

MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.

Held at 8.00pm at Woodham Walter Women's Club.

Monday 10th November 2025

Present:

Cllr. John Brown (Chairperson)

Cllr. James Bunn

Cllr. Joanna Symons

Cllr. John Tompkins

Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk/RFO) County Cllr. Jane Fleming (in attendance 8.40-9.30pm)

Public: 1 (in attendance 8.00-8.50pm)

3522. Welcome Cllr. Brown welcomed those present to the meeting. No one declared that they would be recording the meeting.

3523. To report, approve and record apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Emel Fowler and District Cllr. Simon Morgan.

It was noted that Cllr. James Rushton had tendered his resignation earlier in the day with immediate effect. The Chairman recorded the thanks of the council for his work over the years including as Chairman and Vice Chairman. It was noted that Mr Rushton has offered to remain on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and this was welcomed.

RESOLVED Clerk to write formal note of thanks. Clerk to issue official notice of vacancy which will be placed on the noticeboard and website tomorrow and Maldon District Council will be notified. There follows a 14-day period where if 10 electors request an election, an election to fill the position will be called within 60 days. If insufficient letters are received, the Parish Council will be instructed to co-opt a member. It is likely that with due process for advertising the position and with the Christmas break, the February meeting will be the earliest opportunity for co-opting.

3524. Disclosure of Interests/Consideration of Dispensations

3524.1 To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs), Other Registerable Interests (ORIs), or Non-Registerable Interests (NRIs) relating to items of business on the agenda having regard 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 declared and the register was duly updated.

3524.2 To receive and consider any requests for dispensations.

None

3525. Public Forum

There was one member of the public present who wished to raised points with regards to item 16.4 on the Agenda, the discussion with regards to Security Patrols. They had been the victim of a burglary in September and asked the council to consider arranging visible private security patrols. They made the following points:

- The cost-of-living crisis (which may make crime more likely)
- The rural dark village
- Organised crime is on the increase.
- The DC Inspector investigating his crime, had stated that it is likely that the perpetrators had been in the village staking out possible targets on several occasions.
- They had cameras and alarm system which hadn't stopped them
- The Police have insufficient resources for a visible deterrent and suggests the council look at providing the additional deterrent of visible patrols by a private security company.
- The security company power would be in their visible presence.

The chairman thanked the member of public for raising these points.

3526. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025.
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

3527. Matters Arising - Progress report (not for resolution)

3527.1 The report compiled by the Clerk was noted. Matters for report are contained within the agenda.

3528.1 Essex Police/Crime Reports/Neighbourhood Watch Report.

The Chairman raised Agenda Item 16.4 up the agenda in order that the member of public could listen to councillors discussion.

- (a) It was noted that Various general reports and newsletters had been shared
- (b) Meet the Police at Walter's Café, they attended in October and MDC Community Safety team and Chelmsford Police plan to attend in November & December.
- (c) To report on outcomes of liaison with police and research regarding Security patrols following request from local resident.
 - Cllr. Tompkins reported on feedback received from Chief Inspector of Control Room. The Parish Council had received contact information from Maldon Police Community Team Leader, Sgt. Dalby. They indicated that they would aim to improve high visibility attendance in the village. It was acknowledged that as crime within the area is very low, inevitably we will come down the list. The Chief Insp. acknowledged that the delay in response experienced by the victim had been unacceptable. The Community policing team have visited Walter's Café and are keen to be seen in the village.
 - Cllr Brown reported on attendance at the PFCC (Police Fire & Crime Commissioner) meeting on 6th November. Several topics were raised and the panel engaged with everyone positively. Police currently have a focus on reducing road deaths. It was noted that since it's peak, burglary had halved. Since new laws came in 2016 some crimes now appear to have increased but that is because they were not previously recorded. Maldon District is a low crime area compared to nationally and indeed across Essex. Local concerns raised regarding cannabis farms and drug driving. Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council expressed concerns about the lack of Police presence to tackle Anti-social behaviour. It was noted that they have limited resources for high visibility patrols. Maldon being a rural area with 34 parishes to cover, their resources are sometimes spread thin. However, if we contact our local police team and ask them to attend they will always do their best to allocate resources and will always be keen to attend village events.
 - The Clerk reported on research conducted including with other Parishes with regards to security patrols (See *Appendix 1* below)

Discussion followed, the following is a synopsis of comments from councillors

- There is also the Rural Crime Community Police Team to keep informed
- Whether the presence is Police or Private Security, they can't be everywhere all the time and it's unlikely they would be in the right place at the right time.
- Query if the Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team (CET) provide after hours patrols. RESOLVED clerk to check.
- Not realistic to increase the precept by 23% for private security patrols, this would be on top of general increases so could be over 30% which is not acceptable.
- Low crime area, other parishioners would have to give an over-all directive that that's what they want to do, and this is far from the case.
- Keep liaising with the Police to continue with their patrols as much as possible.
- Parishes that engage private security patrols do so predominantly to address issues with Anti-Social behaviour
- Resident could ask MP to seek additional police support
- Ask the CET to vary their routes in/out of the village for extra visibility.
- CET do have some powers as they are accredited officers and they have close links with the Maldon Town Policing Team.

RESOLVED There was insufficient evidence provided to change the view of councillors and there is no support for engagement with a Private Security company.

RESOLVED to ask Maldon District Council's Community Engagement Team to attend the December Parish Council meeting. To consider additional hour of CET in 2026/27 budget.

3529. Woodham Walter Women's Club

Cllr. Symons reported that they were in the process of changing insurance provider. They now have 4 trustees willing to stand and will now notify the Land registry of the changes. Future considerations can then progress with regards to constitution/governance.

3530. Planning – APPLICATIONS RECEIVED (for consideration or report)

3530.1 25/00880/TCA Severn House, The Street

T1-T3 Crab Apple Trees – height reduction by 3m and width reduction by 2m

RESOLVED to raise no objections subject to the Tree Officer and Conservation Officer's recommendations.

Comments were also made that currently the branches are quite low and can brush passersby, so it does need doing and the works are supported.

Cllr. Tompkins noted that the resident was unhappy with the correspondence received from MDC and had raised concerns with District Cllr. Simon Morgan.

3530.2 No other planning applications had been received.

3531. Planning – DECISIONS (for consideration or report)

3531.1 25/00577/FUL The Hay Loft, Lodge Farm, Old London Road APPROVE (Delegated)

3531.2 25/00678/HOUSE 1 Willow Hall Cottages, Old London Road APPROVE (Delegated)

3531.3 25/00022/FUL Warren Lodge Park, Herbage Park Road APPROVE (NW)

Noted this application has been called to the NW Area Planning committee because the agent is a member of MDC (Cllr. Durham).

Noted that as no consensus was found in request for comments from councillors with regards to responding to NW committee, no further comment was sent. It is noted that the condition with regards to closure period has been removed.

3531.4 Decisions Awaited

a) 25/00524/FUL Land adjacent Barrow Cottage (and Elwy Cottages), Bassetts Lane

b) 25/00578/OUTM Land west of the Cemetery, London Road, Maldon

3531.5 Appeal Decisions Awaited

25/00418/PACUAR Highfields. Bassetts Lane

Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/25/3372803

3532. Other Planning Matters /Other MDC Matters (for consideration or report)

3532.1 Enforcement – to consider any updates or reports.

Agenda item 10.1 to be held in closed session. The Press and Public to be excluded due to the confidential nature of business. (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) 1960, s1(20 AND Local Government Act 1972, s100 (2).

RESOLVED to accept the updates and report as discussed.

3532.2 Soft Plastic Recycling to be rolled out across district – await info on introductory date for Woodham Walter. Noted.

3532.3 Maldon District Culture & Heritage Survey – encourage responses. Noted that the team will be present at Walter's Café on 20th November.

3532.4 Maldon District Council Resident Survey – encourage responses.

3533. Woodham Walter Neighbourhood Plan – Update from Cllr. John Tompkins

Cllr. Tompkins reported that the document has been submitted to MDC and awaits comments. Following this, the document will be open to a Public Consultation.

A synopsis of the RCCE Housing Needs Survey had been completed and would be added to the website.

3534. To receive reports of the County and District Councillor's.

It was noted that District Cllr. Morgan and Maldon District Council had provided various updates which had been shared with councillors and via village email as appropriate.

County Cllr. Jane Fleming provided a large book which has been produced by ECC detailing their proposal for Three Councils in the Local Government reorganisation. The document will be made available to the public at Walter's Café. It was noted that the document contains some useful statistics.

Cllr. Fleming had attended the Maldon Town & Parish Forum (along with the Clerk) and reported on the Passenger Transport representative who talked about the Love Your Bus grant scheme and Community 360 representative who is looking at a car sharing scheme.

Cllr. Fleming also noted she had attended a meeting with the 99 bus operator (along with the Clerk) and had learned useful information about the LYB scheme. In response to query from Clerk, it was thought that because Transport Made Simple have registered the 99 route, they are the only operator who is able to supply the service. She advised the clerk checks information with SLCC/EALC with regards to procurement rules.

Cllr. Fleming reported that the Member highways list had been submitted including all items reported by the Clerk. It is hoped that this will result in issues being fixed.

Cllr. Fleming still has some Locality funding available – to consider for Walter's Café or the bench outside Tadpoles.

Cllr. Fleming reported on a number of speculative house building applications in the district and suggested the neighbourhood plan document will become very important for the village.

Cllr. Fleming will enquire about the Minerals Local Plan progress and when the next stage is expected.

3535. Financial Matters (for consideration or report)

3535.1 To receive the Summary of Accounts to date. This includes transactions since October meeting

Date	Unity Trust Instant Access Account	Transaction Detail	Amount In	Amount Out	Balance
30/09/2025	Balance		-		51,694.27
07/10/2025	Transfer to Current Account (September Debits)			1,200.00	50,494.27
13/10/2025	Transfer to Current Account (November Debits)			4,300.00	46,194.27
11/11/2025	Transfer to Current Account (October Debits)			1,400.00	44,794.27
			-	5,500.00	44,794.27

Date	Unity Trust Current Account	Transaction Detail	Amount In	Amount Out	Balance
30/09/2025	Balance				49.01
07/10/2025	Transferred from Instant Access (September Debits)		1,200.00		1,249.01
08/10/2025	October Debits #101			28.99	1,220.02
14/10/2025	Transferred from Instant Access (October Debits)		4,300.00		5,520.02
14/10/2025	October Debits # 23,84, 92, 98, #96102, 103, 104,			3,430.01	2,090.01
15-17/10/2025	October Debits #85, 91,93, 94, 95,			219.75	1,870.26
24/10/2025	October Debits # 105 Credit #18(Party Tent)		125.00	65.88	1,929.38
27/10/2025	Credit #19 (Party Tent)		125.00		2,054.38
31/10/2025	October Debits #97, 99, 100			870.00	1,184.38
11/11/2025	Transferred from Instant Access (November Debits)		1,400.00		2,584.38
11/11/2025	November Debits #106-117			1,585.92	998.46
			7,150.00	6,200.55	998.46

RESOLVED to accept the Summary of Accounts report.

3535.2 Summary of Payments for October (Estimate)

Ref:	Payee	Method	Net	VAT	Gross
#19 (Apr Deb)	Printing (Bus Flyer/questionnaire) (await - estimate)	BACS	100.00	20.00	120.00
#106	A&J Lighting Solutions	DD	21.00	4.20	25.20
#107	Mrs J Bannerman (Salary/Allowance)	BACS	817.83	-	817.83
#108	Nest Pension (Employer £57.33 Employee £91.73)	DD	149.06	-	149.06
#109-110	Barclaycard	DD	17.47	-	17.47
#111	Woodham Walter Village Hall (Walter's)	BACS	30.00	-	30.00
#112	Unity Trust Bank (Charges)	DD	6.00	-	6.00
#113	Skippers Ground Maintenance	BACS	170.00	34.00	204.00
#114	Point Graphics Ltd Danbury Focus Magazine (December Bus Advert)	BACS	150.00	30.00	180.00
#115	Plusnet (Women's Club Broadband)	DD	28.99	-	28.99
#116	Npower	DD	83.21	4.16	87.37
#117	Royal British Legion (Wreath)	BACS	40.00	-	40.00
	Total		1,513.56	72.36	1,585.92

Date	Barclaycard Payments (October Statement)	Net	VAT	Gross
07/10/2025	1st Money (Payroll)	14.90	0	14.90
16/10/2025	Walter's Refreshments (Estimate)	2.57	0	2.57
		17.47	-	17.47
Date	Barclaycard Payments (Estimated November Statement)	Net	VAT	Gross
28/10/2025	Amazon (Gate Closer part payment)	1.63	0.33	1.96
06/11/2025	Parking for Maldon Town & Parish Forum	3.40	-	3.40
07/11/2025	1st Money (Payroll)	14.90	0	14.90
16/11/2025	Walter's Refreshments (Estimate)	10.00	0	10.00
		24.90	0.33	24.90

- It was noted that Npower and Wreath payments had been underestimated on agenda.
- Additional payments after agenda set. 2 entries on Barclaycard as above.

All invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' by the RFO. Where estimated, the Clerk will await final invoices. The BACS payments will be drawn up by the Parish Clerk and require authorisation by two councillor signatories by Payment Date of 14th November 2025 or as soon as possible.

RESOLVED to authorise the payments as listed in the Summary of Payments document.

3535.3 Review of Bank Statements, Credit Card Statements and Account sheets for October.

Cllr. Bunn confirmed that he had reviewed the documents and found them to be reconciled correctly.

3535.4 Budget 2026/2027 and Forecasting report for 2025/2026 –progress following meeting with Chairman was noted and the Forecasting report was available for inspection. Clerk briefly ran through some of the main points within the report which is available for councillors to view. Work will now commence on generating the budget for initial discussion at the December meeting prior to approval at the January meeting. Councillors to consider any budget items.

3535.5 Expenditure items for consideration

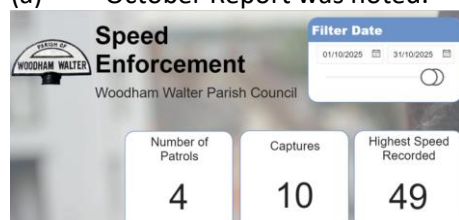
- Laptop (current laptop is out of date because Windows 10 is no longer supported by Microsoft. Therefore it poses a cybersecurity threat.) There is £647 in Computer/Equipment reserve.
RESOLVED that clerk should investigate purchasing a new laptop in the region of the funds from the reserve.
- Canva subscription £100 (Annual). RESOLVED clerk to investigate Affinity.

3535.6 Grant Funding Applications to consider – MDC Where Quality of Life Matters/ECC Community Initiatives Fund (e.g. Bench o/s Tadpoles, Walter's Café). See also Love Your Bus
RESOLVED clerk will look to make applications.

3536. Other Council Matters (for consideration or report)

3536.1 Community Engagement Team (CET)

(a) October Report was noted.



3536.2 Woodham Walter Common – Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT). To receive any updates.

Escaped cows along Spring Elms Lane on 4th November reported by what's app groups duly returned to field. Volunteer warden Chris Wheadon reported that the four cattle (One cow plus calf and two brown bullocks) have been relocated away from Cloggers Barn/Meadow, by the Farmer/Grazier. The intention is that an EWT work party will repair/replace the section of fencing, damaged by the cattle when they got out.

3536.3 Chelmer Valley Landscape Group. Date of next meeting: to be advised

3536.4 Climate Action – There were no updates

3536.5 Allotments Report – To receive any updates – it was noted that 1 ½ allotment plots have become available.

3536.6 Beeleigh Abbey Estate –Await dates from Estate with regards to Councillor tour. It was noted that the hedge laying was looking very nice.

3536.7 Remembrance Day – Cllr. Rushton attended the service and laid the wreath on behalf of the council.

3536.8 Maldon Town & Parish Council Forum – Thursday 6th November. Clerk reported on meeting. Presentations were available for councillors to view including Info on Maldon Reorganisation – and plans to share contact info with parishes; Enforcement – clearly other Parishes have similar issues. They do seem to have more team members and have begun to reduce the backlog; Love Your Bus Grant; Maldon District Culture & Heritage Strategy – encourage responses to survey – they will attend Walter’s Café on 20th November; Where Quality of Life Matters Grants – deadline 30th November; LGR – vesting day 1st April 2028 (when MDC will cease). Once the government release the consultation, we are to encourage engagement.

3536.9 Queen Victoria Pub – owner is very happy for councillors to attend for meeting. Date to be arranged for Cllr. Bunn, Cllr. Warren and Cllr. Tompkins to attend.

3537. Highways, Transport & Infrastructure (for consideration or report)

3537.1 Various matters on-going as detailed in the Highways log

- Noted DIY fix of Manor Road pothole
- Noted roadworks clash – representations made and clash was resolved.
- List of defects sent to County Councillor for member list

3537.2 99 Bus Service

- Clerk had attended a Love Your Bus information briefing. To consider applying for funding to reinstate the 99 morning shopper service to Maldon. To consider requesting support from other local parish councils as part of the application. To consider including budget for publicity and look at ways that other incentives could be incorporated.
- RESOVLED that clerk should continue to investigate and pursue an application and liaise with others.

3538. Local Issues (for consideration or report)

3538.1 Bell Meadow & Memorial Garden

It was noted that the councillor inspection sheet should be updated. The clerk will carry out the inspections due to have been done by Cllr. Rushton.

(a) Football Goals

- Anchor positions, the ground conditions have improved and Cllr. Bunn will attempt to install.
- Football Training – after meeting with Maldon United Football Club they decided that size of the pitch available was not suitable for the club.

(b) Playground Report - new gate closer fitted, thanks to Graham Bannerman.

(c) Bell Meadow – wildflower area has been mown.

(d) Memorial Garden – Soldier has been placed on MG for remembrance period.

3538.2 Footpaths Report – Cllr. Warren noted that no issues had been reported.

3538.3 School Report – representative on Governing Body –Cllr Symons reported on Head Teacher’s update including information on Junior Parkrun; Parent Partnership sessions; Year 6 parent information session regarding SATs; Families enjoyed Class sharing assemblies; 25 families so far shown round the school as prospective parents for September 2026 with very good feedback; working towards the school development plan; Local governing committee met for the first time; teachers have taken part in a Canonium Trust training day; Annual safeguarding audit completed; Interviewed candidates for Admin Assistant position.

3538.4 Litter

Cllr. Bunn reported that he had asked a local resident to stop dumping garden rubbish at the bottom of Bell Meadow (wooded area). Effectively this is fly tipping as the Parish Council does not permit rubbish to be dumped at Bell Meadow.

RESOLVED to monitor and if necessary, write a letter which could also inform about the green bin garden collections from MDC. Also to request that the Community Engagement Team are made aware as they have the power to issue fines.

3538.5 Walter's Third Thursday Community Café

- Thursday 16th October – Little Baddow History Centre and RCCE Community Agent had attended and provided useful and interesting presentations. Neighbourhood Plan info available. Essex Police also attended and it was useful to engage with them about a recent burglary in the village.
- Thursday 20th November – Essex Police with MDC Community Safety & Neighbourhood Plan info available, Maldon & District Culture & Heritage Survey info. It was noted that the school are no longer able to attend and the United in-Kind representative will now attend in January.
- Thursday 18th December – Community Officer from Maldon CVS (with free Slippers), Essex Police with MDC Community Safety, WW School choir with Christmas songs, Neighbourhood Plan info available.

3538.6 Bell Meadow Village Association – Cllr. Fowler reported on meeting. As it stands they need a new committee in order to operate as previous committee members (other than the Chairman) have retired. Plan is to advertise for volunteers.

3539. Correspondence – Various items of correspondence have been received and shared with Councillors and where appropriate the public via the website and village emails.

(a) Various Essex Police Newsletters	(b) CVS Newsletter
(c) EALC County Updates/News/Info/Training	(d) Maldon Members Bulletins & MDC Info
(e) Essex Warbler Newsletter	(f) Village News & Events
(g) Other local events	(h)

3540. Points of Information/Items for future agenda

3541. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8th December 2025 at 8pm in Woodham Walter Women's Club.

3542. The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm

Signed at meeting:

John Brown

Date: 8/12/2025

Minute ref: 3528.1c

To report on outcomes of liaison with police and research regarding Security patrols following request from local resident.

- Clerk's Report on research with other Parishes with regards to security patrols

1. Check the Parish Council has the necessary Power to provide security patrols.

Crime prevention

Powers to install and maintain equipment and establish and maintain a scheme for detection or prevention of crime
Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31

Power to contribute to police services e.g. PCSOs Police Act 1996, s.92

Duty on Parish Councils to consider crime reduction in every policy and action (Crime & Disorder Policy adopted) Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s.17

2. Message Clerk colleagues in the Maldon District on our group chat. Of the responses,

- none use private security
- one suggested that there was a scheme with Essex Police in Uttlesford where you pair up with other councils, but this was prohibitively expensive for small parishes.
- One suggested contacting Tiptree who previously used a security company.
- Others noted that they used MDC Community Engagement Team for visits of parks, allotments and other open spaces.

3. Make contact with Parish councils who have previously or do use private security. This was as a result of google searches and knowledge of Tiptree and Writtle .

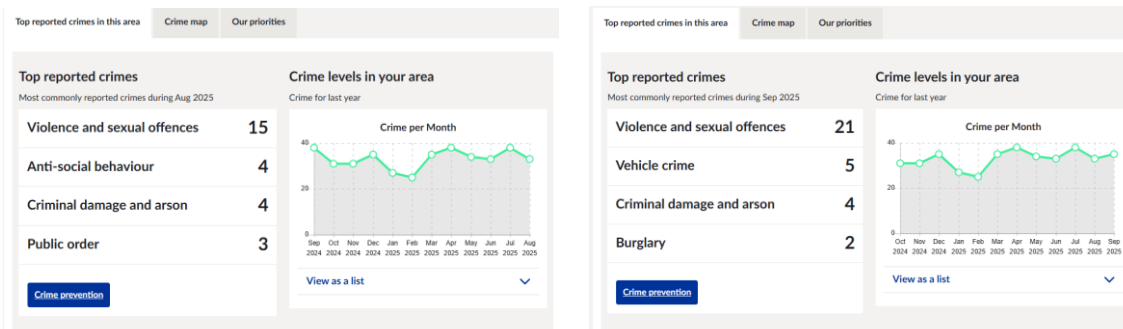
- Writtle - we were fortunate to be able to have a community support officer for Writtle (Special constables). They are volunteers through Essex Police and the parish council pay expenses. They have to pass the tests then they have to go out on police calls and tick off all kinds of experience before they are let loose in the local area. The first volunteer happened to work with another Community Support Officer who was from just outside Writtle and he took on the responsibility. It was marvellous for about 6 months. We could feed intelligence to him and then patrols would sweep by to any problem areas. However he was so good he very quickly got promoted through the ranks and now manages the Community Support Officers in the Chelmsford area. So now we are back at square 1 with no additional support. It is noted that Essex Police still have a scheme for Special Constables and information is available on their website.
- Tiptree –information from current clerk that they only use a security firm to lock their park gates. Also spoke to the previous Parish Clerk who confirmed they used to have security patrols as they had a particular issue with youths ASB at the playground and community centre – this all came about during Police cuts circa 2008. The patrols cost £1400 + VAT per month and this included (1-hour patrols on 3 nights per week) across PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTY ONLY. They were faced with the argument about double taxation from many residents who did not support the scheme. The council decided that there was no value for money offered, the patrols were not sufficiently visible to provide a deterrent so they stopped using the private security company. The Police put on more patrols and they had no more issues.
- Hawkwell Parish Council - went ahead with S-Type Security Ltd and they undertake 5 patrols a week for Council. They patrol in parks and open spaces, as well as driving around Hawkwell and checking the local Leisure Centre grounds and carpark, village hall, shopping areas, etc. They don't patrol on set days and times to vary the routine; they do most patrols in the afternoons, evenings, up to about midnight. We have found the number of incidents of youths hanging around in one of our parks has decreased significantly over the last few years and fortunately the parish isn't suffering many incidents of anti-social behaviour currently.
- Hullbridge Parish Council –have a contracted security firm and have had since 2020. We have just been through a tender process to renew the contract for a period of 36 months. We employ S-Type Security for an agreed number of patrols over the week, these patrols are village wide but concentrate mainly on our open spaces where we have previously had anti-social behaviour. They will also respond to resident call outs, which has proved successful.

Initially there was a little back lash from residents towards the security firm , but once we carried out engagement sessions with residents and S-Type this has not been a problem . With the lack of police presence in the area, residents are reassured by having another number to call if they are worried or see an issue. The security firm send us reports when they attend an incident and these are circulated to councillors so we can understand any problems in the area. They have also recently helped support the local primary school with an issue . Ideally, we wouldn't need a security firm, we would have police. But having S-Type has reduced anti-social behaviour and is proving a deterrent to other crime in the area. Hawkwell Parish Council also use the same security firm , and local intelligence gained by the security firm has helped support both areas.

- Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council – it is understood that they also have a security contract but so far there has been no response to request for information.

In conclusion all of the cases above (except to an extent, Hullbridge) appear to be with regards to patrols of parish council assets and public spaces and mostly about Anti-Social Behaviour. This is not the problem we are being asked to resolve and we have not received any reports of ASB in Woodham Walter.

4. Check Essex Police crime statistics for the area



The information available for the Purleigh Neighbourhood Area (which includes Woodham Walter). The above list for August does not show any burglaries, 2 are reported in September.

Looking more closely at Woodham Walter over the period (other than the September I can only find 1 reported burglary in Woodham Walter in April 2025, other reports this period were for Violence & Sexual Offences, Anti-social behaviour, Criminal and arson, Drugs, Vehicle Crime, Other theft, Public Order.

Since providing the report above, the September figures are now available and show burglaries in Woodham Walter (which we expect to be the one in Blue Mill Lane and possibly the reported, theft of food from external freezer on Rectory Road).



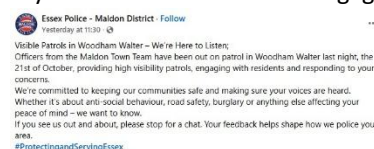
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5. Speak to Police at Walter's Café

Clerk spoke with local policing team when they visited Walter's Café. They indicated that they would make contact with the resident to provide information and reassurance. There was no answer when they subsequently visited but have said they will again try to make contact. The Police officer I spoke to indicated that private security patrols have little power in the event of an incident, other than possibly making a citizen's arrest but usually they would call 999.

The Police from either Maldon Town Team or Chelmsford Community team regularly attend Walter's Café to engage with the community. The Maldon District Community Safety Team and Chelmsford Community Police Team will be attending Walter's Café on 20th November and 18th December.

There have also been reports from Essex Police of additional visible patrols through the village over the last few weeks, as reported on their facebook and emails.



6. Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team

The Parish Council contracts CET to provide 5 hours of patrols per month, this includes inspection of Bell Meadow and the Playground, parking o/s school and at Hoe Mill, and TRUcam speed patrols.

I contacted the team to notify them of the incident and asked them to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity which they confirmed they would do and would report back to their contacts within the Maldon Policing team who have offices at Maldon District Council and the teams work closely together.

The parish council could consider increasing high visibility patrols around the parish or requesting a change to the existing patrols. The cost per hour of £43.24 (cost of additional hour per month over the year would be £518.88). We would have to ask if this is something that they are able to do, but potentially we could ask them to drive around the parish, maybe take different routes so that they are providing visible patrols. The vehicles are all marked, the officers wear uniforms and wear body worn cameras. They would be able to report any incidents/suspicious behaviour directly to their policing contacts.

7. Impact on Precept using information provided by resident

Cost per month £720 x 12 = £8640 additional precept at approximate cost of £31.38 per Band D property per year. This would be in excess of a 23% increase in precept – on top of any increase in general expenditure.

8. Comments received from other residents

The clerk has received some comments from local residents (whilst sympathising with the victims of the crime)

- We already pay for the police and would not be happy to fund private security
- This discussion is only acting to scare people – especially elderly residents.
- Concern expressed that the private security signs down one road make those and all properties less attractive should they be trying to sell. It gives the wrong impression for our generally safe and low crime village.
- Private security can't really do anything; they have no power.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Councillors will need to decide if the information gathered above provides sufficient mitigating factors that would change the view of Councillors at the last meeting when they resolved that they do not support engaging private security patrols at a Parish wide level. Resolutions should not normally be reversed within six months of the original meeting, although you have the power to do this in exceptional circumstances.

Councillors could consider making alterations/additions to the already contracted Community Engagement Team.

Jacky Bannerman
Parish Clerk/RFO

6th November 2025 Updated: 10/11/2025
15:16