

MINUTES

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

Monday 8th August 2011

Present:

Cllr. Mark Durham (Chairman)
Cllr. James Bunn (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Angus Neale
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. David Potter
Cllr. Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk)

Daniel Douglas from the Dengie Dart (in attendance until 8.30pm)

Colin Warner (in attendance until 8.10pm)

Gill Orford

Public: 1

504. Welcome Cllr. Durham welcomed those present to the meeting.

505. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Mike Schneidau and Arthur Harlow.

506. Register of Declared Interests Cllr Neale declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 18.11 Kenya Link as his wife is involved with this project. Cllr. Durham declared a personal interest in Agenda item 11.2 HOUSE/MAL/11/00650 1&2 Redgates as he is related to the applicant and associated with the Warren Golf Club.

No other interests were declared and the register was duly signed.

507. Public Forum Cllr. Durham explained the procedure and invited guests to speak if they wished. Colin Warner commented on the toxic weed, ragwort which endangers livestock and suggested that we ask the adopt-a-road volunteers to remove it during their litter picks in August, gloves must be worn and the plant destroyed not composted. Councillors agreed that this plant has become a problem in the village and ask clerk to write to volunteers.

508. Presentation to Colin Warner. Cllr. Durham thanked Colin Warner for his dedication to the village during his 24 years as a councillor. He was presented with an engraved hip flask to acknowledge his outstanding service to Woodham Walter Parish Council. Mr Warner thanked councillors for the presentation and commented that he is happy to continue helping with any odd things in the village including organising the litter pick in February and wished the council good luck for the future. Clerk to send press release and photo.

509. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 4th July 2011. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

510. Matters Arising

510.1 (443.1) Village Footpath Map. This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

511. Dengie Dart – Daniel Douglas Mr Douglas explained that he works with Rural Community Council and is currently working to improve accessibility to Broomfield Hospital for residents of the Maldon District. The Dengie Dart is a taxi/bus door to door service to Broomfield/St Peters Hospitals. The service operates 5 times per day and is booked by residents wishing to use the service, it is demand responsive. Mr Douglas asked if Woodham Walter Parish Council would like to support the service in order that it can be extended to include Woodham Walter. It is funded partly by Big Society Fund/Essex County Council/ Arrow Taxis and Parish Councils. The service may be used by anyone in the parish, from regular bus users to car drivers wanting to avoid car parking issues. Those with concessionary passes will have free use of the service, those who usually pay for bus services will find the fare approximately 1/3 more than a normal bus service, but it is direct from home to the hospital, it is estimated that the return fare will be in the region of £12. The timings have been designed to meet with hospital routines such as elective day surgery and visiting times. Arrow Taxis are committed to the project for 2 years after which it is expected that the service will be self-funding. The Dengie Dart differs from the Maldon Community Transport Scheme which is a timetabled bus service, whereas the Dart is appointment sensitive. Mr Douglas said that rural transport schemes such as the Dengie Dart are being used to tempt taxi operators into running bus services to provide a more accessible and cost effective service for rural communities.

Councillors concluded that there are many residents who would benefit from the service and that the model may provide a solution to future bus issues in the village. Cllr. Potter proposed that the Parish Council contributes to the sum of £500 for the Dengie Dart scheme to be available to Woodham Walter residents. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Bunn. The motion was carried. Clerk to liaise with Mr Douglas. Mr Douglas then left the meeting room at 8.30pm.

512. Parish Councillor Election

MDC have confirmed that we do not have to hold a full election as MDC did not receive 10 letters from parishioners requesting one. We are therefore able to go ahead and co-opt a new councillor. The following procedure was duly followed:

- a) Notice of election has been given in the agenda for the meeting of the Parish Council.
- b) The Chairman read out the list of applicants. Mr Mike Schneidau and Mrs Gill Orford
- c) The Candidates were offered the opportunity to speak briefly about themselves. Mr Mike Schneidau had offered his apologies but submitted a written statement which was read out. Mrs Gill Orford then spoke to members. She was then asked to leave the room in order that a vote by secret ballot could be taken.
- d) Cllr. Durham and clerk counted votes and Mrs Orford was invited back into the meeting room. The Chairman declared Mrs Orford, the candidate who received the highest number of votes, duly elected.
- e) Mrs Orford will make a declaration of acceptance of office at her first Parish Council meeting following the election (due to a holiday in September this will be the October meeting). She will also need to submit a Register of Member Interests form. Clerk to provide information to Mrs Orford and write to Mr Schneidau.

513. Queen's Diamond Jubilee. (492.3)

Councillors concluded that a village street party, probably along Top Road will be organised on behalf of the Parish Council. Wet weather/toilet facilities could be provided at the school/pub. It was noted that the village hall committee have also offered the hall if required. Ideally this will be a free of charge event for Woodham Walter parishioners with funding partly from the Parish Council and local businesses. Cllr Angus Neale will form an organising committee on behalf of the Parish Council in order to coordinate village activities for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Cllr. Andrew Newland and Cllr. James Bunn also volunteered to be part of the sub-committee. Cllr. Potter proposed that the parish council allocate in principal £500 towards the event, subject to further details. All councillors in agreement.

514. Planning – APPLICATIONS

Cllr. James Bunn took the Chair during the planning application discussions.

514.1 HOUSE/MAL/11/00586 Jasmin, Blue Mill Lane

Erection of walls to front of property to fix electric gates to – gates to be wrought iron.

Councillors agreed that the plans were out of character for this country lane location. Members agreed that a hedge in the recess with gates would be more acceptable than the proposed brick wall. Clerk to write accordingly.

514.2 HOUSE/MAL/11/00650 1&2 Redgates, Old London Road

Extend time limit for implementation of side and rear extensions to 1 & 2 Redgates (FUL/MAL/08/00912)

Cllr. Durham having declared a personal interest did not take part in the discussion.

This application is to extend the time limit, councillors did not object to the original application and there were no objections to extending the time limit. Clerk to write accordingly.

514.3 FUL/MAL/10/01070 Turncole Farm, The Marshes, Southminster

Wind Farm consisting seven three-bladed wind turbines.

Councillors ask clerk to send similar letter of objection as with the previous windfarm application.

515. Planning - DECISIONS

515.1 HOUSE/MAL/11/00425 10 Church Corner, Herbage Park Rd **APPROVE (DEL)**

Rear Conservatory.

516. Other Planning Matters

516.1 Falconers Lodge. Cllr Durham informed that Marcus Shingler (Interim DC team leader) has visited the site and appraised himself of the situation. It is understood that there is a chance that the sale did not complete and that the property is still in the ownership of Barclays Bank. Mr Shingler is investigating the enforcement proceedings. Cllr. Potter requested that a letter be written to MDC noting the progress and our concern that the timescale for enforcement action is not extended and that it is pursued vigorously. Clerk to write. District Cllr. Durham will also pursue.

516.2 Conservation Areas – Cllr. Durham reported on a Planning & Licensing Committee meeting in which Conservation Areas were discussed, including the possibility of Woodham Walter. There are 10 areas in the district being considered over the next few years and Woodham Walter is expected to be considered in 2012. There will be liaison with the Parish Council before any decisions are made. A conservation area helps to provide protection and places restrictions on properties/land within the area including trees etc in order to preserve the appearance. Councillors were broadly interested in the proposal and await further information before deciding whether to support or object to the idea.

516.3 Hoe Farm – for inf. Owner of Hoe Farm has requested extra time to remove structures. Time has been extended to end of August.

516.4 Minerals & Waste Development. ECC have notified of a forthcoming consultation affecting Woodham Walter Parish. Cllr Durham and Cllr Potter to attend briefing meeting on 19th August. There are 3 new/significantly revised sites in Essex one of which is at Whitehouse Farm, Woodham Walter. It is understood that ECC are arranging a public meeting sometime in September in Woodham Walter Village Hall to provide further information. The public consultation is between 25th August and 20th October. Clerk to advertise date of meeting on notice board.

- 516.5 White House Farm – works taking place. Clerk to write to Jackie Longman at MDC.
- 516.6 Planning Aid. Noted information received, clerk to circulate.
- 516.7 Draft National Planning Policy Consultation. Clerk to circulate.
- 517. Payments** The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.
- 517.1 e-on – Monthly DD – noted the account is currently in credit (Minute Ref: 331.1)
- 517.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD
- 517.3 Clerks Salary + Allowance/Expenses
- 517.4 Blackwater Landscapes
- 517.5 Annual Grants to Community Organisations. It was agreed to increase the grants by 5% with the exception of BMVA which remains at current level: Woodham Walter Womens Club £140 towards care and upkeep of building; Woodham Walter Village Hall Assoc. £190 towards care and upkeep of building; St Michael's Church £180 towards care and upkeep of listed building; WM&H Parish News £147 towards printing costs; Silver Threads £225 towards entertainment; Essex Wildlife Trust £100 towards care and upkeep of Woodham Walter Common; Bell Meadow Village Assoc. £500 towards putting on the event.
- 518. Other Financial Matters**
- 518.1 Barclays – confirmation of appointment of bankers mandate.
- 519. Report Of The District Councillor** Cllr. Durham reported that there are a number of changes going on at Maldon District Council. The waste contracts have been confirmed for 10 years. Cllr. Durham now sits on the Gypsy & Traveller working group and reports that the district is 15 pitches short of its legal obligation. It was noted that Wood Corner in Woodham Walter is a 20 pitch site, (the largest in the district) and it is not expected that there will be any development there.
- 520. Highways**
- 520.1 Ref: 3047205 Salt for salt bin. Response received, audit planned for Aug/Sept when bin will be refilled.
- 520.2 Ref: 49310 (405.5) Drainage problem at the bottom of Bassetts Lane - blocked pipe opposite the entrance to Yeoman's. (West towards Little Baddow). This was inspected on 30th June and problem notified to the jetting team for attention. No further updates will be issued – assume work has been carried out.
- 520.3 Ref: 3055302 Dangerous branch opp.Tudor Rose, Rectory Road. Reported to Highways who reported that vegetation had been cut back at the time of inspection. Cllr.s thought that the vegetation is probably out of the remit of Highways as it is not actually causing an obstruction on the highway. It is understood that Highways have been in discussions with George Thomson. Councillors felt that it would be best to deal with the offending branch ourselves, Cllr. Durham and Cllr. Bunn to attend this week.
- 520.4 Hedges – Noted the hedge adjacent to council houses along Blue Mill Lane (Ref:1846084) has been cut following report. Little Baddow Road (1846082) between Bassetts Lane and Stivvy's Road also reported and details passed to inspectors for appropriate action.
- 520.5 Ref: 1634088 Footpath, Rectory Road. Clerk reported that the footpath in front of the council houses no.s 15-20 is very narrow. Moat Housing advised clerk to refer to Highways to request maintenance/re-instatement or widening. Call from Highways that they will in the first instance inspect to ascertain if there are any maintenance issues that can be addressed. If it is found that maintenance is not the issue it will be up to the Parish Council if they want to support a proposal for widening by putting in a request to the Localism Panel. There are budget restraints and we would need to consider if the widening of this footpath is a priority for our parish (e.g. number of residents who will benefit vs other more pressing matters which may benefit more residents). Awaiting inspectors report.
- 520.6 Ref: 1846312 Oak Farm Road – pot hole near to Herbage Park Road junction reported. Awaiting inspector report (2/8).
- 520.7 Ref: 3058547 West Bowers - Drain Cover Missing. Reported 28/7/11
- 521. Local Issues**
- 521.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground** The book was duly signed. Cllr Durham noted that during a recent cut there was a significant amount of dog mess present which is unacceptable. Owners to be encouraged to clear up on Bell Meadow – there are dog bins located at the entrance gates. Cllr. Warren will erect some discs as a reminder. It was also noted that a dog has been consistently messing in Top Road. Clerk to include a note in Parish Magazine requesting all owners clear up after their animals.
- Cherry Tree – Memorial Garden, Colin Warner has offered to remove dead tree if required. Councillors agree that this work should take place with a view to replacing the tree during the autumn. Clerk to speak to Mr Warner. It was noted that some new No Parking signs have been erected along the Memorial Garden.
- 521.2 **Footpath Officer Report** 1) Improvements to FP18 (running from Falconers Lodge through The Wilderness) have been made by ECC. The bridge has been widened and anti-slip strips added plus 2 extra waymark posts. 2) A meeting was held with Nicky Coleman (our ECC Rights-of-Way Officer) to discuss further improvements to our parish paths and to update the Cutting Schedule. It is understood that a second cut is planned for late August. 3) A fallen tree partially blocking FP12 between The Warren House and the Pumping Station has been removed by Mark Durham. 4) it was noted that brambles have restricted access between Blue Mill Lane and Mead Pastures, Cllr Warren to investigate. 5) Cllr Warren to ask if barbed wire is permitted on fence by footpath between Orchard Bungalow and Hoe Mill.

- 521.3 **One Place On Wheels - Woodham Walter.** Next visit including mobile police vehicle – Friday 12th August from 1300-1400 at WW Village Hall.
- 521.4 **School Report** Cllr Peter Warren was thanked for representing the Parish Council at the recent official opening of the new extension.
- 521.5 **Allotments Report** It was noted that the allotment waiting list currently has 1 person.
- 521.6 **Community Speed Watch** Clerk to contact police.
- 521.7 **Litter** Reported Gas cylinder Curling Tye Lane –AF34992E
- 521.8 **Collapse of bank** Chased up by D-Cllr. Durham, no information has been received from Environment Agency.
- 521.9 **Electricity Supplies** –Clerk attended public meeting at Little Baddow PC with UK Power Networks who explained reasons why there are so many power cuts and the plans to resolve these problems. These powercuts affect properties from Stivvy's Road towards Little Baddow. Follow up letter received via. LBPC clerk. Clerk to write to UK Power Networks and ask that we are also kept informed.
- 521.10 **Broadband** – Cllr. Newland reported on a conference which he attended on 18th July. Cllr. Durham reported on correspondence with Priti Patel MP on broadband. Cllr. Newland is pursuing a contact with Fibrewifi to enquire about the service offered. Clerk to write to Essex County Council, Maldon District Council informing of our frustration with the very slow speeds achieved in the village. Copies to Little Baddow PC and Danbury PC.
- 521.11 **Kenya Link** – correspondence from Geoff Hicks requesting grant for the Kenya Link Fund towards the £2000 needed to bring a Kenyan parishioner over to us and for a Woodham Walter Parishioner to visit Mutira and the parish of Kirinyaga. Councillors concluded that whilst they appreciate that this is a laudable cause it was not an appropriate use of parish funds. Individual parishioners will support the project if desired.
- 521.12 **Bell Meadow Day** – It was noted that plans are well afoot for the event on Sunday 28th August
- 522. Correspondence**
- 522.1 MDC Heritage Open Days – 10 &11 September
- 522.2 Essex Police Chief Constable – Essex Police Reform
- 522.3 Plain English guide to Localism Bill
- 522.4 MDC – Weekly refuse & recycling collections to stay plus additional collection of plastics and food waste from April 2012.
- 522.5 ECC Recycling Centres – Amendments to opening hours.
- 522.6 Letter of thanks from Mrs Sheila Young.
- 522.7 ECC Bus Tender Round 2011 – no alterations to WW services.
- 523. Points Of Information**
- 524. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 12th September 2011.**

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 10.45pm