

## MINUTES

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

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

### **Present:**

Mark Durham (Chairman)  
Claire Robinson  
Colin Warner  
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk) ; Priti Patel MP; District Councillor, Sheila Young

Public: 5

**286. Welcome** Cllr. Mark Durham welcomed those present to the meeting and outlined the procedure for public being allowed to speak at the meeting.

**287. Apologies For Absence** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. David Potter, Cllr. Angus Neale and Cllr. James Bunn and the Village Agent Mrs Christine McDonald.

**288. Register of Declared Interests** There were no interests declared and the register was duly signed.

### **289. Public Forum & Priti Patel MP**

Cllr. Durham introduced and welcomed Mrs Priti Patel MP and requested that comments reflect local issues or on how issues may relate to the village.

Frank Herrmann wanted to draw attention to his concern about the state of Maldon District Council and commented that the village need backing from the tier of government above us. There are particular concerns with the planning department, with decisions being made that have not been good for Woodham Walter.

Cllr Durham confirmed that the Parish Council have also been concerned with the planning department and have written to MDC. Planning matters are of great concern because of the direct impact on the village.

District Cllr Sheila Young commented that she did not agree that the whole of MDC is poor and that in fact many areas are very good. She acknowledged that many Parish Council's feel that Planning is a problem area and she agrees that this department is in need of improvement and this is now happening with a new Head of Planning.

Frank Herrmann is also concerned at a report he had read regarding a staff questionnaire in which results indicated staff were ashamed of being members of the council.

John Williams commented that he expects the planning department to support the parish council.

Priti Patel MP – Thanked the Parish Council for inviting her to attend the meeting. It was a good opportunity to come and meet members as the newly elected MP. It is interesting to hear local views and she has been visiting other Parish Councils in her constituency and has found some consistent themes emerging, particularly the planning department across the Maldon District which seems to be the main area of concern. She has 3 local authorities in her constituency and Maldon District Council are good at many areas including Statutory services. She feels that it is paramount that the council engage with the local community. Nationally the government announcement of the localism bill will bring local community empowerment. The draft bill has not yet been published but there is a keenness to devolve to communities and the role of parish councils may increase to influence local processes. It is about the local voice and parish council's should be fully represented in decision making including in the planning process. She is keen to hear about local issues and encourages people to write or email her with anything they would like to raise. She holds local surgeries very 2 weeks and would be happy to hold one in Woodham Walter if required.

Patricia Herrmann – in order for planning to be done well there needs to be a proper local plan implemented.

Priti Patel – agreed that a strategic overview will be very important.

Cllr Durham – in order for councillors to be effective they will need the support of qualified people. It will be nice for the Parish Council to have a more significant voice. We currently take neighbour consultations very seriously and are disappointed when decisions come back contrary to our opinion.

Priti Patel – the draft bill will be a public document so please contact her with comments. She expects the localism bill to be symbolic and would expect it by November.

Frank Herrmann asked what are the plans for regional government in the area?

Priti Patel responded that this is being looked at and the Secretary of State is expected to make a decision in October.

Cllr Durham thanked Mrs Patel for attending the meeting, she then left the meeting room at 8.30pm.

Geoff Hicks asked councillors if they could hear or see the letters which had been written following on from last months meeting.

Cllr Durham agreed and read out recent correspondence regarding Meadows Barn to MDC Planning and Planning Inspectorate and also letter regarding Falconers Lodge.

Members of the public present were pleased with the letters and felt they reflected opinion very well.

John Williams requested that copies of these letters be sent to Priti Patel MP.

The Public Form was closed at 8.45pm and 3 members of public (GH, PH & FH) left the meeting room.

## **290. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010.**

### **291. Matters Arising**

291.1 (257.2) Standing Orders – all councillors had read the Standing Orders. Cllr Durham proposed that they be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr. Robinson. All in agreement and standing orders were duly adopted. Clerk to file.

291.2 (257.3) School Playground – councillors were pleased to note that the playground has reopened. Ken Rennie has completed draft risk assessments. Clerk to view and report at next meeting. Clerk to liaise with Mr Lawton regarding the updating of the dual use agreement.

291.3 (255.4) War Memorial Shelter. Cllr Bunn reported to clerk that he has investigated the maintenance required and estimates repair costs to be in the region of £250-£300 including labour and materials. Councillors note that that the work should be put out to competitive tender, clerk to request synopsis of required work from Cllr. Bunn.

**292. Priti Patel MP** – Mrs Patel addressed the parish council during the public forum section of the meeting. Cllr. Durham asked clerk to write to Mrs Patel and thank her for attending the meeting and send copies of the letters discussed.

### **293. Planning – APPLICATIONS**

293.1 FUL/MAL/10/00513 Falconers Lodge, Oak Farm Road

Extend time limit for implementation: Demolish existing building and erect replacement dwelling with indoor swimming pool, garaging and stores. (FUL/MAL/07/00576)

After consultation with councillors clerk wrote with strong objections to Jennifer Candler (Head of Planning) on the grounds that no work has taken place to address the breach of planning condition and this application offers MDC an ideal opportunity to insist the works take place before approving.

293.2 HOUSE/MAL/10/00599 19 Rectory Road

Two storey and single storey rear extension and addition of window to flank elevation at first floor level. Cllr Warren reported that of the neighbours he was able to consult with, there was concern at the negative impact the two storey extension would have on properties.

Cllr's who had viewed the application had also felt the two storey extension in particular was too large and object on the grounds of the bulk and scale of the plans. Councillors present therefore object to the plans. Clerk to liaise with other councillors and write accordingly.

### **294. Planning - DECISIONS**

294.1 HOUSE/MAL/10/00412 Hoe Farm, Hoe Mill Road **APPROVE (Del)**

New front porch, detached cart lodge/garage.

The detached cart lodge/garage has been approved with standard conditions. However, this permission does not convey any approval for the porch which was removed from the application following the parish council's objections. The officer also considered the porch to be out of keeping with the style of the existing building and would have failed to respect its historic character. It is advised that any future application for the porch should be revised to achieve a more acceptable design.

294.2 HOUSE/MAL/10/00374 Hoe Farm, Hoe Mill Road **REFUSE (Del)**

Retention of gated entrance and new vehicle crossover.

*The proposed new access point and driveway to the rear of the property would be on land which, according to the records held by the Council, does not have domestic use, but is part of a rear paddock area. Retaining a domestic gated entrance and new vehicular driveway would amount to the creation of residential feature outside the domestic curtilage of Hoe Farm which would be out of character in the open rural landscape, which itself is identified as a Special Landscape Area because of its landscape value. As such the proposal would be contrary to policies BE1, S2, CC6 and CC7 of the adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan.*

294.3 CC/MAL/66/10 Woodham Walter Primary School, The Street **APPROVE**  
The construction of a new classroom with link to existing school via new corridor and new head teachers office and associated landscaping.

294.4 FUL/MAL/10/00368 & LBC/MAL/10/00369 The Cats, Blue Mill Lane **APPROVE**  
New window to west elevation.

### **295. Other Planning Matters**

295.1 Falconers Lodge. (See minute ref: 293.1)

295.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. Councillors were pleased to learn that the ruins have now received full scheduled status from the Secretary of State.

295.3 MDC – Maldon District Conservation & Design Awards 2010. Cllr. Durham has spoken to Jenny Moody of Hoe Barns and she is happy for us to nominate them.

295.4 (243.4) Hoe Barns site visit – Cllr. Durham trying to arrange.

295.5 (272/276.1) Meadows Barn. Clerk has written to Jennifer Candler, Head of Planning at MDC and also the Inspectorate with comments as discussed at last months meeting. Awaiting response.

295.6 Cllr Potter highlighted newspaper report re: £2m for affordable housing.

295.7 Cllr Young commented that MDC had done a survey of all land that's a possibility for housing taking into account water, access, public services etc as MDC have to have some new housing but many areas are in SSI or on flood plains.

295.8 Cllr Robinson requested the Jasmin planning application to check on a detail.

**296. To Authorise Any Payments Due** The following payments were authorised and the cheques duly signed.

296.1 e-on – Monthly DD

296.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

296.3 Clerks Salary + Allowance/Expenses

296.4 P.H.Williams (Blackwater Landscapes)

### **297. Other Financial Matters**

297.1 Awaiting confirmation from bank regarding new signatories.

297.2 Receipt of monies for hire of party tents.

298.3 Noted that authorisation for a payment to P.H.Williams (Blackwater Landscapes) had been omitted from the minutes of 10 May 2010 (Cheque no: 101014), councillors therefore confirm approval.

### **298. Report Of The District Councillor**

Mrs Young requested an alteration to the July Parish Council meeting minutes so that the sentence in minute ref. 280 reads "She commented that planning is not an **exact** science **but could be considered** an art ...". Cllr's confirmed that this alteration would be made in the minute book in order to better reflect the comment made.

Mrs Young reported that the new Head of Planning, Jennifer Candler was sorting out various matters in the department.

### **299. Highways**

299.1 (194.16) Road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further.

299.2 Essex Speed Management Strategy. Booklet detailing policy now adopted by ECC. To be circulated.

299.3 Hoe Mill Bridge – notice from ECC for 3 tonne weight restriction. Note from Jackie Roerig that any HGV's including farm traffic have the legal right of access. It is just those vehicles that are cutting through that will be breaking the law. All signage on the approach, including the lopsided one at Danbury will be changed as the signs are incorrect anyway. The Danbury sign will be re-sited so that it can be seen by vehicles before they turn into the road. Hopefully this will resolve the problem of HGV's cutting through Woodham Walter providing the drivers read the signs and do not follow their sat nav.

299.4 Noted repairs to road surface at Top Road junction with Little Baddow Road.

299.5 Localism Rangers – information received detailing this new service. Cllr. Warner commented that he was encouraged by this initiative.

### **300. Local Issues**

300.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The register was duly signed, there were no reported incidents.

300.2 **Footpath Officer Report** 1) Wooden finger posts that disappeared are due to be replaced. 2) Cllr Warren had received information regarding the headland management scheme and would request further details. 3) Cllr Warren had found the P3 scheme may fund up to 50% of the cost of producing a map of footpaths but the work and other funding would have to be sourced by the parish council, it was agreed that this would be too onerous a task.

300.3 **Crime Report for Woodham Walter.** Since April there have been 2 incidents to report. (one Road Traffic Accident and one Burglary). Any real community based issues will be emailed asap. Fortunately Woodham Walter has very little to do with the police as there is little if any anti-social behaviour and the crime rate is very low, since the start of the year there has been less than ten crimes recorded for the village.

Next visit of mobile police unit – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2.15-3.15pm at WW Village Hall.

300.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: tbc

300.5 **School Report** No information to report.

300.6 **Allotments Report** No information to report.

300.7 **Community Speed Watch** Information about training has been received and the scheme is due to be re-launched in September with further support from local police. Clerk to investigate further.

300.8 **Litter** It was noted that there was some rubbish dumped at Strawberry corner. Clerk to report to CBC.

300.9 **Village Agent.** Mrs Macdonald is due to visit the Bell Meadow celebration in August.

300.10 **Mike Woodcraft Report** Clerk has received quote from printer. Councillors agreed to 100 copies which will be sold for £3 each. Clerk to arrange.

### **301. Correspondence**

301.1 Get Behind Essex – Keep Britain tidy campaign

301.2 MDC – Transfer of Legal & Monitoring Officer Services

301.3 ECC – Changing Essex. Got any ideas to save money? Booklet to be left in Chapel Stores.

301.4 EALC - congratulations on 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize for St Michael's in the Essex Best Kept Churchyard Competition.

### **302. Points Of Information**

302.1 Cllr. Robinson requested Register of Members interests form in order to update details.

302.2 Cllr's were very encouraged to welcome the new owners at Chapel Stores and wish them well.

302.3 It was noted that Bell Meadow Day is on 29<sup>th</sup> August and councillors look forward to the event.

**303. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010.**

Signed

Dated

**Meeting ended at 9.45pm**