

MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.
Held at 8pm in Woodham Walter Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.

Monday 13th November 2017

Present:

Cllr. Joanna Symons (Chairman)
Cllr. John Brown
Cllr. Jenny Hughes
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. John Tompkins
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor Mark Durham (until 9.30pm)
District Councillor Henry Bass (until 9.30pm)

Public: 6

2188. Welcome Cllr. Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

2189. Apologies were received from Cllr. James Bunn

2190. Disclosure of Interests/Consideration of Dispensations To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 6-10 inclusive of the Code of Conduct for Members. (Members are reminded they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

There were no interests to declare and the book was duly signed.

2191. Public Forum There were no members of the public present.

2192. New Parish Councillor It was noted that Cllr. Brown signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the extraordinary meeting on 30th October. He has completed the Register of Members Interests form and the MDC and WWPC websites have been updated. Cllr. Brown has also signed the consent to email service and requests documents to be delivered electronically wherever possible.

2193. To approve Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 9th October 2017 and the Extra Ordinary Meeting on Monday 30th October 2017. The minutes of both meetings were approved as a true record and duly signed.

2194. Matters Arising from the minutes but not on the Agenda – for report.

2194.1 Parish Trigger update – it was noted that Maldon District Council had voted to adopt the proposal to remove the Parish Trigger. A letter had been received from MDC Chief Executive, Fiona Marshall explaining the new process. The change has been made to reduce costs, it will minimise the number of applications being called to the Area planning committees which requires additional work at not insignificant cost to the Council. The Parish Trigger has now been replaced with an extended call in process by a member of the Area Planning Committee. The Parish Council can request that a Member call in an application and they will need to provide sound planning reasons for their call in. Woodham Walter sits in the North Western Area Planning Committee and the call in area includes Purleigh, Wickham Bishops and the Woodhams.

Councillor Durham and Bass outlined to Parish Councillors that if there is anything contentious it should be sent to them for call in. If the officer recommendation concurs with the Parish view, the call in can be withdrawn. They assured that the Parish view will still be considered in the consultation process. Planning in the district is now controlled more by policies since the adoption of the LDP. The decision was unanimous and cannot legally be overturned for 6 months but will be reviewed in 12 months. Other local authorities do not have a parish trigger. Targets for a 90% delegated decision rate are being missed, currently MDC are at 60-70%.

Clerk reported that she has recently attended a couple of forums/training sessions and informed that many Parish Clerks in the district are alarmed by this decision and have reported much dissatisfaction from their members.

Parish Councillors voiced their concerns and are very unhappy about the change. Woodham Walter Parish Council consider all planning applications with great care and respond on the prescribed form giving sound planning reasons for any objections. They feel dispirited that the local voice has been dismissed. This does not sit well within the localism agenda as the Parish Council are the most local

part of the democratic system and their influence has been side-lined by this decision by MDC. It was agreed that a formal letter be written to Fiona Marshall expressing dissatisfaction at this decision.

2195. Community Playground

2195.1 Terminating the agreement with the school. Informal advice from Solicitor at MDC resulted in suggested wording for a termination document. The termination document has therefore been agreed and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk, Head Teacher and Chairman of the Governors. Clerk has written a letter of thanks for the use of the community playground over the years and enclosing the final playground maintenance cheque. The termination document has been filed. Cllr. Symons will liaise with the school regarding the Community Playground signage.

2195.2 New Playground. The first meeting of the Working Group was well attended and it was agreed the first step is to distribute a questionnaire to establish a need and if so, find out what is desired. Next meeting on 14th November. Clerk to check insurance/liability issues as the site is not secure and we cannot stop people using it out of hours (as is the case with many public playgrounds). Cllr. Durham to advise on his findings about insurance concerns.

2196. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2196.1 FUL/MAL/17/00768 Agricultural Building, Lodge Farm, Old London Road
Retrospective – Change of use of agricultural building to office.
Councillors support the application.

2196.2 FUL/MAL/17/01128 Land East of Bradwell Power Station, Bradwell-on-Sea
Application to carry out preliminary ground investigations and associated works in connection with a potential new Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell-on-Sea, use existing building as core storage area and form site compound with association parking area.

Although outside of the Parish we have been included in the consultation by MDC.

Councillors support the application.

9.3 Chelmsford/17/01902/OUT Land East Of Runsell View & Little Fields And North Of
Maldon Road Danbury Chelmsford

Outline planning application for up to 90 residential dwellings (including up to 35% affordable housing) with public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) and vehicular access off Maldon Road. All matters to be reserved with the exception of main site access.

The application site is outside of Woodham Walter however there could be an impact so the application will be discussed at the December meeting. Clerk to circulate previous response to application on same site.

9.4 Application for a large development (circa 3000 homes) at Hammonds Farm (Little Baddow/Sandon), no details available at present but monitor.

2197. Planning – DECISIONS

2197.1 HOUSE/MAL/17/00857 Greenlanes, Spring Elms Lane **APPROVED (NW)**
Retrospective – Erection of single-storey, two bay cart lodge with lean-to store.

2197.2 HOUSE/MAL/17/00883 Albany Orchards, Old London Road **APPROVED (DEL)**
Erection of outbuilding for swimming pool and associated accommodation (amendments to 16/00094)

2198. Other Planning Matters

2198.1 Woodham Walter Village Design Statement. Cllr. Tompkins has been writing the Parish Magazine articles which will also be put on the website. David Beattie agreed to act as an independent advisor for enquiries about the VDS – which should be directed via the Parish Clerk in the first instance. It was noted that the website has been updated with all the latest information including the information articles.

2198.2 Works to the trees along the Memorial Garden will need permission as they are in the Conservation Area. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Tompkins and DW Maintenance. Clerk to draw attention to the cables in the trees to UK Powernetworks

2198.3 The Maldon District Conservation & Design Awards winners have been announced. Thanks to Cllr. Tompkins for representing Woodham Walter Parish Council on the judging panel. The overall winner was the Kings Head in Bradwell on Sea.

2198.4 Notification of Enforcement investigation 17/00419/BC regarding building works at Granville Hall.

2199. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

2199.1 E-on –Monthly DD – £22.62 (inc. £1.08 VAT)

2199.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD £23.94 (inc. £3.99 VAT)

2199.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary 48 hours + allowance (extra hours re: extra meeting/SLCC training and generally busy month £553.67

2199.4 Royal British Legion (Wreath) £30

2200. Other Financial Matters

2200.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
09-Oct-17	Balance			13410.71
13-Oct-17	Transferred to A/C 60978876		700.00	12710.71
Community Account				
09-Oct-17	Balance			461.61
13-Nov-17	Transferred from A/C 40622818	700.00		1161.61
13-Nov-17	November Debits		630.23	531.38

2200.2 Budget Planning 2018/2019 To begin considering budget and precept requirements. It was noted that there could be a cap for Parish Council's in the future. Draft budget will be available to discuss at the December meeting. The precept request will need to be resolved at the January meeting.

2201. Reports Of the District/County Councillor

Cllr. Durham and Cllr. Bass had taken part in the discussion regarding the Parish Trigger under minute reference 2194.1

Cllr. Durham noted the response the clerk had made regarding the Mobile Library.

The launch is due of the TruCam system of speed cameras which is to be used by the MDC Community Protection Team. Maldon is the first authority in the country to have it.

Clerk asked Cllr. Durham and Cllr. Bass to look into the withdrawal of the bus services to Maldon.

There is a Rural Crime event at Stow Maries on Thursday 16th November.

2202. Other Council Matters

2202.1 Woodham Walter Common – Cllr. Warren & Cllr. Tompkins reported that the management document is nearing completion but that our contact at Essex Wildlife Trust has now left.

Cllr Warren reported on works taking place in the common which to our knowledge we have not been informed about including the creation of a new ride, it is also understood that future plans for timber extraction are being discussed, again the Parish Council has not been informed of these plans. Cllr. Durham offered to contact EWT to ask what is going on and will report back to clerk who will also make contact.

2202.2 Bell Meadow Village Association – Research has concluded that the BMVA was set up as a separate committee with its own constitution. It is not a Working Party of the Parish Council although strong links between the two are required as the event takes place on Bell Meadow which is owned by the Parish Council and using the Parish Council Premises Licence. Clerk has liaised with the BMVA Chairman and Secretary to advise about the AGM which is taking place on Monday 4th December at 7.30pm in Women's Club room. Cllr. Hughes will act as the Parish Council representative.

2202.3 Allotments Association. No information to report.

2202.4 Councillor Training – await confirmation of date – possibly Saturday 6th or 20th January.

2202.5 Neighbourhood Consultation Policy – Councillors to read document with a view to it being adopted at the December meeting.

2202.6 Clerk reported that recent training sessions will result in a few other policies and changes including to the Internal Audit and Data Protection regulations. Some of these changes will result in expenditure which will be included in the budget for 2018/19.

2203. Consultations/Questionnaires

2203.1 Mobile Library Consultation. Clerk has written regarding the proposed loss of the mobile library service at Wood Corner.

2204. Highways

2204.1 Old London Road Barrier – Cllr. Durham reported that works are due to take place by the end of the month. He has asked them to investigate the best solution.

2205. Local Issues

2205.1 Bell Meadow 1) Gate at Bell Meadow – await final quote 2) Hedge pack from Woodland Trust – successful application and 30 hedge plants have been planted in the two gaps in the Bell Meadow hedge. Thanks to working party of Cllr. Brown, Shelley Rand and Parish Clerk, Graham and Fergus Bannerman. The plants will benefit from watering. 3) It was noted that the dog bin post and

some gate posts will need replacing in the future – to monitor. 4) There were no other items for report and the book was duly signed.

2205.2 Footpaths Report. Cllr. Warren was pleased to report that lots of outstanding works have now been completed including the felling of the Willow Tree on FP36; The bridge has been repaired on BR31 in Woodham Walter common; A new fingerpost, bridge and handrail have been installed on FP16 at the junction of Tom Tit Lane; Now that these 3 dangerous problems have been remedied, Cllr. Warren has reported 4 more minor problems! It was noted that the path between the water pumping station and the Warren had been cut and a note of thanks was sent to Neil Vaughan at the Warren. Cllr. Warren has replaced waymark discs in Woodham Walter common which had mysteriously disappeared.

2205.3 School Report. Cllr. Symons reported that she is due to attend a Governors meeting soon and there are some changes due including new parent governors. The Ofsted/Improvement board continues.

2205.4 Crime/Police Report. Break-in reported at Gun Hill Farm – quad bike stolen.

2205.5 Litter – no reports.

2205.6 Broadband – there is still nothing to report. It was agreed that a letter be written to Priti Patel MP raising concerns that the village is still not Superfast enabled.

2205.7 Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr. Durham reported that ECC are not generally funding these items but he has pushed this project with Cllr. Grundy at ECC as we have offered some funding and a decision is due next week. It was confirmed that there is £1000 in the Parish Council budget along with £2000 from the Bell Meadow Village Association.

2205.8 Zig Zag Lines – Await feedback from School – clerk to chase.

2205.9 Bus Services –Await response from Arrow Taxis.

2205.10 Telephone Kiosk – 3 formal responses received. 2 suggesting the box be used for a defibrillator and one saying it would be a good place for a Village Information Point. Councillors agreed with both of these suggestions which could both be incorporated. Clerk had received confirmation from BT that the equipment will be removed and the ownership transferred. They detailed their recommendations and requirements for defibrillators.

2205.11 Defibrillator – Information received from Church regarding their fundraising for a defibrillator. To be circulated to councillors. Clerk to forward BT information to church and suggest that the Parish Council would be pleased if the Telephone box be used for this purpose.

2206. Matters Raised by Local Residents

2206.1 After a number of incidents local farmer asks that people stick to the footpaths and don't stray onto crops or fields that do not have public rights of way. There is no right to roam across any land in the parish.

2207. Correspondence

2208. Points of Information and Items for the next Agenda

2208.1 Cllr. Symons represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service in St Michael's on 12th November and laid the wreath.

2208.2 Document Archive – to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Tompkins reported that the costs could be in excess of £20k making the project unviable.

2208.3 Cllr. Hughes asked that The Warren Lodges be put on the agenda for December. To discuss possible breaches of conditions and how MDC are enforcing.

2209. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 11th December 2017 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.20pm

Dated