

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th October 2011 at Ford End Village Hall.

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr A Micklem

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

Also present: County Councillor John Aldridge, Borough Councillor Delmas Ashford, Gill Etheridge, Tom Etheridge and Chris Mills.

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Patch, Mr Leyde and PCSO Ian Hilton.

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

Mr Micklem, Mr Blaber and Mr Jackson declared an interest in item 21.

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

(a) Gill Etheridge and Tom Etheridge sister and son of the late Graham Etheridge explained their desire to place Graham's ashes beneath a Walnut Tree planted on Broads Green close to Graham's former residence. Beneath the tree a seat would be installed with a plaque. They called upon the Parish Council to support the request.

(b) Chris Mills referred to the proposals for the redevelopment of the Airey House site in Barrack Lane. Mr Mills spoke of objections which had been made to previous plans which he had seen proposing a large 4/5 bedroom dwelling of two and a half storeys immediately on the boundary to Wisemans. Mr Mills indicated that the proposal was contrary to the Great Waltham Village Design Statement. Mr Mills left a copy of a letter of objection which he had sent to Chelmer Housing Partnership.

The Chairman indicated that a public exhibition of the proposals for both the Barrack Lane and Mashbury Road Airey house sites would be held at the Parish Office on 23rd November 2011. The event would be mentioned in the November edition of the Parish News.

5. Public Open Session – for any other items.

Essex Police offered apologies and had sent the following report.

Incidents of note from 13/09/2011 to 17/10/2011 at Great Waltham

13/09/2011 two indecent exposures between Great Waltham and Broads Green. Essex Police believe this to be a one off and extra patrols have taken place in the area and there have been no further reports.

23/09/2011. Theft of Metal Mashbury road

28/09/2011 Theft of metal bollards.

11/10/2011 Theft of ladder - Hatchfields

12/10/2011 Attempted theft of hub cap - Hatchfields

12/10/2011 Theft of high powered high value motor cycle Chelmsford Road

14/10/2011 Theft of Motor vehicle. Mashbury Road.

All are on-going incidents with no witnesses. Extra patrols and stop checks are being carried out around the area.

At Ford End, Howe Street and surrounding villages and hamlets there have been no recorded incidents.

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

It was resolved that the Minutes be confirmed and signed.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports.

(a) Recreation Committee 3rd October 2011

Resolved: That this report be adopted.

(b) Planning Committee 10th October 2011

Resolved: That this 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.

There were no applications to be considered.

10. Clerk's monthly report

10.1 Highways Matters

10.1.1 Village Gateways/Speed reduction features at Ford End. – nothing further has been heard regarding the installation of gates since the meeting held with County Councillor Tracey Chapman, Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation on 14th September 2011. This matter has been followed up.

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

10.1.3 Metal projections at Bury Lane Ford – Following the meeting held with a Highways engineer and the farmer on 14th September 2011 a request has been made to Essex County Council to carry out further works. It was explained that large agricultural vehicles can no longer pass through the ford because of the narrowing which has occurred by the installation of concrete filled bags on all both sides of the ford and both sides of the road. The works that have been carried out to prevent further erosion occurring of the south eastern bank do not appear helpful and may even exacerbate the problem. On the other three sections the vertical walls reduce the width of the road and create the access problem. It was suggested that the works carried out to install the concrete filled bags on the upstream (western) side of the brook are unnecessary. If these were removed and the verge graded then this would be acceptable and adequate. This would also allow agricultural vehicle to negotiate a way through the ford. On the north eastern bank the concrete bags need to be installed slightly further back from the road edge. It is suggested that they also be graded back so that they do not form a vertical wall of bags and also graded south to north starting with three bags high at the ford edge and graded in a northerly direction to just a single bag.

The south eastern bank needs to be curved around the existing bank. This is where the erosion has taken place and will continue to do so possibly more so. The works which have been carried out and which form a short vertical wall narrowing the width of the roadway should be reconstructed to align with the bank so as to prevent further erosion of the banking and deflect and channel the water under the footbridge.

It was stated the ford is considerably deeper these days than it has been in the past and appears to be deeper since the works have been carried out. In an attempt to restore the ford to its previous water level Mr Alexander Micklem agreed to carry out some clearance works to allow the water a clearer passage. These works have now been carried out and the ford is now considerably lower than it has been for several years.

Nothing further has been heard regarding the suggestions made at the meeting and since the clearance works have taken place there appears to be little need for the concrete bags at all. A site meeting was held with County Councillor John Aldridge on Friday 14th October 2011 to indicate the complete waste of funds by the works which have been carried out, and to endeavour to seek a solution.

10.1.4 Verge Opposite The Compasses Public House, Littley Green – Nothing further has been heard since this was discussed with County Councillor Tracey Chapman, Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation on 14th September 2011.

10.1.5 Verge and Flooding, Lucks Lane, Howe Street– Since the last meeting Mr Bell has requested that the Parish Council makes enquiries regarding the number of reflective bollards to be installed and their position. Mr Bell has also called upon the Parish Council to seek a copy of the plans of the proposed works and the proposed line of the ditch. The Parish Council agreed that a request be made through County Councillor Aldridge for this scheme and similar schemes which appear from time to time in the Clerk's report.

10.2 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
Burtons, Great Waltham	5741	851	3744 (65%)	1732 (30%)	265 (5%)
Main Road, Howe Street, facing Dunmow	3955	608	1547 (39%)	1918 (49%)	490 (12%)
Main Road/Hatchfields, Great Waltham	8711	1124	4350 (50%)	3251 (37%)	1110 (13%)

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 regarding this matter since the meeting held with County Councillor Tracey Chapman, Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation on 14th September 2011. This matter has been followed up.

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

10.6 Special Roadside Verges – areas proposed are awaiting assessment by Essex County Council.

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

10.8 Transport Needs Survey – a new spreadsheet has been sent by RCCE and will be looked at to see whether this is now useful to analyse the results of the survey.

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

10.10 Development of Affordable Housing – Barrack Lane and Mashbury Road, Great Waltham-

CHP have now written and provided plans of the proposals for the proposals for 2 potential Affordable Housing Redevelopment opportunities in Great Waltham in Barrack Lane and Mashbury Road comprising the Airey Houses Nos.2, 4 & 8 Barrack Lane and Nos. 6, 8, 10 & 12 Mashbury Road respectively.

An open day has been arranged at the Parish Office on 23rd November 2011 between 2pm and 7pm to allow local residents to view the proposals.

10.11 Parsonage Lane Bridge – Weight Restriction enforcement.

Information received from Essex County Council regarding enforcement operations at Parsonage Lane Bridge are as follows.

Date	TimeStart	Duration	Breaches	BreachesByForeignVehicles
05/07/2011	11:30	65	0	0
15/07/2011	10:35	85	3	0
19/07/2011	13:15	60	0	0
02/08/2011	13:30	75	1	0
18/08/2011	13:00	60	0	0
31/08/2011	14:15	60	4	0
22/09/2011	12:00	70	0	0
28/09/2011	11:35	120	3	0

10.12 Works to trees – notification of an application has been received as follows:

11/05591/CAT The White House, South Street, Great Waltham for mixed front hedge - trim both sides and reduce top for the height of the low privet section (approximately 1.5m off); prunus sp left of gate - reduce height to 4m approximately and trim lateral growth to tidy and improve light; T1, T2 and T3 (on plan), Hazel coppice - reduce height by 2m approximately and tidy by reducing lateral spread; Conifer hedge trim top, garden side and ends to established levels; T9 (on plan) Apple - reduce height by approximately 1.5m and reduce lateral spread accordingly to maintain shape; T4 (on plan) Sycamore in corner - reduce to previous pruning points by removing approximately 2.5 - 3m; T5 (on plan) Elder - reduce height by 2m and re-shape to prevent further encroachment over neighbouring property; T6 (on plan) Conifer - trim all round to previously established levels; T7 (on plan) Lombardy Poplar - reduce height by 3 - 4m, to previous pruning points; T8 (on plan) Sycamore - remove epicormic growth up to crown break.

10.13 Fireworks Displays - Chelmsford Borough Council puts together a page listing all the fireworks displays in the borough, on their website, as they get a lot of queries from the public, and have written to enquire whether there will be any displays in Great Waltham Parish. It was agreed that the clerk would be informed of any known events.

10.14 CBC – Parish Council Meeting 23rd November 2010 – a meeting has been arranged for 7pm at the Civic Centre. Amongst the items for discussion are Site Allocations DPD, North Chelmsford AAP, National Planning Reforms Update and Community Infrastructure Levy. Mr Blaber was unable to attend and the clerk was involved in the use of the Parish Office on that evening for the public exhibition of affordable housing schemes. The Chairman asked that if any other member were able to attend to let the clerk know.

10.15 CBC – Housing Assistance Policy - Chelmsford Borough Council is in the process of updating its Housing Assistance Policy which covers the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants and interest free loans to help improve hazardous owner-occupied homes. CBC would like to make the Parish Council aware of the draft policy and provide an opportunity to make comments and suggestions regarding its contents. There may be clients or people living within local communities in the Borough of Chelmsford who would particularly benefit from financial assistance under this policy. The policy can be found at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/drafhousingpolicy. Any comments or suggestions received before 25 November 2011 will be considered before the policy is finalised. The clerk called for a volunteer to peruse the document.

10.16 ECC – Consultation – Essex Wooded Estate Management Plan – Partridge Green Estate - Essex County Council is preparing a management plan for the whole of its wooded estate. Border Wood is part of the consultation and as it is immediately adjacent to Great Waltham Parish area – the Parish Council is being consulted to establish the local community's views on what is proposed for their local woodland. The management plan is for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2032. To ensure that all users of the Council's woodlands are given the opportunity to influence the management of the woodland site notices giving details of how to get hold of a copy of the consultation will be put up in all the woodlands over the next couple of weeks. The consultation period closes on **4th December 2011**. The clerk called for a volunteer to peruse the document. It was suggested that the document be forwarded to Alan Adcock and Charlotte Bradley, the tree wardens, for comment.

11. Report from County Councillor.

County Councillor Aldridge reported that he had spoken with the engineer responsible for the works at Bury Lane ford. He stated that the works were not sympathetic to the area and was not in agreement with what was required. He was discussing with ECC Highways whether approximately £100 could be spent to allow works to be carried out locally to restore the access to the ford and to prevent further erosion taking place.

County Councillor Aldridge had spoken to County Council Tracey Chapman regarding the works proposed outside the Compasses public house, Littley Green. She was not in agreement with road planings being laid on highways verge. There were safety issues which were of concern. County Councillor Aldridge had requested a copy of the plans for the works to be undertaken in Lucks Lane, Howe Street.

County Councillor Aldridge stated that a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held with County Councillor Tracey Chapman on 14th September 2011 were on their way.

Further reference was made to the future of Shire Hall, Chelmsford, the consultation regarding Border Wood (see item 10.16 above) and the Minerals subject plan (see item 13 below).

12. Report from Borough Councillor(s)

Borough Councillor Ashford spoke of planning issues associated with the North Chelmsford Area Action Plan.

13 To consider the comments prepared by Mr Blaber on the Essex County Council consultation document Minerals Development Document: Site Allocation and Options Paper August 2011(closing date for comments 20th October 2011)

Mr Blaber reported that this document is supplementary to the previous MDD: Preferred Approach consultation document. Following closure of the consultation (17.2.11) on that document ECC reviewed the submissions made and decided to add some new sites to the list of sites included in their preferred approach. There are three new/significantly revised sites for future mineral extraction; Whitehouse Farm, Woodham Walter, Ardleigh Rail 2 Tendering and Coleman's Farm Witham. Whilst these are new sites they are all close to existing quarry sites. They have also added a new Strategic Aggregate Recycling Site. This new site is at Weald Hall Commercial Centre, Epping. This is an existing Commercial Site 2.5 miles from Harlow. Access to the site would be by existing road off of the A414 near the junction to the M11, and a potential new rail depot for mineral trans-shipment. This rail depot would be at Ardleigh near to the new quarry.

Mr Blaber did not believe any of these sites would have an effect on our parish and in the circumstances saw no reason to make a response to the Mineral Development Document.

This course of action was agreed by the Parish Council and Mr Blaber was thanks for perusing the document.

14. Review of Parish Clear Up 15th October 2011

The clerk reported that the number of volunteers was lower than had been experienced at the Spring Clear Up. Nevertheless some ten people had turned out in Great Waltham and most of the verges, roads and public places had been litter picked. Some twenty bags of litter collected now awaited collection by the Hit Squad at Margaret Woods Farm.

Mr Bell reported a similar lower attendance at Howe Street.

A debrief of the Great Waltham volunteers indicated that they felt that the second clear up was successful and that they would support such an event again.

The clerk and Mr Bell were thanked for organising the event.

15. Tree Planting Schemes 2011/12

Trees had been suggested as follows:

(a) Howe Street Playing Field – replacement of Cherry Tree by tree variety to be determined.

(b) Duffries Close small green opposite White Cottage/outside number 11 Duffries Close- exact location and tree variety to be determined. Permission would be required from landowner.

Mr Blaber indicated that the South House Residents Society were proposing to replace some trees but had no funds to do so. It was agreed that the Parish Council would add the trees to the tree planting programme which would be part funded by the Parish Council and part funded by CBC. Mr Blaber would liaise with the South House residents Society.

Mr Huggins indicated that the School had felled two trees and may possibly replace them. It was agreed that the Parish Council would add the trees to the tree planting programme which would be part funded by the Parish Council and part funded by CBC. Mr Huggins would liaise with the School. The closing date for application for trees was 14th November 2011.

16. To consider the comments prepared by Mr Jackson on the 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England (closing date for comment 5th December 2011).

Mr Jackson reported that the Boundary Commission has been tasked by Government to review the present constituency boundaries and to cut the number of constituencies from 533 to 502 in England and to ensure each constituency has an electorate of between 72,820 and 80,473 electors. In Essex this means the loss of 1 constituency.

The proposal is that Great Waltham Parish moves from Saffron Walden to Billericay and Gt.

Dunmow constituency. The other parts of the constituency are Dunmow, Takeley, Barnston, High Easter, Broomfield, Boreham, Leighs, Chelmsford rural, Writtle, Galleywood, South.Hanningfield, Stock, Margaretting, Billericay, Burstead, and Crouch. This constituency would be 74,961 electors.

Mr Jackson suggested that the Parish Council comments to the commission that the Parish Council is pleased to be back in a constituency which is made up of areas with similar interests to our own and which restores the relationship with our next tier of government ... Chelmsford Borough Council ... rather than the more remote Saffron Walden.

This course of action was agreed by the Parish Council and Mr Jackson was thanks for perusing the document.

17. Communications by email (Cascading of information)

Mr Huggins referred to the information circulated to members by the Clerk and indicated that in some circumstances it would be desirable for the information to be made available to others. Discussion followed on possible ways in which this might be achieved. The discussion concluded that whilst the idea was sound in principle the practicalities of how this would be managed required further thought. The Chairman called for further thought to be given to the idea and for any methods of dealing with this to be brought forward for discussion.

18. To consider the request made by the family of the late Graeme Etheridge to plant a tree with a commemorative plaque on Broads Green (close by Mead Cottage) and for Graeme's ashes to be interred/scattered beneath the tree.

A letter had been received from the Etheridge family as follows – Graeme Paul Etheridge lived in the Great Waltham Parish for approximately 26 years in his home on Broads Green. Sadly, he passed away on 15 August 2011. Graeme's son (Tom Etheridge) has lived all his life in Great Waltham and still lives there today. Graeme volunteered many years to the rejuvenation and running of an important aspect of the village, the British Legion. Being self-employed, he worked from home and his office looked out over Broads Green. It seems fitting that his ashes should remain in the village. The Etheridge family request permission to purchase a walnut tree or similar to be planted on Broads Green: to place Graeme's ashes under the tree as a permanent reminder of his life there: to site a

bench around the tree creating a pleasant place on the Green for everyone's use: to place a small plaque on the bench ensuring a place of remembrance for family and his many friends
The Etheridge family called upon the members of Parish Council to give the proposal their consideration.

Following discussion the proposal was felt to be satisfactory and was agreed in principle. Mr Blaber and the clerk would meet with the Etheridge family to finalise the arrangements.

19. To confirm the action of the Chairman in authorising the rewiring of the gable end light at The Old Fire Station to illuminate the entry and egress when the office is in use at a cost of £100.

The Chairman's action was confirmed.

20. To consider the next steps to take with the Penden Hill clearance project.

The clerk reported that Essex County Council had given permission to carry out works to the highway verge at Penden Hill Corner subject to notification of the date of commencement of works and provision of a copy of the Public Liability insurance up to the value of £5 million.

Discussion followed on the next steps to be taken. It was felt that the work was too much for voluntary labour at this time and required special attention for the first clearance. Discussion followed on how this might be achieved and how ongoing maintenance would be carried out. The discussion was inconclusive and no plan for clearance or ongoing maintenance was found.

It was therefore agreed not to progress this matter.

21. To consider the results of the survey regarding mains water supply to allotments.

Mr Micklem, Mr Blaber and Mr Jackson declared an interest.

The clerk reported the results of the survey as follows:

Allotment Site	Letters issued	Response received	In agreement with additional charge	Not in agreement with additional charge
Brookmead	27	20	16	4
Bury Lane	8	5	4	1

The Parish Council therefore decided on the basis of a simple majority that allotments holders were in favour of supply of mains water to both sites.

It was agreed:

- (a) To seek the permission of the landlord to the laying of a water supply to both sites.
- (b) Subject to (a) above receiving approval to seek quotations for the laying on of water to both sites.
- (c) To apply for the required grant from the 'Edible Essex' project.

22. Confirmation of Cheques

To confirm the following Cheques drawn between meetings

£ 85.00 Planning Application Fee

£ 58.79 Water Supply, Changing Rooms half year ending 31st March 2012.

To note the following payments

£ 500.00 Rent Parish Office – September 2011

£ 23.00 Electricity Changing Rooms – September 2011

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

£ 456.00 Grounds Maintenance September 2011

£ 29.00 Annual Subscription CPRE

£ 15.00 Destroying Wasp Nest at Great Waltham Children's Play area.

£ 100.00 Rewiring of gable end light at Parish Office

£ 63.00 Payroll fee October/November/December 2011

£ 249.94 Handyman's, wages and mileage and out of pocket expenses.

£ 808.12 Clerk's Salary and Expenses

23. Matters for the next agenda.

There were none.