

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th April 2010 at Great Waltham Village Hall

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr A Micklem

Councillors: Mrs Dickinson, Messrs Huggins, Braisby, Jackson, Blaber, Steel and Bell.

Also present: County Councillor John Aldridge, Borough Councillor Delmas Ashford, Mr Norman Robinson, Mr Geoff Halfhide.

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Harper, Mrs Slater, Mr Greenwood, Borough Councillor Malcolm Taylor, and PCSO Ian Hilton.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda.

Mr Braisby declared an interest in item 25.

4. Public Participation session with respect to items on the agenda.

5. Public Open Session – for any other items

(a) The clerk read an email from PCSO Hilton regarding items since the last meeting. It has been a quiet month with regard to nuisance youths. The Police had not received any telephone calls. One call had been received reference poaching. There was one distraction burglary in the village which is still being investigated, and one dwelling burglary in Howe Street which is under investigation. There was a theft of ladders in Great Waltham and a theft of metal in Howe Street for which a statement is awaited. There are a lot of thefts and burglaries at present all over Essex and there are several operations in place in response. The Police call upon all members of the public to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the Police.

(b) Mr Norman Robinson, Essex County Council displayed plans and spoke about the proposals for the modification of the junction of the B1008 and B1417 (Appletrees Corner) and discussed these with the Parish Council members and Mr Halfhide who was also present. Mr Robinson answered questions raised. It is proposed to make the junction into what Mr Robinson called a typical 'T' junction. It was proposed to block off the current 'on-slip' from the B1417 when joining the B1008 travelling southwards. The Parish Council voted on this proposal and it was agreed that the on-slip should be blocked off and a traditional two lane 'T' junction constructed. The northern off-slip from the B1008 would be made into a single lane with kerbing with an earth infill. Mr Robinson said that because of the location of the water main limited planting only could be carried out. Mr Robinson called for the Parish Council's consideration to be given to the type of bollard/barrier to be used to prevent vehicle encroachment.

(c) Mr Robinson reported that the proposals for a cycle route from Great Waltham into Chelmsford using public rights of way was nearing completion and should be with the Parish Council in the next few days.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15th March.

It was resolved that the Minutes be confirmed and signed.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports.

(a) Planning Committee 29th March 2010

Resolved: That the report be adopted

(b) Planning Committee 12th April 2010

Resolved: That the report be adopted

(c) Recreation Committee 12th April 2010

Resolved: That the report be adopted

8. Report of Planning Applications determined by the LPA's since the last meeting.

A report of planning applications determined since the last meeting was given.

9. To comment on the following planning applications.

(a) 10/00500/FUL Caxtons, Bennetts Lane, North End for Single storey side extension.

Comments: The Parish Council has no comments on this application.

(b) 10/00520/FUL The Nettles, The Village Great Waltham for Part single, part two storey rear extension.

Comments: The Parish Council applauds the efforts made by the applicant to reduce the effect of the development proposals on the neighbouring property.

10. Clerk's monthly report

10.1 Highways Matters

10.1.1 Flooding – Lane off Brook Hill North End – the job is anticipated to be completed by April /May.

10.1.2 B1008 – Great Dunmow – Little Waltham - weight restriction proposed by Barnston Parish Council

10.1.3 Village Gateways/Speed reduction features at Ford End. – has been applied for under the localism agenda.

10.1.4 Resurfacing road surface from Howe Street to Penden hill Corner – on the 2010/2011 surface dressing programme subject to budget confirmation.

– as reported above otherwise no further progress on any of these matters.

10.2 Howe Street Bus Shelter. – Nothing further to report.

10.3 Speed Indicator Device.

Reports from the Speed Indicator Device are as follows:

Location	Total Vehicles	Average per day	Up to 30mph	30 – 40mph	Over 40mph
Hatchfields, Great Waltham	9058	1132	4626	3283	1149
Main Road Howe Street facing Great Waltham	3423	571	1749	1515	159
Ford End School	14147	1768	4881	7178	2088
Burtons, Great Waltham	4704	784	2865	1280	179
The Turning Ford End	10726	1532	4450	5682	594

Essex Police have responded to the query raised indicating ACPO guidelines state that officers should look to take action based on 10% plus 2 on top of the speed limit. So in effect they would be looking at vehicles travelling at 36 and above. Officers have discretion and very often will stop and talk to a driver where the speed is just over 36mph. A speed check was carried out at Ford End on 15th March 2010 – 5 vehicles were issued with fixed penalty tickets.

A further request has been made to ECC to consider traffic calming measures for Ford End Village.

10.4 Road Improvements at the junction of the B1008 and B1417 (Appletrees Corner) – Mr Norman Robinson will present the proposals at the meeting.

10.5 Great Waltham School – School Wall – Nothing has been heard regarding a replacement wall.

10.6 Great Waltham Cycling Village Initiative – no further progress to report on this project.

10.7 Great Waltham Village Hall – Parish Focal Point/modification/refurbishment. – the Chairman reported that a meeting had been held with the consultants and representatives of the Great Waltham Village Hall Committee on 19th April 2010 and instructions had been given for the final proposals and for the project to be costed. Plans were expected to be available for display at the Annual Assembly. It was proposed to publicise the proposals and the costs involved in a leaflet to be issued to every household in late Summer and a Public Meeting called to provide the mandate to proceed.

10.8 Broads Green Notice Board – has been manufactured, prepared and would be erected tomorrow. New posts had been required as the old posts had been found to be rotten.

10.9 Donation of Public Seat at Ford End Playing Field – the order has been placed for the seat.

10.10 Parish Open Day – Great Waltham 20th March 2010. – 16 stalls attended the Parish Open Day.

There was a relatively slow start at 1pm, but picked up from 2pm. The visitor throughput was not great 15 counted at around 2.00pm, with a peak of about 35 at 3pm. Mr Steel has called for input for future years.

10.11 Easter Sports Programme – was held on 6th April 2010 and was attended by between 30 and 40 youngsters.

10.12 Recycling Facilities, Beehive Public House - CBC have reconsidered the provision of recycling facilities and have suggested that a better location for the facility would be Great Waltham Village Hall. The clerk has responded to CBC indicating that this was tried in the past and dismissed because of the experience of vandalism, youth nuisance, smashed glass and difficulty with insurance cover. It was suggested that the Beehive Public House represents a far more suitable site and called for further consideration to be given.

10.13 Bus Service 16 – no further report

10.14 North End Bus Shelter – a claim form has been sent to the Council's Insurers.

10.15 Ford End School Council - on Wednesday 17th March the Chairman and Clerk were welcomed warmly at Ford End School Council. A comparison of the functions of the Parish Council and the School Council took place, and a summary of matters currently being dealt with by the Parish Council was given. The greatest concern of the School Council was the speed of traffic passing the school. The School Council was considering the design and manufacture of a banner appealing to drivers to slow down. It was proposed that the banner would use artwork prepared by pupils and would be hung from the school fence in a prominent position.

10.16 Trees at Eastern end of Great Waltham Recreation Ground – Mr Foyle writes 'I have today formally accepted from the Contractor, commissioned by me, completion of works for renovation of the ten garage block in Upper Moors. The contractor has brought to my attention an adverse leaning of one of the trees for which the GWPC have responsibility. Additionally, as I have previously advised, I wish to inform you that we will hold

GWPC responsible for any further damage due to poor tree management and/or maintenance. I am inclined to remind you of a conversation held between yourself, myself and the Chair of the GWPC in late December 2009, when it was mutually agreed that routine inspection and proactive risk mitigation works would be performed by the GWPC to deny a repeat of the damage caused due to the legacy poor maintenance regime'.

The email has been acknowledged by the following response. 'Thank you for you e-mail of the 23rd March informing the Parish Council that you have replaced the guttering, downpipes and fascia at the rear of the garage block. Your e-mail insinuates that the Parish Council was responsible for the damage, a charge that they refute, based on the rationale given to you both in writing and at our meeting on 18th December 2009. Your email will be reported to the Parish Council at their next monthly meeting on the 19th April. At that meeting there is already an agenda item to discuss a leaning Cherry tree at the rear of the garages and I am assuming that this is the one to which you refer (if it is not then please could you provide further details). I will report back their decision on action to be taken after that meeting.

I can confirm that inspections of the area are now being carried out and that any works that are deemed necessary will be carried out. The Parish Council would like to remind you that the Council cannot be held responsible for any damage or decay caused by the gutters not being cleared on a regular basis or the natural deterioration of the paintwork or any damage caused by the routine maintenance, as applicable to any building, not being carried out by the owners, or damage as a result of vandalism'.

10.17 Trees at Great Waltham Recreation Ground Car Park – the Chairman reports 'EDF surveyed the trees on the right hand hedge in the Recreation Ground car park and found that two of the ash coppice suckers are too close to the overhead power lines. They sought consent to reduce the height of the trees to below the power line. I, as landowner gave consent for this - to take the trees down to 3ft below the line, subject to them checking with CBC regarding the conservation area consents. I will then take the tree down to the bottom and let it re-coppice once EDF have done their works'.

10.18 Cycle Day 24th July 2010 – Mr Huggins reports 'With my GW Community Network hat on, I'm organising a Cycle Day at the Great Waltham school on July 24th to help promote Great Waltham as a cycling village not only in terms of sustainability and health but as just great fun.

So far we have CBC's Bike Surgery coming between 10 and 12 to check over people's bikes etc and a police presence will advise on security marking etc. Hopefully we will be able to put up a presentation on the cycle path progress. One of the villagers, Jan Bloomfield, will have taken the cycle ride leader test so the plan is to arrange a ride out from the school at about 1 pm. Chris Mills is going to bring his penny farthing along. We are looking at any other ideas such as cycle jumble sales/bike swap/give away (all to be sorted out). I was wondering if any of you or your organisations could help/support/suggest anything else?'

10.19 Essex County Council – The Essex County Council (A130 Essex Regiment Way and A138 Chelmer Valley Road, Chelmsford) (Bus Lane) Order 2010 – Essex County Council inform that the Order has recently been made and came into effect on 31st March 2010. A copy of the Public Notice relating to the Order has been received.

10.20 Parsonage Lane Bridge – Essex County Council have reported the following surveillance operations at the bridge.

Date	TimeStart	Duration	Breaches
04/01/2010	14:30	60	0
14/01/2010	14:30	60	1
20/01/2010	13:45	65	0
22/01/2010	08:30	70	0
26/01/2010	13:40	60	0
04/02/2010	12:45	60	0
16/02/2010	14:10	60	2
24/02/2010	13:38	60	1
02/03/2010	14:20	60	1
12/03/2010	07:10	60	1
17/03/2010	13:00	60	0
26/03/2010	10:30	60	0

All drivers caught breaching weight restriction orders in Essex are identified and sent a warning letter. If the driver is caught breaching in Essex again, they are dealt with by way of either prosecution or formal caution. This approach has the desired effect – statistics show that of the 1772 contraventions identified to date in Essex formal action has only been taken against 14 – less than 1%.

Mr Bell says 'My personal opinion is that the new replacement signs have been a great success. The number of violators has reduced dramatically as the quarterly reports have confirmed'.

10.21 CBC - Parish Council Meeting – an invitation to attend the next meeting has been received. It will be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 26th May 2009 at 7pm. The meeting will include the following topics Local Development Framework Update (i.e. North Chelmsford Area Action Plan, Statement of Community Involvement ,

Site Allocations Development Plan Document, Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document . There will also be a General DC Update including Non Material Amendments Procedure, Permitted Development Rights for Commercial Buildings and Enforcement Appeal Process. Other topics can be discussed at the Parish Council's request. Councillors wishing to attend should make arrangements through the clerk.

10.22 Quality Parish Council Status – The clerk is pleased to be able to report that The Parish Council has successfully passed the Quality Parish Council re-accreditation procedure and QPC status was re-determined in March 2010. A decision will require to be made in the future regarding the certificate presentation ceremony.

10.23 Footway – Stumps Cross to Ford End – has been sprayed off on 8th April 2010 by the Chairman to prevent weed growth on the footway.

10.24 Grass Verge Cutting – On 1st April 2010 the clerk had a meeting with John Dobinson and Chris Fox of Essex County Council to discuss the grass verge cutting programme for 2010. A paper was presented as follows: That all verges in Great Waltham Parish receive a single width cut (1 metre) in April/May and one full width cut in August/ September. This will allow wild flowers to seed and flourish.

The exceptions to this proposal are

- Where sight lines need to be maintained for road safety reasons
- Roadside nature reserves (which have their own cutting regime)

A list of areas where site lines need to be maintained was included in the paper.

ECC representatives indicated that the current policy was one full width cut per annum. ECC had found that this was inadequate and had generated many complaints and therefore arranged for two full width cuts to take place. They are reluctant to operate any other regime as they fielded many complaints (some from the Great Waltham area) when a single width cut did take place – now some few years ago. Single width cuts on roads with fast moving traffic will not be entertained (e.g. the B1008). The contract sum has already been agreed having gone out to tender some years ago. To reduce one cut to single width would not reduce the cost to ECC. The ECC representatives expressed the point of view that the cutting regime was planned to be beneficial to the flora on roadside verges and suggested that the Parish Council should speak to Emma Simmonds – The Countryside and Ecology Officer at ECC regarding this. ECC indicated that they were prepared to consider carrying out an experiment for a single width cut on some verges – The clerk had suggested that the Parish Council ought to carefully consider where these should be, and suggested both sides of Margaret Woods Road from Walnut Tree Farm to Margaret Woods Farm (straight road, no sheep's parsley and known to be a habitat of bee orchids). Breeds Road between the junction of Margaret Woods Road and Pest House Lane (Green gate). Pendon Hill Corner – the bank on the eastern side of the corner behind the footway. Pendon Hill Corner – no cutting beyond the ditch dug to prevent gypsy encroachment. Wide verges in Bury Lane – eastern and western side close by the Ford. Hyde Hall Lane – where tree planting has taken place. North End – Mill Road – wide verge on eastern side of road near village nameplate. Most other areas are less than a single width cut and therefore a single sweep would probably be virtually a full cut of the verge anyway.

The clerk had also emailed Emma Simmonds to try to get her to come to a monthly meeting or the Annual Assembly to explain this.

A reply has been received as follows – 'Thank you for inviting me to attend one of your parish council meetings. To clarify, I am not the person who decides on the cutting regimes for the roadside verges as this is decided by ECC Highways staff. Therefore, not sure that I would be the right person to attend your meeting. However, I am involved in the Essex Special Roadside Verges project which advises on the management of areas of verge across Essex which have been identified as important for their wildflowers and are marked by wooden posts with white plastic disks to inform contractors and the public of their location. There are currently no Special Verges in Great Waltham Parish. I attach a leaflet (in two pdfs) which explains the project. I would be interested to know which species which you believe are declining as a result of the County Council's management.

Please find below some general comments about managing species rich grasslands.

All grasslands need management, especially cutting. The difficulty with management is getting the balance right. From an ecological viewpoint, management should maximise the opportunities for plants to flower, set seed, and allow as wide a range of invertebrates as possible to establish viable populations on the site. At the same time management should prevent the grassland from changing into scrub or woodland.

If grasslands are not cut regularly neighbouring hedgerows will gradually encroach and woody species will gradually take over, suppressing the rare wild flowers. If only a narrow cut is undertaken woody species will be allowed to encroach upon the areas adjacent to hedgerows at the back of the verge even more. Conversely, if grasslands are cut too frequently or at the wrong time of year the plants will not be able to flower and set seed.

It is therefore essential to ensure that grasslands are cut at the correct time and are not cut at the wrong time. I.e. they should be cut when flowers are not flowering and should not be cut when they are flowering. This is explained in more detail in the leaflet.

Species rich grasslands also tend to be found on low fertile soils and benefit from the removal of vegetation cuttings which create a layer of thatch, suppressing the rarer species.

The main safety issue on roads lies with cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). This is a plant that flowers from April to July. Large umbellifers are typically frequent throughout the verges and sometimes

abundant with the sequential flowering of first, cow parsley and later hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). In addition, false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) has clear floristic affinity with this community on roadside verges. To reduce the vigour of these species that are a problem with safety, cost and ecology, it is advisable to remove the cut material. Failure to do so will encourage their growth. A practical and economic solution to removing grass arisings for all Special Verges has been investigated but not yet been found.

Therefore, if you wish to do try one annual cut I would suggest that this is done in September, unless you know that the verges contain late flowering plants.

I hope that this information helps to inform the future management of the verges of Great Waltham'.

Mr Jackson suggested that the information regarding verge cutting should be made available at the Annual Assembly.

10.25 Parishes Event – 12th April 2010 – Mr Steel and the Clerk attended. The event was specifically designed for Clerks and councillors to enable a greater understanding of the Local Strategic Partnership and to enhance knowledge of the different services that the Borough Council undertakes. The clerk reports that the concept is difficult to understand but appears to be a further 'partnership' arrangement with other tiers of Local Government the Police and NHS. The Borough Council seek to know what the wishes, aspirations and desires of parishioners are and this would appear to be best served by issuing CBC with a copy of the Parish Plan. Further information can be found on www.chelmsfordpartnership.co.uk This is the early stages of development of the partnership.

11. Report from County Councillor. – County Councillor Aldridge had left the meeting following item 5 and therefore no report was made.

12. Report from Borough Councillor(s) – Borough Councillor Ashford reported on a planning application which had recently taken place and also indicated that the North Chelmsford Area Action Plan adoption had been delayed because of the General Election. This should however cause no delay in the overall programme for the Examination in Public.

13. Cherry Trees at Eastern End of Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

A report received from Anne Hooper (ECC Tree Officer) indicated that the nearest trees to the garage block are two cherry trees, both of which are located less than 1m from the rear wall of the garages. There is some overhang of the garages by the crown spreads of the trees, but the trees are not physically touching the structure. In the event of damage allegedly being sustained to a property by trees, it is usual for a property owner (or more usually, his insurance company) to demonstrate that on the balance of probabilities that the tree is a contributing factor to the damage sustained to the property. Anne Hooper suggested that in this instance, as a goodwill gesture to the residents (and indeed to reduce the risk of actual damage occurring), it would be prudent to remove the two cherries on a 'without prejudice' basis, given their close proximity to the building. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the felling of the two cherry trees.

14. Dog Fouling and disposal of dog 'poo' bags

Mr Huggins drew attention to the growing problem caused by the indiscriminate disposal of dog faeces in non bio-degradable bags along hedgerows and particularly the Essex Way between Bury Lane and Great Waltham village. The possibility of siting a dog bin at one end was considered. It was agreed that temporary notices would be erected at each end of the footpath asking for more care and consideration to be given. An article would also be placed in the Parish News calling for dog owners to suggest possible sites for dog bins.

15. Twinning Gifts

Mr Steel spoke on the forthcoming twinning exchange to Ceyrat in May involving five countries and will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning arrangement. It was felt appropriate that a gift should be presented at the celebration from Great Waltham Parish Council to Ceyrat Town Council and amongst suggestions was a book of Local Walks written by George Hassan and some bottles of the local Langleys Wine. Any other suggestions should be referred to Mr Steel.

It was agreed to expend up to £50 on a suitable gift.

16. Annual Assembly Arrangements – Topic for the Annual Assembly?

The clerk reported that invitations had been sent out to the MP, County and Borough Councillors and to all Parish Organisations. The Annual report containing an invitation to every parishioner was distributed to councillors and the clerk for circulation to every household in the Parish. The normal format for the evening would take place with the business part of the meeting first followed by speakers on the following topics. The main topic would be the Parish Plan and a presentation would be given by Mr Braisby.

Consideration was given to inviting a speaker to talk on Transition Towns (Greener communities). It was felt that this was too shorter notice for advertising the topic for this Annual Assembly. It was however considered that such a topic might be employed at a later date.

17. Speeding and reducing the speed limits.

Mr Micklem spoke of the applications made by the Parish Council for speed restrictions and speed reduction features. Having written on many occasions it was felt that the Parish Council should call for a meeting to be arranged with the Highways Department to discuss the situation.

18. Review of Parish Open Day 20th March 2010

Mr Steel reported (see item 10.10 above). It was suggested that the event be held every two years and possibly linking it with another event would encourage more people to attend. Mr Steel asked for ideas for such an event and the Annual Assembly was suggested as a possibility.

19. Application for Sheds at Brookmead Allotment

Two applications for sheds on Brookmead allotments had been received. One allotment holder had an 8.5 rod allotment and the other 7.5 rods. The Parish Council rules indicated that 10 rods of allotment must be allocated before a shed was permitted. The applications were therefore refused.

20. To consider comments prepared by Mr Steel on the Essex County Council document 'The Essex School Organisation Plan 2009-2014'.

Mr Steel reported on his perusal of the document. Population continues to rise in the Chelmsford area- 142,100 in 2008, versus 135,400 in 2003. There was a slight drop in nursery and secondary pupils over same period, but birth rate is increasing. Regional Spatial Strategy requires 16,000 further houses to be built in Chelmsford before 2021. 3,570 are already built leaving 12,430 to build. Total Chelmsford 2009 primary and secondary places is 25,167, expected to fall to 24,721 (-2%) without housing by 2014, but rise to 25,393 (+1%) with housing – not a great change either way. Free transport to school applies to >2 miles for below 8 years old, and >3 miles for over 8 – so Great Waltham is unlikely to benefit. Primary class sizes requirement 30:1

Page 54 - Stated presumption of keeping small schools open even if numbers fall as long as education provided is secure and value for money. Ideally primary should have >50 pupils, but 30 to 50 still seen as viable! Also page 56 supports small schools (100 pupils) and very small (50) especially in rural areas – to avoid excessive travel. But 3 classes is considered a practical min = 90 pupils, 120 and 4 classes preferred.

Comment – there is a contradiction between pages 54 and 56. Page 54 states that “ideally primary, infant or junior schools should have a roll of 50 or more pupils, schools of between 30 to 50 pupils are acknowledged to be viable” whereas page 56 states that “ a school with 3 classes (90 pupils) is considered a practical minimum ...”

The report states where surplus is projected to rise above 10%, proposals should be made to bring to 5%.

Ford End: 2009 - Capacity 84, current roll 53, Surplus 31 (37%). 2014 forecast – no change – surplus brings FE school into some of the possible actions above. It was suggested that the roll at Ford End may well now be out of date.

Great Waltham: 2009 - Capacity 140, current roll 150, Deficit 10. 2014 forecast – roll falls to 141 so 1 deficit
Page 58 states that “the local Authority reviews annually those schools with at least 30 surplus places and a 75% or less occupancy rate”

Chelmer Valley: 2009 - Capacity 1,116, current roll 1,131, Deficit 15. 2014 forecast – roll rises to 1,181 so 65 deficit – presumably this accommodates St Peter's closure (this is shown as 0 capacity in 2014. Why doesn't the 2014 Chelmer Valley capacity increase as they are receiving extra funding to accommodate transfers from St Peters?

Page 75 shows that Chelmsford Secondary school capacity does not change between 2009 and 2014 – how does this reflect the closure of St Peter's – surely the capacity would go down? Chelmer Valley capacity does not show a rise, so it can't be due to a transfer of capacity (Appendix 1b)

21. To consider comments prepared by Mr Huggins on the Essex County Council document 'Cycling Framework consultation' (Closing date for comments 7th May 2010).

Mr Huggins had perused the consultation document and reported.

Basically this framework is setting the stage for promoting cycling in Essex for the next three years and is building on the fact that Essex is hosting the 2012 Olympics Mountain Bike event at Hadleigh Farm. Cycling activity is only about a quarter of what it was in the 1950s. In the 2001 census only 2.51% of Essex people travelled by bike.

The Strategy highlights the following points: Cycling's benefits to health: Cycling as a way to meet new people and discover new places: Expanding on the current level of cycle sports available, in particular mountain biking:

Cycling as a form of sustainable transport: As a way to bring extra tourism to Essex: Cycling contributes to 7 child and 7 adult National Indicators for Local Authorities

In Nov 2008 Essex County Council set up its Cycling Steering Group that formed the following: 2012 Legacy and Strategic Sport Team: Sustainable Travel Teams: Network Management Team (to develop infrastructure to increase cycling: Road Safety (training - children and adults): Tourism: Public rights of way (one area in particular is the creation of Cycle Track Conversion Orders, this is the conversion of footpaths which currently forbid cycling. This is probably relevant to the Parish Council's proposals for a Broads Green to Partridge Green cycleway).

The framework goals are - Increase the number of cycle sports events and participation levels in Essex :More people using cycling as their preferred travel option: Increase recreational cycling throughout the County: Create the image as Essex as a cycling destination.

The framework fits in very well with the cycling initiatives already underway in Great Waltham. It was agreed to make the following comments - there is little mention of the environmental benefits and monetary savings to people. As well as all the advantages mentioned cycling will also: Reduce traffic on the roads: Reduce the amount of fossil fuel used and hence CO2 released: Save people 10 to 20 pence per mile in fuel costs: If people cycled to work one day a week they would save 20% of their travel costs and reduce their emissions by 20%.

22. To consider the use of the Public Address System by organisations outside Great Waltham Parish.

A request to use the Public Address System had been received by the Friends of Little Waltham School for their annual Fete. The Parish Council considered the request and determined that the public address system had been purchased for the benefit of organisations from within Great Waltham Parish and therefore the use by an organisation from outside Great Waltham Parish was not acceptable.

23. To confirm the purchase of cedar shingles to repair the Great Waltham Bus Shelter following vandalism at a cost of £63 plus VAT

The purchase was confirmed.

24. To consider continuing membership of The Essex Association of Local Councils – annual subscription £409.13 which includes £90.93 payable to the National Association of Local Councils. (.9% increase on last year)

It was agreed that membership should be continued.

25. To adopt the Parish Plan.

Mr Braisby declared an interest.

It was resolved that the Parish Plan be adopted.

26. To consider the installation of two public seats at Great Waltham Recreation Ground. (budget £600)

Following consideration of seating it was agreed to order two 1500mm Classic Benches as manufactured by Whitehouse enterprises at a cost of £270 per bench.

27. To consider and comment upon the public consultation about the proposal to amalgamate the Edith Borthwick School and the Southview School onto a new site on land off Springwood Drive, Braintree to form a 240 place Community Special School for children and young people aged 3 – 19 years. (Closing date for comments 24th May 2010)

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not comment upon the document.

28. Confirmation of Cheques

Cheques were drawn and signed by two members as follows:

£ 387.75 Grounds Maintenance March 2010

£ 336.00 New Notice Board for Broads Green

£ 10.48 New Combination Lock for Outer Gate at Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

£ 83.52 Roofing shingles for Great Waltham bus shelter and hazard tape.

£ 24.64 Water Supply, Changing Rooms p/e 30th September 2010

£ 409.13 Annual Subscription EALC/NALC

£ 20.25 Varnish for Broads Green Notice Board

£ 10.99 Stationery

£ 20.56 Payroll Fee April 2010

£ 532.06 Seat at Ford End Playing Field.

£ 320.83 Handyman's wages, mileage and out of pocket expenses

£ 656.41 Clerk's salary plus administrative expenses.

£ 155.25 Printing of Annual Report.

29. Matters for the next agenda.

(a) Report back on Twinning Exchange (Mr Steel)