

Great Waltham Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Monday 15th November 2021 in the Scout Hut, Blossom Way, Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham. at 7.30pm.

21/912 Chairman's Welcome

Chair Steel

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

21/913 Apologies

Cllr Lockwood and Cllr Micklem

21/914. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) about items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

21/915 Public Participation session (Items do not need to be on the agenda)

2 Members of the Public

Request for an update on the EE mast at Ford End – Update was that the test work had been reported to Highways.

The Lime Walk in Great Waltham Church Yard – 23 trees need pollard with a cost more than £2000 plus vat. Previously undertaken by Volunteers. A call for volunteers was made.

Concerns raised about no mail deliveries at Ford End for several weeks. Ringtail Green had a delivery today (15th November).

Concerns on the proposed budget and Precept increase being above the current inflation levels.

21/916 Report by County Councillor. - Cllr Mike Steel

40mph buffer and Ringtail Green Quiet Lane:

Requested GWPC write concerning why these schemes should be schemes should be considered for the LHP "Funded" list .Thank you for sending this.

The LHP funding sub-committee meeting on 17th November with five members of the fourteen, attending. They will make recommendations for the full fourteen. We will be considering 102 schemes already sitting on the "Awaiting Funding" queue, so will be spending a few mins on each one.

Both documents passed onto Jon Simmons for consideration and response.

Requested that the Quiet Lane go through the formal Validation process. Also, the Northern FE Ford End 40mph buffer has been pulled off the archive list and back on to the Awaiting funding list. So, both will be considered at the meeting of 17th Nov.

Meeting with Highways Cabinet Member

Highways Cabinet Member to meet five of the ten 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 PC/public expectations and Highway's delivery and what can be done about it.

Cllr Martin is attending on GWPC. Whilst I will be there, it will be in the capacity of the County Cllr and Chair of the meeting. It would be appropriate for a second GWPC Cllr to attend.

LHP review:

I am a member of a small working Party that is looking at the way the 12 ECC LHPs operate – which will investigate their objectives, cost bases, criteria, and scope.

Post

A few people have contacted me complaining about the post. It appears that the problem is evident in many of the parishes in my division but does not seem to be hitting areas outside Chelmsford. Rumours are of staff round changes, additional deliveries added to rounds, absences, staff shortages. Promises made by Royal Mail have faltered, and the ability to go to the sorting office to get post seems to have been withdrawn. I understand that many people have genuine issues with missed medical appointments, Covid test results.

Whilst this is not a County Council issue, I have taken the following action:

- Contacted the CEO of Royal Mail 4th Nov, which was acknowledged with a promise of a response. However, no response has been forthcoming yet – I did send a follow up email
- Contacted our MP, Kemi Badenoch, who has also been in contact with the CEO office. I arranged for Kemi to meet some parishioners on 12th Nov, to voice their concerns. She is also in contact with the Royal Mail CEO and asking what is being done to address the problems.
- Contacted the BBC – they did a feature on Essex Radio on 5th Nov

It seems there have been some improvements with some deliveries made, but there are still stories of people not having had mail for 2 weeks.

Buses

Complaints received about withdrawal of bus services to Great Waltham Parish. Again, this is not something ECC can influence, but I have registered a complaint and received the following response:

“The reason for the change is commercial. With reducing Government support and suppressed passenger numbers (70% of pre Covid passenger numbers overall, but this varies by area and route), and the fewer number of people flying from Stansted, we have assessed the provision of service between Chelmsford, Great Waltham, Dunmow, and Stansted. Previously there were three buses per hour, one each on 42A, X10, X30 between Chelmsford and Stansted. The plan was to reduce to two buses per hour to Stansted daily, with the 42A withdrawn whilst maintaining as much of the intermediate travel as possible by diverting X10 via Great Waltham every hour in place of the 42A and diverting the X30 through Great Dunmow every hour to replace most of the 42A service there. This does mean that the direct Great Waltham to Great Dunmow connection is lost without a change of bus. We will of course monitor the performance of the new route pattern and collate feedback, to see if further adjustment is needed, but the likelihood is that the two buses per hour to Stansted will remain in the short term, with the ambition to build things back up to three buses per hour in the future when a higher level of demand returns.”

I think that one of the key issues was that the communication of the changes was poor, with rumours and conjecture right up to the date of change and First Bus website did not communicate anything until the last minute. GWPC do not currently have a Transport rep, which may help to keep abreast of such changes.

21/917 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor.

Wheelers Farm Licence:

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

However, the licence holder representative requested a deferment at the start of the meeting. This request was considered in private and granted until 3rd Dec. I cannot say what the reasons were, because although I joined the meeting as the local City Cllr, I am not a Licence Committee Member. I will be joining the 3rd of Dec meeting.

Fireworks:

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. The response was that City Council will have a new campaign launched on 25th Oct. I did not receive any complaints this year.

21/918 Confirmation of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18th October 2021

Resolution Confirmation of the minutes.

21/919 Confirmation of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on the 25th of October 2021

Resolution Defer to the next meeting

21/920 Local Planning Authority Decisions:

Reference	Address	Status
21/01808/FUL	Tinkers Revel Broads Green Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DR	Application Permitted

21/921 Planning Applications

1. Reference: 21/02137/FUL

Address: Wallops Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Alteration of existing stables building and proposed extension with glazed link.

Resolution No Objections

2. Reference: 21/02138/LBC

Address: Wallops Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Alteration of existing stables building, including insulation, repair and replace roof tiles. Restore external door opening to original dimensions and installation of new timber window to South elevation. New internal timber door. Proposed extension with glazed link.

Resolution No Objections

21/922 Finance Reports:

- **Reserve Account** **£ 10,700**
 - Allotment Deposit £700
 - FE Variable Speed Camera £10,000
- **Current Account** **£ 29,167.78**
- Total on Hand** **£ 39,867.78**

21/923 Payments for Approval

Details	Value £	Budget Heading
Village Hall rent	£316.09	Rent
Grant to the Parish News	£1,050.00	grant
GST Homemaintenance	£1,985.80	general reserve
GST Homemaintenance	£412.50	general reserve
A. Martin - Pavilion refurb	£11.42	general reserve
A. Martin - Pavilion refurb	£35.70	general reserve
A. Martin - Pavilion refurb	£57.50	general reserve
A. Martin - Pavilion refurb	£154.59	general reserve
Salary and Expenses	£1,425	Salary
HMRC	£539.11	PAYE
Essex pension	£383.23	Pension
Groundworks Contract	£1,462.50	Grounds maintenance
Jcm Hedgecut at the allotments	£102.00	general reserve
DM Payroll	£66.00	Salary
Amazon - Black Cartridge	£37.95	Office
Amazon - Coloured Cartridge	£138.75	Office
EALC - Training Cllr Lockwood	£24.00	Training
Donation to the Scouts	£40.00	General Reserve
GST Homemaintenance	£380.00	General Reserve

Total **£8,622.14**

Resolution **The payments were approved**

21/924 Monthly Bank reconciliation – Chairman of the F&GP
Resolution **The Bank reconciliation was confirmed at zero variation**

21/925 Updates on the action tracker – All

Outstanding Actions **Issues the Sid rotation Plan to all members, Move item Broad's telephone box internal paint back to open and Update on Cllr Micklem Tree survey**

21/926 The Finance and General Purposes committee recommends an increase in the budget from £53,180 to £82,119.

There was a long discussion on the 22/23 budget and several scenarios were viewed to minimise the budget to reduce the strain on any household.

The Responsible Financial officer provided a budget of £95,455, an increase of 59%, that included all areas of expense for the next 12-month period. The Finance and General Purposes committee reviewed this budget and proposed a budget to £82,118 by moving some areas of expenditure across two budget years to minimise the increase.

Over the last year the Parish Council has updated the play equipment at Ford End, and installed new play items at Great Waltham and Howe Street

The increase in budget is required to cover tree works on around forty trees on land that the Parish Council owns, continue to upgrade the Pavilion at Great Waltham, and replace aged wooden play equipment at Howe Street. There has been a rolling program of replacing wooden assets that are reaching the end of their operational life with spend pulled from reserves.

Proposal The F&GP recommend Budget Increase of 38% to be approved

Amended proposal Constrain the Budget increase to 29% by extending the time period over which assets are replaced. This was defeated in a vote.

Resolution **The Budget for 2022 to 2023 was passed of £82,118 a 38% Increase.**

21/927 Discuss and approve the Precept for 2022-2023.

Proposal A precept of £73,620 be placed on Chelmsford City Council.

This equates to an increase of £20.85 per band D property per annum – an increase £1.74 per month.

Resolution **The precept of £73,620 to be placed on Chelmsford City Council was passed.**

21/928 Discuss the Quote for North End – Pump Green – Grounds Works BY JCM

Resolution **The Quote by JCM was approved.**

21/929 Update on works carried out by GST- Works on maintaining the wooden assets of the Parish Council – items completed.

Bus shelters at North End, Ford End, Howe Street and Great Waltham have been renovated and wood stained.

The Notice board at Ford end has been renovated and wood stained.

21/930 Additional works for GST- Great Waltham Noticeboard- The Clerk

The quote to Repair the noticeboard was discussed. There were several options discussed on a new location of the noticeboard. But still within the Village.

Proposal to have the handyman remove the noticeboard from outside the shop and move it to the Bus Shelter at the war memorial. Glass doors to be removed and the frame to be mounted on the bus shelter.

This should reduce the future maintenance requirements as the noticeboard will be protected from the weather.

21/931 To elect a Transport Representative for the Parish– Cllr Steel

Invitation to attend an Essex Highways “Bus Back Better” call on 18th Nov.
We are not staying abreast of First Bus changes, nor influencing them. The recent complaints about the changes to 42A services have caused concern, not least due to the poor way they were communicated.

Resolution **Cllr Palmer was elected to the role.**

21/932 Update on Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations in the Parish.

Each organisation is confirming what they want to achieve and will meet on Friday 19th. It was proposed to give every child in the Parish of primary age a commemorative mug. The school will have difficulties in taking part in the celebrations as it is half term

21/933 To update and confirm the new standing order to the Village Hall for Office rent with a 4.45% increase – taking the rent to £329.45 pcm.

Resolution **approved**

21/934 Discuss the ongoing problems and complaints related to the postal service in Ford End

Resolution **Cllr Steel to write to our MP to confirm actions she has undertaken.**

21/935 Adopt the Financial regulations as they stand (Model Financial Regulations 2019)

Resolution **Defer until the next meeting**

21/936 Adopt the Standing Orders as they stand (Model Standing Orders 2018 updated 2020) - defer

Resolution **Defer until the next meeting**

21/937 Consider the future uses of Great Waltham Pavilion – Cllr Martin

Resolution **Set up a working committee to explore future use Cllr Jackson, Gary Dunn, Jenkins, Gilbert and the Clerk.**

Resolution **Refer the role and responsibilities of the Caretaker to the staffing committee for review.**

21/938 Discuss and approve any items for the “Parish Council News” section of the Parish News – Cllr Steel

- Abridged Minutes
- Thank you for the litter picks
- Highlight the Transport rep

Next meeting Monday 20th December in the Upstairs Committee room at Great Waltham Village Hall

Meeting Closed 21.30

**Will Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council**