

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr A Micklem

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

Also present: County Councillor John Aldridge and Ms S Luck (item 9c only).

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Harper, Mr Jackson, Mr Braisby, Borough Councillor Delmas Ashford, Borough Councillor Malcolm Taylor, Village Agent Jo Metson and PCSO Ian Hilton.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There was no public participation with respect to items on the agenda. Ms Luck answered questions about item 9c at the time that the application was considered.

5. Public Open Session – for any other items

(a) The Clerk read a report from PCSO Hilton which indicated that it had been a busy month around the area but mainly small things. There has been one burglary and a theft from a shed.

The main item of report was that the NPT is undergoing some restructuring, and had now moved to Moulsham Lodge police station. In the coming weeks there would be changes in shifts which will mean that a PCSO on duty covering the Broomfield and Walthams beat from 0800 till at least 2200 each day. It is hoped that once these changes have taken place the Police will be able to attend more meetings in person and provide a better service.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st June 2010.

It was resolved that the Minutes be confirmed and signed.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports.

(a) **Recreation Committee 28th June 2010** - Mr Bell opened a discussion on item 10 indicating that the re-decoration of the changing rooms had been carried out to a very high professional standard and proposed that the Parish Council should meet the total cost of the works (i.e. £173.40). No seconder was forthcoming and the motion was lost. Mr Micklem then proposed the adoption of the Recreation Committee report. This was seconded and agreed.

(b) Planning Committee 5th July 2010

Resolved: That the report be adopted

(c) Planning Committee 12th July 2010

Resolved: That the report be adopted

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

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

9. To comment on the following planning applications.

(a) **10/01039/FUL, The Retreat, Margaret Woods Road, Great Waltham for Replacement dwelling with detached garage (amendment to approval 10/00492/FUL)**

Comments: The Parish Council supports the 'green credentials' of this application.

(b) **10/01055/FUL Shaws, Little Green for replacement dwelling (amendment to previous approval 10/00421/FUL).**

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

(c) **10/00987/FUL Halcyon, Main Road, Howe Street for part single storey, part two storey rear extension. (deferred from 12th July due to non-availability of plans)**

Comments

(i) The Parish Council is pleased that two of the three issues raised on the previous application have been addressed.

(ii) The height of the wall of the extension appears a little over burdensome on the neighbouring property as it is very close to the boundary

10.1 Highways Matters

10.1.1 Flooding – Lane off Brook Hill North End – works have been undertaken the results of which will be examined when next it rains.

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 – has been carried out.

10.1.5 Bridge at Hartford End Mill.

10.1.6 Metal projections at Bury Lane Ford

10.1.7 Verge Opposite The Compasses Public House, Littley Green – ECC have indicated that it is intended to fill the overruns with road planings, roll them in and then topsoil over to reinstate the verge.

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

10.2 Howe Street Bus Shelter. – ECC have indicated that the plans for the replacement passenger shelter in Howe Street have been put on hold as a consequence of the change in national government and spending controls imposed.

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
Ford End School	24667	1794	8812	12480	3375
Main Road, Howe Street, facing Great Waltham	4410	630	2009	2199	202

10.4 Road Improvements at the junction of the B1008 and B1417 (Appletrees Corner) – the proposed starting date for the scheme is 26 July.

10.5 Great Waltham School – School Wall – A meeting called for Friday 16th July 2010 was postponed in view of the lack of information. The Chairman reported that a meeting was being arranged for 28th July 2010. A report will be given at the next available Parish Council meeting.

10.6 Great Waltham Cycling Village Initiative. – there has been no further progress on the cycleway. A Cycling Initiative event will be held on Saturday 24th July 2010 at Great Waltham School and the Compasses Public House, Littley Green.

10.7 Great Waltham Village Hall – Parish Focal Point/modification/refurbishment. – a meeting will be held on 28th July to look at the progress on this matter and to consider the costing. Mr Micklem, Mr Steel and the clerk will represent the Parish Council.

10.8 Bus Services – a meeting was held with ECC to discuss bus services on Thursday 24th June 2010. The clerk attended. Nick Blackhall, ECC agreed to investigate:

- Whether one of the four daily journeys operated by service 16 could be diverted through Great Waltham and Howe Street to allow passengers wishing to travel northwards to leave Great Waltham at 10.55 approx and arrive at Wethersfield at 12 noon approx. The return journey would leave Wethersfield at 14.34 approx.
- Whether upon introduction of the new service 42A on 5th July 2010 that a later service could be laid on from Chelmsford at just after 7pm.

10.9 Speeding and reducing the speed limits – nothing further has been heard from County Councillor Hume. Borough Councillor Taylor has written to County Councillor Norman Hume regarding the speed of vehicles on the B1008 particularly past Ford End School. This email very much supports the Parish Council in the endeavours for speed reducing features for Ford End village. Councillor Taylor suggests 'I believe the solution, or at least part of it, is to get the heavy goods vehicles off this route. The problem being the top end of the road B1008/A130/A131 junction at Sheepcotes roundabout (the 'old' A130 'new' B1008) looks like A130 Essex Regiment Way. It looks less so at Warner's Farm roundabout but by then the vehicles are already on the road. At the NW end of the route, almost at its junction with A120, Barnston has white fencing/gates delineating a village entrance; granted the road is narrower here – but can we not do the same at the Warner's Farm end or better still at Sheepcotes? The road at Warner's Farm is as wide as that at Barnston whilst at the Sheepcotes end similar action with indentation/chicanes – as was undertaken some years ago at Howe Green to discourage traffic from travelling through the village and onto the new A138 worked well. Such action could discourage heavy goods traffic, especially if accompanied by 'road narrows' signage'.

10.10 Confusion with Postcodes - the investigation has indicated that Fanners Farm is the destination shown on Satellite Navigation Systems for both postcode CM3 1EA Fanner Green and CB31EB Lower Fanners. No way has yet been found to change this.

10.11 Youth Club – no further progress has been made.

10.12 Essex Legacy - Mini Olympics 23rd July 2010 and Great Waltham Cycling Initiative Event Day 24th July 2010 – arrangements are in hand for both events and so far the following expenditure has been made or committed.

Three playleaders £220, Medals £69 plus delivery. Drinks Bottles for cyclists £220 and refreshments £35. Total estimated expenditure £539. It is suggested that a gazebo be purchased (cost £100 approx) to serve the

refreshments from. This will also serve in the future as a Community facility (to be loaned to local organisations) and for the outside Parish Council exhibition at fetes etc.

The Mini Olympics and Cycling Initiative events have been advertised locally by posters, mentions in the school newsletters and information has been sent to the media and the Olympic website.

10.13 Essex Village of the Year Competition – Great Waltham Village has won the final of the Essex Village of the Year Competition sponsored by Essex and Suffolk Water. A group representing the village received a certificate and a cheque for £500 at the AGM of the RCCE on 7th July 2010. The Chairman called for councillors to consider projects on which the prize money could be spent.

10.14 Additional Dog Waste Bin – see agenda item.

10.15 CBC Parishes Event - the Chairman and clerk attended the event on 14th July 2010. Information was received from four sources on financial assistance to Parish Council's by form of grant. Following the presentations the leader of Chelmsford Borough Council Councillor Roy Whitehead invited Parish Council's to sign the Parish Charter, the formal agreement between the Parish Council and Chelmsford Borough Council to continue to work closely together in partnership for the benefit of local residents. The Chairman, Alexander Micklem signed the charter on behalf of Great Waltham Parish Council. The certificate was hung in the meeting room.

10.16 Adequacy of Broadband throughout the Parish – nothing further has been heard regarding a survey.

10.17 Application for works to trees. Application number 10/05126/TPO Walnut Tree Farm, Fanners Green has been received the proposal is for a Willow tree, subject of a TPO - rear garden, eastern boundary - clean out dead wood; crown lift weeping fronds to 3m maximum from ground level, cutting to suitable growing points (Suitable growing points are side branches which are at least one third the diameter of the originating branch.) Work to be undertaken annually for a management period of 5 years (TPO/2004/003)

10.18 Parsonage Lane Bridge – a report has been received from ECC indicating checks made for over the limit vehicles at Parsonage Lane bridge as follows:

Date	Time Start	Duration	Breaches	Breaches By Foreign Vehicles
07/04/2010	14:25	60	0	0
16/04/2010	12:20	60	0	0
21/04/2010	07:15	60	0	0
29/04/2010	11:10	60	1	0
06/05/2010	12:30	60	0	0
12/05/2010	12:20	60	1	0
17/05/2010	14:15	60	1	0
26/05/2010	12:30	60	0	0
01/06/2010	13:00	80	1	0
09/06/2010	07:10	60	4	0
17/06/2010	10:30	60	0	0
24/06/2010	11:10	60	0	0
28/06/2010	13:40	60	2	0

10.19 Quality Parish Council Status – the presentation of the Quality Parish Council reaccreditation status will be formally made to the Chairman of the Parish Council by the Mayor of Chelmsford on Wednesday 21st July 2010 at the Chelmsford Borough Council meeting.

10.20 North Chelmsford Area Action Plan - Submission Documents

Following agreement by the members of Chelmsford Borough Council the North Chelmsford Area Action plan documents have been submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in accordance with the regulations. A copy of each of the documents has been provided to the Parish Council. As a body which made representations on the NCAAP the Parish Council will hear from the Examination Programme Officer in due course regarding arrangements for the Examination in Public due to take place later in the year. If any member wishes to make reference to these documents then they are available from Mr Blaber.

On 6th July the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP made a statement revoking the Regional Spatial Strategies which among other issues revokes regional housing targets. In the light of this new Government guidance CBC members have asked officers to review the options with regards to the NCAAP, although at present the NCAAP remains submitted with the Planning Inspector.

A full Council meeting on 21st July 2010 will be considering an item which will set out options for the future of NCAAP. The public are invited to be present.

10.21 Handyman – Accident – the handyman was injured on 29th June 2010 when a stone was thrown out beneath the safety apron of the mower hit him with force on his left shin. He required hospital attention and four butterfly stitches were required. He has been unable to work since the injury was sustained. An accident report has been completed and the Health and Safety Executive informed.

10.22 Vacancy on Great Waltham Parish Council – A Public Notice has been displayed on Parish Notice Boards in Church End Ward to afford the opportunity for local government electors of the parish to call a bi-election to fill the vacant seat. No such request was received and the Parish Council is therefore able to fill the seat by co-option. A Public Notice advertising the vacancy was published on 12th July 2010 inviting parishioners to

put their names forward for co-option to the vacant seat. The co-option will be an agenda item at the August meeting.

10.23 RoSPA – Play Area Safety Inspection 13th May 2010 – the report has been received and perused by the Clerk and Mr Bell. A summary of recommendations made within the report and the proposed action plan has been sent to members of the Recreation Committee whose comments are awaited.

10.24 ECC – Changes in responsibility to Concessionary Travel Passes and the Public Consultation – the responsibility for the concessionary travel scheme passes from CBC to ECC on 1st April 2011. To allow the county to get the correct structures in place to deal with the change Essex needs to understand how much people value the various elements of their pass or alternative concessions. To do this a consultation is running from 1st July 2010 until 30th September 2010. A questionnaire can be obtained by phone 08457 430 430, from libraries and on line at <http://www.essex.gov.uk/buspass/> Posters have been supplied for display locally.

10.25 EALC – Annual Making the Links Event and EALC AGM – 29th September 2010 – the Parish Council have been invited to attend the event which commences at 1.30pm with a sandwich lunch and networking followed at 3pm by a Making the Links event. The final item of the Making the Links event will be the presentation of awards and certificates.

Great Waltham Parish Council is invited to attend to receive presentations for:

- Award for being nominated Village of the Year
- Re-accreditation certificate re Quality Parish Council
- Certificate for undertaking the Power of Wellbeing Course

Mr Blaber agreed to represent the Parish Council and receive the awards/certificates.

10.26. Great Waltham Royal British Legion - is applying for a grant from the Amos Trust to renovate the rather ancient (and unhygienic) kitchen facilities in the British Legion Hall, and asks if the Parish Council to provide a short letter supporting our application. The hall is used by the WI, Neighbourhood Watch, Legion Events and Meetings, Funeral Wakes, Private Parties, Concert Rehearsals and probably is most appreciated by the Village Community is on Remembrance Sunday. On such occasions all the food has to be prepared off site because the kitchen is not hygienic and coping with the washing-up afterwards of 100+ hungry villagers proves very difficult. It was agreed that a letter of support would be written.

10.27 CBC – Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Potential Options – the feedback report into the representations made on this document is expected to be reported to a Council Committee in early September 2010 and not July 2010.

10.28 ECC Essex Speed Management Strategy 2010. – the policy document has now been formally adopted by ECC and is available to access or download from the ECC website.

10.29 ECC – Consultation Exercise: Essex Development Management Policies (Closing Date for comments 30th August 2010) – The existing Highways development Management policies have been in place for many years. A review has been carried out and the new draft policies are subject of a six week consultation. The document includes the route hierarchy plan (NOTE – This shows the B1008 as a Main distributor route). Further information is available on the County Council's website. Mrs Dickinson undertook to peruse and prepare comments on the consultation document.

11. Report from County Councillor. – County Councillor Aldridge firstly congratulated Great Waltham on becoming the Essex Village of the Year. Referring to the NCAAP he indicated that although the Regional Spatial Strategies had been revoked responsible councils would take note of the local housing requirements. Mention was made regarding broadband coverage in the Parish and he undertook to forward some information regarding this. County Councillor Aldridge spoke about the way forward for local government in the light of spending cuts. He also referred to the need for a genuine call for what the public want. Particular reference was made to reductions in expenditure on bus shelters and the possibility of reductions in the Community Initiatives Fund Scheme.

12. Report from Borough Councillor – There were no Borough Councillor's present.

13. To consider underwriting the Mini Olympic Event 23rd July and Great Waltham Cycling Initiative event 24th July up to £325.

The Parish Council agreed to underwrite the events up to £325.

14. To confirm the order placed with Pleshey Tree Services Limited to fell two cherry trees at Great Waltham Recreation Ground for the sum of £260 plus VAT.

It was reported that the work had been carried out. The order was confirmed.

15. To consider suggestions for Special Roadside Verges

Following the publication of an article in the Parish News there had been no suggestions put forward by parishioners for verges to be considered for Special Roadside Verges. The Chairman indicated that if any councillor had suggestions in the future then they should bring these to the attention of the Council.

16. To consider estimates received for the replacement of the bus shelter at the Butchers Arms Public House, North End.

Two quotations had been received. It was agreed that these be forwarded on to the Parish Council's Insurers for attention.

17. Review of Byelaws

Mr Steel asked for this item to be deferred.

18. To consider a request for a contribution towards the cost of additional hose (purchased by an allotment holder at a cost of £82.45 inc VAT) to refill tanks at Brookmead Allotment

The Chairman referred to the refilling of water tanks at Brookmead allotment indicating that this had been done in the past by the handyman using water from the stream by pump and hose supplied by the Parish Council. To refill all three tanks required the pump to be moved to two different locations. Due to a family bereavement the handyman had insufficient time available to refill the tanks, and a volunteer allotment holder had taken over in that role. The volunteer found that the hosepipe provided was not long enough to reach all three tanks from one access point. This meant not only moving the pump to a more convenient access point but also re-routing the hosepipe. The volunteer had decided it would be much easier to purchase a further 20 metres of hosepipe to overcome the problem. It was noted that in addition to filling the tanks provided by the Parish Council the volunteer was refilling tanks provided by other allotment holders.

The volunteer was now seeking reimbursement of the cost of the additional hose of £82.45 including VAT. Following discussion it was agreed that the action of the volunteer to refill tanks at the allotments was commendable and community minded. It was felt however that the hosepipe originally provided was adequate for the refilling of the tanks and that the matter should have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council before the purchase of the additional hosepipe was made. It was agreed that the Parish Council were not in a position to reimburse funds expended by others without prior authorisation. It was suggested that the volunteer should seek contributions from those whose private tanks were being refilled.

19. Power Cut 22nd June 2010

Mr Steel had written to EDF Energy seeking an explanation of the power cut that had been experienced in Great Waltham and surrounding district on the 22nd June 2010 when the power was off for approximately 12 hours for the whole village and caused significant disruption to individuals and services in the area. Confirmation was sought that the cause of the fault was a high voltage power line arcing to adjacent tree branches near Cherry Garden Road. Mr Steel had also requested information on the actions proposed to ensure that a similar event does not happen again. Mr Steel referred to a separate incident some months previous when he was contacted about nearness of tree branches to the power lines at Great Waltham Recreation Ground car park. Permission was obtained from the landowner for the tree branches to be cut back, which was given in writing to a representative of EDF. No action had been taken to date and this remained a risk.

A reply from EDF energy was awaited. The item was deferred.

It was reported that hedge and tree trimming was currently taking place in Barrack Lane and Mashbury Road, Great Waltham were the growth impeded power supply lines.

20. To consider the use of Great Waltham Recreation Ground on Sunday 12th September 2010 between 0900 and 11.30am for the Great Waltham Fun Run

This was agreed.

21. To consider making a donation towards the cost of the children's medals for the Fun Run on 12th September 2010.

Following discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £103 towards the medals for the Children's Fun Run. It was agreed that Mr Huggins would make the organisers aware that in the current financial situation it could not be expected that the donation to this event would automatically be forthcoming and that consideration might be given to an alternative to medals for the future.

22. Public Address System –missing microphones. To confirm the Chairman's action in authorising expenditure of up to £150 to purchase a replacement wireless microphone unit.

The action of the Chairman was confirmed. A replacement wireless microphone had been purchased for the sum of £79.99 including VAT.

Mr Steel stated that the new microphone worked better than the old microphones.

It was reported that shortly before the meeting notification had been received that the two missing wireless microphone had been located in a garage in which they were stored prior to the Friends of Great Waltham and Ford End Churches Fete at Ford End on 26th June 2010.

Discussion took place on the security of the Public Address System and mention was made of a lockable cabinet to be placed in the village hall into which the equipment could be stored (with the exception of the speaker units). It was agreed that wording should appear on the loan form to reinforce the need to report all damaged or missing items.

23. To consider holding a competition to design a logo for Great Waltham Parish Council

Mr Huggins raised the suggestion that the Parish Council should have a logo which would be easily recognisable. Following discussion it was left that Mr Huggins would prepare an article for inclusion in the Parish News to endeavour to promote interest in the design of a logo.

24. To consider the purchase of a dog bin to be sited at the Great Waltham Village end of the Essex Way footpath. The bin will be the Earth Anchors HGN steel bin 45 litre capacity and will be installed and serviced by CBC at a cost of £256.15 plus VAT.

Following discussion it was agreed to obtain a dog bin through Chelmsford Borough Council for supply only and the Parish Council arranging installation at the agreed location. The cost would then be £187.65 plus VAT.

25. Former Ford End Cricket Field, Ford End.

A letter from Savills informed that it was the intention of the owners that the former Cricket Pitch at Ford End was to be offered on the open market subject to various existing agreements and proposed covenants but before doing so wished to ask whether the Parish Council if they may be interested.

Following discussion it was agreed to respond that the Parish Council as the tenants of the area since 1988 had an interest in the area and sought further information.

26. To consider an estimate received for cutting the hedge at the Barrack Lane/Bury Lane Allotments.

An estimate was received for cutting the hedge in the sum of £190. This was agreed and an order be placed.

27. Confirmation of Cheques

The following cheques drawn between meetings were confirmed:

£ 240.88 Sports Bottles for Cycling Day

£ 79.99 Replacement hand held radio microphone

The following cheques were drawn and signed by two members as follows:

£ 387.75 Grounds Maintenance June 2010

£ 346.63 Weed and Feed Treatment, Great Waltham Recreation Ground

£ 250.28 Annual Inspection of Playground Equipment

£ 75.00 Easter Parish Sports Programme

£ 16.69 Paper towels for use at Changing Rooms.

£ 305.50 Felling of two cherry trees at the east end of Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

£ 90.77 Medals for Mini Olympics.

£ 61.69 Payroll Fee July, August and September

£ 36.43 Net hooks for goals at Great Waltham Recreation Ground

£160.67 Handyman's wages, mileage and out of pocket expenses

£ 670.23 Clerk's salary plus administrative expenses.

£ 57.80 Third share of cost for redecoration of changing rooms.

28. Matters for the next agenda.

(a) Bulb Planting by Community Network (Mr Huggins)

(b) Cutting of Hedges (Mr Bell)

(c) Lockable Cupboard for Public Address System (Mr Steel)