

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 14th December 2009

Present:

Colin Warner (Chairman)
James Bunn
Angus Neale
David Potter
Claire Robinson
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk)

Public: 2

144. Welcome Cllr Warner welcomed those present to the meeting.

145. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mark Durham and District Cllr. Sheila Young.

146. Register of Declared Interests Cllr Warner declared a personal interest in item 7.2 on the Agenda as the applicant is a close friend.

147. Public Forum There were two members of public present.

Mr Ivor Brearley attended the meeting to inform councillors about the Village Agent project. He has volunteered to help Village Agent Christine McDonald and is happy to arrange transport for any villagers who would like to attend an open day about the Essex Home Safety Service in Maldon on 8th January. Councillors thanked Mr Brearley for the update, he then left the meeting at 8.10pm.

Mrs Ursula Lawton attended the meeting to offer her comments and listen to the discussion regarding the War Memorial. Cllr Warner agreed that the meeting could be opened to her during the agenda item 14.10

148. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 9th November 2009. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

149. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.

150. Planning – APPLICATIONS

150.1 TPO/MAL/09/01011 The Shrubbery, Curling Tye Lane

TPO 06/77 - T7(Beech) – Fell Tree. TPO 06/77 - T15 (Horse Chestnut) – Remove two branches over highway and reduce height of crown by 6m and reduce overall size of crown by up to 3m to balance.

There were no objections, clerk to write accordingly.

150.2 FUL/MAL/09/01023 1 Redbrick Cottages, The Street

Off road parking space beside house.

Cllr. Warner having declared an interest in this item left the meeting room. In his absence Cllr. Potter was nominated to chair the meeting by Cllr. Robinson and seconded by Cllr. Bunn and was duly elected.

Councillors were concerned to have received a retrospective application. Discussion concludes that whilst there are no formal objections the following concerns were raised: The dropped curb will be quite high; As there is already vehicle access on the other side of the house it is a shame that this area couldn't have been utilised.

Extending the neighbours existing dropped curb would have less impact. Also, the pavement is not so raised on the other side and so would be less noticeable; An extra dropped curb along the street scene will create an additional hazard; There were reservations regarding the height of the hard standing and the poor aesthetic impact that the materials used have created; It was noted that some 2 meters of mature beech hedge was removed in order to create an opening for the parking space and this is not detailed on the application form.

Neighbours were consulted and there were no objections. Clerk to write accordingly.

Cllr. Warner returned to the meeting room and re-took the Chair.

151. Planning - DECISIONS

151.1 FUL/MAL/09/00791 Meadows Barn, Bassetts Lane **REFUSE**

Convert barn into four holiday lets with associated external alterations.

The proposed conversion of this modern barn would result in a scale of development which would be inappropriate in this rural location having regard to the level of activity and extent of vehicle movements likely to be generated along narrow country lanes within this isolated location and within the Special Landscape area, with the necessity for the holiday accommodation to be serviced from outside of the village.

151.2 FUL/MAL/09/00852 Gunhill Farmhouse, Stivvys Road **APPROVE**

Single storey side extension to dwelling.

152. Other Planning Matters

152.1 Falconers Lodge. Response received (emailed/copied to councillors) from Gordon Nisbet 17/11.

Councillors ask clerk to write and request clarity on the situation. Clerk to copy to Sheila Young.

152.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. Nothing further.

152.3 Noted that MDC are carrying out a public speaking trial at the South Eastern Area planning committee. Councillors pleased to see this trial and look forward to it being extended to include the North Western Area.

153. To Authorise Any Payments Due The following payments were approved and cheques duly signed.

153.1 e-on – Monthly DD

153.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

153.3 Clerks Salary + allowance

153.4 Blackwater Landscapes

153.5 SLCC Membership Renewal

154. Other Financial Matters

154.1 The 2010/11 Budget was discussed. Councillors agreed that the precept should remain unchanged from last year if possible. But that the contributions made to village organisations should increase as in previous years. Councillors to inform clerk of any other spending requirements in time for the budget to be approved at the January meeting.

154.2 It was noted that the Audit Commission will be changing the auditor. There were no objections.

155. Report Of The District Councillor Cllr Young had offered her apologies and would have a report at the next meeting including a decision on MDC's Chief Executive appointment.

156. Highways

156.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Licence to Plant. Application process proceeding. Clerk to chase.

156.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.

156.3 Village Gateways. Nothing further.

156.4 Cllr Robinson again reported the large deep pot hole just off the highway on Old London Road at the corner near Woodham Walter Hall. Clerk to report again that this needs urgent attention.

157. Local Issues

157.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed, there were no incidents to report.

157.2 **Footpath Officer Report** Cllr Warren informed that 1) Several people have reported that some of the wooden bridges over our streams are very slippery at this time of year and that perhaps some wire netting tacked to the planks might cure the problem. This was suggested to Nicky Coleman at ECC but turned down as this solution is considered to constitute a potential trip hazard. As an alternative next month ECC are planning to coat 7 of our bridges with non-slip paint. 2) The tree that blew down blocking FP13 between Bell Meadow and the chase to The Warren was promptly removed by Mark Durham's team.

157.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** Clerk has been informed that the new PCSO for Woodham Walter is Richard Stott. He should be providing monthly updates in the future and will attend a meeting soon.

157.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: T.B.C. Expected to be in Woodham Walter in January.

157.5 **School Report** No report

157.6 **Allotments Report** It was noted that the ground has sunk between the road gate and allotments, where the water pipe was installed.

157.7 **Community Speed Watch** No report

157.8 **Litter** Clerk to report gas cylinder and two tyres along Curling Tye Lane.

157.9 **Village Agent** – Clerk had meeting with Christine McDonald. Clerk issued Christmas Cards with information about the project which will be delivered to properties in the village.

157.10 **War Memorial Shelter.** Clerk read out correspondence received (see attached sheet.) All councillors had received comments and had discussions regarding this proposal.

Cllr. Neale who made the original proposal explained that his personal view having laid wreaths on behalf of the parish council, was that he would like a more prominent memorial. Also that walking down and back up the hill from the church on Remembrance Sunday was quite a challenge for some members of the congregation. He was pleased that so much comment had been received and would be concerned if wreaths were laid at a new memorial that the shelter would become less prominent.

Cllr. Warner opened the meeting up to Mrs Lawton who commented on an Essex Records Office conference she had attended and book read on the subject of war memorials. The memorial shelter would have been agreed as the memorial after much consultation at the time, tangle with this at your peril, she is not in favour of moving the memorial. She also commented how impressed Rev. Pudney is that the wreaths remain all year at the memorial. Cllr Warner spoke with Lucy Hermon from the village who summarised many comments. The general feeling being that the shelter was chosen and should remain. The money was raised by leaders of the British Legion in the village at the time. It took enormous effort to raise the money which is a mark of how important it was. She does think that there could be some sort of memorial on the garden opposite the church to say that it is a Memorial garden as there is currently nothing to inform people of its importance.

Cllr. Warner spoke to Bob Saunders, his sister was involved in the planting of the garden which was done by children of bereaved families.

Cllr Warner spoke to Moyna Carnell who felt that the existing memorial should remain but it is OK to have another one at the Memorial garden.

Cllr Bunn spoke to George Thompson who commented that the land where the shelter is positioned had been donated for the purpose of a memorial and he wouldn't want to see it removed.

Cllr Bunn had been informed of a number of occasions when cars have gone over the triangle.

Cllr Warren had spoken to a couple of parishioners who were happy with what we have and there is no need for anything else.

Cllr Robinson had spoken to parishioners who are happy with the memorial shelter but would be happy to see something in addition on the Memorial Garden.

Cllr Warner concluded that more discussions were needed. There are various people in the village who remember the trees and memorial being planted and their views should be sought. We also need to ask what people may like to see at the Memorial Garden, if anything. Councillors to consider including discussion on the memorials in the village at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

158. Correspondence

158.1 Spring Elms Lane – parishioner Zoe Coates has sent many items of correspondence. Cllr Warner has visited her to try to address her concerns and clerk has written on many occasions. Maldon District Council and ECC Highways are satisfied with situation and clerk will now write back that we will not enter into any further correspondence on these issues. It was noted that the telegraph pole has now been straightened. We will continue to address any drainage problems that arise during our annual inspection with the Highways authority.

158.2 Dengie Project Trust – One Place On Wheels. Clerk had visited the mobile police vehicle which visits on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2.15 -3.15pm at WW Village Hall and is open to all to attend. As well as the police there is information available on tourist and community, Social care, Healthy living, Benefits & Housing advice, volunteering opportunities and access to IT and training.

158.3 Sustrans National Cycle Network Signage – Directional signs need to be erected in Woodham Walter. Comments invited. Councillors object to the erection of more signs and conclude that they are not necessary. The route through the village follows roads and so surely ordinary road signs or a map should be sufficient. More signposts would be detrimental to the rural street scene and are not considered to be necessary or desirable. If highways are concerned with erecting more signs it would be more useful to Woodham Walter to erect signs to stop HGV's using our village roads. Clerk to write accordingly.

158.4 Essex Local Transport Plan 2011 – Questionnaire. Cllr Warren to pass to Arthur Harlow.

158.5 ECC Transport Liaison Officer – Tender Round 2010. MALBUS 4 is on the list "that is reaching the end of their contract period and are due for renewal or tendering and **meet Essex County Councils criteria for continuation.**" Good news that this service is safe and there should be little or no change to current timetable. Arthur Harlow reported bus loading figures after a particularly busy morning (26 November), 15 were on the bus travelling to Maldon and 19 were on the return journey.

158.6 Christmas Card from Chairman of Maldon District Council, Mrs Sheila Young.

158.7 MDC - Parish Emergency Rest Centre Box. To be collected on 14th January at 7.30pm. Clerk to attend for briefing.

158.8 MDC – Local Development Framework – Maldon Green Infrastructure Study. Questionnaire.

158.9 Essex Telecare Home Safety Service – Open Day on Friday 8th January in Maldon. Contact Ivor Brearley for Transport from Woodham Walter.

15.10 NHS Shape Up – Free sessions, nearest one in Maldon in January.

15.11 RCCE – Community Led Planning, training session in January. Cllr. Potter & Cllr. Warner to attend.

15.12 Mobile Library timetable.

159. Points Of Information

159.1 Cllr Warner represented the Parish Council by reading at the St Michael's Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 13th December.

159.2 Cllr Bunn commented on the renewal of phone lines in the village (work which took place down Little Baddow Road/Spring Elms Lane) earlier in the year. Conversations with parishioners has revealed a general feeling that the speed of broadband has not improved and in many cases appears to have got worse in several properties in the village. Furthermore the gain/amplification on phone lines in the village is very poor. Clerk to write to BT.

159.3 Cllr Potter visited the RCCE coffee morning re: village appraisals. We have in the past decided we don't need to have a formal report in Woodham Walter but he feels that we should investigate further and then form our opinion. There are many documents which are circulated periodically including a recent report that MDC support such appraisals. There are many things that we do anyway but there is some information that such a survey would reveal such as the number of children in the village. There is however concern that a report would create an artificial need for affordable housing in the village. Such reports would also entail a lot of work and expense (although grants are available). Councillors agree that more investigation would support any decision made. Cllr. Potter and Cllr. Warner to attend a meeting on 28th January.

160. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 11th January 2010

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.55pm

WAR MEMORIAL COMMENTS

The idea of moving the war memorial is not one that immediately makes me think "what a good idea".

How would those involved in establishing the memorial feel about such a change?

Depending on what precisely is intended, I'm not sure that a new memorial in the area close to The Bell is such a good idea.

In the current economic climate, is this the time to be considering a project of this sort.

Regards

Chris Gore
Poldhu,
11 Baddow Rd
Woodham Water

I feel that the views of relatives of the fallen should form the basis of any changes. For my part, the margin opposite the church or just within Bell meadow would be a suitable spot together with a seat for contemplation. A planting of an endangered species for each name would make fitting countryside tribute.

Paul Clark

Dear Jacky,

We are surprised to hear of the proposal to move the war memorial. The present position near Chapel Stores is central to the village, and is the site chosen by the villagers at the time. We have lived in the village for 35 years and have always been aware of its existence and meaning.

We feel that it should be left where it is, and would point out that we are aware of two occasions when cars out of control have careered across the triangle put forward as an alternative site.

Best Wishes
Elaine & Derek Turner,
8 Mead Pastures,

Telephone call – Arthur Harlow

The brass plaque in the shelter mentions the shelter. Therefore the shelter and plaque should remain where it is. Good idea for a new memorial but the existing one should remain.