

Great Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Great Waltham Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th December at Ford End Village Hall, Ford End at 7.30 pm.

23/1703 Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert.

Cllrs: Martin, Stephenson, Jackson, Micklem, Steel, Jenkins, McDevitt and Bradley.

23/1704 Apologies.

Cllrs Page and Palmer.

23/1705 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

Cllr Steel – Item 23/1717 – Essex County Councillor.

Cllr Micklem – Item 23/1718 – Family Interest.

23/1706 Public Participation session for any items regardless of its existence on the agenda
7 members of the public attended.

- Walthambury stores – Road drain in front of the Beehive blocked. The Council agreed to report the matter online.
- Ford End Average Speed Camera (FEASC) – 3 bad accidents in the last 12 months. 9 out of 10 cars trigger the warning signs for excessive speed. Lots of vehicles appear to be speeding when the SID (Speed Indicator Device) is in display.
- Speed Watch FE – 2 vehicles pulled over in the hour today – a PC was at the scene today and issued immediate tickets.
- Speed Watch FE – Request to be notified in advance of the dates the SID unit is deployed. Also, the 20mph wig wags outside of the school have been broken for some time (see 23/177 below).
- FEASC – Comments on the estimated revised costs published in the PC's November ECC update report (potentially up to £180k and additional survey costs in the region of £60k, a total of up to £240k). It was commented by a member of the public that the survey costs indicated seem high and they expressed the opinion that :
 - A geotechnical survey will be bore holes excavated so that the foundation for each new pole can be assessed, which since the local area is predominately clay and only two bore holes would be needed at a maximum of 3m deep, the cost would typically be c.£2,500 plus VAT.
 - GPR (ground penetrating radar) surveys to identify any buried services would typically be no more than £10k.
 - Topographical reports are typically £500 to collate the information and £500 for an office day to complete the report.
 - Therefore a total of c.£13.5k plus VAT makes the ECC equivalent figure seem very high.
 - Also, the average cost of an ASC according to road safety experts has gone down consistently since 2013, so that element would need to be queried.

23/1707 Report by County Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

The full report will be online in the agenda section of the website.

- Potholes – 39 applications submitted. 3 in the parish, with 1 still to be repaired (at the Cherry Garden Road/South Street junction).
- FE wig wags – Cllr Steel was informed of their malfunction in September and is currently waiting for the manufacturer to attend and diagnose the fault. Problem may simply be need for battery replacement, for which a small budget has been found. Because the devices were

put in place by the Local Highways Panel (LHP), if a new units are necessary finding a budget would be more difficult in the current climate.

- FEASC – 4 years ago Cllr Bentley (the then ECC cabinet member responsible for highways) agreed to overrule policy and accepted that an ASC system could be considered on the B1008 (a PR1 route) if GWPC could contribute 50%. The initial total cost then was around £150k (subsequently negotiated down to c.£120k), and the LHP had a £1m. budget. The offer stood for 2 years, but GWPC was unable to raise its 50% of the costs and this offer then lapsed. Subsequently, Cllr Lee Scott the replacement cabinet member did not renew the previous offer but was willing to consider match funding the scheme when GWPC could show it had raised its half. There is now a new cabinet member in post and an update is due (see 23/1717, below)
 - The precise 'policy' that would need to be overruled is understood to be allowing a scheme to be implemented against ECC officers' recommendations, rather than necessarily articulated in a specific ECC policy.

Doctors' surgery – There is no obvious strategic plan to increase health service provision due to the additional housing (New Beaulieu, Bloor Homes and other developments). The NHS's Integrated Care Board (ICB) are the strategic planners for the services. There is £1.5m held in City Council S106 and CIL accounts and earmarked for the building and commissioning of health services by the NHS, yet some of this money has been held for nearly 10 years old and will go back to developers if is not used at the 10th anniversary.

- The ICB seems to be working on a tactical short-term plan rather than a strategic long-term one.
- RideLondon – Returns to Essex and parts of the parish on 26th May 2024.
- Pylons – ECC jointly commissioned a report with Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils to focus is on capacity requirements and delivery date timings. It has been suggested the need to have in place additional transmission capacity is closer to 2035, rather than 2030.

23/1708 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

The full report will be online in the agenda section of the website.

- Bloor Homes – The link road solution is still the main bottle neck and, seemingly due to the economic downturn, clarity from the developer remains outstanding.
- Trucam – This is a legal alternative to the police attending for prosecutable speed checks. A trained and licensed council employee can run this. The system does not need either signs or a yellow box, it is an unmarked system. The information is downloaded and sent on to the police for action. Chelmsford City Council will buy in the service from Maldon District Council (who has five trained officers) as a trial. The Parish Council has the potential to itself purchase time off Maldon DC direct. It is understood the set-up cost of a Trucam system is around £18,000 and then ongoing staff payments.

23/1709 Confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20th November 2023.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

23/1710 Local Planning Authority Decisions.

Reference	Address	Status
23/01627/FUL	Burmead Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1LL	Application Permitted

23/1711 Planning Applications.-(All).

1. Reference: 23/01782/FUL

Address: Land East Of Kings Farm Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed agricultural access to land at Kings Farm.

Resolution: The Parish Council has no objections.

2. Reference: 23/01784/FUL

Address: Site At Rye Cottage Larks Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Demolition of the existing dwelling and the erection of 2 new residential dwellings, associated landscaping, and parking.

Resolution: The Parish Council has an objection on the grounds of an unreasonable loss of heritage.

3. Reference: 23/01771/FUL

Address: 14 South Street Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex

Description of works: Conversion of existing studio to an annexe with addition of a mezzanine floor and front dormer. Alterations to fenestration.

Resolution: *The Parish Council has no objections.*

4. Reference: 23/01916/PIP

Address: Land Adjacent White Cottage South Street Great Waltham

Description of works: Permission in principle for the erection of one 1.5-2 storey dwelling house, with associated parking spaces, garage, and garden areas.

Resolution: *The Parish Council has no objections.*

23/1712 Finance Report.-(Clerk).

Current Account: £25,660.34

- Cil £559.15 (Lavender Farm dwellings)

Reserve Account: £24,999.58

- £10,000 Ford End Speed Cameras.
- £750 Allotment deposits.
- £23,000 Capital Works.

Total £50,659.92

23/1713 Confirmation of payments-(Clerk) :

No	Payment Reference	Gross	To pay Heading	Invoice date	Invoice no.	Details
1185		£37.30	£37.30 205	06/12/23	GB384W512AE	Amazon - D CELL BATTERIES X 8
1186		£25.81	£25.81 205	06/12/23	GB3844VB0AE	Amazon - D CELL BATTERIES X 4
1187		£134.98	£134.98 210	06/12/23	A2UZ7O18Q12	Amazon - WOLFWISE 4.7M LADDER
1188		£8.52	£8.52 135	06/12/23	A2UZ7O18Q12	Amazon - HDMI CABLE
1189		£24.23	£24.23 265	06/12/23	A2UZ7O18Q12	Amazon - FRIDGE MAGNETS X 44
1190		£252.54	£252.54 265	06/12/23	REF 39069	Cllr Martin - 3 X MAGNETIC BOARDS
1191		£1,353.55	£1,353.55 103	06/12/23		HMRC (PAYE/NI) - Confidential
1194		£283.62	£283.62	06/12/23		Will Adshhead-Grant -
	1	£109.99	210			2 X 18V 5AH BATTERIES
	2	£124.15	255			NEW EXTERNAL BATTERY LIGHTS FOR BANBURY S
	3	£49.48	135			POSTAGE, STAMPS , LETTERS AND WEB
1195			£810.65	07/12/23		Essex Pension Fund - Confidential
	2	£37.72	110			
	3	£634.63	115			
1196		£372.00	£372.00 255	07/12/23	inv-1789	JCM SERVICES - GATE POST GW CARPARK
1197		£6.14	£6.14 265	07/12/23	GB38B1C1FAE	Amazon - TOILET DUCK AND ENVELOPES
1198		£6.85	£6.85 265	07/12/23	GB1731917412	Amazon - 5 WHITEBOARD MARKERS

No	Payment Reference	Gross	To pay Heading	Invoice date	Invoice no.	Details
1199		£15.99	£15.99 210	07/12/23	GB2023520356	Amazon - BATTERY RECHARGER
1200		£5.06	£5.06 205	07/12/23	GB1000277512	Amazon - AA RECHARGEABLES
1201		£38.70	£38.70 120	10/12/23		Jason Buckley - Handyman - December expenses
1184		£24.17	£24.17 235	21/12/23		Roy Trickett - Bury Lane Water Bill
Sub Total		£3,261.81	£3,261.81			
		£1,909.34	£1,909.34	Confidential		
Total		£5,171.15	£5,171.15			

23/1714 Monthly Bank Reconciliation.
Due to a contract dispute this was unavailable.

23/1715 Update on the Action Tracker (circulated with the agenda) – (All).
All open items were reviewed for progress. Having been completed, a number were closed. An updated version of the tracker document will be posted on the website.

23/1716 Discuss the request from a Howe Street resident for a noticeboard.-(Cllr Jackson / Clerk).

The meeting noted the current arrangements and levels of use of the two noticeboards in Howe Street, one at the bus shelter and the other close to Bridge Croft.

Resolution: Remove the noticeboard at Bridge Croft.

Resolution: Leave the current noticeboard in the bus shelter and monitor its use to assess to need for a possible future upgrade.

23/1717 In relation to the Ford End average speed camera scheme, to receive an update of developments, to discuss options, and to agree next steps.

A report has been issued to members for discussion.

The consultation attracted 241 responses. There were two questions. The responses were:

Q1 Are you in FAVOUR of the Parish Council going ahead with the Average Speed Camera Scheme?

- YES – 183 (75.9% of the votes received).
- NO – 58 (24.1%)

Q2 Are you in FAVOUR of the Parish Council going ahead with the Average Speed Camera Scheme if it includes a Council Tax parish precept increase equivalent to 25p per week/£13 annually (for a Band D property type) for five years for the purpose of repaying the loan?

- YES – 159 (66.0%).
- NO – 82 (34.0%).

Update from current ECC cabinet member (Cllr Cunningham) from Cllr Steel (for context see also 23/1707):

- Essex Highways are unable to proceed with the average speed camera as it does not align with current policies and there is currently no budget available.
- Highways do not have any available funds to support any portion of this scheme. The commitment made by Cllr Bentley in 2019 was at a time when LHPs had substantially more budget which is not the case now
- Cllr Cunningham would not support any divergence from policy, but if GWPC were able to find all the funds he would reconsider his position if it could also be shown that a scheme would improve safety. He would be willing to allow Highway Engineers to revalidate the design but it would take a couple of weeks of design effort which GWPC would need to fund.

Resolution: The consultation results give the Parish Council a mandate to seek a loan for the Ford End Average Speed Camera as represented in the consultation.

Resolution: Cllr Steel to contact the senior highways manager to request a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the design of the scheme and so that it can secure a complete understanding of the issues it needs to address to fully consider the position going forward.

23/1718 To agree to make representations to the landowner to repair and restore the cobbled area adjacent to Walthamby Stores and The Beehive.

Resolution: ***The Clerk to write a letter to the landowner to seek his views on the future improvement of the area.***

23/1719 Discuss and approve any items for publication.-(All).

- Precis of the meetings from November and December.
- Ford End Average Speed Camera update.

Next Meeting:

2024

Monday 15th January	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30pm
Monday 22nd January	Great Waltham Parish Council Finance and General Purposes @ 7.30pm
Monday 29th January	Great Waltham Parish Council Recreation @ 7.30pm
Monday 12th February	Great Waltham Parish Council Highways & Transport Committee @ 7.30PM
Monday 19th February	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday 19th March	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30PM at FE Village Hall
Monday 15th April	Great Waltham Parish Council Highways & Transport Committee @ 7.30PM
Monday 22nd April	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30PM
Wednesday 24th April	Great Waltham Parish Council Recreation @ 7.30pm
Monday 29th April	Great Waltham Parish Council Finance and General Purposes @ 7.30pm
Tuesday 7th May	Annual Assembly of the Parish Gt Waltham Village Hall @ 8pm
Monday 20th May	Great Waltham Parish Council AGM and Monthly Meeting @ 7.30PM
Tuesday 16th June	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30PM at FE Village Hall