

Great Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Monday 18th October in the Scout Hut, Blossom Way, Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham.

21/879 Chairman's Welcome

Chair Steel

Cllrs Jenkins, McDevitt, Palmer, Gilbert, Jackson, Dunn, Martin, Lockwood and Huggins.

21/880 Apologies

Cllr Micklem

21/881. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

Cllr Steel – 897 and 898 Conflict of interest as Essex County Councillor.

21/882 Public Participation session (Items do not need to be on the agenda)

1 MOP (21/898)– 40MPH at the Barnston End of Ford End – Scheduled for October Half Term. Initial misunderstanding by Cllr Steel he believed the query related to The 40MPH change at Little Hollows. LHP appear to not be supportive. West LHP 2016 AVC 2020 taken on the wrong part of the road. Repeated Average speed camera. Traffic is increasing to pre covid levels.

FE Kings farm to Ford end. Requested. October 7th – defect has been identified the issue will be programmed for repair – stated this is not good enough. The footpath has disappeared. The hedges are overgrown. There is a need to cross this busy road as the footpath stops on one side and starts on the other side. Several Defects are waiting for repair.

The Footpath has been reported to Highway's rangers who would not work on the area due to the footpath not having any backing and would not be able to use mechanical equipment. The Issues was then raised with Essex Highways and is reported as defect repairs but its awaiting repairs.

The traffic count was requested at the straight between the Butchers arms and Kings Farm, but this was done in a different place.

Cllr Steel had apologised for the confusion around the 40MPH speed limit as he believed they were discussing Hollow Lane.

1 MOP – Traffic through Ford End volumes has returned to Pre Covid levels. Sheepcotes roundabout M11 sign removed – it was provided by LHP 2014 – as the signs do not fit with Essex County Council Signage Policy. HGV recommended route up A131 has been removed. Issues raised in June 2021 on the Highways website. HGV sign is still on A120 to point vehicles towards the A131.

Signage will be reviewed when the Northeast Bypass is discussed on Monday 25th October.

1 MOP (21/892) - Great Waltham Parish News. Snapshot survey was undertaken. 11 Copies a year printed. Advertising need thirty adverts a year to Raise the printing Cost £3850.

Oct 2019 – 33 adverts, Oct 2021 – 26 adverts.

Funds to cover Nov / Jan (Feb / March / April shortfall).

Increase prices by £1 a month, discount for annual prepayments. April to April change to full Calendar year rather than the fixed point in April. Flexible advertising for seasonal advertisers. Premium Page advert additional charge £5. Artwork / Graphic design support £10 for images. Seek out new advertisers.

Snapshot survey – 6 -8 different organisations.

Funding request for £1050 to help the Parish News through to Feb / March / April edition.

21/883. Report by County Councillor. - Cllr Mike Steel

Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)

The latest report for all schemes can be accessed:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/local-highway-panels/chelmsford-lhp>

The website also contains information on the types of schemes in a series of Members' Guides, including the required criteria. My approach is to take recommendations from the PC, rather than individuals, and support ones that align with the objectives and criteria of the LHP.

It should be noted that the LHP is not an enforcement agency and speeding issues, or other traffic violations, need to be reported to the police via 101 or report online

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/>

You can also report it to SERP and ask them if they will arrange some speed traps

<https://saferessexroads.org/>

Ford End 40mph Northern Buffer Zone - In validation - Speed data from recent ATCs - Northwest site - 40mph speed limit – Northwest bound 39.5mph & Southeast bound 44.2mph. Southeast site - 60mph - East bound 39.8mph & West bound 34.7mph. The Officers Recommend not to proceed with buffer, low average speeds, road has 90-degree bend with little development and not the same rationale as opposite end of Village (straight approach road, change in roadside development, school).

Making Ringtail Green a Quiet Lane – Report still shows awaiting survey results, but advance view sent by Officer – the average speeds were measured as 22mph and 85th percentile 27mph. The survey was done where the Clerk asked it to be done on the straight before the main bend where excessive speed had been reported.

The extremely low traffic speed and volume, as based upon the data a reduced speed limit/Quiet Lane status may achieve little.

Quiet lanes have no TRO, no enforcement. Not to be supported:

- * Avg speeds 22mph in a 60mph zone
- * Just one PROW adjacent to it
- * Low volume of traffic
- * No accidents recorded of any kind

If it gets through validation, it has to go to public consultation which requires GWPC involvement

Both schemes sit in the “Awaiting Funding” queue with 102 other schemes. 14 Cllrs sit on the Chelmsford LHP, who are expected to consider safety and number of people affected as priority aspects, using the traffic web site which reports on Fatalities and Serious Injuries over the last 5 years.

Cllr Steel: requested that the outcome of the agenda items should be clear on why these schemes should be considered for the “Funded” list and to put this in writing.

Safer Roads and Highways Maintenance:

Essex Highways Multi topic briefing. This was an informative session covering capital schemes, how repairs are prioritised, managing utilities, keeping people informed. I have to say that I was disappointed that the session was cut short to 2 hours, even though advertised for 3 hours. There were still many participants with their hands raised when it was halted. I have made my concerns known to EALC and Highways.

From a safe roads perspective, it would be informative to join one of Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) events to understand the Vision Zero Strategy which aspires to ZERO road deaths and serious injuries on roads in the Essex, Southend and Thurrock council areas by 2040. It is useful to understand the entire system approach to this goal, and how this relates to Parish Councils

You might also like to look at Safer Essex Roads

Partnership <https://saferessexroads.org/> and their Vision Zero Strategy which aspires to ZERO road deaths and serious injuries on roads in the Essex, Southend and Thurrock council areas by 2040. This is a systematic approach to reducing deaths and injuries on the roads – it is not just about speeding and preventing accidents, but also reducing the consequences should an accident occur.

I have arranged for the Highways Cabinet Member to meet five of my 10 Parish Councils on 19th Nov (GW, LW, Chignal, Writtle and Broomfield). These five have the most queries on Highway maintenance and LHP requests submitted. The meeting will look at the gap between Parish Council, public expectations and Highway's delivery and what can be done about it.

City Council Parish Boundary change recommendations were approved to go to consultation at the City Council meeting of 22nd Sept. All residents potentially affected will get a written correspondence and invitation to comment. Others can still comment.

Following a second event with similar traffic and nuisance issues to the first event, there is a licence review of the Wheelers Farm events licence on 25th Oct. Essex Police requested the review due to the traffic issues. I will be joining the review.

So far bin collection has not been affected by the national HGV driver shortages.

Post Covid car park income recovery is not going too well. Whilst short term retail car parks have returned to 80% of pre-Covid levels, Park & Ride and long-term commuter car Parks are around 20%.

At the Cabinet meeting of 12th Oct, I asked about arrangements this year in relation to the motion I put through City council, in Jan 2020, to address the objectives set out by the RSPCA in relation to the nuisance issues around fireworks as far as the City Council can control these items - encouraging all publicly organised firework displays to be advertised in advance of the event, actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare, encourage retailers to withdraw the sale of fireworks to the public, lobby UK Government to limit fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public, more rigorously enforce regulations of the selling of fireworks.

The response was that City Council will have a new campaign launched on 25th Oct. I have put a plea for responsible use of fireworks into the Parish News.

21/885 Confirmation of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21st September 2021.

Resolution The Minutes were Confirmed.

21/886 Local Planning Authority Decisions:

21/01453/LBC	Wallops Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AP	Application Permitted
21/01059/FUL	Field At Grid Reference 571030 215770 Hyde Hall Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Withdrawn
21/01555/TEL56	Telecommunications Apparatus Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Prior Approval Required - Refused
21/01487/FUL	Mead Cottage Broads Green Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DR	Application Permitted
21/01403/FUL	Greenways Church Lane Ford End Chelmsford Essex CM3 1LH	Application Refused
21/05586/CAT	Langley's The Village Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AH	Withdrawn
20/01062/S73	Grey Goose Barn Margaret Woods Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DZ	Application Permitted

21/887 Planning Applications

1. Reference: 21/01808/FUL

Address: Tinkers Revel Broads Green Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Construction of a two-storey side extension and extension to existing side dormer.

Resolution The Parish Council has no Objections

2. Reference: 21/01835/FUL

Address: Great Waltham Cricket Club The Village Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Single storey side extension to existing cricket clubhouse.

Resolution The Parish Council Supports this application as it is a Local amenity

3. Reference: 21/01692/FUL

Address: Bridge House Lucks Lane Howe Street Chelmsford
 Description of works: Two storey rear and single storey side extensions. Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new detached garage.

Resolution **The parish Council has no objections**

21/888 Finance Reports:

• <u>Reserve Account</u>	<u>£ 17,437</u>
o General Reserve	£6737
o Allotment Deposit	£700
o FE Variable Speed Camera	£10,000
• <u>Current Account</u>	<u>£ 29,424</u>
<u>Total on Hand</u>	<u>£ 46,861</u>

21/889 Payments for Approval

Details	Value £	Budget Heading
Village Hall rent	£316.09	Rent
Cllr Martin - Pavilion Expenses	£698.00	General Reserve
Cllr Martin - Pavilion Expenses	£512.83	General Reserve
Water for Bury lane	£65.04	Water
Wave - water for Brook Mead	£58.83	Water
Wave - Water for Changing Room	£4.03	Utilities
PKF LITTLEJOHN	£360.00	AUDIT
HMRC	£539.11	PAYE
Salaries	£1231.55	Salary
Essex Pension Fund	£383.23	Pension
EALC - Training Cllr Steel	£24.00	Training
EALC - Training Cllr Lockwood	£24.00	Training
Amazon- Barrier Tape	£8.99	general reserve

Total **£4225.59**

Resolution **The payments were approved.**

21/890 Monthly Bank reconciliation – Chairman of the F&GP

Resolution **Approved with Zero difference.**

21/891 Updates on the action tracker

Follow up on the Phone Box paint from X2 Connect and the Tree Survey report – within 6 months work report.

21/892 To consider request for help from Parish News to address shortfall in advertising income due to Covid.
 The Parish News supports the Parish Council as every household gets a printed copy delivered by the volunteers which contains a precis of the meeting minutes, PC notifications and the Annual Report. GWPC considers it a valuable resource.

Resolution **Parish Council to support the Parish News with a grant of £1050 this financial year.**

21/893 The Movement of the Sid machine around the Parish.
 The SID is meant to cycle around the designated sites. It was also noted that previous meeting had agreed that readings would be taken on Breeds Road

40mph entry point, and then the SID would go to Howe street next. The issue was that the batteries were not holding charge.

Resolution **Buy 2 new batteries immediately as the older batteries have become unreliable with short life.**

Resolution **Issue the 7 Sid pole site rotation plan.**

21/894 Discuss the quotes for renovating our wooden assets to prolong their service life.

Resolution **Approved to proceed with all the jobs works quoted to Bus Shelters and Noticeboards.**

Resolution **Clerk to contact GST Home Maintenance to proceed**

21/895 Meeting held 1st Sept with all participants. Next meeting 25th Oct. There will be the usual parade from Duffries Close, via Hatchfields to Banbury Square. Road Closures applied for, from City Council/ECC. Piper, drum major and last post bugler secured. The laying of wreaths, etc. will take place at the memorial, Due to Covid concerns, the Church service will be at the war memorial. There will not be the usual mass gathering at the Legion afterwards, with just members and invited guests. We have two wreaths for GW and FE.

21/896 Review of draft survey to Cherry Garden Road residents (see original agenda item 19/342), with a view to agreement and roll-out. Discussion around some of the wording. Planned to be deliver by Hand to each resident in Cherry Garden Road. They will then be collected or Surveys can be returned via the Parish Letter box at the Great Waltham Village Hall or – Emailed to the Parish Clerk.

21/897 Discuss the LHP application to make Ringtail Green a Quiet Lane Cllr Steel declared a conflict of interest and did not take part in the debate. Briefing note was discussed. This is available on the website. Single track lane through a small hamlet. Increased number of pedestrians. Concerns raised about the vehicles that were out with the averages.

Resolution **Clerk to write to Essex County Councilor Steel with Concerns about the data interpretation due to the outliers, request the cost of installation and the process and confirm that the current data belonging to ECC and LHP meets the Criteria for a Quiet Lane, and the Scheme can move forward to Validation.**

Resolution **Clerk to draft the letter and share with the full Council. Cllrs Martin and Gilbert to provide the statistical data input.**

21/898 Discuss the Ford End 40mph Northern Buffer Zone. Cllr Steel declared a conflict of interest and did not take part in the debate but sought to Clarify the Parish Council's needs. There have been various speed data monitors on the approach to Ford End, but the Village has changed with a business Park outside the Village and houses being developed. Speeding is a concern at the Northern End. Safe approach to and through Ford End. Move the 40MPH north of the business Park. The Traffic is entering the 30MPH too fast. It was noted that it can take up to 15minutes to cross the road.

Resolution **Clerk to write to the Essex County Councilor to Request another traffic / data count at a to be agreed point and raised several areas of concern.**

Resolution **Clerk to draft the letter and share with the full Council. Cllrs Martin and Gilbert to provide the statistical data input.**

21/899 Update on the Pavilion renovation at Great Waltham.

The Kitchen units have been installed. Electric Heaters to be installed.
Kitchen goods have been installed. Locality fund can now be claimed for the
£1000 from ECC.

Resolution **Clerk to claim the £1000 Locality fund grant.**

21/900 Debate an Amendment to the Action Log to separately Record Highway's
Related Matters.
Make Available on the website as part of the action log. A separate
committee on Highways matters was discussed.

Resolution **Approved and included any items posted on the Essex highways
website with the reference number.**

21/901 Update on the Queens Platinum Jubilee committee
Meeting arranged in the Parish Office - 28th October – 7.30PM

21/902 Any items to be included in the Budget for 2022 to 2023.
Add in a Trees Management Cost and ensure Grants can cover the Parish
News in case any difficulties continue in to 2022/2023.

21/903 To propose signage to the white gates into villages 'community speed watch
village' as a deterrent to speeding.
Highways do not support a Speed Watch sign and there are some signs
already on posts.

Resolution **No action.**

21/904 A proposal to review preschool non charging of rent of allotment plot and
introduce the service charge only.

Resolution **Close the item.**

21/905 To consider concerns from residents on illegal and prolonged use of
Fireworks.
Statement from Chelmsford City Council in the Parish News. Avoid making a
nuisance and pointing to CCC website – RocketOClock
There was an incident on 9th Oct where fireworks were let off in GW after
11.30pm - fireworks are illegal after 11pm except for specific dates – 5th
Nov Diwali and NY. Complaint was registered with CCC Public health dept.

21/906 Response to Parish News Survey.
Given that the purpose of the survey was for the PN to seek grants for the
funding shortfall, and GWPC had agreed to cover this with a grant, it was not
seen necessary to for GWPC to respond to the survey.

Resolution **Item closed**

21/907 Report back on ECC Highways Multi Topic Briefing and whether to respond
to request for feedback.
Disappointing that the briefing was closed after 2 hours and not the 3 hours it had
been booked for.

21/908 To consider SEPP recommendation to extend South Street Double Yellow
Lines by 20m rather than the one car length requested by GWPC.
SEPP recommendation is to extend the Double yellow lines for 20m along
South Street from their current position to just beyond the tactile dropped
Kerbs. SEPP view is that there should be restricted parking at tactile drop
Kerbs. This will bring the area up to the latest regulations.

Resolution **The Parish Council does not object to SEPP recommendation.**

21/909 Agree a donation to the Waltham Scout Group for use of the Scout hut
October and November.

Resolution **A donation of £20 per night of use to be paid to the Scouts.**

21/910 Condition of Pump Green, in North End.

Photographs were shared showing that although the green was well maintained – the field edge had grown up with weeds and brambles.

Resolution **Cllr Steel to establish if the Green was owned by ECC or CCC.**

Resolution **Clerk to arrange with Highway's rangers to cut back the vegetation.**

21/911 Discuss and approve any items for the "Parish Council News" section of the Parish News – Cllr Steel

- Ford End recreation ground – Tree care update
- Litter pick at Ford End at the end of the month
- Reminder on New allotment rents
- Advert for remembrance Sunday – specifically stating that public join the parade at their own risk
- Abridged Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting closed 21:55
W. Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council.