

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th January 2012 at Ford End Village Hall.

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr A Micklem

Councillors: Mrs Farrant, Mrs Patch, Mr Jackson, Mr Leyde, Mr Huggins, Mr Bell, Mr Blaber, Mr Braisby, Mr Steel, and Mr McDevitt.

Also present: County Councillor John Aldridge (from item 9B), Mr Alan Adcock.

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from PCSO Ian Hilton and PC Rob Bentley.

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

Mr Jackson declared an interest in item 7b.

Mr Micklem declared an interest in item 7b, 14 and 20.

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

(a) Mr Alan Adcock provided information and answered questions raised by members regarding agenda item 14.

(b) Mr Alexander Micklem spoke about agenda item 20 as landowner and as a member of the public. He indicated that the area had been the subject of a TPO since 2004 although he had not been informed about this at the time. Mr Micklem related the content of a letter and outlined his objections which he had sent to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the proposed TPO (a copy of the letter had been received by the Parish Council). Mr Micklem answered questions from members.

5. Public Open Session – for any other items.

PCSO Ian Hilton passed on his best wishes to the Parish Council and provided a written report of crimes in the Parish as follows:

25th November 2011. Fanners Green. Nuisance vehicle, no units free not attended.

30th November 2011. Pleshey Road . Nuisance vehicle, index given and owner visited and told to stop. No further calls.

5th January 2012. South Street. Criminal damage, vehicle widow broken by persons unknown, incident ongoing.

PCSO Hilton called upon everybody to be vigilant with regards to suspicious activities.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 19th December 2011.

It was resolved that the Minutes be confirmed and signed.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports.

(a) Planning Committee Meeting 9th January 2012.

Resolved: That this report be adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee Meeting 9th January 2012

Mr Jackson declared an interest.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Resolved: That this report be adopted.

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

There was no report of applications determined.

9. To comment on the following planning applications.

(a) 11/01934/FUL 2, 4 & 8 Barrack Lane, Great Waltham for demolition of 3 No Airey houses located at No's 2, 4 & 8 Barrack Lane, Great Waltham & the construction of 8 affordable dwellings (5 houses & 3 bungalows)

Comments: The Parish Council supports the redevelopment of the site, and wishes to raise the following matters.

(a) Concern is expressed regarding the proposed development of Plot 3 with a four bedroomed property and the effect that the roofline which is far higher than the other plots and the remaining Airey house dwelling adjacent to Plot 3, and the streetscene in general. The Great Waltham VDS says 'large houses are generally not appropriate' and 'alterations and extensions should complement

the existing character of the area' – the heightened roofline of the plot 3 dwelling does not complement the streetscene in Barrack Lane.

The Great Waltham VDS also supports:

(i) a small number of new dwellings.

(ii) sympathetic infill development.

(iii) Two-bedroom starter homes.

(iv) Social Housing – There is no support for further executive properties

(v) All new development should be no different in scale to that of the surrounding buildings.

Whilst the proposed development is in accord with some aspects of these guidelines it does not accord with part of (iv) and certainly not with (v).

(b) The materials used in this development should be in keeping with the other buildings in the local streetscene.

(c) The garden of number 8 Barrack Lane is infested with weed horse/mare's tail which is a very pernicious weed which can be seriously spread by earth movement. Care must be taken in the development works to eradicate the weed from the site.

(b) 11/01977/FUL Wrens Cottage, Larks Lane, Great Waltham for single storey front extension

Comments: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

10. Clerk's monthly report

10.1 Highways Matters

10.1.1 Bridge at Hartford End Mill. – repairs are underway.

10.2 Speed Indicator Device.

Reports from the Speed Indicator Device are as follows:

Location	Total Vehicles	Average per day	Up to 30mph	Over 30 mph up to 40mph	Over 40mph
Sandon Hill, Ford End	10581	1889	2408 (23%)	6753 (64%)	1420 (13%)
Ford End School	18792	1503	5160 (27%)	10246 (55%)	3386 (18%)

Reference was made to emergency vehicles travelling at 'excessive' speeds through Ford End village on a regular basis. Further investigation of this would be undertaken by reference to the SID recordings and the attention of the Police would be drawn to this if found to be necessary.

10.3 Great Waltham School – School Wall – No further progress has been made with this project.

10.4 Speeding and reducing the speed limits – nothing further has been heard. This matter has been chased with County Councillor Tracey Chapman.

10.5 Quiet Lanes – nothing further to report on this matter.

10.6 Willow tree between Beehive Public House and Walthambury Stores – Nothing further has been heard since that meeting held on 28th July 2011.

10.7 Transport Needs Survey – the survey has now been completed and the results circulated. A report will be prepared on this survey for the next meeting.

10.8 Unofficial Layby – near Oak House, Main Road, Howe Street - nothing further has been heard.

10.9 Tree Planting Schemes 2011/12 - an application has been made for grant aid towards replanting a cherry tree at Howe Street Playing Field. A response is awaited.

10.10 Bus Stops - Green Man Public House, Howe Street. (42A) - Following consultation one comment in support and two with comments against the proposed site have been received and forwarded to ECC suggesting that a further site meeting be held to determine a possible site which would satisfy all.

Nothing further has been heard regarding stops at Kings Farm, Ford End, Repositioning of the southbound bus stop at Appletrees Corner or the Junction of Hatchfields and Chelmsford Road, Great Waltham. (42A and 52)

10.11 Water Supply Brookmead and Bury Lane allotments – no further progress has been made with this project.

10.12 Winter maintenance programme – as a result of the mild weather conditions no action has been required.

10.13. Wicksteed Pick-up Sticks 6 – see recreation Committee report 9th January 2012.

10.14 Replacement Train – see recreation Committee report 9th January 2012.

10.15 Basketball Goal, Ford End Playing Field – see recreation Committee report 9th January 2012.

10.16 Telephone Kiosks – information relating to the North End kiosk has been set to BT. BT have responded 'Thanks for your e-mail have now actioned and passed on to the engineering group to deal'. Mr McDevitt reported that the kiosk at North End had now been repaired.

10.17 Tree Preservation Orders – TPO's have been served as follows:

- (a) Walnut Tree Farm, Fanners Green – A Walnut, Willow Ash and three silver birch all within the curtilage of Walnut Tree Farm.
- (b) Margaret Woods Farm – An Alder, Oak and Ash within the curtilage of the farm.
- (c) Land west of Margaret Woods Farmhouse, Margaret Woods Road – two oaks, two walnuts and a quince within the orchard of Margaret Woods Farmhouse.
- (d) Land North East of Walnut Tree Farm, Fanners Green – belt of trees screening former gravel workings.

10.18 Parsonage Lane Bridge, Howe Street.

The following is a report of enforcement work undertaken at Howe Street Bridge since 1st October 2011.

Date	TimeStart	Duration	Breaches	BreachesByForeignVehicles
11/10/2011	11:25	60	0	0
09/11/2011	12:50	60	1	0
14/11/2011	14:15	60	1	0
17/11/2011	14:00	60	0	0
25/11/2011	11:00	35	2	0
25/11/2011	12:15	60	0	0
01/12/2011	14:35	60	0	0
15/12/2011	13:50	60	0	0
21/12/2011	10:45	60	3	0

Essex Trading Standards reports that to date they have dealt with well over 4000 contraventions county wide, they have prosecuted 15 drivers and formally cautioned a further 28 for repeatedly breaking the law. It was suggested that information relating to the prosecutions made should be included in the Parish News.

10.19 Speed Indicator Device.

A further report from the Speed Indicator Device is as follows:

Location	Total Vehicles	Average per day	Up to 30mph	Over 30 mph up to 40mph	Over 40mph
Burtons, Great Waltham	4211	766	2694(64%)	1335 (32%)	182 (4%)

10.20 Police coverage - Rumours are rife that Great Waltham Parish will not have any PCSO coverage at some point in the future. An email was sent to Essex Police and the following response has been received from Inspector Kilgallen. 'I am currently the neighbourhood policing Inspector for your area and will continue to be so after the major Essex Police Reform changes which will come into force on 1st March 2012. Your current PCSO is Ian Hilton who has requested a move elsewhere. When and if this does occur then an alternative PCSO will be nominated for your area. However, at this time it remains unclear whether Ian will be moving or not and so I am not in a position to identify who his replacement will be if this does happen'.

10.21 CBC – Sports and Play Schemes 2012 (deadline for booking 10th February 2012) – a letter has been received from CBC offering schemes for the Easter and Summer school holidays 2012. The Parish Council has set aside a budget of £300 for the Holiday Play Scheme. There are changes to the schemes on offer this year to segregate play opportunities for 0 -11 years and 12 – 16 years. This is an extension of the age limit of the scheme which in previous years has been for up to 14 year olds. There are also additional activities available this year including Bike Trials, Bouncy castles, Bouncy Ball Pits, etc.

The Chairman of the Recreation Committee and the clerk will meet to discuss and formulate the 2012 Parish programme.

11. Report from County Councillor.

County Councillor Aldridge spoke about the countywide traveller unit, the re-grading of ECC Children and Young people's service as adequate and the funding of schools pointing out that a response had not been received from Ford End primary school. He also referred to the changes to the ECC Highways which would take place from 1st April 2012, and indicated that the Highways reporting system could be accessed through him.

County Councillor Aldridge was thanked for his regular attendance at Parish Council meetings.

12. Report from Borough Councillor(s)

There were no Borough Councillors present. It was agreed to write to each of the Borough Councillors giving a list of the dates and indicating that the Parish Council would appreciate their attendance if possible.

13. To consider suggestions for Conservation area enhancement in accordance with the letter from received CBC and circulated to members on 17th December 2011.

A letter from CBC indicated that one of the Borough Council's roles as local planning authority is to support enhancements to conservation areas. The Council's conservation service can facilitate improvement works, as opportunities arise. The letter invited the Parish Council to suggest specific works that would enhance the character of your conservation area. The suggestions made would help CBC to make a list of beneficial and achievable enhancements across the borough's conservation areas for guiding resources over the next two to three years. CBC could provide design work and check land ownership, constraints and available funds. Parish councillors were called upon to make suggestions for consideration by Monday 6 February 2012, although this would not be the last chance as the schedule would be updated with subsequent proposals.

Following discussion it was agreed to respond that works to rebuild the demolished part of the school wall and to repair the low school wall and also the lamppost re-painting programme.

14. To consider allowing the Great Waltham Recreation Ground hedge adjacent to Hatchfields to be 'laid' as a training exercise arranged by Great Waltham Horticultural Society.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Following discussion it was agreed that the proposal to 'lay' the Great Waltham Recreation Ground hedge running parallel to Hatchfields would be permitted. Before doing so it was agreed that Mr Adcock would prepare an article for the Parish News to explain what the process involved.

15. To consider moving the date of the Spring Litter clear up to 10th March 2012.

As 10th March 2012 clashed with the Village Show it was agreed to move the date to 24th March 2012.

16. To discuss whether the Parish Council should organise a 'Parish Open Day' in 2012.

Following discussion it was agreed not to have a separate event as a 'Parish Open Day'. Parish Organisations would be invited to attend, speak and/or set up stalls at the Annual Assembly to be held on 14th May 2012 at Great Waltham Village Hall.

17. To consider comments prepared by Mr Huggins on the Essex County Council consultation document 'Essex County Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council - Joint Waste Development Document - Preferred Approach (November 2011)' closing date for comments 19th January 2012)

Mr Huggins reported 'This is the latest stage of the development of a Waste Development Document (WDD) which is being jointly put together with Southend on Sea Council. The WDD is a plan for how Essex and Southend on Sea expect to meet all future waste management requirements over the plan period of 2010 to 2031.

Great Waltham Parish Council commented on the last version in 2010. The WDD is planned for adoption in 2014 and there will be further consultation before then.

This version of the WDD sets out a Vision, 8 Strategic Objectives and 23 Preferred Approaches, that will help shape the Core Strategy, Recycling and Recovery, Disposal and Development.

In general the consultation asks if the Parish Council agrees or disagrees with the proposed Strategies and Preferred Approaches and to give reasons why.

For the residents of the Parish all of the Strategies and Preferred Approaches seem very logical and non-controversial. There are no waste management facilities in our Parish or planned to be'.

Mr Huggins therefore proposed that at this time the Parish Council does not submit a response. This proposal was agreed.

18. To consider an application for the use of part of the former Ford End Cricket Field for car parking (approximately 20 cars) in connection with a local wedding on 15th September 2012.

It was agreed that the owner of the land should be consulted. The Parish Council had no objections to the use of the former Ford End Cricket Pitch for this purpose.

19. To consider the offer from CBC for Parish Cleansing days during 2012.

A letter from CBC reported that as part of the Councils commitment to keeping Chelmsford Borough a clean and pleasant place to live, work and play they were running Parish Cleansing Days for 2012. As these resources are supplied by the Street Care Service, and therefore have to be planned in advance, parishes have been asked to complete and return the form with preferred dates which will be assigned on a strictly first come, first served basis.

Following discussion it was agreed to put forward three items as follows:

- (a) Clearance of leaves – Penden Hill Corner to Howe Street (Autumn 2012).
- (b) Ongoing maintenance of the cleared area of land at Penden hill corner (Autumn 2012)
- (c) Litter Picking on the B1008 and B1417 in Great Waltham Parish.

20. Tree Preservation Orders - Land North East of Walnut Tree Farm, Fanners Green - belt of trees screening former gravel workings. (see item 10.17 of Clerks Report)- Mr Micklem

Mr Micklem declared an interest and left the meeting. Mr Steel chaired the meeting. A letter had been received from CBC (see item 10.17 (d) above) indicating that a TPO had been made on 21st December 2011 on the belt of trees. The reason was stated that the TPO continued to protect trees on the edge of the former gravel pit and act as a screen. The linear belt consisted of two woodland belts which had matured since the previous TPO made in 2004 and formed a wildlife habitat of great importance in the countryside. A copy letter of objection to the TPO which had been sent to CBC by the landowner, was also presented for consideration.

Following consideration it was agreed to note the correspondence as a matter of report.

21. Signs indicating Great Waltham to Broomfield Hospital Cycleway

The clerk reported that signs had been installed indicating the route of the cycleway. There are seven signs in total six of which are the heavy white direction fingerposts.

Signs had been installed in Great Waltham Parish as follows:

- (a) Give Way Sign junction of South Street Main Road, Great Waltham (small blue sign).
- (b) The green at the junction of South Street/Breeds Road/Hoe Lane.
- (c) Corner of Broads Green

Signs had been installed in Broomfield Parish as follows:

- (d) Bend in Footpath 1 at GR693119
- (e) Entrance to Partridge Green Farm GR694119
- (f) Bend in Woodhouse Lane near Partridge Green Cottages GR696117
- (g) Wood House Lane/Court Road North junction

The clerk reported that he had a telephone call from the owner of the land upon whose land the cycleway crossed. He was very upset about the signs which have been placed on his land without consultation or permission. At the time when negotiations were taking place with the landowner about the use of a footpath by cyclists he was very concerned about signing for the cycleway and it was agreed that this would be kept low key and to an absolute minimum. The landowner had issued an ultimatum to the effect that either the signs are taken down or he will re-erect the stiles on the footpath which will then effectively stop cyclists from using the cycleway.

The installation of a directional finger post on Broads Green had been carried out without the Parish Council's agreement or permission.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to ECC requesting:

That sign (b) at Hoe Lane be removed and replaced by a small blue directional indicator, as used on similar cycleways in the area, on the direction fingerpost in the centre of the small grass island. That sign (c) be removed and replaced by a small blue directional indicator, as used on similar cycleways in the area, on the wooden footpath fingerpost. That signs (d), (e), and (f) be removed in good faith and in the spirit of the original agreement of the landowner. The future of sign (g) should be decided upon by Broomfield Parish Council.

In addition ECC would be requested to install two safety signs in Hoe Lane (one in each direction) attached to existing road sign posts indicating width restriction post (travelling southwards) and on the speed de-restriction sign post (travelling northwards). The safety signs to focus motorist's attention that the road is shared with cyclists.

22. Should the clerk be emailing items from sustainable government? (Mr Bell)

Following discussion it was agreed that further investigation of the source of the emailed information should take place before deciding what to do.

23. Where should the Jubilee Oak Tree donated by CBC be planted? – there may be a possibility of two trees.

Two trees had now been received. This information would be provided to the Great Waltham and the Ford End Jubilee Committees to allow consideration to be given to sites for the trees to be planted.

24. Confirmation of Cheques

To note the following payments

£ 500.00 Rent Parish Office – December 2011

£ 23.00 Electricity Changing Rooms – December 2011

Cheques are to be drawn and signed by two members as follows:

£ 456.00 Grounds Maintenance December 2011
£ 208.91 Handyman's, wages and mileage and out of pocket expenses.
£ 811.31 Clerk's Salary and Expenses

25. Matters for the next agenda.

There were none.