

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 10th June 2013

Present:

Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Gill Orford
Cllr. Joanna Symons

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
PC Lea Keene (in attendance until 8.15pm)

Public: 3

945. Welcome Cllr. James Bunn welcomed those present to the meeting.

946. Apologies For Absence There were no apologies.

947. Register of Members Interests Members were reminded that they should update their forms on the Maldon District Council web link.

948. 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.

949. Public Forum To receive the views of members of the public on items of business on the agenda or other village matters to be considered by the council.

The Chairman explained the procedure for the public forum and invited those present to speak.

Mr & Mrs Taylor were in attendance regarding agenda item 18.2/1 the diversion of Footpath 16 adjacent to their property at Willow Hall Cottages. They explained that in the 22 years they have been at the property there has been a large increase in the use of the footpath which effectively runs up their drive and through their front garden. Over the years there have been issues with loose dogs and dog fouling and more recently an increase in cyclists using the path. They have both experienced rudeness and abusive behaviour by the public and intrusive behaviour as people look into their house. It has caused them stress to the point that they have now decided to apply to move the path to the other side of the hedge in the field and ask councillors to support the application.

Cllr. Bunn thanked Mr & Mrs Taylor for attending to explain.

PC Keene reported that there had been 1 crime since the last report – a vehicle theft on 16th May on Old London Road; the speed strip is awaiting installation and she requires a precise location suggestion; Community Speed Watch training is now available and clerk will try to arrange for volunteers to attend. Cllr. Bunn thanked PC Keene for attending and she then left the meeting room at 8.15pm

950. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On 13th May 2013 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

951. Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th May 2013

951.1 (941.4) It was noted that the appeal for the child who did not get a place at Woodham Walter School takes place soon. Clerk has received a note of thanks from the parent for the support received from the Parish Council. Also a letter from Priti Patel MP who is also looking into the decision with ECC. Cllr Durham has also been acting to support the parent and has offered to attend the hearing. He has been trying to ascertain how the decision was made and is awaiting a response to a request for some information including a catchment map. Clerk will contact the parent again to see if she has a date for the hearing.

952. Reviews & Adoptions

952.1 Employee Annual Review –Cllr. James Bunn and Cllr. Peter Warren reported that they have met and are now working on staff appraisal documents and policy and will report again at the next meeting. Clerk will ask the Parish Clerks Forum if there is any information available.

952.2 Arrangements for Insurance Cover. Clerk reported that further quotes were received and in liaison with the chairman the quote from Zurich Municipal was accepted. This offered the lowest price like for like policy compared to our previous insurers Aon and with some enhancements to the cover provided. Councillors ask the clerk to enquire about insurance provision for War Memorial shelter, noticeboards, benches, gates, salt bin etc which are not currently part of the policy (and weren't with our previous insurers either).

953. The Chairman proposed to move the discussion regarding agenda item 18.2/1, there were no objections and the agenda item was duly discussed (Minute reference in these minutes 963.2i). After the discussion the Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Taylor for attending the meeting and they then left the meeting room at 8.55pm

954. Community Led Plans Cllr. Newland updated on the progress of the working group for the Village Design Statement. Clerk will check the rules about sub-committees. The group are currently working on likely costings and funding options and in the first instance councillors agreed to fund membership of the Community

Led Planning Network from RCCE at a cost of £40. Depending on the decision about the constitution of the group grant funding options can be investigated and the group have made a request to the Bell Meadow committee.

955. Planning – APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

956. Planning – DECISIONS

956.1 FUL/MAL/13/00228 Northhall Cottages, Cut-a-Thwart Lane **REFUSED (DEL)**
Proposed tennis court.

The application site lies outside the development boundary of Woodham Walter village and Maldon and is therefore subject to countryside policies of restraint towards further development. The tennis court, by reason of the harmful effect of changes to the appearance of the site represents development that is considered harmful to the character and appearance of the rural area. The proposal by replacing natural ground cover does not enhance or protect the landscape. As such the proposal is contrary to policies S2, BE1, CC6, CC7, and CC23 of the adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan.

956.2 FUL/MAL/13/00083 Whitegates, Herbage Park Road **APPROVE (NW)**
Demolition of existing house and garage, erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage accessed from existing site entrance.

It was noted that this application was approved by NW Area committee contrary to the officer recommendation.

957. Other Planning Matters

957.1 **APPEAL APP/X1545/A/13/2194906 Land between Beightons & Barrow Cottage, Bassetts Lane**
Clerk made the following submission to the Planning Inspectorate: *Woodham Walter Parish Council continue to strongly object to this application and wish our original letter of objection dated 13th November 2012 to be duly taken into account. Parish Councillors wish to offer support for Maldon District Councils reasons for refusal in their decision of 10th January 2013. Furthermore, my members also wish to support the written statement submitted by Maldon District Council in response to this appeal and respectfully request that the inspector dismisses this appeal.*

957.2 St Michael's Drainage Easement – Cllr. Bunn has drafted a document and is in the process of liaising with Mr Geoff Hicks. He aims to circulate the document to councillors and bring to the next parish council meeting for approval.

957.3 MDC – Replacement Local Development Plan update. Clerk to forward to councillors. It is likely that rural parishes will have to accept an allocation of some new builds as part of the plan.

957.4 MDC Summer Planning Workshops either 25th July: Burnham or 6th August: Goldhanger.

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

958.1 e-on –Monthly DD

958.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

958.3 Douglas Tonks Ltd - Monthly DD: re: Clerks Salary/Allowance/ HMRC/ Payroll services.

958.4 Mrs J Bannerman – Expenses

958.5 D Wallace (DW Maintenance) re: grass cutting

958.6 Zurich Municipal £225.25

958.7 CPRE (Annual membership)

958.8 RCCE (Membership to the Community Led Planning Network)

959. Other Financial Matters

959.1 End of financial year accounts to 31-3-2013. Clerk confirmed that the accounts have been duly submitted to the auditors.

959.2 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
13-May-13	Balance			11414.66
03-Jun-13	Interest received	0.95		11415.61
03-Jun-13	Party Tent Hire (Full - Barber)	75.00		11490.61
10-Jun-13	Transfer to Community Account		900.00	10590.61
Community Account				
13-May-13	May Debits		977.23	483.90
21-May-13	Party Tent Hire (Deposit - Huxstep)	20.00		503.90
10-Jun-13	Transferred from Business Reserve Account	900.00		1403.90
10-Jun-13	June Debits		912.06	491.84

959.3 Street Lighting Maintenance Contract. Clerk has received details of a proposed new contract from A&J Lighting Solutions offering a 3 or 5 year maintenance contract. It was agreed that in order to demonstrate value that further quotes should be sought. Clerk to arrange.

960. Other Council Matters

960.1 It was noted that Councillor David Potter has resigned from the Parish Council after 25 years of service. Cllr. Mark Durham proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Potter in recognition of his dedicated service to the village, this was seconded by Cllr. James Bunn. His valuable local and historic knowledge will be missed. Councillors ask the clerk to arrange for an engraved tankard to be purchased and invite Mr Potter to attend a future meeting in order that it can be presented to him.

It was noted that Clerk has put up the notice of vacancy and awaits confirmation from Maldon District Council on whether there will be an election called or if the position should be filled by co-opting. Anyone interested in applying for the position to contact the Chairman or Clerk. To be advertised in the July edition of the Parish magazine and it is expected that the position will be filled at the August Parish Council meeting.

961. Report Of The District Councillor & County Councillor Cllr. Durham reported that The Local Development Plan continues to progress. The Oval Park appeal is due to take place.

962. Highways

962.1 Ref: 2214310: Water on highway – The Street – adjacent to Ferndale. Investigation continuing.

962.2 Ref: 2207327: Little Baddow Road – blocked drains adjacent to Ranworth to Top Road. Maintenance work is being scheduled.

962.3 Ref: 88880: Curling Tye Lane – drainage - investigating ownership of ditch continues.

962.4 Ref: 2235961 Little Baddow Road – drainage adjacent to Chamberlain Cottage. Further investigations are being carried out.

962.5 Ref: 2235947 Little Baddow Road – narrowing of road between Bunsay & Stivvy's Road. This does not meet investigatory levels and no action will be taken.

962.6 Ref: 2235941 Broken finger post at junction of The Warren. This has been inspected and assessed.

962.7 Ref: Verge cutting along Little London Lane

963. Local Issues

963.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** There were no incidents to report. It was noted that Colin Warner has removed the stumps and seeded section at the bottom of the field. Cllr. Durham reported that he will try to increase the number of cuts on Bell Meadow to bring the grass length down in preparation for Bell Meadow Day.

963.2 **Footpaths** i) To consider Essex County Council's intention to make an order to divert Footpath 16. This will divert the current legal line further away from the property known as Willow Cottages onto the other side of the hedge in the adjacent field. After debate the majority decision of the council was that they have no objections to the order to divert footpath 16 in the parish of Woodham Walter. There was discussion on how the maintenance of the path can be guaranteed in order that the new section of field edge path remains accessible – particularly when the crops are established. It is understood that the land owner and farmer and different people and councillors ask clerk to enquire whose responsibility it will be to maintain the path in order to insure that the diversion does not inconvenience or effect the public enjoyment of the path. It may be the case that this path will be added to the Essex County Council maintenance schedule. ii) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 53 The Essex County Council Definitive Map Modification No. 548 (Bridleway 2, Woodham Walter, Maldon District) Order 2013. Essex Legal Services have written to inform that the County Council has made the order. Clerk to duly file the order with the Parish Council copy of the Definitive Map. iii) Cllr. Warren reported that ECC cutting schedule has commenced in the parish and farmers have begun spraying off field paths.

963.3 **One Place On Wheels** - Woodham Walter. Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Thursday 13th June from 3.15-4.15pm. Village Hall.

963.4 **School Report** No update.

963.5 **Allotments Report** Cllr. Orford reported that there is now 1 plot available and she has received interest in the taster plots proposed. The fencing grant is on-going.

963.6 **Village History Project** No update.

963.7 **Community Speed Watch** It was noted that clerk had received information that of 131 CSW groups in the county only 79 had achieved results during 2012. Woodham Walter were one of the groups that supplied results but it has been increasingly difficult to provide a team of 3 on a regular basis. Clerk to advertise for volunteers to come forward in order to maintain the project. Councillors ask clerk to respond the Police Casualty Reduction Section who manage the project and outline the difficulties. Clerk also to write to Nick Alston the PCC.

963.8 **Litter** No reports.

963.9 **Tree Management** Cllr. Newland is working on the policy.

963.10 **Village Shop** It was noted that the Post Office are looking at ways of providing a service, for example they would be happy to work with publicans who may be able to offer services or the post office may be able to provide an outreach service from a neighbouring post office. They would need a location (such as the village hall) and they would then attend at regular set times during the week and may also be able to bring essential supplies such as bread. The other alternative would be to find a new location for a village store/post office – e.g. a disused outbuilding. This could be a community led shop. Mr Simmons is very happy to discuss options and explain the sort of services which may be available. Clerk to contact him to enquire what sort of services will be available from an outreach service e.g. will it be able to dispense money, take payments, sell stamps and post office postage services etc

964. Correspondence

964.1 Superfast Broadband update – clerk to forward information.

964.2 Armed Forces Day – Saturday 29th June – Cllr. Bunn plans to attend on our behalf.

965. Points of Information There were no matters raised.

966. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th July 2013 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.55pm

Dated