

Great Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st September at 7.30pm at the Ford End Village Hall.

21/846. Chairman's Welcome

Chair Steel

Councillor Dunn, Martin, Gilbert, Palmer, Lockwood, Jenkins, Huggins, Jackson, McDevitt, Micklem

21/847. Apologies

None Required

21/848. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

Cllr Jackson and Cllr Palmer – Allotments 21/874 and 21/876

21/849. Public Participation session (Items do not need to be on the agenda)

3 Members of the public

Request for Update on the Ford End Mast

It was stated that Ford End and Great Waltham Churches are in support of the 2021 remembrance Sunday and will align with the committee

There was response to August monthly meeting 21/840 – in relation to the Mini Library Project in Howe street. Concerns were raised about the Parish Council's handling of the issue of the power incident in the telephone box. It was stated that there was little support of the project by the Parish Council. It was also pointed out that it is Mini Library not a book swap i.e., residents can take out books without the need to leave one

21/850. Report by County Councillor. - Cllr Mike Steel

Afghan Resettlement: UK Govt have made an extra £5M available for Afghan resettlement to provide housing support.

Mid and South Essex Hospital Trust: (includes Broomfield Hospital)

Due to Covid, the Number of patients waiting for more than 52 weeks for treatment increased to 8,557 in March 2021 as opposed to May 2020 figure of 2,209. The Aug 2021 figure has fallen to 4,277 and MEHT are aiming for 1,900 by Dec 2021. However, a difficult winter is expected.

Army & Navy consultation

Open until 3rd Oct – Hamburger or T-Junction. Search on essexhighways.org

Residents invited to have their say on the library service

Two online sessions took place on Monday 20 September for residents to discuss their views and ideas with the Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Louise McKinlay.

Howe Street traffic

Ref 21/860 to Discuss options for the perceived speeding in Howe Street – Previous measurements from our own SID through Howe Street:

Traffic volume – avg 683 per day, both ways – i.e., around 340 per day each way.

Average speed 34mph. 85th percentile 41mph

Does this warrant an LHP request? - The role of the LHP is to look at infrastructure (signs, road layouts, etc.) that might address a problem). They are not an enforcement agent.

There is already a 30mph in place. It is unlikely that other physical barriers will be entertained for these levels of speed and volume of traffic. (e.g., compare the numbers with Ford End where there are 9,000 vehicles per day – over 20 times higher than Howe Street). Whilst you may have seen speed bumps and stand outs elsewhere – they tend to be outside schools or

have been in for quite some time. Speed bumps are frowned upon now – raised traffic noise due to decel/accel. Likewise stand outs have the same problem. In fact, one local parish that managed to get some put outside their school, are now regretting it and considering removing them!

Also, LHP funds are such that they can address less than 10% of the requests, so they prioritise areas where there are high volumes, speed issues, and/or serious injuries/deaths recorded.

The severity of the collisions is considered when prioritising remedial sites; those sites where there are killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties are given a higher priority.

he road through Howe Street is a PR2. According to

<https://www.essexworkstraffweb.org.uk/rtc/main.html>

there have been no accidents there in the last 5 years.

Home to School Transport – ECC are only responsible for transporting entitled children to school for free. Entitlement is Govt set criteria where a child under 16 has the nearest school is more than 3 miles away, or it is less than 3 miles but there isn't a safe walking route. Chelmer Valley High School (CVHS) has been served by a coach company for over 5 years, but this year competition from cab companies has brought in alternatives to larger school buses. The CVHS contract was still won by the coach company, but at a lower price. Consequently, the coach company has had to replan routes and vehicle sizes and the number of unused seats, which can be sold to non-entitled children, is less. This has resulted in many complaints from parents. The situation was not helped because the tender was run 3 times before a result was obtained, resulting in delays in allocating the entitled children, so delaying the offer of unused seats, right up to the last minute.

EC has not changed its position – it continues to meet its obligation to transport entitled children, but the sale of unused seats beyond this is a commercial decision by the coach operators.

It is likely that if the coach company had not won the contract, there wouldn't have been any unused seats for sale.

However, we have been in ongoing contact with the coach operator to try to maximise the number of seats for sale. The net result is that the CVHS contract accommodates 158 entitled children who have applied (contractual capacity was 170) and the capacity has been enhanced to 200 by allowing standing and conditional offerings, meaning 42 seats are available for sale. It is believed that this means that the Chignalls, Boreham, Leighs, Great Waltham non-entitled children have been accommodated but around 20 in Newlands Spring have not.

To address another misunderstanding, CVHS does not have a catchment area (formally known as defined priority admissions area). Rather the school has listed the primary schools that have a relationship with Chelmer Valley High School as part of the River Chelmer Partnership. This is not the same. Parents also need to be aware that the entitlement is dictated by the nearest school measurement, not the school they have chosen to attend, so in some cases CVHS may be greater than 3 miles away, but there is a nearer school that isn't, which determines the entitlement.

Other school areas may have seen similar issues

PROW 51 in Little Waltham

PROW 51 (Public Right of Way) 51 is a Byway, more accurately known as a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic). The public have the same rights on BOATs as on surfaced country lanes which means that walkers, horse riders, cyclists, horse-drawn vehicles and motorised vehicles can use BOATs. As it's officially a highway, vehicles using BOATs must be fully taxed, MOT'd and insured.

I understand that a group wishing to use PROW 51 found it was partially blocked and decided to do some clearance. They have the right to do that – although they should exercise safety measures as this is a public place.

Part of PROW 51 cuts through the river and island. A closure notice was requested (across the river – 29 July effective) by the Mill and supported by ECC Highways. It has an automatic renewal after the 21 days (just one) until 17th Sept.

The owners of Croxton's Mill have applied for a TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) to close for 6 months, in order to facilitate a study, they wish to undertake to monitor the water levels at this locality. A decision has been made to decline this request; however, Essex Highways will make an application on behalf of the Highway Authority to close for 6 months instead, with a view to installing depth markers where the byway enters the river. Safety of highway users is the responsibility of the Highway Authority and not the landowner. Depth markers would provide information on water level to users allowing them to make an informed decision before proceeding. There are many examples across the County where markers are installed, the majority being on the road network however as opposed to the PROW network. Any closure is open to challenge.

Hospital Approach roundabout improvement works – 31 Aug to 19 Nov 2021:

Whilst the ECC Highways presents the worst-case disruption (in order to give some flexibility), I have been informed by NHS that the works will be less disruptive. I have posted this on the local Facebooks:

17 to 21 Sept – possible nighttime closures (8pm to 5am)

21 Oct to 5 Nov – restricted access via Hospital approach with some traffic diverted via Court road

8 to 16 Nov – night-time closures with 2-way traffic lights and all hospital and estate traffic diverted via Court Road

All timings subject to change with weather conditions etc.

Locality Fund

Award of the locality fund for the Pavilion refurbishment £1000. Funds have been awarded to the Parish Council for electrical units.

Ford Sign at Bury Lane

The post and sign have been completely removed from the Pleshey side due to a Traffic accident. This has been reported but will follow due process.

21/851 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor.

Telecoms mast in Ford End:

City Council Planning have ruled that Prior Approval is required and not granted. This means that it cannot be installed as permitted development. Planning permission would now be required. It is important to note that City Council would still consider design and appearance as part of a planning application so I think it is unlikely that an identical proposal would be viewed as acceptable should a planning application be submitted. They may apply with some differences, and even if that was refused, may decide to appeal.

Music Licence – wheelers Farm

I have received many complaints about the licenced music events at Wheelers Farm. After the first event caused many traffic issues, the licensee was asked to provide an improved Traffic Plan, which they did. However, the 2nd event still suffered many traffic issues. Also, City Council Out of Hours Noise Service received a large number of noise complaints about the event - 20 from residents, whilst it was ongoing and an additional 4 online. The vast majority were from resident in the village on Wheelers Hill, Church Hill, The Street, Winckford Close, Rectory Close, Sorrell Close. There were also a few from Broads Green and Great Waltham.

City Council sent attendees to monitor the noise, but their view was that noise levels were not breached.

However, Essex Police have requested a review of the licence because the traffic issues were not resolved by the new Traffic Plan. Along with LWPC, I will provide my views to the Review Panel.

New cycle path

Section 2 ([Broomfield Hospital Cycle Scheme](#)) continues northwards from the end of Goulton Road on a new off-road facility across a mixture of agricultural land and existing footpaths to the junction with Nash Drive and ultimately Broomfield Hospital. This will provide a new, safe link for people who cycle between the hospital, Chelmer Valley High School and links up to the cycle route to Great Waltham.

Some potential flooding issues have been highlighted which Highways are addressing by adding some drainage work which has added a month to the first phase. Plan is to try and have the Hospital to the council playing filed section done by half term. Then complete the rest of the scheme by end Nov

Governance Review:

Having progressed through the Governance Working Party and Governance Committee, the proposed changes to Parish boundaries go to full Council on 22nd Sept for approval to consultation. Great Waltham is not affected, but the proposal to remove Bloor Homes from Little Waltham and Little Hollows from Chignal, are being challenged by the respective Parish Councils.

HGV Driver shortage:

There is a national HGV driver shortage (Brexit and Covid blamed!). City Council currently have their full compliment of refuse collection drivers, and bin collections have not been affected (yet).

21/852 Confirmation of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17th August 2021

Resolution **The minutes are to be updated with the public open session and the Howe street mini library.**

Resolution **On that condition the minutes were confirmed.**

21/853 Note the minutes of the recreation committee held on 14th September 2021

Resolution **The Minutes were noted**

21/854 Local Planning Authority Decisions

21/01259/FUL	Little Bakers Cottage Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AB	Application Permitted
21/01453/LBC	Wallops Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AP	Application Permitted
21/01042/FUL	Butlers Littley Green Chelmsford Essex CM3 1BU	Application Permitted
21/01281/FUL	1 Pendon Hill Cottages Pleshey Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AZ	Withdrawn
21/00638/FUL	Tudor House Main Road Howe Street Chelmsford CM3 1BG	Application Permitted
21/01244/FUL	2 Margaret Woods Farmhouse Margaret Woods Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DZ	Application Permitted
21/01237/FUL	The Chestnuts Main Road Ford End Chelmsford Essex CM3 1LL	Application Permitted
21/01045/LBC	The Butchers Arms Dunmow Road North End Dunmow Essex CM6 3PJ	Withdrawn
21/00570/FUL	Kinnear House Margaret Woods Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DZ	Application Permitted

21/855 Planning Applications

1. Reference: 21/01328/LBC

Address: Barn At Garnetts Farm Mashbury Road Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Extensions to north-western elevation

Resolution **No Objections**

2. Reference: 21/01327/FUL

Address: Barn At Garnetts Farm Mashbury Road Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Change of use of barn into single residential unit

Resolution **No Objections**

3. Reference: 21/01403/FUL

Address: Greenways Church Lane Ford End Chelmsford
Description of works: Single storey front extension. Single storey side extension to garage. Two storey side & rear extension & part first floor extension above existing garage. Alterations to fenestration.

Resolution **No objections.**

4. Reference: 21/01746/FUL

Address: Bards Hall Mashbury Road Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Garage conversion to pool house and external swimming pool. Proposed new garage and carport.

Resolution **No objections**

21/856 Finance Reports:

- **Reserve Account** **£ 17,437**
 - General Reserve £6737

- Allotment Deposit £700
- FE Variable Speed Camera £10,000
- **Current Account** **£ 9,413.07**
- Total on Hand** **£ 26,850.07**

21/857 Payments for Approval

Details	Value £	Budget Heading
Cllr Martin- Pavilion	£433.68	general reserve
HMRC	£539.11	Paye
Chatham Hall	£350.00	Allotment rent
Writtle Forest Consultancy	£570.00	General reserve
Chelmsford City Council - Play in the Park	£895.00	Play in the Park
JCM	£1,462.50	Grounds Maintenance
Clerk Salary	£1203.76	Salary
Essex pension fund	£383.23	Pension
Amazon	£161.94	general reserve
Clerk - Expenses -paint	£87.16	general reserve
Amazon	£133.60	general reserve
Cllr Martin – Pavilion	£53.61	General reserve
Cllr Martin – Pavilion	£7.97	General reserve
GST Homemaintenance	£280.00	General reserve

Total **£6,561.56**

21/858 Receive an Update on the Pavilion refurbishment.

Volunteer work ongoing. To decorate the building and install the wooden flooring. The Locality fund of £1000 will allow the purchase of the kitchen equipment. The current spend is within the approved contingency fund. A future agenda item on the future use of the building should be added to the next agenda.

21/859 Should we continue to pay for a domain name at £25.07 per annum and E-mail support at £6.59 per month (£79.08 per annum). Total payment to fast host £104.15 per annum.

Resolution **Clerk to investigate multiyear domain deal with Fast Host and make a recommendation to the Council.**

21/860 Discuss options for the perceived speeding in Howe Street.

Some members of the public contacted the Parish Councillors with concerns and suggestions. Move the 60MPH from just outside the Village to beyond the bungalow called – ‘straight’. Suggestions included solid lines on the road, speed bumps, chicanes. The report from the County Council shows GWPC SID measurements were avg 34mph and that there are no collisions recorded. It was suggested that the SID readings are done again and that residents be invited to join the Community Speed Watch (CSW). Part of the process requires that CSW submit a requirement for a “safe” site in Howe Street which needs to be done by the GW coordinator.

Resolution **Consider adding Howe Street members to the GW speed watch group and registering a safe site in Howe Street**

Resolution **Move SID to Howe Street to run latest data set one week covert, one week with display.**

21/861 Will the Parish Council consider installing a dog waste bin in North end?

The item was withdrawn.

21/892 Monthly Bank reconciliation – Chairman of the F&GP

Resolution **The Bank reconciliation was approved with Zero variance**

21/863 Update on the request to South Essex Parking Partnership to lengthen the double yellow lines in south street. (20/469) request August 2020.

Resolution **The South Essex Partnership has approved the increased length in the double yellow lines in south street. The Scheme is now in the queue for allocation of funds.**

21/864 Discuss the Tree survey and agree next steps.
The survey contracted to Writtle Forest Consultancy was considered. This breaks activities out to:

Work to be carried out within 6 months

Work to be carried out within 12 months

Work to be carried out within 24 months

It was agreed that quotes for the 6 months and 12 month's works should be obtained. There was a suggestion that in some cases removal of deadwood might be better substituted with the whole removal of the tree.

Resolution **Cllr Micklem to update the survey with advice on a deadwood cut versus a full felling of a tree (6 and 12months).**

Resolution **Clerk to request 3 quotes for the tree works with a focus on the 6 month and 12-month work on the report.**

21/865 Update the next steps on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event.

The event is registered. Beacon 9.15pm on the 2nd of June 2022 – suggested on the Great Waltham Recreation Ground. The various organisations in the Parish are to be invited to a meeting to agree the format of events.

21/866 Updates on the action tracker

No updates

21/867 Discuss the Ford End recreation ground tree aftercare'

Session on 5th August. 18 volunteers attended (incl 3 Parish Councillors), large trees being watered every 3 weeks.

City Council recommended that one metre or outside the fence be not mown and allowed to grow wildflower And they would be happy to seed this area.

Resolution **Clerk to request JCM leave a one metre strip around the fence to allow for the wildflowers to grow up once planted.**

Resolution **Cllr Dunn to take up the offer of wildflowers.**

21/868 Debate and adopt the new Code of conduct from Chelmsford City Council.

Resolution **The Parish Council Adopts the Chelmsford City Council Code of Conduct.**

21/869 Discuss the bin situation at Ford End recreation ground.

Resolution **Clerk to monitor and attempt to identify the user of the playground bin for household waste.**

21/870 The recreation committee recommends that the parish council funds two Play in the Park dates for 2022.

Resolution **The Parish Council approves two Dates for the Summer of 2022 with a budget figure of £900.**

21/871 The recreation committee recommends that the parish council allocates funds to replace the Multiplay and bench at Howe Street recreation ground in 2022.

Resolution **The Parish Council supports the budget consideration of the addition of £15,000 (Plus VAT) for a multi play unit and £630 for a recycled material picnic bench at Howe Street. The type of Multiplay to be put to consultation with the residents of Howe Street.**

21/872 The recreation committee recommends that the parish council allocates funds for the purchase of picnic benches and seats at Ford End recreation ground in 2022, subject to residents' consultation.

Resolution **The Parish Council supports the budget consideration of a proposal to put £2500 in the 2022-2023 budget. The spend will be subject to successful Consideration in the budget and consultation with the residents of Ford End.**

21/873 The recreation committee recommends that the parish council allocates sufficient funds to carry out the final stage of pavilion works in 2022 – Cllr Martin

Resolution **The Parish Council supports the budget consideration of the Phase 3 which is windows, doors, floor covering and the material for external shutters with a budget cost of £5000 to be added in to 2022-2023 budget.**

21/874 The recreation committee recommends that the parish council increases the service charge element of the allotment annual rent demand to £5.50 per plot per year to take effect September 2022.
This will continue to the subsidy of approximately 50%

Resolution **The Increase for 2022 was approved.**

21/875 Discuss the Broads Green Telephone Box and additional tasks we could consider for GST home maintenance.

Resolution **Clerk to contact JCM for quotes on Parish Noticeboards and Bus shelters**

21/876 The Recreation committee recommends that JCM takes on the Bury Lane allotment hedge on a permanent basis from 2022.

Resolution **Approved to get JCM to cut as appropriate.**

21/877 Update on Action day at Brook Mead allotments to prepare the area by the brook for cutting back – Cllr Palmer / The Clerk

Resolution **Working Party plan for the Saturday 9th Oct to clear the area in preparation for mechanical work to remove vegetation.**

21/878 Discuss and approve any items for the "Parish Council News" section of the Parish News – Cllr Steel

- Minutes
- Ford End After Care of the Trees

Meeting Closed 21:14
Will Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council.

Next Meeting Monday 18th October at 7.30PM in Great Waltham Village Hall Committee Room (Upstairs)

Next Committee meeting Monday 25th October in the Parish Office – Finance and General Purposes – BUDGET and PRECEPT Meeting