in high winds mid-July blocking FP 22 close to Blue Mill Lane. These were kindly removed by Lee Carter a few days later. 2) Prompted by FP 18 being impassable by the ruins of the old hall, the entire ECC cutting schedule for WW was brought forward to late July. 13 paths were cleared and cut over two days. Unfortunately FP 14 from the church was missed, this will now be cleared mid-August. 3) For several weeks FP 12 has been flooded close to the pumping station, presumably due to one of the hydrants leaking. This has been reported to Essex & Suffolk Water. 4) Nicky Coleman (our PROW Officer at ECC) and Chris Wheadon (Volunteer Warden for WW Common) have toured the common with a view to improving way-marking. Some poorly signed spots have been identified and it hoped to get new posts erected in October.

89.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** No report received. Councillors have heard of a couple of incidence of crime in the area, including a Landrover/trailer taken from Woodham Mortimer and a scooter stolen from Woodham Walter. Councillors comment that incidents seem to be on the increase and vigilance is needed.

89.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Next meeting: 10th September at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall 7-9pm.

89.5 **School Report** None

89.6 **Allotments Report** The weeds are growing well, fortunately so is the produce! Water leak fixed.

89.7 **Community Speed Watch** None

89.8 **Litter** – councillors noted the roads covered by parishioners in the adopt-a-road scheme. Councillors noted a few problems with fly tipped rubbish. Clerk to report, Manor Road, general rubbish near white bridge, Curling Tye Lane, freezer and Stivvy's Road, general rubbish near orchard.

90. Correspondence

90.1 Parish Clerks Forum on 15th July. Reports from Alcohol Watch, Essex Playing Fields Assoc. Community Initiatives Fund, MDC Park Rangers, MDC Junior Ranger Scheme. Information on circulation

90.2 Essex Wildlife Trust – Thank you for grant. Invite for a management walk around site. Natural England SSSI have been in touch re: monitoring visit. Annual Report (included on Circulation). Cllr Robinson to contact volunteer warden Chris Wheadon for a tour.

90.3 WW Village Hall Assoc. Thank you for grant.

90.4 BMVA – thank you for grant

90.5 Parish Magazine – thank you for grant.

90.6 WW Women's Club – thank you for grant.

90.7 Essex Rural Partnership – Improving Access (Response by 14 August 2009) Councillors conclude we do not need to respond to this survey.

90.8 MDC Environment Protection Team dates for drop in sessions in Southminster & Burnham for residents to report problems with noise, artificial light, land drainage, private sewer problems, air quality, land contamination, housing health & safety. Details will be displayed on noticeboard.

90.9 MDC Emergency Planning Meeting regarding new Local Rest Centre Boxes for each parish. Meeting clashes with next Parish Council meeting on 14th September. Clerk to contact.

90.10 Further correspondence received from resident Ms Zoe Coates. Clerk clarified ditch drainage problem with Cllr. Warner. Suggestion that the Parish Council carries out a Village Design Statement. After discussion councillors conclude that Woodham Walter does not need to carry out a VDS. Clerk to write back.

91. Points Of Information

91.1 Apologies for September Meeting: Cllr James Bunn and Cllr Claire Robinson

91.2 Noted overgrown hedge between Village Hall and Mead Pastures. Cllr. Durham to speak to owners.

91.3 Clerk requested clarification on party tent hire charges. Councillors agree that Bell Meadow Village Association is not required to pay as event is arranged on behalf of the Parish Council for all the village to enjoy.

92. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 14th September 2009

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.50pm