

# Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant, The Parish Office, Great Waltham Village Hall (Houlton Hall), South Street, Great Waltham, Essex, CM3 1DF. Telephone 07880717329

E Mail: [clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk) Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish>

---

Minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee of Great Waltham Parish Council held in the Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF on Monday 17th April 2023.

1. Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert.

Councillors: Martin and McDevitt.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Lockwood.

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

There were no declarations.

4. Public Participation session - items do not need to on the agenda.

4 members of the public attended:

- The Chairman of Barnston Parish Council (BPC) attended to show support for the Committee and to observe the meeting. His local authority is Uttlesford DC. There is potential to work together with BPC and Essex Highways to improve the roads locally, especially the B1008.
- A Ford End resident raised concerns over the traffic volumes though Ford End and commented that they are getting worse. Looking for an update. Also, the Sheepcotes roundabout signs should be reinstated to move the heavy goods vehicles traffic off the B1008 and on to the A130. The signs for the M11 also need to be changed. The concern is that the works to have them re-instated must be made now, before the Northeast bypass is started.
- A Ford End resident to support the Ford End Speed Watch group. The team in Ford End is looking for new volunteers to support their work. There has been an article in the Parish News looking for support for this initiative. There is a potential opportunity to use social media as a recruitment tool. More members would allow weekend or evening working, giving greater coverage. Speeds up to 53mph were noted in the latest data (from the Chelmsford direction through Ford End). It was noted that the overwhelming majority of vehicles appear to ignore the speed limits through the village of Ford End.
- A Great Waltham resident wanted to express his concerns on the state of the roads especially Mill Lane, the unlit road that runs down to Mill House at Howe Street. It has a poor surface and several potholes which have all been reported to Essex Highways, but no action has been taken. Concerns generally that the local highways, footways and byways are not fit for purpose. What can be done collectively to improve this position? Signage around the Parish is poor, and the vegetation needs a cut back. It is believed by the resident that the Parish Council owns the first part of Mill Lane – the resident will send on the information to the Clerk. The meeting briefly discussed the benefits of speed humps on the main road in Ford End and Great Waltham but acknowledged that currently this is not possible because of the route's PR1 status.

5. To note the latest positions and developments for items on the Committee's action tracker document and to agree actions and/or make any recommendations to the Council to facilitate their completion and closure.

Reference	Detail of resolution	Date Originated	Current position
1	Ford End Average Speed Cameras		<p>DfT: It was also suggested that DfT be contacted in relation to the B1008 through Ford End and its status as a back-up for the A130. I have spoken to the Transportation Planning &amp; Infrastructure Manager at ECC Highways whose initial reaction was that DfT would not contribute any funds to a speed camera. I followed up on the verbal conversation with a request to ask DfT to downgrade the road, so it was no longer a back-up route. This is the response I have received. "As you are aware the issue with the B1008 has been around now ever since the reclassification on the section of A130 from the A131 to Great Dunmow was undertaken. When DfT approved the reclassification they did heavily caveat that the section from the A131 to Great Dunmow was required to remain available for all traffic as it was the route that traffic would expect to use if there was any event on the A120 or A131, that meant that no physical traffic calming, or weight limits could be applied. The situation to be reviewed when the Chelmsford Northeast bypass was completed. We have previously investigated speed cameras and there is not a speeding issue or a collision problem therefore no justification. Traffic calming will create more issues than it solves, may increase emissions and noise as well as possible ground borne vibration. I appreciate this is not new as such to you but reflects where we are at present." . Recommendation for the Parish Council to re iterate its support for this camera. Cllr Lee Scott is to confirm funding is available for 50% of the Unit. Cllr. Scott confirmed (3/4/2023): 'In terms of any LHP Match Funding I believe it was always the case that the Panel were waiting on GWPC to arrange their part of the funding. The Panel has to date not been informed that GWPC has their Match Funding contribution available'. The H&amp;TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted the update and that the issue of whether the Council raises a loan to fund half of the cost of an ASC system will be discussed at the May monthly meeting.</p>
21/705 (Apr 2021)	To address the reduction of pavement widths in the parish due to encroachment of the verges and determine what action can be taken to recover them. Several Pavement footpaths are becoming overgrown in Ford End, Main road, Great Dunmow end of Ford End , Sandon Hill, main Road Ford End , Main road Chelmsford. Also, footpath between Ford End and North End, and footpath from Langley's	26/04/2021	<p>Highways Rangers won't work on the footpath from Kings farm down into the Village as it has no backing. Highways Rangers recommend a LHP approach. Reported to Essex Highways <b>2726389</b> LHP scheme in use LHP have now archived the item. 09/04/2023 Essex Highways website: Enquiry Reference: 2726389 Issue: footway defects - The Street: Main Road, Chelmsford Last updated: 16/10/21 Status: A defect has been identified, the issue will be programmed for repair according to how we prioritise highway issues. The H&amp;TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that the LHP scheme raised (LCHE182010) has been archived, which, with the demise of the Highway Rangers, leaves the problem unresolved. The meeting agreed to produce a</p>

	<p>South lodge to Ash Keys. <b><u>Resolution Ford End highway pavements to be raised with Highways Rangers.</u></b> <b><u>Resolution Other areas identified to be added to the action tracker for future referral to Highway rangers</u></b></p>		<p>paper with new evidence making the case for recommending that the scheme is resurrected.</p>
2755500 (Essex Highways)	<p>Hoe Lane . Blocked Drain. Reported Essex Highways. 31.12.2021</p>	31.12.21	<p>Blocked Culvert recorded. Repairs to be scheduled. 09/04/2023 Essex Highways website: Enquiry Reference: 2755500 Issue: highway drainage problems Street: Hoe Lane, Chelmsford Last updated: 09/02/22 Status: A defect has been identified, the issue will be programmed for repair according to how we prioritise highway issues. The H&amp;TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that the defect may have been fixed but the EH has not been updated.</p>
2758382 (Essex Highways)	<p>Cherry Garden Road near number 62. Drain cover appears to be blocked.</p>	19.01.2022	<p>09/04/2023 Essex Highways website: Blocked drain. To be considered for repairs. Issue: highway drainage problems Street: Cherry Garden Road, Chelmsford Last updated: 02/02/22 Status: A defect has been identified, the issue will be programmed for repair according to how we prioritise highway issues. The H&amp;TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that the defect may have been fixed but the EH has not been updated.</p>
2771004 (Essex Highways)	<p>Dead Ash Tree at corner of Lucks Lane , main road , Howe Street . Potential to close the road. Dead Ash tree.</p>	29.03.2022	<p>09/04/2023 Essex Highways website: Enquiry Reference: 2771004 Issue: vegetation problems Street: Lucks Lane, Chelmsford Last updated: 23/03/23 Status: The issue was reported on a road that has been inspected and identified issues are recorded and actioned in line with our maintenance strategy. The H&amp;TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that the defect may have been fixed but the EH has not been updated.</p>
22/1133 (May 2022)	<p>To discuss actions to be taken at Ringtail Green following the extraordinary meeting at Ford End. A report was circulated with 4 proposals: 1. Install Ringtail Green Name plates with a drive slowly message. 2. Pursue Quiet Lane status for the lane – approximate cost £2,000. 3. Paint Slow road markings at either side of the bend. 4. Advisory road signs at either side of the bend e.g., maximum speed and chevrons.</p> <p><b><u>Resolution Item 1 – Clerk to contact the street naming team at Chelmsford City Council</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Resolution Clerk to</u></b></p>	23.05.2022	<p>Item 1 - Has been sent in to the LHP - this has been validated and will now go into the queue for funding. Item 2 - Is already in the LHP queue. - this will not proceed as this did not get the support of the other members of the LHP. "Awaiting Funding" list – LCHE212014 Item 3 - LHP request to be raised by the Clerk - On item 3 – Painted 'Slow' road markings at either side of the bend I discussed this with the LHP Manager. He believes that to have SLOW written on the road, you also have to have a triangular warning sign as well. This would be determined as part of the design process. However, it would need to get through the LHP validation process first to go to the design stage, which is unlikely to happen given that the recorded speeds were an average 22mph, 85th percentile 27mph and there are no reports of accidents in that area . These measurements were made on the straight patch as specified by GWPC. However, if GWPC wish to fund this option, the LHP Manager estimated a cost between £5K and £10K. To refine the cost estimate would need the design work to be undertaken, which is usually about a third of the cost Item 4 - LHP request to be raised by the Clerk - Advisory road signs at either side of the bend, e.g. advisory max speed or right/left hand bend signs Advisory speed limits would have the same issues as Item 3 above – maybe more onerous scrutiny.</p>

	<u><b>raise LHP requests via Cllr Steel for items 3 and 4.</b></u>		The Price guide suggests that “Change of single speed limit which is uncontentious and where minimal infrastructure is required. £15,000” As this is not actually a change, it may not be as high as that. Again, to refine the estimate would need a funded design The H&TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that it has only been possible to progress one proposal (LCHE222014). The meeting agreed to produce a paper with new evidence making the case for recommending that previously rejected schemes are reconsidered, especially taking account the impact of the archived scheme LCHE182010 (see above).
22/12/22 (Aug 2022)	20's Plenty campaign. The scope of the campaign locally is likely to be predicated by an outstanding update by Safer Essex Roads Partnership to its Functional Route Hierarchy Review, to be followed then by a revision of the Essex Speed Management Strategy. There is no published date for completion of these reviews. Resolution: The Clerk to write to Safer Essex Roads Partnership for an update on the timetable for completion.	15/08/2022	Clerk to update next meeting. The H&TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that the Clerk will chase a response to the outstanding query.
H&TC_9/22 7	Cllr Palmer to prepare a draft of the role of the Parish Council Public Transport Representative.	Sep-22	Outstanding. The H&TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that this remains outstanding. Carried forward to next meeting.
H&TC_2/23 10	Standing invitation to Committee meetings for the parish's Speed Watch co-ordinators.	Feb-23	Clerk to update next meeting. ADD AS SA STANDING ITEM The H&TC meeting (17/4/2023) agreed that once all coordinators have been notified of the opportunity to attend meetings the item can be closed.
H&TC_2/23 15	To consider future requests to the Local Highways Panel. Resolution: List of potential schemes to be created for the next meeting.	Feb-23	Clerk to update next meeting. 17/4/2023. The meeting noted that LHP schemes are now shown separately on the Committee's action tracker. This action can therefore be closed.
H&TC_2/23 16	Discuss the poor condition of the footway between Bennett's Lane and Parsonage Lane on the B1008 on the North End side. Resolution: Add to the list of LHP requests for discussion.	Feb-23	Clerk to update next meeting. The H&TC meeting (17/4/2023) noted that since the issue was originally raised some work has been effected. It was confirmed that any outstanding/necessary work should be added to the new LHP requests list for consideration. On that basis this action can be closed.

The meeting noted that the Essex Highways defects tracking map shows approximately 80 outstanding defects of one type or another on or immediately adjacent to the B1008 in Ford End (between Kings Farm and Ford End School).

**Resolution:** **Chair and Clerk to draft an e-mail to Essex Highways to confirm the status of defects noted on action tracker (as some seem to have been resolved without the EH database having been updated).**

**Resolution Clerk to request details of all defects shown as outstanding on the Essex Highways website that are in the Parish of Great Waltham.**

**Resolution Clerk to establish the existence (or not) of Playground signage for the Great Waltham Recreation Ground at both entrances.**

6. To review progress on the Local Highways Panel planned work for Great Waltham Parish.

	Status	Scheme	Description	Scheme stage
LCHE182009	Funded	B1008 Ford End - Kerbing improvements	Height of kerbs through Village	In progress, completion imminent (1 kerb still to be completed).
LCHE203002	Funded	Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway Improvements	Footway improvements	Design agreed. Works delayed due to funding prioritisations, but completion expected in 2023/24.
LCHE202036	Funded	Littley Park Cottages, Littley Park Lane, Hartford End - Road markings	SLOW road markings for existing bend warning signs	On Hold. Works not undertaken. Agreed to chase reason for delay.
LCHE182010	Awaiting Funding	B1008 Ford End - Footway improvements	Width of footway through Village	This has been archived. Agreed that paper with new evidence should be produced, making the case for recommending that previously rejected scheme is reconsidered.
LCHE192028	Awaiting Funding	Ford End - Average speed cameras	Average speed cameras	Awaiting match funding. Parish Council reviewing options. Await outcome of discussion at May monthly meeting.
LCHE212013	Archived	Ringtail Green, Great Waltham - Traffic management improvements	Request for speed reduction 60mph to 40mph and Quiet Lane status	This has been archived. Agreed that paper with new evidence should be produced, making the case for recommending that previously rejected scheme(s) are reconsidered.
LCHE222014	Awaiting Funding	Ringtail Green, Great Waltham - Gateway signs	Signage to identify the hamlet	Works delayed due to funding prioritisations, but completion expected in 2023/24.
LCHE223011	Awaiting Funding	Great Waltham Primary School, South Street, Great Waltham - Signage improvements	Sign to show School not School Crossing Patrol	Low-cost scheme. Potential stickers rather than new signs. Funding decision pending.

7. To note the latest positions and developments on LHP schemes for works in the parish and to agree actions and/or make any recommendations to the Council in relation to their prioritisation and progress.

Create and hold a list of possible new schemes to be prioritized by the Parish Council and considered for submission as LHP capital works projects. The list to be collated for future meetings.

- Deer Signs around Broads Green

**Resolution: Contact Cllr. Lockwood for details or we will look to archive.**

- LCHE212013 Ringtail Green, Great Waltham - Traffic management improvements  
Request for speed reduction 60mph to 40mph and Quiet Lane status

**Resolution: Case to be made for LCHE212013 to be reinstated (see comments in Items 5. and 6. Above).**

**Resolution: Remove the individual defects reported by members of the Committee from the tracker.**

8. To consider future requests to the Local Highways Panel.

This is a duplication of Item 7.

9. To consider and make recommendations for the Council's strategy in relation to enforcement of permitted uses of the Blossom Way public car park spaces.

**Resolution: Recommend to the Council that the purchase and installation of replacement permitted parking signs at the Blossom Way car park – (laminated signs).**

10. To note the latest Speed Indicator Device (SID) reports and make any recommendations based on observed data and trends.

A report was created from the SID data covering the last 10 years at Ford End which supports the view that both the volume and speed of vehicles has increased significantly over that period.

11. To recommend that the Council lobbies the relevant authorities/agencies to change the A120 back-up diversionary route from the B1008 to the B1256.

The upgrade work to the A120 showed that drivers used the B1256 (old A120) as their preferred diversionary route, notwithstanding signage directing them to the B1008. Unless a diversion required traffic to travel through Rayne village (which typically would not be required), this seems to be an obvious change to make. If the B1008 were to be downgraded from a PR1 status route it is understood that it would receive a lower level of maintenance compared to a non-PR1, but this would be offset by reduced volumes.

**Resolution: Recommend to the council that it lobbies the relevant authorities/agencies to change the A120 backup diversionary route from the B1008 to the B1256.**

12. To recommend that the Council lobbies for measures to ensure the B1008 is not used as a preferred route once the NE by-pass is completed (given that it would remain the shortest and fastest route between the A120 at Gt. Dunmow and the new by-pass junction on the A131 at Gt. Leighs).

Because it would still be the shortest and fastest route, the meeting identified the prospect of the B1008 remaining the road of choice for drivers (and their satnav systems) despite the suggestion that the new by-pass would automatically draw traffic away.

**Resolution: Recommend to the council that it lobbies for measures to ensure the B1008 is not used as a preferred route once the NE by-pass is completed.**

13. To recommend that the Council lobbies for the reinstatement of the signage at Sheepcotes roundabout, which directs traffic to the A131/A120, so as to reduce use of the B1008.

The meeting discussed securing access to the actual policy wording relevant to this item. The incongruity of having the originally installed signs which had the effect all parties desired (of signposting the use of the A131/A120 rather than the B1008) replaced by ones which now have the opposite effect simply to satisfy a policy guidance remains manifestly apparent.

**Resolution: Recommend to the council that it lobbies for the reinstatement of signage at Sheepcotes roundabout which directs traffic to the A131/A120.**

14. Discuss and recommend a funding and consultation proposal to the Parish Council for its contribution to the Average Speed Camera project.

- Consideration of a £50,000 loan or an increase on the next precept was discussed. Approx. £120,000 for the full scheme. LHP will now consider match fund the Parish Council's contribution. Funding by increasing the precept means the whole parish would contribute to a scheme that will only directly benefit a small percentage of residents, although it could be said that many Council projects (albeit less costly ones than this) fall into that category. Essex Highways support this scheme. A one-off precept increase to cover the cost would be, very roughly, in the region of, on average, an extra £25 per household for that year.
- It's understood that Essex Highways would maintain the system and replace it when required.

- If the Council agrees to raise funds for this purpose the meeting identified a likely need to communicate and consult with parishioners beforehand on the costs and benefits of the scheme.
- The way forward will become clearer after the May monthly meeting.

15. Discuss drainage and surface issues at Church Lane, Ford End and determine the appropriate course of action.

The kerbs and drain are being damaged by HGVs turning. The drain has been compressed and destroyed but may belong to a private landowner rather than being the responsibility of Essex Highways. Ideally, the drain should be within the verge rather than on the edge of the road.

**Resolution**     **Clerk to write to Essex Highways and raise concerns about the demolished drain and request it to be moved back onto the verge.**

16. To recommend a request for a road sweeper visit in Church Lane, Ford End.

The Clerk confirmed a 'Love your Parish' request has been sent in for a road sweeper and a sweep will be undertaken in July.

**Members:**

Cllrs. - Dunn, McDevitt, Lockwood, Palmer, Gilbert and Martin

**Next Meetings:**

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Monthly meeting of the Council
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Finance & General Purposes Committee

Meeting closed 21:25  
 Will Adshead-Grant  
 Clerk to the Council