

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
MONDAY 10th MAY 2010**

The Annual Assembly of the Parish was held at Great Waltham Village Hall on Monday 10th May 2010 at 8pm. Mr A Micklem, Chairman of the Parish Council presided. Fifty-four people signed the attendance register. The Chairman introduced the meeting by saying that it was not a Parish Council meeting. The meeting was facilitated by the Parish Council but was called so that local organisations and members of the community could air matters of local interest and concern which could then be addressed by any of the organisations represented.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Were received from Borough Councillor Brian Patient, Mike Blaber, Peter Jackson, Bernard Greenwood, Sonia Slater, Clare Lyne, Joanna Steel, Pat Hamilton, Vivienne Jackson, David Moncaster, Sue Moncaster and Rev Carla Hampton.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 11th May 2009.

The Minutes were distributed, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes.

(a) Cycleways. – the Chairman reported that a proposed cycleway was being considered from Broads Green through Partridge Green to Broomfield. Discussions were ongoing with all the various parties. Details of the proposals were displayed in the hall.

(b) Parsonage Lane Bridge - the Chairman reported that monitoring of the traffic using the bridge continued and the number of over-weight vehicle incidents had significantly decreased.

(c) Potholes – the Chairman referred to the continuing problem of potholes following the severe winter weather. He urged parishioners to keep reporting them directly to ECC Highways either directly or through the ECC website.

(d) Speed Restrictions at Minnow End – the Chairman reported that together with the clerk efforts were being made to meet with all parties to see how speed restrictions in this area and others in the Parish could be progressed.

(e) Verge Cutting. The Chairman reported that following many conversations and meetings the Parish Council had gone some way in persuading ECC to carry out a single width cut in May/June and a full width cut later in the year on the rural grass verges. It was reported that ECC had confirmed that they had given instructions for all roads, apart from the main roads, Chelmsford Road from Ash Tree corner to Warners Farm and Pleshey Road from Pendon Hill Corner to Pleshey, to have a single width (one metre) cut in May/June. This cut would be followed later in the year by a full width cut. This was a one year trial and would then be reviewed.

It was proposed to print an article in the Parish News detailing the criteria used in setting up roadside verge nature reserves. Suggestions for areas to be included should be relayed to the clerk.

4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Mr Alexander Micklem referred to the printed report that had been circulated to all households in the Parish and distributed at the meeting. Further report was made as follows:

Contact with Local Primary Schools – the Chairman reported that the contact continues with good ideas coming forward. The Chairman and Clerk had recently attended a most enjoyable meeting with the School Council at Ford End School.

Play Equipment at Great Waltham – had been installed and appears to be a great success. The Chairman thanked Steve Huggins, John Bell and Peter Bradley for all their hard work to make this happen. Further equipment is planned and suggestions should be voiced.

Parish Focal Point – The Chairman reported that this is moving slowly forward. The latest proposed plans were displayed at the meeting. Further consultation would take place with all parishioners and a public open meeting would be held later in the year to discuss the project more fully once the likely costs and the financial implications were known.

Quality Parish Council Status – the Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been re-accredited with Quality Parish Council Status and detailed the comments made by the adjudicating panel as follows. 'Very impressed with the democratic process which saw 16 people standing for election for 11 seats. Compliments on the comprehensive and clear agenda and minutes, especially like the fact the 'cordially invite the public'. Likes to see the photographs of councillors on the website. Excellent communications with the community, really attractive literature and embraces all from young to old. The panel would like to see the names and contact details of councillors appearing in the Parish News'

The Chairman indicated that most of the praise is due to the diligence and commitment of the clerk. Thanks were expressed and recorded.

Election 2011- The Chairman reported that 2011 was election year and encouraged people to stand for election and attend Parish Council meetings and seek information from the clerk or Parish Councillors regarding standing for election.

Recycling – The Parish Council had been endeavouring to get the recycling bins put back at the Beehive Car Park but were facing resistance from CBC who are concerned regarding the possible use for trade waste.

Communication – The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council can only react to matters that they are aware of and urged parishioners to make the Parish Council aware by contact with Parish Councillors or the clerk.

Parish News – the first edition had been issued in May 2011. The Chairman appealed for content, photographs and feedback.

Community – Though the Parish organisations and communication there is an enhanced sense of community in the Parish with events staged by the Community Network and others. The Chairman stated that this is something which should be cherished and supported. However many of the organisations need more help and support from volunteers to ensure their continuation. If any person was willing to help and volunteer then they were urged to contact the organisation as listed in the Annual Report.

Mini Olympics 23rd July 2010 – It was proposed to organise a Mini Olympics on 23rd July 2010, subject to the Parish Council receiving a grant for this purpose. Any ideas as to activities or offers to help to organise the event would be welcome and should be communicated to the clerk.

Thanks – The Chairman thanked Maureen, Matthew and Charlotte Bradley and Liz Hagon for their help with the refreshments, Brian Ager the Parish Handyman, Vic Smith, Changing Room caretaker, David Sanders for managing the Parish Website, Paul Jarrett for his help with the Public address system, County Councillor Aldridge, and Borough Councillors Ashford, Taylor and Patient for their help and support during the past year. Finally the Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors and the clerk. There followed a round of applause.

5. Charity Reports.

Mr V R Pepper presented a report of the Great Waltham Charities as follows:

| Income | | Expenditure | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Charinco Bonds | £123.56 | Grants 8 x £20 to heating costs | £160.00 |
| Felsted School | £ 15.00 | Excess of Income over Expenditure | £ 2.61 |
| National Savings Interest | £ 24.01 | | |
| Barclays Bank Interest | £ .04 | | |
| | | | |
| Total | £162.61 | | £162.61 |

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|-------------------------------|---------|
| Balance Sheet. | |
| Balance at 1st January 2009 | £806.52 |
| Surplus for Year | £ 2.61 |
| Balance at 31st December 2009 | £809.13 |

Mr Pepper reported the death of two of the long standing trustees Liz Pyne and Les King and paid tribute to their services. It was also reported that new trustees had been appointed Shirley Dannatt and Peter Bradley.

Mrs Sonia Slater was not present and the clerk presented a synopsis of the accounts as follows:

North End Poor's Charities

Income and Expenditure for the year 1st January 2009 – 31st December 2009.

| Income | | Expenditure | |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Balance on Treasurers Account as at January at 1 st January 2009 | £1679.49 | Payments by Trustees 2009 | £1119.53 |
| COIF Dividends 5.5% Stock 2008 | £1295.45 | Cheques drawn in 2008 not cleared until 2009 | £ 586.56 |
| Interest | £ 14.61 | | |
| Cheques drawn in 2009 – not banked until 2010 | £ 879.53 | Cash in hand 31.12.2009 | £ 40.02 |
| Cash in hand 1.1.2009 | £ 40.02 | Balance on Treasurers Account at December 31 st December 2008 | £2162.99 |
| Total | £3909.10 | Total | £3909.10 |

6. Organisation Reports

(a) Great Waltham Frienship Club- Mrs Wendy Johnson appealed for people to step forward to help organise and take responsibility to run the club which was in danger of failing to operate.

(b) Great Waltham Parish Jubilee Twinning Association: Mike Steel reported that it was the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning and five towns were meeting in Ceyrat, this week to celebrate this event. There would be no French exchange to Great Waltham in 2010 – the next planned exchange would take place in 2011.

(c) Guides/Brownies – Judy Whicker reported that Guides and Brownies operated in Little Waltham and that Great Waltham residents were welcome to join.

(d) Ford End Gardening Club – Alan Adcock gave a report on this organisation.

(e) Great Waltham Horticultural Society – Peter Hughes reported that the GWHS hold monthly meeting on the first Monday of the Month between October and April. The Horticultural Society also maintained the Hoppit Meadow garden by a working party on the second Saturday of each month. In addition a Plant Sale was organised and the Annual Show which included a Dog Show.

(f) Parish Care Group – Sheila Gillies reported on the activities of the Group and called for volunteers to help with this work.

7. Other matters raised by those present.

(a) Great Waltham Primary School – Boundary Wall – Peter Messenger expressed regret at the demolition of the historic boundary wall at Great Waltham Primary School. Mike Steel responded indicating that the wall had been demolished following the safety of the wall being raised as an issue. Funds had not been allocated for its replacement. The clerk indicated that Essex Heritage Trust had been approached regarding funding but this had not been successful. Investigations for funding would continue.

(b) Potholes – Alan Adcock reported that potholes on the B1008 at Ford End had still not been repaired despite being reported in March 2010. The road was in poor condition. County Councillor Aldridge responded indicating that funding had been allocated by central Government of which £2.2 million had been allocated to Essex. He took details of the particular complaint and would follow this up through the Highways Department. He urged members of the public to continue reporting potholes as they were spotted.

(c) Duffries Close Green – Peter Lee referred to the original intentions for the green at Duffries Close indicating that it had been considered as an open green. He expressed the point of view that the hedge on the eastern and southern boundary of the green detracted from the area being an open village green. Mr Lee suggested that the Parish Council should give consideration to the removal of the hedge.

(d) Confusion with postcodes – Caroline Lee reported that confusion existed regarding the delivery of parcels destined for the dwelling in the Lower Green Lane and delivery vehicles usually end up at Fanners Green rather than the lower lane. Mrs Lee asked whether something could be done to improve the situation.

8. Parish Plan

Mr Paul Braisby announced the production of the Parish Plan which had been received back from the printers on Friday 7th May 2010. Copies were available at the meeting, and a copy would be delivered to every household in the Parish during the next two weeks. Mr Braisby gave information on the background and history of the Parish Plan indicating the process by which the plan had been produced, and thanked his colleagues on the Parish Plan group for the hard work that they had carried out over the past four years. Mr Braisby answered questions and comments raised from the floor.

In closing the meeting the Chairman gave thanks to all that had attended. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.