

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Village Hall, Rectory Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 9th November 2009

Present:

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

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

Public: 2

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

128. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Warner. In his absence Cllr. Durham was nominated to chair the meeting by Cllr. Bunn, seconded by Cllr. Potter and duly elected.

129. Register of Declared Interests Cllr. Durham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7.1 Planning Applications LDE/MAL/09/00838 & 839, 1&2 Hawkins Farm Cottages, Little Baddow Road as he has a direct connection with the applications.

130. Public Forum There were 2 members of the public present. Christine McDonald the RCCE Village Agent was also present.

Sue Williams commented on the proposal for planting opposite the Bell Public House. Cllr. Durham explained that the planting was only on one section of grass adjacent to where the new bollard was installed and not across the lay-by area.

Dean Buffoni was in attendance re: Agenda Item: 7.3 FUL/MAL/09/00893 Wood Hall Planning Application in order to answer any questions councillors may have. He explained that the plans which were approved in 2008 for a detached garage and basement. He had met with problems when he started digging out the foundations; the original footings had to be underpinned, due to this additional work it then seemed logical to attach the extension to the existing property. It also seemed sensible to alter the existing roof to get rid of gullies. Cllr. Potter enquired why there were dormer windows in the roof. Mr Buffoni explained that this will be an open space, he needs the extra height in the roof as part of the redesign of the roof to get rid of the gullies. He considers dormers will make the roof more aesthetically pleasing than velux windows.

Christine McDonald explained that the Village Agent project has now gone live. She has received a few initial enquiries and is pleased with the progress so far. She needs the support of the Parish Council and others in order to help publicise this worthwhile project. Cllr. Durham thanked Christine for attending the meeting and updating the Parish Council who will be pleased to continue to help. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

The public forum finished at 8.10pm, CM left the meeting. SW & DB remained for duration of meeting.

131. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 12th October 2009. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

132. Matters Arising

132.1 (116.1) Clerk reported that no comments had been received regarding the Meadows Barn planning application and that the MDC website had not been updated.

132.2 (29.3) Cllr. Robinson has received the invoice for the Party Tent storage bags. Clerk to send payment.

133. Planning – APPLICATIONS

133.1 LDE/MAL/09/00838 & LDE/MAL/09/00839 1 & 2 Hawkins Farm Cottages, Little Baddow Road
Claim for Certificate of Lawfulness for existing residential use – occupancy in breach of condition 2 planning permission EFC/MAR/485/61.

Cllr. Durham having declared an interest in this item left the meeting room. In his absence Cllr. Potter was nominated to chair the meeting by Cllr. Bunn and seconded by Cllr. Warren and was duly elected.

Cllr. Potter explained the main points of the application to remove an agricultural restriction. Councillors agreed that the evidence submitted appears comprehensive and well documented and there were no objections. Clerk to write accordingly.

Cllr. Durham has invited back in the meeting room to re-take the Chair at 8.20pm.

133.2 FUL/MAL/09/00852 Gunhill Farmhouse, Stivvys Road

Single storey side extension to dwelling.

The application is to reduce the size of a planning permission already granted. Clerk had received information from the owners that work has commenced at this site. Councillors had no objections, clerk to write accordingly.

133.3 FUL/MAL/09/00893

Wood Hall, Little Baddow Road

Two storey side extension incorporating basement and redesign of the roofscape to the building. Councillors were happy with the explanation Mr Buffoni had offered earlier in the meeting, it had been useful that he was able to attend as the planning documents did not offer a full explanation. Councillors conclude that changing the roof line seems sensible. The property is remote and on a large plot and no neighbours will be affected. Councillors had no objections, clerk to write accordingly.

134. Planning - DECISIONS

No decisions had been received.

135. Other Planning Matters

135.1 Falconers Lodge. Clerk to report to MDC some unusual activity noted at the site, several transit vans have been seen, the stable barn boarded up. Question over whether site is being used for commercial usage. Councillors concerned that Woodham Walter will suffer if situation is not managed carefully.

135.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. Clerk has not received any information and will write for an update.

136. To Authorise Any Payments Due

136.1 e-on – Monthly DD

136.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

136.3 Clerks Salary + allowance

136.4 Woodham Walter Village Hall – hire charge

136.5 DHGPC Affiliation Fee £15.00

137. Other Financial Matters

137.1 Parish Precept 2010/2011 form received from MDC. Clerk informed councillors that the 2010/11 budget will be discussed at the December meeting and needs to be finally approved/authorised at the January meeting.

137.2 Barclays Bank – information of a name change to the Business Deposit Account.

138. Report Of The District Councillor Noted that the North Western Committee were meeting this evening.

139. Highways

139.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Licence to Plant. Application process proceeding.

139.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Clerk had requested update and been informed that Highways are waiting for the DoT to respond.

139.3 Village Gateways. Nothing further.

139.4 Blue Mill Lane – proposed 40MPH speed limit does not meet criteria and has not been approved. It was noted that Councillors had no knowledge of this proposal.

140. Local Issues

140.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed. It was noted that when Cllr. Robinson had tried to gain access to inspect the Community playground at the school during half term the gate had been locked. Clerk to enquire with the school.

140.2 **Footpath Officer Report** No items to report.

140.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** No report received. Clerk to enquire.

140.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: Tues 10th November, Wickham Bishops VH, 7pm

140.5 **School Report** Clerk informed that the school had sent a copy of the annual inspection report for the playground.

140.6 **Allotments Report** No items to report.

140.7 **Community Speed Watch** 1 session reported during October.

140.8 **Litter.** Email from parishioner Sue Cumming requesting Dog bin at the entrance to the allotments field. Councillors concluded that this location is not suitable; it could pose a hazard as it is too close to the school and the footpath is too narrow.

140.9 **War Memorial Shelter.** Cllr. Neale proposed that the War Memorial should be relocated to a more prominent and visible position within the village. The present memorial is a shelter outside Chapel Stores, it is unobtrusive and easily missed and not always respected for the purpose it was built. A more prominent position for example on the grass triangle adjacent to Church Hill, The Street & Little Baddow Road would be a more appropriate location for a War Memorial.

Various Questions and Comments were discussed: The present shelter is not a bus shelter but was a specially built war memorial. The British Legion had commented to Cllr. Neale that they are happy for a war memorial to be relocated but will not contribute to the costs. Regarding location on triangle, would this location be allowed by Highways? Other suggested location was on the Memorial Garden which runs down the length of Bell Meadow opposite the Church and would help to highlight the fact that this area is a Memorial Garden. The question of cost would need to be addressed before any commitment can be made. Councillors conclude that in order to progress this further an article be placed in the Parish Magazine inviting comments.

141. Correspondence

141.1 Dengie Project Trust – info re: One Place on Wheels visit WW VH on Second Wednesday every month from 1415-1515. This is a mobile vehicle manned by representatives of Essex Police and One Place Team offering information and advice on policing, tourist & community information, Social Care, Healty Living, Benefits and Housing advice, volunteering opportunities and access to IT and training.

141.2 MDC – Do councillors still require a hard copy of the District Council Minute Book? Councillors all prefer to receive the printed copy. Clerk to write.

141.3 Alcohol Watch – information update.

141.4 Maldon District Local Strategic Partnership – information re: Parish Plans. Clerk to circulate.

141.5 ECC Trading Standards. Clerk has received some copies of a free 2010 Calendar, some copies will be left at Chapel Stores or if anyone is interesting in receiving one please contact clerk. It provides information and advice on Trading Standards and Wellbeing.

142. Points Of Information

142.1 Cllr Potter concerned that some poachers (probably hare) had been seen recently in the Little London area late at night.

142.2 Cllr Potter concerned to learn that red deer had escaped. 2 stags and a 3 hinds could soon become a much larger herd! Cllr. Bunn informed that they have now been recaptured and returned.

143. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 14th December 2009

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.05pm