

Great Waltham Parish Council

The Parish Office, Great Waltham Village Hall (Houlton Hall), South Street, Great Waltham.
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Clerk: W. Adshead-Grant

Chair: S. Gilbert
Vice-Chair: A. Martin

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Thursday 27th October 2022 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham.

1. Chair's Welcome.

Chair: Gilbert
Councillors: Jackson, Jenkins, Martin, McDevitt, Micklem and Steel.

The Chair explained the reason for the extraordinary meeting was a matter of timing – the Council was not otherwise due to meet before the response dates for comments on the schemes to be discussed.

2. Apologies for absence.

Cllrs. Dunn, Huggins, Lockwood and Palmer.

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

None.

4. Public Participation Session (items do not need to be on the agenda)

In his role as ECC councillor, Cllr. Steel provided a backdrop on the schemes being considered:

LCHE182009 - B1008 Ford End - Kerbing improvements

This scheme is budgeted (at £48k) for both design and implementation in the current financial year. The works relates to safety improvement requests originally made in 2018 which featured in the Ford End Road Traffic Committee's report of March of that year, and were supported by the Council. Budget restraints mean that improvements to safety of pedestrians has been limited to the bus stops, where the public (including schoolchildren) are more likely to gather. The Council was asked to be mindful that anything other than minor changes to the design may mean the scheme being sent back to the full LHP assessment committee where re-justification of its merits would be required, with no guarantee that it would be reapproved.

LCHE203002 - Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham

This scheme is currently budgeted for both design and implementation in the current financial year at £6.5k. The Technical Note from Essex Highways Design Team identifies these options:

- Introducing a rail (of no less than 20m.) from the bottom of the slope at a cost of £9.5k, which is higher than the agreed budget, but with a significantly greater prospect of being approved.
- The work to regrade the surface has a nominal cost allocation of £24k, but has likely substantial extra costs to investigate and upgrade as necessary shallow utility services at the site. Citing this option would mean the scheme being referred back to the LHP assessment committee with no guarantee of it being approved (especially when the precise level of funding required is unknown).

There is a third option of doing nothing as there is an alternative, albeit longer, route which pedestrians can use.

There were no other members of the public present.

5. Discuss the scheme LCHE182009 - B1008 Ford End - Kerbing improvements.

In addition to Cllr' Steel's remarks in 4. above, the meeting noted:

- The raised kerbs at the bus stops will improve disabled access onto/off the buses.
- Raised kerbs at the stops may well act as a traffic calming features in their immediate vicinity.
- That since 2018 the B1008 has been resurfaced meaning that in some places the road surface is level with that of the pavements.
- That restricting improvements to just the bus stops does nothing to alleviate the condition of many of the footways elsewhere in the village.
- The siting of the Dunmow bound stop at Site 3 could perhaps be improved by moving it away from its current position (where the narrow footway is immediately adjacent to a brick wall which leaves pedestrians more vulnerable should vehicles leave the road).

Resolution: The Council to agree the proposals as presented by Essex Highways Design Team, but to draw attention to the apparent benefits of moving the Dunmow bound stop at Site 3, provided it could be achieved without extra costs and/or delays to the scheme.

6. Discuss the scheme LCHE203002 - Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway Improvements.

In addition to Cllr' Steel's remarks in 4. above, the meeting noted:

- The request for improvement of the footway was raised by the Council initially in 2020.
- The Essex Highways Technical Note itself acknowledges the footway is 'extremely well used' but that its surface is in poor condition 'making it difficult to use for all pedestrians, especially less able-bodied users'.
- The current concrete surface has been in place for at least 50 years.
- The alternative route is wheelchair friendly and has been resurfaced.
- The design of any railing should complement the rural setting.

Resolution: The Council to agree Option 2 (Providing a new pedestrian guardrail) in the Essex Highways Technical Note, but to ask for the technical reason why a new surface cannot apparently be installed at the same time, and to seek information on the proposed design of the railing at the site.

7. Note that scheme LCHE182051 - B1008 Northern Approach to Ford End - 40mph buffer will be going to traffic order.

The meeting noted that the Council had previously sought and received a response to its enquiry regarding the placement of the start of the 40mph limit.

Resolution: The Council to confirm it has no comments on the draft order, statement of reasons and map illustrating the proposal received from Network Assurance, Essex Highways and looks forward to implementation as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm
Steve Gilbert
Chair, Great Waltham Parish Council