

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 13th August 2012

Present:

Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Gill Orford
Cllr. David Potter
Cllr. Joanna Symons

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)

Public: 1

743. Welcome Cllr. Peter Warren welcomed those present.

744. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. James Bunn, Cllr. Penny Channer and Cllr. Henry Bass.

745. Code of Conduct/Register of Members Interests

The code of conduct is based on the new national guidelines which have been introduced since the Localism Act to improve the new standards arrangements. Parliament has abolished the Standards Board regime and it is now down to Local Authorities to put standards arrangements in place. The national rules require that we adopt a code of conduct and keep a new register of member interests.

Clerk advised that Woodham Walter Parish Council adopts the Maldon District Council Local Code of Conduct. It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew Newland and seconded by Cllr. Gill Orford that Woodham Walter Parish Council adopts the Local Code of Conduct as adopted by Maldon District Council on 5th July. All councillors were in agreement.

Clerk informed councillors that they have 28 days to complete the Register of Members Interests. This needs to be done on the MDC secure website. The registers will then be included on the MDC website and also the Woodham Walter website.

746. Reviews & Adoptions Outstanding reviews and adoptions continue to be addressed.

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

It was noted that under the new arrangements members will have already declared their interests in the register kept at Maldon District Council and that members have a legal responsibility to ensure that their register is kept up to date.

748. Public Forum

There was one member of public present. Mrs Patricia Herrmann was in attendance regarding the Maldon District Local Development Plan Consultation and was interested to hear the Parish Council's deliberations on the matter.

749. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On 9th July 2012 The minutes were approved and duly signed.

750. Matters Arising from Minutes of 9th July 2012

750.1 Village Footpath Map (443.1) There was no further information to report.

750.2 Noticeboard. (709.2) Clerk has received a quote for £65 from Rob Hamilton to repair the noticeboard.

Cllr. Gill Orford proposed that the quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr. Peter Warren, all councillors in agreement. Clerk will contact Mr Hamilton to arrange.

750.3 Chelmsford City Council's Local Development Framework – Consultation 9th July – 20th August.

Councillors agreed that the document should be viewed but expected that no response will be required. Clerk will send a link to the on-line consultation.

751. Community Led Plans Councillors agreed to continue to research the plans. Clerk will arrange to circulate the Wickham Bishops Village Design Statement including sending a link to the electronic version.

752. Maldon District's Local Development Plan (LDP) Consultation

Councillors discussed the contents of the consultation on the new Maldon District LDP which is part of a public consultation between 10th July – 28th August 2012. The following comments were made:

- On balance the report is good and a sensible balance has been achieved. Woodham Walter Parish Council is generally in agreement with the preferred options which are often the only sensible option.
- Concern was raised that the consultation workshops with Parishes had been taken into account. It had been thought that these had been theoretical meetings that had not achieved anything substantive.
- Concerned that no employment or economical assessment goes with the proposed new houses – where is the work or are occupiers of new houses expected to commute out of the district?
- Concern how the 4 developmental areas were chosen, e.g. if they are expecting commuters shouldn't the development be nearer to access routes?

- The document offers insufficient emphasis and thought to highways issues, it is not clear how additional houses are to be serviced by transport links.
- There should be improved sustainable transport connections to mainline stations.
- Concerned that the document considers the M11 corridor has high relevance, surely the A12 should be the main road option as it is more relevant to the Maldon District.
- Concerned regarding Highways that the report suggests improvements only to road junctions. The A14 ought to benefit from an improved connection to the A12. The A14 through Danbury is impossible to widen and almost impossible to bypass whereas Maldon's industry and the projected Causeway regeneration would hugely benefit from an improved connection at the A12 Hatfield Peverel/Witham junction/s – by-passing Langford, especially as this village is earmarked for growth. This would also serve to relieve the A14 through Danbury.
- Maldon has the potential for more industry which needs to be re-established.
- More consideration should have been given in the LDP to economic prosperity. Essex graduates/highly educated go outside of the county to work because of the types of employment currently available in the district/county. If the area is to have any chance of competing in a global market this needs to be considered.
- Like to see external lighting and security gate controls to protect rural areas.
- Very much in favour of policy to protect the rural landscape (5.4.9v) and that extensions to residential curtilage into the countryside should not normally be permitted.
- Provision for Travellers – considers it would be worthwhile emphasising that Wood Corner should not be extended from the existing 20 pitches.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to Mrs Herrmann who commented that it was an interesting exercise into obeying the new planning rules. Better access to main routes is needed. It is a shame that MDC accept that the proposed development site at North Fambridge is for commuters.

Councillors asked the clerk to write up the notes as soon as possible and circulate in order that a letter with comments can be written in response to the document.

753. Planning – APPLICATIONS

753.1 FUL/MAL/12/00585 Northall Cottages, Cut-a-Thwart Lane

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

Councillors continue to strongly object to the application. The letter which had been written in response to the original application (FUL/MAL/12/00461) was read out and councillors agreed that this should be re-submitted in response to this application.

753.2 HOUSE/MAL/12/00673 2-3 Hop Gardens, Hop Gardens Lane

Double garage and storage in the roof.

Councillors were pleased that previous concerns had been addressed and that the ridge height has been dropped. There were no objections. Clerk to write accordingly.

753.3 It was noted that an application for a property at Falconers Lodge had been submitted and that this has been called to the NW Planning Committee for a decision. The application documents have not yet been received and clerk will circulate as soon as they are available.

754. Planning - DECISIONS

754.1 FUL/MAL/12/00461 Northall Cottages, Cut-a-Thwart Lane

WITHDRAWN

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

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

WITHDRAWN

Double garage and storage in the roof.

755. Other Planning Matters

755.1 For Information: Tree Preservation Order No. 08/12 Woodham Walter Hall & Falconers Lodge (remains of), Oak Farm Road, Woodham Walter.

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

756.1 e-on –Monthly DD

756.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

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

756.4 DW Maintenance

757. Other Financial Matters

757.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
09-Jul-12	Balance			9349.75
13-Aug-12	Transfer to Community Account		600.00	8749.75
Community A/C				
09-Jul-12	July Debits		1870.04	513.21
27-Jul-12	Party Tent (Full - Lane)	50.00		563.21
27-Jul-12	Party Tent (Full - Morton)	75.00		638.21
13-Aug-12	Transfer from Business Reserve	600.00		1238.21
13-Aug-12	August Debits		699.75	538.46

757.2 Notice of Conclusion of Audit. The annual audit has been completed and returned with the external auditors certificate. There was nothing to report and no action to take. Clerk to display on noticeboard in accordance with the rules giving details of how parishioners may exercise their rights to inspect the annual return.

758. Report Of The District Councillor/County Councillor

Cllr. Durham reported that the Oval Park planning application at Langford had taken up a considerable amount of time and had been refused by MDC. The LDP consultation continues in the district to a tight schedule. There are to be benefit changes which are likely to affect some residents of the village and this is currently the subject of another consultation.

Cllr. Channer had submitted a report re: Essex Population & General ECC information which will be forwarded to councillors.

759. Highways

759.1 Ref: 1634088 Footpath, Rectory Road. Councillors were pleased to note that the footpath has been completed.

759.2 Ref: E-1639609-1R Vehicle Activated Sign. Clerk continues monitor/chase.

759.3 Ref: 74207: Road flooding at Ulting Lock – Continues to monitor/chase - a defect has been raised and will be investigated.

759.4 Ref: 1847972: Restricting HGV traffic – No further information

759.5 Clerk has reported 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 – it was noted that since this has been reported the hedge has been cut, councillors instruct clerk to write to the Anchor and thank them for their action in this matter; Blocked drains in two locations along Little Baddow Road.

759.6 Clerk enquired if Highways will consider reinstating the annual inspection with the Parish Council which had been very useful in previous years and was informed that due to budget restraints this will not be reinstated. Councillors consider that completing a local annual inspection ourselves will be very useful, clerk to arrange with Cllr. Newland and Cllr. Orford.

759.7 ECC Winter Salt Bag Scheme – invitation to participate in 2012/13 scheme. Clerk to apply and speak to Colin Warner regarding storage of salt.

759.8 Ref: 1945489 Pot Hole – Old London Road (jct HPR): *We are aware of the condition of the carriageway in Old London Road, Woodham Walter. We are pleased to report Old London Road, has been selected as part of the additional £11 million for pothole repair within Essex; it is the intention of our Engineering Team to carry out repairs on all the carriageway defects on Old London Road, within our investigatory level*

759.9 Clerk to report the tree which is sticking out into the road along Herbage Park Road between Warren and Anchor at dangerous corner.

760. Local Issues

760.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** There were no reported incidents and the book was duly signed. There had been a report from parishioner Ursula Lawton that some plum type trees were growing up through the footpath near to the bottom entrance of Bell Meadow. Cllr. Orford agreed to investigate. It was noted that the trees at the bottom of Bell Meadow are due to be maintained by Colin Warner in the Autumn.

760.2 **Footpath Officer Report** All paths in the parish have been cut by ECC except the path from the church which has been chased up. It was noted that generally all the paths in the parish have remained accessible during the growing season. Cllr. Warren reported that he has spoken to Nicky Coleman regarding the unlicensed stiles along FP24 which had been added to a back log of complaints by ECC.

760.3 **One Place On Wheels** - Woodham Walter. Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Thursday 9th August, Thursday 13th September from 3.15-4.15pm. New location – outside the village shop, although with parking issues at this time of day this will be monitored.

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

760.5 **Allotments Report** Allotment magazine forwarded to Cllr. Orford. There was nothing further to report other than a case of potato blight!

760.6 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** Cllr. Symons is compiling the photographs and memorabilia and it was agreed that this will be on display at Bell Meadow Day including the book of attendance. Discussions on the final location were discussed including suggestion of glass cabinet at the village hall. The photos are being uploaded onto a secure website.

760.7 **Village History Project** Paul Clark has agreed he will be happy to coordinate the project.

760.8 **Community Speed Watch** No report.

760.9 **Litter** No reports.

760.10 **Broadband** The repeater transmitter has now been fitted at The Warren which should bring further areas of the village under the coverage of Fibrewifi. More information awaited.

761. Correspondence

761.1 Statement of Community Involvement – First Review. Public Consultation 30 Aug-25 Oct. Cllr. Newland will read and analyse if a response is required.

761.2 Essex Wildlife Trust – thanks for community grant (included in circulation).

761.3 MDC – New ways to allocate council tax support – residents urged to have their say on council tax benefit reforms – Consultation ends 12 September. It was noted that there may be some impact on the precept for Parish Councils as some residents will be taken out of the tax base figure resulting in the precept being funded by less properties and therefore if our precept requirement were to remain the same effectively there will be an increase. The figures and impact for Woodham Walter have not yet been made available, clerk will continue to research and also email Cllr. Newland to read and analyse if a response to the consultation is required.

761.4 St Michael's Church – thanks for community grant. (included in circulation).

761.5 Priti Patel MP – contact information and details re: Big Lottery Fund. (circulation)

761.6 ECC – Sustainable Drainage Systems Design & Adoption Guide (Consultation 1Aug-12Sept). (included in circulation although it is expected that no response will be required).

761.7 Silver Threads – thanks for grant (included in circulation)

761.8 WM&H Parish Magazine - thanks for grant (included in circulation)

761.9 MDC – Hotspots – information regarding FREE insulation for residents of the Maldon District.

762. Points of Information

762.1 Bags for Party Tents. Cllr Durham raised the question of bags being needed for the newest party tents. Cllr. Durham to measure/Cllr. Orford to investigate quote for canvas bags.

763. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 10th September 2012.

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.45pm