MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council. Held at 7.30pm using Virtual technology hosted by Zoom. Monday 14th September 2020

Present:

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

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Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk) District Councillor Karl Jarvis District Councillor Mark Durham County Councillor Penny Channer

Public:

2348. Welcome Cllr. John Tompkins welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Chairman notified that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of minute taking.

2349. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Joanna Symons.
2350. 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. James Rushton has declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 2356.5 as his spouse is a member of the Warren Active Gym and Swimming Pool.

2351. Public Forum

There was 1 member of public present.

Resident was present to comment on the Hoe Mill Bridge proposals. She wanted to know what would happen to the existing road to Hoe Mill Lodge & Hoe Mill House, assuming that this stretch of road could become a dead-end and therefore become a car parking area which would cause issues getting onto/off their driveway.

The Chairman thanked the resident for making her views known which will be considered by Councillors, the main points being landscaping, junction Manor Road, car parking and ramifications with bridge over canal.

2352. To approve the minutes of Virtual Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th July 2020; Virtual Public Meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2020 and Virtual Extra Ordinary Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2020.

The minutes unanimously were approved as a true record of the meetings.

2353. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2354. Planning – APPLICATIONS

2354.1 CC/MAL/98/20/PRE Hoe Mill Bridge, The Causeway (PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE REQUEST) Proposed demolition and reconstruction of new bridge built off line from Hoe Mill Bridge.

The Parish Council has received a copy of the above pre-application advice request. Having checked the details on this we are advised that this is a very early stage consultation and is not at this stage a full public consultation. The full application is expected during the next financial year. It was also noted that this proposal is one of several schemes which will be considered over time prior to final consideration and public consultation (likely to after April 2021).

In summary this Council will be concerned that there is adequate provision made for:

- i. An appealing, quality design for the structure itself and its access routes.
- ii. A quality landscaping scheme for the length of the development to mitigate the visual impact within the Conservation area.
- iii. There is consideration given to car parking of a non-intrusive nature.
- iv. Adequate provision is made for an unobstructive and protected connection with the driveway to Hoe Mill and Hoe Mill Lodge.
- v. That the junction between Hoe Mill Road and Manor Road is resolved to allow access for vehicles including farm vehicles.
- vi. There continues to be a restriction on HGV's travelling through the village of Woodham Walter.

2354.2 There were no other Planning Applications received.

2355. Planning – DECISIONS

2355.1 HOUSE/MAL/20/00660	Warren Grove, Common Lane	APPROVE
Conversion of existing garage to cart lodge		
2355.2 FUL/MAL/20/00531	Grove Manor, Herbage Park Road	APPROVE
3 bay cart lodge building.	Milling David Dive Milling	
2355.3 HOUSE/MAL/20/00707	White Barn, Blue Mill Lane	APPROVE
Cart lodge and new access.		

2355.4 FUL/MAL/20/00679 Grove Manor, Herbage Park Road **REFUSE**

Proposed conversion and extension of existing detached outbuilding to form an annexe ancillary to the main dwelling house.

2356. Other Planning Matters to note

2356.1 Enforcement – To advise on any updates

- i. Oak Farm it was noted that an enforcement investigation has been opened and the building works have been stopped. Historic files found a revocation order for the 1965 permission. It is understood that a Planning application for the site may be forthcoming.
- ii. Warren Estate ongoing
- iii. Cllr. Jarvis informed that District Councillors are instructed that Enforcement investigations must remain confidential and that they are not able to discuss. This is because enforcement cases can end up in a court of law and therefore have to remain confidential. The District Council has got a backlog of enforcement issues to deal with. Various committees are looking at how this backlog can be dealt with. Cllr. Tompkins noted that as Parish Councillors they are bound by the same rules as District Council meetings are open to the public it would be possible to have section of the meeting which is closed to the public and press and that updates could therefore be shared in the closed session. Cllr. Jarvis will investigate if this would be possible.

2356.2 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). It was noted that no response had been sent.

2356.3 The Current Planning Policy consultation, deadline is 1st October.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system

Cllr.Tompkins will consider and circulate to Councillors.

2356.4 The Planning White Paper consultation, deadline is 29th October.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future

Cllr.Tompkins will consider and circulate to Councillors.

2356.5 Warren Golf Club Application 20/00519 The Clerk reported that correspondence was copied to the Parish Council from 127 members of the public (126 objections, 1 neutral comment, 0 support). To date there are still a number of those responses which have not been uploaded onto the MDC website. Currently there are 155 public comments (139 Objections 14 Supporting) listed (many of which were not copied to the Parish Council). Clerk has also been copied into correspondence from local resident who has had part of his letter redacted and he is enquiring why this has happened. The Parish Council was also copied into several letters enquiring why Lisa Bone from ECC had endorsed the application.

Councillors are concerned that <u>relevant</u> planning points are not redacted from letters. They are also concerned that where letters are late being uploaded to the website that these letters should still be properly considered.

The Clerk and Cllr. Jarvis have enquired and been assured that all factors will be considered including all correspondence received and that until these have all be processed the Officer should not consider the case. Cllr. Jarvis advises that the Clerk notifies the Officer of those that we are aware of that have not yet appeared. Cllr. Jarvis had also been contacted by a resident concerned that a section of his letter had been redacted, he had advised that due to MDC policy they redact any parts of a letter which could be considered defamatory. The important thing is that enough points on all the policies have been made. Councillors agreed that if individual parishioners want to take it further then that's what they need to do and that there is unlikely to be any merit in the Parish Council pursuing.

It's concerning that the Enforcement investigations have not been fully dealt with to date and the Parish Council will consider this further over time.

The Planning application is unlikely to be considered before the October NW Area planning meeting or possibly the November meeting.

2357. Reports Of the District/County Councillor's

District Councillor Karl Jarvis reported:

- i. Accounts on track, although again some extra costs re Covid-19
- ii. Budget Will need to use reserves update at 1st October
- iii. **Bradwell B Consultation** Council voted against the testing based on historical sites, nature issues, excessive noise and amount of testing; the MDC officers got legal opinion to support the grounds for defence. Council reconsidered the application, but again voted against.
- iv. High Street social distancing still in place with increased steps on getting the town back up and running.
- v. Leisure Centres open, financials contributions under constant review
- vi. North West Area/or MDC Planning:
 - a. Land North and West of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill **15/01327/OUT** at second time of asking this was approved but condition re the Relief Road contribution were strengthen.

District Councillor Mark Durham reported:

- i. **Planning White Paper** looks like CIL will be abolished along with S106 to be replaced by a national set Infrastructure levy. It will change the determination process so sites that have been allocated strategically won't need to go for outline planning permission and will mean that all Local Plans will have to be redone. Unlikely to be merit in starting new Neighbourhood Plans.
- ii. Local Highways Panel still looking for schemes
- iii. **Local Government Reform** District and County councils are engaging. Awaiting White Paper mid-late October. Preparations are going on between Leaders and Chief Execs across the County. Likely to be Shadow Unitary Authorities in 2022 and fully in 2023, this will include elected Mayors.
- iv. **Fly Tipping** noted locally in Woodham Walter at Water Pumping station Cllr. Durham found a bag which looked like it had come from a car break-in and he had taken the bag to the Police. Could consider putting in a request to MDC for covert video surveillance.

County Councillor Penny Channer reported:

My report of issues is really those matters that I have sent via email individually as I considered that they needed to be highlighted separately and reported immediately rather than waiting to be included in a singular monthly report. Clerk noted that relevant matters have been shared via the village email, on the website and in the Dropbox for Councillors.

i. **Covid 19** Email from Cllr John Spence, the Cabinet Member for health and Adult Social Care at ECC with two links to two short videos which Cllr John Spence has done. Both are excellent and send out important messages. All Covid 19 related.

- ii. **Bicycle Recycle Scheme** Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service launched a survey to gauge the local demand for a bicycle recycle scheme for families in the Maldon District. Asked for help to encourage local families to complete this short survey: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PGRTLLF</u>. Without sufficient evidence of local demand and interest then cannot launch new projects, so support with dissemination is of information is always very much appreciated.
- iii. News release from ECC which covered an open letter from ECC to parent and carers ahead of schools opening full time from 2 September 2020.
- iv. More recently information sent with respect to schools returning. Schools were back from last week, but getting to school will be a bit different this term. Whether a child travels by bus or wants to try cycling or walking, all the advice needed is here: <u>https://www.stopswapgo.co.uk/getting-to-school/</u> This includes information on face coverings, walking routes, how to get cycling and changes that are happening to some bus services to keep children as safe as possible. '
- v. **Courier fraud**. Following a successful operation to crack down on courier fraud in January it would appear malicious phone calls are on the rise again, and there have been a number in Essex just this week. Please note the police will never ask for cash withdrawals, bank cards or PIN numbers under any circumstances. The elderly and vulnerable are most at risk.
- vi. Homeowners and landlords in England can apply for a voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements to homes, which could help save up to £600 a year on energy bills. The government will provide a voucher that covers up to two thirds of the cost of qualifying improvements to your home. The maximum value of the voucher is £5,000. You may be able to receive a higher level of subsidy if you are a homeowner and either you or a member of your household receives one of the qualifying means-tested benefits, covering 100% of the cost of the improvements. The maximum value of these vouchers is £10,000. Landlords cannot apply for the low-income part of the scheme. Local Authorities will also be making support available for low income households in their local area through the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery. More information on participating Local Authorities will be made available on GOV.UK in due course. https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant
- vii. Member Led Pot Hole Scheme Cllr. Channer is allowed to nominate up to 50 potholes in her area and this has been extended to Footpath defects Clerk has already nominated the potholes and will also look at footpaths.
- viii. Locality Fund the Parish Council via the Playground Committee will apply for funding for picnic benches for the new playground area at Bell Meadow
- ix. CIF Cllr. Channer confirmed that she had supported the Parish Council CIF application for funding toward the playground. Cllr. Channer had also supported the Village Hall CIF application for funding towards the door.
- x. Hoe Mill Bridge Cllr. Channer requested the Parish Council share its response so that she can take the local views into account.

2358. Other Financial Matters

2358.1 Summary of Accounts to date. (Estimate)

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
	Business Reserve A/C			
13-Jul-20	Balance			46178.46
17-Aug-20	Transferred to Community Account		900.00	45278.46
07-Sep-20	Interest Received	6.63		45285.09
14-Sep-20	Transferred to Community Account		1600.00	43685.09

Community Account

13-Jul-20 Balance

14-Aug-20 Donation (Playground)

17-Aug-20	Transfer from Business Reserve	900.00		2415.96
17-Aug-20	August Debits		1878.32	537.64
14-Sep-20	Transfer from Business Reserve	1600.00		2137.64
14-Sep-20	September Debits		1709.84	427.80

2358.2 Review of Bank Statements and Account sheets. Councillor Brown confirmed that he has reviewed the Bank Statements and Account sheets for July and August and found them to be reconciled correctly.

2358.3 On-line payments/Credit Card application. Councillors agreed to proceed with the new method of payments. Cllr. Tompkins and Cllr. Hughes have both received the Barclays banking information and will be able to authorise payments set up by Clerk from next month. Clerk to develop a Banking Policy for adoption at the next meeting.

2358.4 Direct Debit – it was agreed that clerk should investigate setting up a Direct Debit to pay the 1/4ly PAYE/NIC contributions.

2358.5 Banking Mandate – Cllr. John Brown Proposed and Cllr. Peter Warren Seconded that Cllr. Joanna Symons should be removed from signatories and Cllr. James Rushton (Vice Chairman) be added.

2358.6 End of Year Accounts – The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 has been received from the auditors and states: On the basis of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. There were no other matters affection the opinion. Clerk has duly prepared the "Notice of Conclusion of audit" which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. The notice has been published along with the certified AGAR (Sections 1,2 & 3) on the Parish Council noticeboard (outside Tadpoles) and on the Parish Council Website (www.woodhamwalterpc.org).

2358.7 To note that NALC have agreed the National Salary Award and this has been duly applied to Clerks Salary (Backdated to 1 April 2020).

2358.8 Grants for Local Organisations Policy – Cllr. James Rushton proposed and Cllr. James Bunn Seconded that the policies be adopted, all councillors in agreement.

2358.9 The following August payments as per July meeting minute ref 2332.7 had been approved and signed by the Chairman and Cllr. Hughes.

Ref:	Payee	Gross	VAT	Net
2358.9.1	E-on (DD)	31.73	1.51	30.22
2358.9.2	A&J Lighting Solutions (DD)	25.20	4.20	21.00
2358.9.3	Mrs J Bannerman (Salary & Allowance)	897.03	0.00	897.03
2358.9.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - Zoom)	14.39	0.00	14.39
2358.9.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - Microsoft 365)	11.28	1.88	9.40
2358.9.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - B&W printing/post/card)	40.30	6.00	34.30
2358.9.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - Ring Central)	24.00	4.00	20.00
2358.9.5	MDC (Community Engagement Team)	328.32	54.72	273.60
2358.9.6	LJ Print (Warren Colour Leaflet printing)	44.79	0.00	44.79
2358.9.7	A&J Lighting Solutions (Annual Maintenance) (DD)	125.28	20.88	104.40
2358.9.8	Skippers Ground Maintenance	336.00	56.00	280.00

2359. Payments

Cllr. John Brown proposed and Cllr. James Bunn seconded that the following payments be approved, all in agreement. Clerk will issue cheques which will be signed by two signatories.

Ref:	Payee	Gross	VAT	Net
2359.1	E-on	31.73	1.51	31.73
2359.2	A&J Lighting Solutions	25.20	4.20	21.00
2359.3	Mrs J Bannerman (Salary, Back Pay, Holiday Pay & Allowance)	890.67	0.00	890.67

2359.4	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - Zoom)	14.39	0.00	14.39
2359.5	Mrs J Bannerman (Expenses - Microsoft 365)	11.28	1.88	9.40
2359.6	HMRC ¼ly payment	454.31	0.00	454.31
2359.7	PKF Littlejohn LLP (Audit)	240.00	40.00	200.00

2360. Other Council Matters to note

2360.1 COVID-19 Clerks Update.

- i. Regular village emails continue to be sent by the Clerk with relevant updates for residents. Information is also put on the website on a regular basis. It was agreed that the emails are well received and should continue.
- ii. Winter contingency Plans possible future lockdown, the Maldon Community Voluntary Service would be re-established again if required. Vulnerable persons register. Building digital capacity (there are Digital Buddies available for any residents who would like to have help with digital training e.g. helping with setting up internet banking etc). Concerns for winter lockdown would be Fuel poverty and how they would react to this. Food parcels could be set up again. Parishes will keep a small stock of emergency food parcels (non-perishable) and the Village Hall has agreed to store.
- iii. Health & Well Being –should any measures be considered for the village. e.g. concerned that there are a number of isolated members of the community and when available to organise 'meet ups' this would be desired. Cllr. Hughes reported on the possibility of using the Allotment Field for an open-air cinema screening. One other thought is that some members of the community find that there is a big gap between the bench on Rectory Road green and the bench outside Tadpoles and that consideration could be given to installing a bench at the Village Hall. Councillors agreed that this is worth considering as a community project. Clerk to pursue and contact the Village Hall committee.
- iv. COVID Grant the Parish Council does not fit the criteria to apply for any government grants because we do not have a rateable property. This is disappointing because the parish Council has had significant exposure to expenditure and lost income and this will ultimately impact on the future Parish Council precept request.

2360.2 Community Engagement Team (CET) – It was noted that 20 Trucam captures had been reported. It was agreed that visits during the rush hours should be requested. Councillors to consider suggested times for attendance.

2360.3 Woodham Walter Common – the update received from volunteer Warden was noted regarding works which are now taking place under COVID safe conditions for bracken clearance. 2360.4 Councillors confirmed the decision of the Parish Council under minute reference 2272 remains extant during the current period. That Parish Council has delegated power to the Clerk to make decisions using the LGA 1972 section 101.

2361. Highways & Infrastructure

- 14.1 Hoe Mill Bridge.
 - i. Parking on DYL Clerk is aware of several visits and enforcement actions taken. Adrian Rayner (South Essex Parking Partnership) had reported that since June, 53 tickets have been issued at Hoe Mill (231 at 3 locks Hoe Mill, Papermill and Little Baddow). They are still attending regularly and particularly during the good weather.
 - ii. The existing width restriction blocks are to be replaced with a more resilient measure. It is expected that the bridge will be closed for 3 days from 28th September.
 - iii. It was noted that correspondence had been received from local resident regarding : concerns that the width of bridge restriction is too narrow.
 - iv. To note correspondence received requesting extension of DYL down Manor Road, as it was unlikely that this could be achieved quickly, Clerk arranged for bollards to be placed to prevent parking and enable access for farm machinery this had been facilitated by SEPP within 24 hours of request. Councillors agreed that an extension of the DYL would be welcome.

2361.2 County Councillor Pot Hole List has been submitted to Cllr. Channer detailing the pot holes at Herbage Park Road (adj Grove Manor) and at junction with Old London Road. Also road subsidence at Little Baddow Road reported. It is noted that several potholes have already recently been repaired (e.g. Brook Close, West Bowers Road, Old London Road). It was noted that Footpaths has now been included and Clerk will investigate and submit.

2361.3 To note: A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening (junctions 23-25) Preferred route announcement. The full route can be viewed at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12

Most local to Woodham Walter, Hatfield Peverel junctions 20a and Junction 20b will be removed and replaced with a new junction 21 to the east of Hatfield Peverel. Proposals provide access from Hatfield Peverel to the new junction 21. Junction 21 will become an 'all movements' junction serving traffic in all directions and replace the existing junction 21 as well as the existing junctions 20a and 20b. Proposals provide access for Hatfield Peverel and Witham.

Highways England will continue to engage with stakeholders, affected landowners and local community to help refine the designs and will then invite the public to submit further feedback during the statutory consultation in 2021. Timeline for start of works 2023-2024.

Clerk to check if we have previously responded to the A12 proposals.

2361.4 Other Highways issues reported: Damaged road signs at Woodham Mortimer Road, missing manhole cover (Church Hill), Tree Branch (Herbage Park Road), Road signs left after roadworks at Little Baddow Road.

2361.5 New Footpath on bridge Little Baddow Road – Clerk to report defective workmanship which should be repaired under warranty.

2361.6 Footpath encroachment – clerk to report to the Highways Rangers at Church Hill and Rectory Road.

2362. Local Issues

2362.1 Bell Meadow a) Rotten Fence/Tree Works – approval received from MDC and Skippers as the preferred contractor for Grounds Maintenance have been instructed. b) Goal nets maintenance – Cllr. Brown has cable tied nets but they have again broken due to the goal posts being moved. c) Grass wear and tear over the summer has been extensive and the goals have been moved by others unknown on several occasions. They are then not attached to the anchors which is a Health & Safety concern. Consider purchasing additional anchors so that the goals are able to be moved into alternative position and therefore rotated between two points to protect the grass. Clerk had done some research into the different types of anchor available including sandbags which are most cost effective and easily moveable. It appears that some soccer training is taking place on Bell Meadow on a regular basis. It was agreed that if there is any commercial activity taking place at Bell Meadow then the Parish Council should receive Risk Assessments, Public Liability Insurance information and the Parish Council should consider if a Licence should be sought. Clerk to erect signage to this effect and also requesting that the goal posts are put back if they are moved. Clerk to consider further and if it can be ascertained that there is a regular usage this should be investigated. d) Water Trees, Councillors are reminded to water the trees. To note thanks to Graham Bannerman who has been watering the trees on a regular basis, even so one tree still looks to be struggling. It was agreed that watering should continue and depending on if it grows next Spring it may need to be replaced next Autumn.

e) Hedging – to consider gaps in hedge – Clerk to apply for more hedging from Woodland Trust. f) Bell Meadow Hedge – it was agreed that the hedge should be cut again to keep it looking tidy, this will be arranged during October. g) Wild Flowers - Chris & Catriona Wheadon have reseeded for next year. h) Councillors are reminded to update excel document in the dropbox and report any issues to the Parish Clerk.

2362.2 Footpaths Report – Cllr Warren reported that the paths are in good condition at the moment. There are some minor outstanding issues awaiting action. FP29 there is a dangerous stile, the farmer on Little Beeleigh farm has taken it upon himself to repair.

2362.3 School Report – There was no report submitted.

2362.4 Litter - Fly tip Stivvys Road/West Bowers Road junction reported to MDC. Fly tip also noted along Water pumping track.

2362.5 New Playground – Councillors accepted the Minutes to Playground Committee Meetings. It was noted that funds stand at £15,507. Councillors ratified decision of the committee to apply to the County Councillor's Locality Fund to purchase 2 x picnic benches which are accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs. Volunteers will install concrete plinths and fix the benches, the Parish Council will be consulted on the structure of the base and position. The seats may be installed prior to the playground if full funding has not been achieved prior to the end of the financial year. The committee have also applied to the CIF and await a decision. If we only get part funding or no funding from CIF then we will still have some way to go with fundraising, this is difficult to achieve during the COVID restrictions as events have had to be cancelled.

2362.6 Street Light – Annual Maintenance highlighted that the Top Road Street Light is in need of replacement. Councillors agreed that a contingency fund should be included in the next budget but Minutes from 14 Sept 2020

that it needn't be replaced until the street light stops working. All the lamps in the village are the old style and are likely to need replacing in the coming years as stocks of the old lamps become unavailable.

2362.7 Traveller Sites Meeting – No further information received.

2362.8 Memorial Garden Signage – on going.

2362.9 Neighbourhood Watch/Crime Reports - unfortunately there have been some reports of vehicle break-ins in the village and at Hoe Mill Lock (as well as at other locks, Danbury and Woodham Mortimer). It was noted that Fraud Alerts have been uploaded onto the website and will be highlighted in village email.

2362.10 The Bell Grocery Service - Councillors were disappointing to note that the Bell have decided to suspend the service for the current time, but if there is a further lockdown they will consider reopening. Clerk will write a formal letter of thanks. The Parish Council has also nominated The Bell for a Maldon Community Award which would be a fitting tribute to Ann, Sean, and team for the excellent service they have provided to the community during COVID-19. Councillors also noted that the Queen Victoria had provided a good service to the community with their fish & chip take-aways.

Correspondence – Various items in the dropbox. 2363.

2364. Points of Information

2364.1 Cllr.Brown reported that County Broadband have sent letters to some people in the village. Almost certainly the remainder of the village should be included in the Openreach upgrade, hopefully by March 2021.

2365. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Next scheduled date of Ordinary Parish Council meeting is Monday 12th October 2020 and this will be held virtually by Zoom. Parish Clerk to monitor developments and guidelines as they are issued.

Signed John Tompkins

Meeting ended at 9.35pm

Dated 12 October 2020