

# **MINUTES**

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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

## **Present:**

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

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

Public: 3

**110. Welcome** Cllr Warner welcomed those present to the meeting.

**111. Apologies For Absence** No apologies were reported.

**112. Register of Declared Interests** There were no interests declared, the book was duly signed

**113. Public Forum** There were 3 members of the public present.

Cllr. Warner opened the meeting up in order that public could make comments, all public present were in attendance to voice strong objections to the Meadows Barn planning application FUL/MAL/09/00791. Roger Raffell commented that the application had changed very little from the previous application which had been made earlier in the year, in that the proposed holiday lets had been reduced from 6 to 4. He felt that the Tourist report in the supporting documents offered no credibility as it was not an independent study and should therefore be dismissed. He has the same objections as with the previous application. He is concerned that ultimately the barn will be changed into residential use. He is concerned that a new planning officer is now in charge of the case and hopes that they will be aware of the case history, he concluded that he hoped the Parish Council would endorse his opposition to the application.

Sue Williams commented that she is concerned that the application for 4 holiday lets will go to 6 as per the original application because of the void in this application. She continued that the barn is not a "redundant barn" as to her knowledge it has *never* been used, she indicated that there was an Agricultural Holding Certificate attached to the barn but that the application form did not state this and that this should be declared.

Councillor Warner thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting or until the discussion regarding this planning application has taken place.

**114. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009.** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

## **115. Matters Arising**

115.1 Party Tents (29.3) Cllr. Robinson has received the storage bags and is awaiting the invoice which will be forwarded to clerk for payment. Cllr. Durham to arrange sorting tents into bags.

## **116. Planning – APPLICATIONS**

116.1 FUL/MAL/09/00791 Meadows Barn, Bassetts Lane

Convert barn into four holiday lets with associated external alterations.

Previous application FUL/MAL/09/00163 was refused under delegated powers w/e 02/04/09.

Cllrs. Potter and Warner carried out neighbour consultations and found an overwhelming negative response to the application. Many residents have written to MDC and forwarded copies of their letters to the Parish Council and a report had been received from Patricia Herrmann.

Councillors felt that there had been no significant change from the previous application, even in the supporting documentation, the reduction from 6 to 4 units quite clearly states that a void area will be created with a view to increasing to 6 in the future. Concern raised that the forms had not been filled in correctly and concern that the history of the site be examined by the new officer of this case. Councillors ask clerk to write a letter of strong objection similar to the letter written for the application FUL/MAL/09/00163 but with additional comments regarding failure to fill in forms correctly; concern regarding length of lets; question of precedent drawing attention to refusal note from Lodge Farm FUL/MAL/09/0366. Clerk to write accordingly and liaise with Cllr. Potter and Cllr. Durham before sending letter. Members of the public left the meeting following conclusion of this discussion.

## **117. Planning - DECISIONS**

117.1 LBC/MAL/09/00647 Wingtons, The Street

**APPROVE (Delegated)**

Removal of internal partitions, new internal stud partitions and screens, replacement rear window, new window at existing door opening, roof light to rear elevation and exterior redecoration.

117.2 FUL/MAL/09/00624 Albany Orchards, Old London Road

**APPROVE (Delegated)**

Erection of garden wall and entrance gates.

## **118. Other Planning Matters**

118.1 Falconers Lodge. (Nothing Further)

118.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. (Nothing Further)

118.3 Wood Hall – MDC are corresponding with owners regarding Certificate of Lawfulness for stable accommodation.

### **Item Out of Order**

**123.10 Village Agents:** Cllr Warner invited Christine McDonald to speak to councillors at this point in the meeting, see notes below, she then left the meeting.)

**119. To Authorise Any Payments Due** The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

119.1 e-on – Monthly DD

119.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

119.3 Clerks Salary + allowance

119.4 Blackwater Landscapes

119.5 Audit Commission £155.25

## **120. Other Financial Matters**

120.1 NALC/SLCC Employment Briefing – 2009/10 National Final Salary Award for Local Council Clerks. This is applicable from 1 April 2009. Part Time Hourly rate increases from £10.097 to £10.198

**121. Report Of The District Councillor** No report available.

## **122. Highways**

122.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Licence to Plant. Clerk has investigated and will conclude application process.

122.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.

122.3 Village Gateways. Response received from Jackie Roerig. The lining work is still to be completed, but there has been a delay. The gateways on Rectory Road were set back on purpose to keep out of the way of the sightlines from Blue Mill Lane and West Bowers Road.

122.4 Clerk has reported pot holes on Little Baddow Road and been informed of action taken. Also Diversion sign adjacent to Warren entrance will be removed.

122.5 Cllr Warner re: Road signs at Church Corner – he had a report from parishioner who finds the signpost obstructs the view. Discussion concludes that this is not a sufficient problem; Councillors sorry to hear the old cast iron Finger post at junction of Hop Garden Lane/Blue Mill Lane has been broken, clerk to report; Disappointed at the amount of litter left by water main contractors at junction of Rectory Road/Blue Mill Lane, also a number of bags of soil have been left around the area, clerk to report.

## **123. Local Issues**

123.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed. Some disposable BBQ's had been removed. The new gate catch has been fixed by Dave Weedon.

123.2 **Footpath Officer Report** Cllr Warren reported that Essex & Suffolk Water have dug up FP 12 between the pumping station and The Warren House and repaired the leaking hydrant. This stretch of path is now drying out nicely. Autumn ploughing has made some paths difficult to walk. Now that the rains have softened the clods of mud, plus flattening from walkers and farmers, hopefully the problems will be rectified.

123.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** No crime report received although councillor had heard of a theft of hay, buckets and bins which were taken from Bassetts Lane earlier in the day. Further discussion re: Neighbourhood Watch signs concludes that we will request 4 new signs for Hop Garden Lane/Blue Mills Lane junction; Oak Farm/Old London Road junction; Bassetts/Spring Elms Lane junction; replacement of Rectory Road sign. Clerk to arrange.

123.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: Tues 10<sup>th</sup> November, Wickham Bishops VH, 7pm.

123.5 **School Report** Mrs Matthews reported on the Forest School initiative including the practice of latrines in the area. She also informed that the recent application for funding for an extension to replace one of the demountables, has been successful she requested a Parish Councillor to help with the planning process. Cllr. Neale volunteered to liaise with the school with assistance from Cllr. Bunn if required.

123.6 **Allotments Report** No report.

123.7 **Community Speed Watch** No report.

123.8 **Litter** It was noted that the litter between the Anchor and Warren has been cleared following correspondence with Chelmsford Borough Council and Danbury Parish Council. Cllr. Durham volunteered to remove the tyre in the field. It was noted that verges in our village have received their final cuts and any litter picking that can be done now while it is readily visible, would be appreciated. Cllr, Warren reported on black sacks dumped in the hedge between Bunsay Downs & Stivvy's Road, clerk/Cllr. Durham to investigate.

123.9 **Playground Grant** Response received from Richard Heard, MDC Leisure Development Manager. Unfortunately the funding does not allow of new play equipment to be installed within the school grounds as it would not be accessible to the public at all times.

123.10 **Village Agents** –Christine McDonald has been appointed as the Village Agent for Woodham Walter and spoke to councillors about the new initiative. This is an exciting new project providing older people with easy access to services and information with the aim of supporting healthier, happy and safer independent living whilst also enabling organisations to develop even more efficient and effective services. Christine is employed by the Rural Community Council of Essex, the locally recruited Village Agents have an abundance of information at their fingertips and are in constant contact with local organisations and service providers. The Village Agents will not duplicate any existing services and they will work alongside County, Borough/District and Parish Councillors, as well as Parish Clerks and other key people in the community, to ensure that they can point people in the right direction for help and support.

Each Village Agent will work part-time in their area, meeting residents face to face in their home or at local community facilities. An on-line system will be used to refer people on to services and to manage the information process, as well as monitor performance. Local Stakeholder Groups have also been set up to support the agents', meeting every six months to share local knowledge, advice and discuss ways in which to raise awareness of the project.

Councillors thanked Christine for attending the meeting to explain about the new service. They thought that it sounded like a very good idea and that precautions taken now may be helpful as prevention rather than cure is always beneficial. Councillors discussed the way forward for Christine to meet with locals, it may be helpful to make personal recommendations as cold calling is not generally welcome. Clerk to speak with Christine and provide details of Silver Threads and Womens Club both of which would be a good starting point. Cllr. Neale had a parishioner in mind who could benefit from the service and would make contact with Christine via clerk.

**124. Correspondence**

124.1 Junior Rangers Club – Winter Events

124.2 Essex Telecare Home Safety Service – free 12 month offer to residents over 85.

**125. Points Of Information**

125.1 Councillor Neale to attend Remembrance Day Service at St Michaels Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 9.45am and place wreath on behalf of Parish Council. Cllr. Neale requested that the War Memorial at the bus shelter be included in next months agenda as he would like a more prominent memorial.

**126. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Signed

Dated

**Meeting ended at 10.05pm**