

MINUTES

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

Monday 11th November 2019

Present:

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

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor Mark Durham

Public: None

2368. Welcome Cllr. John Tompkins welcomed those present to the meeting.

2369. Apologies For Absence Received and accepted from Cllr. Peter Warren, District Cllr. Karl Jarvis and County Cllr. Penny Channer.

2370. 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).

Cllr. John Tompkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application at Lares as he is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr. Jenny Hughes declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application at Somerset as she is a friend of the applicant.

There were no other interests declared and the register was duly updated.

2371. Public Forum There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

2372. To approve Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th October
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

2373. Matters Arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

2374. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2374.1 TPO 12/19 The Warren Estate

Tree Preservation Order 12/19. The Warren Golf Course, including Bunsay Downs and Badgers.

New TPO issued to allow council to provide a more accurate map and fully identify trees, groups of trees and woodlands clearly which was not the case with the previous TPO 4/19.

Councillors commented that the map is almost impossible to read. More clarification is required, it is currently open to confusion and mistakes.

2374.2 19/00994/FUL Lares, The Street

Replace cladding on the front elevation.

Councillors raised no objections and will defer to the Conservation Officer.

2374.3 19/00982 Somerset, West Bowers Road

Proposed single storey side extension with cellar.

Councillors commented that it was a large but well-designed extension and they support the application.

2374.4 There had been no other Planning Applications received.

2375. Planning – DECISIONS

2375.1 19/00843/FUL The Warren Estate, Old London Road
New Surface to existing car park.

APPROVE

2375.2 19/00943 Jasmine House, Blue Mill Lane

REFUSE

Proposed extension to existing cartlodge.

2375.3 19/00938/FUL & 19/00939/LBC Ashmans, Curling Tye Lane

REFUSE

Conversion of domestic outbuilding into annexe.

2375.4 There had been no other Planning Decisions received.

2376. Other Planning Matters

2376.1 Enforcement Updates

- i) Bassets Lane field entrances – clerk has requested update
- ii) Warren Lodges – clerk has requested update

Cllr. Durham reported that there is currently no Enforcement Officer at MDC. Councillors were very concerned to learn of this and asked the clerk to write to Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance at Maldon District Council with concerns at the lack of action over these enquiries which have been on-going for several months.

2376.2 Revocation of Supplementary Planning Document. MDC notification.

2376.3 19/00584/HOUSE / APP/X1545/d/19/3237918 White Barn, Blue Mill Lane
2 Bay Cart lodge with side storage and new access.

Appeal made against Council's decision to refuse to grant planning permission.

To note only. Appeal is proceeding under the Householder Appeals Service. No opportunity for comments to be submitted. All prior representations have been forwarded to planning inspectorate.

2376.4 EIA at Warren Estate – Cllr. Tompkins reported that his investigations have so far found that the investigation into the EIA by MDC didn't trigger appropriate thresholds to enable the matter to be considered in greater detail. Cllr. Tompkins will continue with investigations.

2376.5 There were no further Planning Matters.

2377. Reports Of the District/County Councillor

- It was noted that Cllr. Jarvis had submitted a written report to councillors with details about: MDC Accounts which missed the statutory deadline and that investigations are being made to fully investigate the reasons for the delay so that lessons can be learned; North Heybridge Garden Suburb – this will now proceed; Cinema – early discussions taking place for cinema in Maldon; Maldon yacht Club – notice given while MDC consider options for the site; MDC Structure – Organisational changes move to next phase and recruitment period; New MDC committees – two new committees *Strategy and Resources* (SR) focuses and what will be done and the budget, the *Performance Governance and Audit* (PGA) focuses on holding MDC to account.
- Cllr. Durham reported that most things within the Council are now on hold due to the election period. Cllr. Durham also took part in the discussion regarding Hoe Mill Bridge (see minute ref: 2382.2) and it was noted he had also made representations at county level on behalf of the local residents and businesses.
- Cllr. Channer had sent information on Army & Navy Plans; Community led Libraries; United in Kind; Clerk reported that she had been liaising with Cllr. Channer regarding the bridge closure and Environmental Hazard issues at Bassetts Lane.

2378. Payments

Cllr. Jenny Hughes proposed and Cllr. John Brown seconded that the payments listed in the payment schedule be authorised. All in agreement and the cheques were duly signed, invoices and stubs initialled.

Ref:	Payee	Gross	VAT	Net
2378.1	E-on (Estimate)	30.71	1.46	29.25
2378.2	A&J Lighting Solutions	25.20	4.20	21.00
2378.3	Mrs J Bannerman	631.60	0.00	631.60
2378.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses)	40.00	6.67	33.34
2378.5	Royal British Legion	30.00	0.00	30.00
2378.6	EALC (EVENT CANCELLED)	25.00	0.00	25.00
2378.7	Chris Wheadon (Wild Flower Seeds)	27.69	4.61	23.08
2378.8	DW Maintenance	70.00	0.00	70.00

2378.9 It was noted that cheques for agenda items 11.7 and 11.8 were paid at the last meeting but they had not appeared on an agenda which is why they need to appear on this agenda. It was noted that the EALC Policing event had been cancelled.

2379. Other Financial Matters

2379.1 Summary of Accounts to date.

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
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		IN	OUT	
Business Reserve A/C				
14-Oct-19	Balance			23357.76
11-Nov-19	Transferred to Community A/C		700.00	22657.76
Community Account				
14-Oct-19	Balance			545.60
18-Oct-19	Donation (Playground)	20.00		565.60
24-Oct-19	Donations via Paypal (Playground)	96.80		662.40
11-Nov-19	Transferred from Business Reserve	700.00		1362.40
11-Nov-19	November Debits		855.20	507.20

2379.2 Financial Regulations. Councillors accepted the report from the Clerk and agreed on the items which need to be implemented. Cllr. James Rushton proposed and Cllr. John Brown seconded that the Financial Regulations be adopted. All councillors in agreement.

2379.3 New Accounts Software – it was noted that Cllr. Tompkins and Cllr. Brown had developed a new accounting system using Excel which aims to streamline the current method. Clerk to begin trialling new system to prove it's fit for purpose including implementing items from the Financial Regulations.

2380. Other Council Matters

2380.1 Woodham Walter Common. Essex Wildlife Trust. Await further information re: agreement

2380.2 Bell Meadow Village Association. Noted the AGM will be held on 27th November at 7pm in Village Hall. An application for a BMVA Legacy Grant for the playground has been made.

2380.3 Community Protection Team. Await report. Clerk to chase up.

2380.4 Bell Meadow Playground. Minutes of the Playground committee meetings were noted. The Parish Council accepted the recommendation of the committee who have selected the preferred playground company – Wicksteed Playgrounds. A letter of intent subject to fundraising has been sent in order to freeze the prices quoted. Grant applications and fundraising events continue.

2380.5 Clerks Progress Report – to be updated.

2380.6 Website Update – Clerk and Cllr. Brown have now developed the new website which is live and in use. The EssexInfo.net site has a re-direction message to the new site:

www.woodhamwalterpc.org It was agreed that the new site is looking good Clerk and Cllr. Brown were thanked for their work in developing the site.

2380.7 Council/Village Logo/Sign – It was noted that a proposal had been submitted by Cllr. Tompkins. Councillors agreed that a logo/sign should be considered and that they would like to see a selection of ideas to choose from. At this stage a decision on whether it will be a parish or village logo isn't decided, or if the proposed design will be suitable for a village sign or not. Councillors agreed that the village should be consulted on the idea, whether they would like a village sign and asked for any ideas to be submitted for consideration.

Deadline 6th January in order that it can be considered further at the January Parish Council meeting.

2380.8 Remembrance Sunday 10th November – Cllr. Tompkins represented the Parish Council and laid the wreath at a well-attended service.

2380.9 Chairman/Vice Chairman succession planning. Cllr. Rushton confirmed that he will be happy to stand as Chairman at the next AGM in May.

2380.10 Council Meeting Dates 2020 – It was agreed that the April Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be moved from the Easter Bank Holiday Monday to Tuesday 14th April 2020. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 20th April in the Village Hall.

2381. Consultations/Questionnaires

2381.1 Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan – Views from as many residents as possible <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/make-a-difference/>

2381.2 Maldon District Survey 2019 – available on the MDC website for District Residents and Business. Deadline 29th November. www.maldon.gov.uk/yourviews

2381.3 Langford & Ulting Neighbourhood Plan second version of the pre-submission draft – Cllr. Tompkins to review. Deadline 16th December 2019.

2382. Highways & Infrastructure

2382.1 Sustrans Cycle Signposts – Await works.

2382.2 Closure of Hoe Mill Bridge – for erosion protection works. Clerk reported how mixed the messages are as to how the works are progressing. There had been an update that the bridge would

re-open with the width control on 15th November and clerk had confirmed this with a workman at the site, however additional information received indicates that it could be mid-January. Clerk reported that representations had been received from several local residents and businesses about the continued inconvenience. A local farmer had been in touch with concerns as they need to access land either side of the canal and this is causing enormous logistical difficulties. Clerk had advised them to contact County Councillors and Essex Highways. Councillors sympathised with residents and businesses but accept that the bridge requires the works as a safety measure (which it could be argued has been caused by poor maintenance over the years). Councillors are also concerned that the width restriction will preclude many of our residents from using the bridge even when it re-opens with controls as many modern cars are in excess of this width – especially the types of vehicles which many of our rural residents drive. Councillors are also concerned to know if consideration has been given regarding parking once the road re-opens and what measures will be taken to prevent the chaos which can be envisaged if cars are parked and the road becomes blocked with traffic waiting at traffic lights while those trying to proceed across the bridge get obstructed by parked cars. Clerk will raise these issues.

2383. Local Issues

2383.1 Bell Meadow

- i. Goalposts – Cllr. Bunn to cable tie nets.
- ii. Tree watering –Reminder for Councillors to water the trees during their inspections.
- iii. There were no other issues/ comments from inspections.

2383.2 Footpaths Report.

- i. Cllr. Warren reported: FP4 - several planks on the footbridge southwest of Glendale have rotted. ECC Highways have inspected and repair work scheduled; Waymark post at the junction of FP24 / 25 on Hatchmans Farm has disappeared and has been reported to ECC Highways; A dead tree hanging dangerously over FP16 in The Wilderness has been removed by the landowner ; A tree hanging dangerously over FP12 has been reported to ECC Highways and awaits inspection.; Two willows on FP22 have been cut down by a mystery person.
- ii. Map – on-going

2383.3 School Report. There was no information to report.

2383.4 Litter. There was no information to report.

2383.6 Broadband Update. Cllr. Brown is aware of a number of properties which now have Fibre to the Premises. He is due to attend a Superfast Update meeting.

2383.7 Telephone Box/Defibrillator. The group recently hosted a First Aid Lecture which was attended by a number of villagers.

2383.8 Crime Awareness & Prevention

- i. Top tips had been published in the parish magazine. There are links on the new parish council website.
- ii. Neighbourhood Watch – The local group are working on development of the scheme.
- iii. Crime reports – It is understood that the culprit in the robbery at Church Corner has received an 11 year sentence.

2383.9 Dog Waste Bin – Clerk to chase up.

2384. Matters Raised by Local Residents

2384.1 Bassetts Lane drainage – on-going.

2385. Correspondence

2385.1 Various items of correspondence have been emailed to Councillors or put in drop box.

2385.2 Any relevant information for the village has been posted to the Noticeboard pages on the website. Where space allows this is also posted on the noticeboard outside Tadpoles nursery.

2385.3 Rough Sleepers – clerk to respond that we are not aware of any rough sleepers in the parish.

2386. Points of Information and Items for the next Agenda

2387. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Monday 9th December 2019 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 9.20pm

Dated