

MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.
Held at 8.00pm in Woodham Walter Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.

Monday 13th October 2014

Present:

Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Mark Durham
Cllr. Angus Neale
Cllr. James Rushton
Cllr. Joanna Symons

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)

Public: 4

1287. Welcome Cllr Peter Warren welcomed those present to the meeting.

1288. Apologies For Absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Henry Bass.

1289. Disclosure of Interests/Consideration of Dispensations To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 6-10 inclusive of 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).

1290. Public Forum

There were 4 members of the public present.

Mrs Jenny Plumb was in attendance to comment on the condition of Tom Tit Lane. Despite her reporting the issue to Highways, there is still a lot of mud on the road which was caused by the heavy rain a few weeks ago. There are also some branches overhanging the road. Clerk confirmed that the mud and blocked drain has also been reported by the Parish Council. Clerk will chase up and report the branches.

Mr John Tompkins informed that is also a blocked drain at the bottom of Brook Close. Clerk to report. Mr Sean Cottey was in attendance to report on the flooding issues at The Bell. Water is draining off the field at the top and silt flowing down the road and into the pub car park. He believes that overworking of the fields may be the cause. The gully opposite The Bell has become eroded and this has now changed the way the water runs and it now misses the drain and runs across the road into the pub car park. This flooding has been reported to Highways by clerk who gave Mr Cottey the reference number of the report and advised that he should also report it himself to Highways using the on-line reporting tool. Discussion also took place regarding two springs on the memorial garden which are flowing into the road. The drains up Church Hill also need inspecting. Clerk to report. Cllr. Durham suggested that the gully erosion may be something the Highways Panel could consider funding. Mr Sean Cottey and Ms Ann Clements then left the meeting room.

1291. To approve the Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On Monday 8th September 2014 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed.

1292. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th September 2014

1292.1 Broadband. Letter written to Cllr. Bentley – await response. Letter copied to Priti Patel MP who has replied and will continue to chase up concerns about poor broadband speeds in the village on our behalf.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to Mr John Tompkins who informed councillors that his frustrations had resulted in him sending letters to BT and Priti Patel. He also informed that an engineer had managed to improve his speed to between 2.75 and 3.00mg. He asked councillors to encourage people to lobby District Councillors, County Councillors and MP.

Councillors thanked Mr Tompkins for his comments which provide another example of non-supply after ordering advertised services. It is understood that fibre is available to the cabinet at Spring Elms Lane so properties in this vicinity may be eligible to access an improved service.

Until BT systems accept that Woodham Walter cannot achieve the speeds that they advertise it will be difficult to prove that Woodham Walter should be included in the Superfast Essex funding and

move up the pecking order for funding improved speeds. Councillors suggest that a proforma letter be written and made available on email and the council website for parishioners to send out. Cllr. Neale volunteered to collate a suitable letter.

1292.2 Vehicle Activated Sign. On-going - await responses to requests for information.

1293. Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Working Party

The meeting was opened up to Mr John Tompkins, representing the Working Party. He informed that the information collected in the questionnaires has been analysed and is available to view on the parish council website. Clerk to check that the link is working correctly. The group are now working on the document in order that it complies with local and national policies. The aim is to get the draft document ready for showing at the Annual Parish Meeting (Monday 30th March 2015). It will then go to Maldon District Council for approval with final publication aiming for August 2015.

Councillors thanked Mr Tompkins for attending and he then left the meeting room at 8.45pm.

1294. Planning – APPLICATIONS

1294.1 LDP/MAL/14/00837 Waggors, Hop Garden Lane

Claim for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed erection of outbuilding incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house.

Councillors cannot see why a Claim for a Certificate of Lawfulness is relevant. The application appears to be for a substantial new building and planning permission would be required as there is no existing building in this location on the plot. Clerk to respond accordingly.

1295. Planning – DECISIONS

1295.1 FUL/MAL/14/00556 & LBC/MAL/1 4/00557 Warren Golf Club APPROVE (DEL)

Clubhouse redevelopment and internal alterations, incorporating a new building to provide changing room facilities and plant room.

1295.2 HOUSE/MAL/14/00703 7 Mead Pastures APPROVE (DEL)

Single storey side extension and partial conversion of existing detached garage. Internal alterations and new stairwell window.

1296. Other Planning Matters

1296.1 St Michael's Drainage Easement – Cllr. Bunn has submitted a site plan.

1296.2 Royal Oak Quarry. The meeting was opened up to Mrs Jenny Plumb who outlined her concerns regarding the de-watering from the Royal Oak Quarry which has caused flooding in her garden. Councillors advised that she should also speak with Woodham Mortimer Parish Council as her property is within this parish. Cllr. Warren will attend the next meeting of the Liaison group. Councillors noted that if de-watering is necessary that it should be done with an appropriate flow rate in order not to impact on properties and land down stream. The water course should have been fully inspected to ensure suitability before starting. Mrs Plumb then left the meeting room at 9pm.

1296.3 Bassetts Lane - land between Beightons/Barrow Cottage – Councillors reaffirm that if the applicant or agent wish to discuss a proposal that they are entitled to attend a parish council meeting and speak during the open public forum.

1296.4 Maldon District Conservation and Design Awards – Councillors were disappointed to receive notification that the nomination for the works at St Michael's Church had been unsuccessful.

1297. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

- 1297.1 e-on –Monthly DD
- 1297.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD
- 1297.3 Mrs J Bannerman - Clerks Salary/Allowance
- 1297.4 D Wallace (DW Maintenance)
- 1297.5 Mr M Bradbrook (refund for overpayment of party tents hire fees)
- 1297.6 PFK Littlejohn (Audit)

1298. Other Financial Matters

1298.1 Summary of Accounts to date

DATE	ACCOUNT / TRANSACTION DETAIL	AMOUNT IN	AMOUNT OUT	BALANCE
Business Reserve A/C				
08-Sep-14	Balance			8358.38
08-Sep-14	Interest Received	1.49		8359.87
13-Oct-14	Transferred to Community A/C 60978876		0.00	8359.87
Community Account				
08-Sep-14	September Debits		1189.04	605.54

09-Sep-14	Party Tent Income (Manning)	50.00	655.54
09-Sep-14	Bell Meadow Village Association (Repayment)	380.00	1035.54
16-Sep-14	Party Tent Income (Bradbrook)	115.00	1150.54
01-Oct-14	Party Tent Income (St Michael's PCC)	75.00	1225.54
13-Oct-14	Transferred from Business Reserve A/C 40622818	0.00	1225.54
13-Oct-14	October Debits		562.90
			662.64

1298.2 Party Tents – Cllr. Bunn continues to investigate bags and tie down kits/ sourcing pegs & rope. Measurements of existing bags have been taken.

1298.3 Clerk's Salary September (Month 6) Error - it was noted that an error had occurred and been corrected with the October (Month 7) submission.

1298.4 Quarterly Expenditure Review to 30th September 2014 completed. Clerk confirmed that expenditure is broadly in line with budget predictions. But noted the party tent income is significantly reduced this year. Cllr. Warren informed that he has carried out a financial review as part of the council's system of internal control.

1298.5 Notice of conclusion of the audit and right to inspect the Annual Return. Audit paperwork received from PFK Littlejohn. The auditor report confirms that the annual return is in accordance with proper practice. One item was drawn to the attention of the council; that the Council Tax Support Grant element of the Precept should have been shown in box 3. Information to be displayed on noticeboard in accordance with statutory rules including details of how parishioners can exercise the right to inspect the Annual Return.

1298.6 Bell Meadow south & west hedges. 3 quotes had been received and after discussion Councillor James Bunn proposed and Cllr. Andrew Newland seconded that Skippers Ground Maintenance be awarded the job. All councillors in agreement. Clerk to arrange.

1298.7 Clerk reported that the three green metal benches at Bell Meadow Memorial Garden/War Memorial Shelter and Rectory Road are in a poor state and it was agreed that they should be repainted. It was agreed that this would be especially apt in order to reflect the World War 1 Centenary. Cllr. Mark Durham proposed and Cllr. Angus Neale seconded that a quote from Rob Hamilton will be accepted. All councillors in agreement. Clerk to arrange.

1299. Report Of The District Councillor

Cllr. Durham informed that Examination in Public of the Local Development Plan is set for 20th January and it is hoped that the document will be adopted in September/October 2015; The Blackwater Leisure Centre will be closing for 3 weeks in order to carry out refurbishment; The Saltmarsh 75 event had suffered with bad weather but non the less was a good event. ; He had attended a recent Crucial Crew event at Stow Maries which is organised for all year 6 pupils in the district. Woodham Walter Primary School pupils had attended and learnt about stranger danger, road safety, internet safety, bullying etc.

1300. Other Council Matters None

1301. Consultations/Questionnaires

1301.1 Submission of the Maldon District Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. MDC has submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in public.

1302. Highways

It is noted that there are a large number of on-going highways issues which clerk is pursuing. Plus...

1302.1 2360161 Little Baddow Road hedge – request for cutting.

1302.2 2359776 Tom Tit Lane – blocked drain and mud on road reported

1302.3 2355732 The Street – Flooding during heavy rain reported. There has also been correspondence with residents affected. Priti Patel MP and Essex County Councillor Penny Channer have also been looking into this problem.

1302.4 2357949 The Bell – flooding reported. See also public forum notes.

1302.5 Clerk requested MDC carry out gully clearance following the flooding. The problem was made worse by the amount of straw which had recently been deposited during lorry movements a few days prior to the rain storm. Gully lorry was seen a couple of days later.

1302.6 Temporary Road Closure Notice – London Road 20th October for 5 days from junction with Curling Tye Lane north for 1300m to the junction with Abbey Turning.

1302.7 Cllr. Warren and Clerk to carry out annual highways inspection with particular attention to hedges in order to respond to MDC who are due to carry out work with the tractor driven flail.

1303. Local Issues

1303.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** 1) No Parking Signs on the Memorial Garden. Cllr. Newland requires a design in order to progress. 2) Installation of gate at the top of Bell Meadow. Cllr. Newland is awaiting feedback.3) The football nets to be replaced. 4) There were no other issues ot report and the book was duly signed.

1303.2 Footpaths Report 1) Application to upgrade Footpath 7 Woodham Walter to Bridleway – Case 951. Information has now been received that the County Council are investigating the application. Councillors strongly object to the proposal. The route is unsuitable for horses and councillors do not consider there is a justifiable reason for the change. The existing path would be degraded making it more difficult for walkers. 2) Noted that the bridge on Bridleway BR31 which was damaged may be closed for a period while repairs are carried out.

1303.3 School Report Cllr. Symons reported that there are currently 106 children at the school. Following last months meeting enquiries were made regarding the new fencing and the Headteacher send a copy of an email she had received from MDC which indicated planning permission was not required.

1303.4 Crime/Police Report Theft from a motor vehicle On 22/09/14 at approx. 06:50 suspects unknown have removed front index plate from black Mini One by ripping it off leaving the corner of the index attached to the screw. Location at The Warren Golf and Country Club, Woodham Walter PC Keene has written that from 1st October there will be a change in the way they do Community Engagement. She has been instructed not to attend Parish Council meetings and these will be replaced with the following: Each PCSO will now hold a weekly one hour street meeting in their area. The Sergeant will hold bi-monthly “Local Engagement Meetings” in the 3 areas.

Councillors ask clerk to enquire when the street meeting will be taking place in Woodham Walter.

1303.5 Litter Fly tip along Curling Tye Lane. Maldon District Council cleared the rubbish the day after it was reported, mystery surrounds the placing of the road closure signs.

1304. Correspondence

1304.1 Thanks for grant from Silver Threads, Womens Club, St Michael's PCC, Village Hall.

1304.2 The Oil-Club – information received about this buying group which appears to show Woodham Walter Parish Council is a member, however this has not been sanctioned by the Parish Council.

1305. Points of Information

1305.1 Councillors were pleased to hear about a new community lunch club for the village. The lunch is being kindly supported by Linda Hamilton along with volunteer waiting staff from the village.

1306. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 10th November 2014 at 8pm in Women's Club.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.30pm

Dated