

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
MONDAY 16th MAY 2011**

The Annual Assembly of the Parish was held at Great Waltham Village Hall on Monday 16th May 2011 at 8pm. Mr A Micklem, Chairman of the Parish Council presided. Sixty-four people signed the attendance register.

Mr Alexander Micklem referred to the Assembly 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 Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Borough Councillor Delmas Ashford, Malcolm Taylor, Ian and Valerie Coyle, Bernard Greenwood, and Essex Police.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 10th May 2010.

The Minutes were distributed, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes.

(a) Cycleways. – the Chairman reported that the cycleway between Broads Green through Partridge Green had been constructed. Thanks were due to David Stacey the landowner who had given permissive rights to cycle along the route and to Essex County Council for constructing the route using highways planings.

(b) Potholes – the Chairman referred to the continuing problem of potholes and urged parishioners to keep reporting them directly to ECC Highways either directly or through the ECC website.

(c) Speed Restrictions at Minnow End – the Chairman reported that no progress had been made regarding this but the Parish Council would continue to campaign to seek a reduction of the speed limit through Minnow End.

(d) Recycling – The Parish Council's endeavours to secure the return of recycling bins to the Beehive Public House Car Park had been unsuccessful.

(e) Great Waltham Primary School – Boundary Wall – further enquiries regarding the reconstruction of the wall had established that footings and brick piers would be required which would cost in the region of £8,000. Grants to funds the scheme were being sought so far without success. Voluntary labour was available for the reconstruction of the flint rubble wall. Efforts would continue to be made to seek funding for the project.

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:

Parish Office - the Chairman referred to last year's report which mentioned a Parish Focal point and the proposed works and improvements to Great Waltham Village Hall. The plans were analysed by the Great Waltham Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council. The Parish Council came to the conclusion that the scheme did not offer best cost effectiveness in terms of providing a Parish office. The Parish Council then looked at the Old Fire Station and decided to take on a 15 year lease commencing on 1st December 2010. The Chairman thanked all those people who helped with the move and who have provided furniture, equipment and services. The Parish Council now has a superb facility which gives greater public access to information.

Village of the Year – was won in the year 2010. This was the culmination of a great deal of work carried out by village organisations and across the whole age span of residents. The judges comments have been well publicised. The village had been entered again in 2011 and an appeal was made to keep the area tidy.

Traffic Calming Measures - the Parish Council has been pushing hard for traffic calming measures to be installed in Ford End and following a meeting with County Councillor Hume a scheme had been drawn up but had not been carried out due to lack of funds. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this.

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 through contact with Parish Councillors or the clerk. The Parish Council are not successful in every case but cannot do anything if they are unaware of that a problem exists.

Parish News – The Chairman appealed for content, photographs and feedback.

Community – Through the Parish organisations, the Community Network and communication there is an enhanced sense of community in the Parish with events staged by the Community Network and others and 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.

Parish Councillors – The Chairman thanked three retiring members Mrs Angela Dickinson, Teresa Harper and Sonia Slater. Their contribution to the Parish Council has been many and varied and their input has helped with the healthy community in which we live. The Chairman welcomed two new members to the Council Ian Leyde and Maria Farrant.

Thanks – The Chairman thanked Maureen Bradley and Viv Jackson for their help with the refreshments, Brian Ager, Tony Sidwell and Paul Jarrett the Parish Handymen, 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, The Chairman thanked the Police pointing out that we are lucky to have such active C and PCSO's. 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 7 x £20 to heating costs	£140.00
Felsted School	£ 15.00	Excess of Income over Expenditure	£ .70
National Savings Interest	£ 2.11		
Barclays Bank Interest	£ .03		
Total	£140.70		£140.70

Balance Sheet.	
Balance at 1st January 2010	£829.13
Surplus for Year	£ .70
Balance at 31st December 2010	£829.83

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 presented a synopsis of the accounts as follows:

North End Poor's Charities Income and Expenditure for the year 1st January 2010 – 31st December 2010.

Income		Expenditure	
Balance on Treasurers Account as at January at 1 st January 2010	£2162.99	Payments by Trustees 2009	£1191.20
COIF Dividends 5.5% Stock 2008	£1335.69	Cheques drawn in 2009 not cleared until 2010	£ 879.53
Interest	£ 9.10	Cash in hand 31.12.2009	£ 20.03
Cheques drawn in 2010– not banked until 2011	£ 741.21	Balance on Treasurers Account at December 31 st December 2008	£2178.26
Cash in hand 1.1.2009	£ 20.03		
Total	£4269.02	Total	£4269.02

6. Report from Little Waltham Surgery.

Dr James Mackin gave a report of the activities at the surgery over the past year. He thanked patients for their patience whilst the surgery underwent modification and improvement. The new pharmacy was a great advantage not only to patients but also to the practice. Dr King had now been established as a partner with particular responsibility for Diabetes which is a growing problem. Dr Mackin drew attention to the existence of the patient participation group and called upon any person interested in joining the group to contact Julie Price the practice manager.

7. Organisation Reports

(a) Great Waltham Community Network- Mrs Joanna Steel, Chairman of the Network spoke of the aims and objectives of the group and to some of the events which had taken place over the past year. She reported that the Grassroots grant which had been awarded in previous years was no longer available.

(b) Great Waltham Parish Jubilee Twinning Association: Mrs Joanna Steel, the President of the Association, reported that the Twinning Association was one of the most successful in the region. The exchange this year would see a group from Ceyrat visiting Great Waltham and it was expected that the visitors would be involved in some community events.

(c) Waltham Singers – an email from Gerald Malton, Chairman of the Waltham Singers was read. The next concert in Great Waltham Church would be on 18th June 2011 – details of the programme were given. Weekly rehearsals were now held at St Cedds School, Chelmsford on Thursdays between 8pm and 10pm. New singing members would be welcome as would people new to the audience from the village.

(d) Village Agent – The Village Agent, Jo Metson introduced herself and spoke about the reasons for the existence of village agents and the activities in which they participated. Leaflets were distributed and contact numbers given.

(e) Ford End Gardening Club – Alan Adcock reported that activities and practical events were held throughout the year.

(f) Great Waltham and Ford End Churches – Rev Carla Hampton spoke about the importance of the church community and the church buildings being part of the community of Great Waltham. Mention was made of the plans for Rogationtide events on 29th May 2011 which included services at various churches in the area and a community Bar BQ.

(g) Walthams Scout Group – John Brogan, Group Scout Leader informed the meeting that a new Explorer Scouts Group had been formed for 14-18 year olds. John appealed for adult volunteers to come forward to support the Scouting activities in the Parish.

8. Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2nd -5th June 2012

The Chairman referred to this event and called upon volunteers from the community to put themselves forward to serve on an organising Committee to commemorate the occasion. Any volunteers or ideas to celebrate the event should be referred to Peter Bradley.

9. Other matters raised by those present.

(a) Parish News – Libby Hill proposed a vote of thanks to Alexander Micklem for all of the work which he does to produce the Parish News every month. There followed a round of applause.

(b) Stansted Airport Community Trust – Rose Braisby reported that the recent painting of the flagpole on top of Great Waltham Church had largely been paid for by the Stansted Airport Community Trust. Arrangements were currently in hand to try to obtain a grant for work at Ford End Church.

(c) Gypsies and Travellers – Janet Patch drew attention to reports which had appeared in last weeks Essex Chronicle which had made reference to Meadowlands, Great Waltham as the destination for gypsies and travellers being evicted from the Crays Hill site. The clerk gave a report of the situation indicating that the stories on both Essex Radio and the Essex Chronicle were erroneous and that Meadowlands was actually in Little Waltham. The clerk did urge all owners of land to be vigilant and to provide barriers to prevent unofficial encroachment of land. Rev. Carla Hampton pointed out that the families displaced from the Crays Hill site would require somewhere to live.

10. Localism and the Big Society

County Councillor Peter Martin, Leader of Essex County Council gave a presentation on Localism and the Big Society. Councillor Martin stated that the County Council had said "We need to liberate people's potential, enabling citizens to exercise greater choice and responsibility in their lives... we want to see a renaissance of citizens as active agents in their communities; responsible, engaged, and informed; consuming services over which they have control, influence and choice. We believe that government has a duty to ensure that vital public services are provided, but also recognise that a private enterprise, charity or community organisation is often able to provide these services better than any government agency can."

He spoke of the support which was being given by Essex County Council and other Essex local authorities to help organisations formed within communities.

There followed a question and answer session. Many of the matters raised were not directly related to the subject of the presentation but were nevertheless answered.

In closing the meeting the Chairman gave thanks to all that had attended.