

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council
Held in Women's Club Room, Top Road, Woodham Walter.
Monday 13th July 2009

Present:

Mark Durham (Vice Chairman)
James Bunn
Claire Robinson
Peter Warren

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Clerk)
District Councillor Sheila Young (9pm-9.25pm)
Public: 0

- 59. Welcome** Cllr Durham welcomed those present to the meeting. Cllr. James Bunn nominated Cllr. Durham to Chair the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr. Peter Warren, all in agreement.
- 60. Apologies For Absence** Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. Colin Warner, Cllr Angus Neale and Cllr. David Potter. Clerk explained that District Councillor Sheila Young would be attending but not until later.
- 61. Register of Declared Interests** There were no interests declared, the book was duly signed by clerk.
- 62. Public Forum** There were no members of the public present.
- 63. Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 8th June 2009.** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. It was noted that the date on the Agenda should read July, this was duly changed.
- 64. Matters Arising**
- 64.1 Street Lighting (47.3) A&J Lighting have replaced the lamps and they now turn off at midnight. It was noted that the light on The Street opposite Coppers is faulty. This has been reported to A&J Lighting who have found a power supply problem and EDF are due to attend in the near future. Clerk to chase.
- 64.2 Party Tents (29.3) Cllr Robinson/Cllr Durham re: storage boxes/bags. Pending, curtain sider material may be used. Poles to be colour coded when the tents are out for Bell Meadow.
- 64.3 (45) Cllr Durham has removed obstacle sticking out of ground near to stile at Bell Meadow. Cllr. Warner has ground off and made safe a steel pipe near to goal posts.
- 65. Planning – APPLICATIONS**
- 65.1 FUL/MAL/09/00350 The Spindle, Bassetts Lane
Erection of external staircase to cartlodge.
Neighbour consultation not necessary. Councillors in agreement there are no grounds of objection. It will not be seen by anyone. Clerk to write accordingly.
- 66. Planning - DECISIONS**
- 66.1 FUL/MAL/09/00329 & LBC/MAL/09/00328 Ashmans, Curling Tye Lane
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT GRANTED (Delegated)
Demolition of porch and boiler building, new two storey side extension, flat roofed glazed link as entrance to house and access to outbuilding, new dormer to rear elevation roof and glazed screen to hallway.
- 66.2 FUL/MAL/09/00392 Albany Orchards, Old London Road **REFUSE (Delegated)**
Erection of garden wall and entrance gates.
The proposed front boundary wall, by reason of its design, length, extent of brickwork and residential appearance, would have a negative visual impact in the street scene and by reason of its elevated position in the wider local area, would appear out of character in the rural open countryside identified for its landscape value as a Special Landscape area, and would therefore be contrary to policies.
- 67. Other Planning Matters**
- 67.1 Falconers Lodge. Extracts of response from Gordon Nisbet: *Liability for compliance with an enforcement notice always lies with the owner of the land. Council currently in discussions with English Heritage. The question of direct action by the Council remains an option.* Councillors discuss and are reassured that MDC seem to be dealing with the situation. Clerk reported Cllr. Potter's suggestion that we write to Barclays. Councillors present do not think it is our position to do this. Question of waiting to see what progresses over time. No action required.
- 67.2 Woodham Walter Hall Ruins. Response from Jackie Longman. *Scheduling still on track and imminent. The situation at the site does help with regard to the scheduling as we can manage how the material is removed from site and the new owner will be aware of this through the Enforcement Notice.*
- 67.3 Meadows – Clerk read response to letter re: delegated powers decision. *“as we were recommending refusal the application was determined under delegated powers and assessed in the usual manner.”* Councillors to ask Mrs Young to comment on this case when she attends the meeting later. See minute ref: 70
- 67.4 FUL/MAL/08/00912 1&2 Redgates **APPEAL ALLOWED**
Condition 3 deleted from planning permission.
- 68. To Authorise Any Payments Due** The following payments were authorised and cheques signed accordingly by Cllr. Durham. Clerk to ask other signatory (either Cllr. Warner or Cllr. Potter to countersign cheques when they return from holidays).
- 68.1 e-on – Monthly DD
- 68.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

- 68.3 Clerks Salary + allowance
 68.5 RCCE Membership £40.00
 68.7 A&J Lighting Solutions £2103.35 (NB: To be paid in full, funding from ECC Making the Links Budget has been applied for and is expected very soon).

- 68.4 Blackwater Landscapes
 68.6 LCR Subscription £13.50

Annual Grants Payable to Local Organisations

- 68.8 Woodham Walter Women's Club £127.00
 68.10 WM&H Parish News Magazine £133.00
 68.12 Silver Threads £185.00
 68.14 Bell Meadow Village Assoc. £500.00
 68.9 St Michael's Church £164.00
 68.11 Woodham Walter Village Hall Assoc. £172.00
 68.13 Essex Wildlife Trust £90.00

69. Other Financial Matters

- 69.1 2008/09 Accounts have been sent to Audit Office.

70. Report Of The District Councillor Mrs Young explained the reason for a delegated decision in the recent Meadows planning application. She had spoken to Peter Le Grys before the decision had been made and as both were recommending refusal, there was no point in the application progressing to committee which would have resulted in waste of time and significant additional work, it was therefore decided it was unnecessary to go to committee and a delegated decision was duly made. Mrs Young also informed that she had put forward the councillors suggestion that the public be allowed to speak at Planning Committee Meetings.

71. Highways

71.1 (194.1) Parking outside of The Bell Public House. Response received from Steve Broad concludes: *In my opinion, additional timber bollards or a licence to plant are the viable options.* Councillors discuss and conclude that the planting option will look best and suggest planting 3 pyrocantha plants. Clerk to apply for the licence to plant.

71.2 (194.16) New road enforcement signage outside School on The Street. Nothing further to report.

71.3 Village Gateways. Clerk has chased and been informed the date for installation is 17th August.

71.4 Little Baddow Road. Clerk had conversation with Chris Wheadon re: hedge and verge between Stivvy's Road and village. He has contacted MDC and requested that the hedgerow be protected and the verge be a wildlife area and not be flailed. It is understood he has spoken to the farmer and requested that the hedge is not cut. Cllr Durham allowed clerk to make personal comment as she feels strongly that the grass should be cut as this is a very dangerous stretch of road particularly when the grass is long as vehicles cannot see pedestrians (especially children) when they come at speed along this stretch of road. Clerk had contacted Jackie Gilbert (Tree Office) at MDC and received following response: *I have known verges to be designated as areas of interest by Natural England (I think) and cutting restrictions put in place, limiting to number of cuts and times of year, but these were exceptional in some way. The only hedge protection is under Hedgerow regulations 1997 and certain criteria has to be met before the hedge qualifies. If the hedge meets this criteria then it will already be protected from removal. Hedgerow regs doesn't protect a hedge from being maintained, even coppiced. He must be meeting Dave Taylor or Roy Read I imagine. I've not heard anything mentioned. If it's a rural verge, then we cut it on behalf of ECC Highways and they would have a say regarding the cessation of cutting as it may (as you rightly point out) raise safety issues.* Clerk reported that Cllr Potter supports view that verge needs to be cut. All councillors in agreement that it is imperative that the grass is kept short as this stretch of road is very dangerous for pedestrians. Clerk to report councillors concerns that maintenance is carried out to MDC.

71.5 Temporary Road Closure – Blue Mill Lane (Monday 17th August to Monday 21st September)

71.5 Resurfacing of Little Baddow Road. Noted

72. Local Issues

72.1 **Playground/Bell Meadow Rota.** The book was duly signed. It was noted that the new tree in particular needs regular watering as it appears to be suffering in the dry weather. Councillors to include watering during inspection on more than one occasion during week. Noted new hedging plants do not appear to have survived. Cllr. Bunn to chase Dave Weedon regarding the catch for the gate opposite the Church.

72.2 **Footpath Officer Report** 1) FP 18 from Oak Farm Road is badly overgrown and the section through The Wilderness is impassable due to brambles and nettles. ECC have agreed to clear this as soon as possible. The remaining 13 paths on their schedule will be cut in early August. 2) ECC are going to replace the dilapidated stile and fingerpost at the Rectory Road end of FP 19 later this month.

72.3 **PCSO Crime Report for Woodham Walter** None received. Although it was noted that there was a garage break in recently in the parish, parishioners to take extra care with securing outbuildings.

72.4 **Neighbourhood Action Panel** Date of next meeting: t.b.c.

72.5 **School Report** Mrs Matthews reports that the Forest School's learning is very successful. Having access to The Wilderness has made this possible – Mr Carter has been very accommodating. A big thank you also to Colin Warner for working so hard to clear the allocated area – making it safe for use. Councillors are pleased the school is able to make use of The Wilderness but have one concern which has been reported by a number of parishioners to councillors, that a latrine has been created in the area. Councillors very concerned that it is too near to the public footpath and feel that it should not be done for health and safety reasons. If one is dug then it needs to be filled in promptly. Clerk to write to head teacher.

72.6 **Allotments Report** All plots growing well bar a few weeds. The area is looking good and the produce grown is very nice.

72.7 **Community Speed Watch** Concern from Ivor Brearley that interest is on the wain. There are currently only 4 regular volunteers. Councillors agree that more volunteers are needed. Anyone interested can contact the clerk for more information.

72.8 **Litter** – adopt-a-road scheme, a good response has been received from many parishioners, thank you. The areas covered so far: Old London Road from Warren to Oak Farm Road and on to Lodge Farm. Bassetts

Lane. Little Baddow Road from Bassetts Lane to Stivvy's Road and to Lastings. Stivvy's Road to Orchard Bungalow on West Bowers Road. Blue Mill Lane from Rectory Road to Hop Garden Lane. Mead Pastures. Little London Lane. Top Road. Brook Close. If anyone would like to litter pick other areas of the village please contact Colin Warner 07798807679.

73. Correspondence

- 73.1 Department for Transport Drink Drive Campaign. Literature and poster.
- 73.2 ECC – Community Initiatives Fund. Next round launched, deadline for applications 6th November.
- 73.3 MDC – Invite to attend September Parish Plans Event on 14th September, 5pm. Wickham Bishops.
- 73.4 Essex Registration Service – Consultation on reorganisation of the service.
- 73.5 Farleigh Hospice – Cycle for Life Event on 13th September.
- 73.6 Natural England – Monitoring Visit to Woodham Walter Common. Clerk to reply and copy to Essex Wildlife Trust and Volunteer Warden Chris Wheadon.

74. Points Of Information

- 74.1 Noted that a group of footballers have been using Bell Meadow on a regular basis and are parking on the memorial garden opposite the church. Councillors agree that they probably do not know the verge is a Memorial and think they are being helpful not parking in the road. Cllr's very pleased that the football posts are being used and Cllr. Robinson will speak to them.
- 74.2 It was noted that some dog owners are still failing to pick up dog mess on the paths in the village including Bell Meadow, cross country paths and on the streets in the village. There are dog litter bins located at Bell Meadow and Top Road. Please would all dog owners insure that they use these bins. Thanks to the responsible owners who already collect and dispose of appropriately. It is an offence under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act, not to clear up after your dog and a fixed penalty notice can be issued by Maldon District Council.
- 74.3 Clerk to attend Parish Clerks Forum on Wednesday 15th July.
- 74.4 Cllr Durham noted a pile of grass cuttings adjacent to Scarebridge House. Cllr. Young to request they are not left on the verge.
- 74.5 Cllr. Bunn apologises he will not be in attendance at the September Parish Council meeting.

75. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting : Monday 10th August 2009

(NB: Clerk away 1-8 August so agenda items by 30th July)

Signed

Dated

Meeting ended at 9.25pm