

Great Waltham Parish Council

The Parish Office, The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham
Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 at The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham at 7.30 pm.

23/1720 Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert.

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

23/1721 Apologies

Cllr Page.

23/1722 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

Cllr Micklem – Planning application 23/02018/FUL – Family interests.

Cllr Martin – Planning application 23/01958/FUL – Near neighbour.

23/1723 Public Participation session for any items regardless of its existence on the agenda

6 members of the public attended and raised these matters:

- A member of the public read a prepared statement regarding the allotment service charges which included:
 - A request to discuss the matter at a future monthly meeting as the Recreation Committee (where it would normally be considered initially) has three allotment holders who would need to declare an interest.
 - Reference to a complaint made during 2023 that no services had been received for their allotment specifically.
 - A request to reconsider the application of a service charge for allotments when an equivalent charge does not apply for other amenities provided by the Council.
 - A range of suggested agenda items for a future meeting to address the services provided by the Council to allotment plot holders.

It was agreed that the issues raised would be discussed at a future full council monthly meeting.

- Crime issues were raised, including:
 - A number of recent incidents (digger theft, car theft, house break ins, drug growing, dumping of bicycles, use of track bikes (no lights) at night, an apparent arson attack, graffiti, broken signs). There is a perception that few incidents result in police prosecutions despite the provision of evidence from victims and witnesses. It was suggested that more could be done using WIFI/broadband cables and fitting cameras to lampposts.
 - It was noted that the police are understood to be currently reviewing all the incidents around Great Waltham.
 - The potential for Parish News to be used to report more of the incidents. This has been done in the past but could be run again. An article could be run with the link to the police's 101 reporting facility and reminder generally to always report incidents.
 - The car vandalised at the Great Waltham Village Hall for which there was CCTV evidence.
 - The benefit of a revamped Neighbourhood Watch scheme was raised. It was noted that previously there was a Parish Watch initiative which noted all the incidents and reports. It was noted that doorbell footage of incidents often goes onto Facebook but are not necessarily also reported on 101.

- The incident of apparent arson at a private house in Mashbury Road last year. It was asked why are the police are not sharing information with those who have been affected.
- The weekend events organised by the Community Network (CN) and Parochial Church Council will be on 7th and 8th December this year. They include a Christmas tree lights event at Banbury Square, with Father Christmas and a tree lighting ceremony. The CN believe the Council should decorate the tree with just white lights positioned higher up the branches (than those installed after the old ones failed just before Christmas last year). This matter was then discussed under agenda item 23/1733.

23/1724 Report by County Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

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

- Digigo scheme has been extended for another 2 years.
- National Grid ESO (Electricity System Operator) has begun its study on onshore and offshore options. This will take around 3 months.
- Blanket 20mph motion at ECC failed. ECC's Road Hierarchy and Speed Strategy reviews are still in progress and may include recommended 20mph limits at certain locations, e.g. near schools.
- Ford End Average Speed Cameras (ASC). The Highways cabinet member will not contribute financially and is not inclined to overrule policy (on the criteria for ASCs). However, a safety case would be considered, taking account of the number of accidents, serious injuries and fatalities. There were 47 road deaths in Essex in 2023 and money will be focused on those areas. A request to the lead engineer to discuss the revised estimate has been made, but they have been unavailable. The scheme would need re-design work which itself has an estimate of £4,000 to £5,000. An updated agreement between Essex Police, Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) and ECC would need to be undertaken for a scheme. The Council's SID data should be used with caution as its collection does not meet ECC guidelines. See also the discussions under items 23/1736 and 23/1737.

23/1725 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

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

- Opus planning application for a retirement village in Little Waltham has been submitted. Highways have raised concerns in relation to the application.
- The South Street outline housing application discussed at the previous meeting (CCC planning reference 23/01916/PIP) will go to planning committee.

23/1726 Confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12th December 2023.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

23/1727 Local Planning Authority Decisions.

20/02064/OUT	Strategic Growth Site North Of Woodhouse Lane Broomfield Chelmsford Essex	Pending Decision
22/01113/SCOPE	Land At Moulsham Hall Moulsham Hall Lane Great Leighs Chelmsford Essex	Pending Decision
23/01916/PIP	Land Adjacent White Cottage South Street Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Pending Decision
21/00881/FUL	Broomfield Hospital Hospital Approach Broomfield Chelmsford CM1 7ET	Pending Decision
23/01784/FUL	Site At Rye Cottage Larks Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Withdrawn
23/01771/FUL	14 South Street Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DP	Pending Consideration
23/01782/FUL	Land East Of Kings Farm Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Application Permitted

23/1728 Planning Applications.-(All).

1. Reference: 23/01939/FUL

Address: Sunningdale Margaret Woods Road Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Proposed car port and shed.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council has no objections.***

2. Reference: 23/01958/FUL

Address: Land Between Little Dene And Bridge Cottage Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford. Description of works: Surfacing of an Agricultural Access Track.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council continues to support this application as a benefit to both the local farming community and as a means to reduce the volume of agricultural traffic on adjacent residential roads.***

3. Reference: 23/02018/FUL

Address: Walthambury Farm Bury Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Replace existing double garage with single storey ancillary outbuilding.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council has no objections.***

4. Reference: 23/01909/LBC

Address: Firtree Cottage The Village Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Demolish existing wall and arch. Demolish rear ramped entrance and replace with stairs. Replace concrete hardstanding with grass and soft landscaping. Add clay pots to chimney. Various internal alterations and changes to fenestration.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council shares the concern that in an area where on-street parking has become prevalent the proposed external works seem to remove vehicular access to the property's garaging facility. Also, the Council would expect that the installation of new windows would address and remove the possibility of introducing views which would compromise the privacy of adjacent properties.***

5. Reference: 23/01908/FUL

Address: Firtree Cottage The Village Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Demolish existing wall and arch. Construct new wall along boundary. Demolish rear ramped entrance and replace with stairs. Replace concrete hardstanding with grass and soft landscaping. Changes to fenestration.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council shares the concern that in an area where on-street parking has become prevalent the proposed external works seem to remove vehicular access to the property's garaging facility. Also, the Council would expect that the installation of new windows would address and remove the possibility of introducing views which would compromise the privacy of adjacent properties.***

6. Reference: 22/00737/S73

Address: Lyndhurst Ringtail Green Great Waltham Chelmsford
Description of works: Variation of condition 2 & 3 to planning permission 22/00737/FUL (Demolition of the existing outbuilding, side entrance porch, and rear lean-to. Alterations to door/ windows. Construction of a two-storey side extension with front porch canopy and a single storey side extension. Part two storey, part single storey rear extension) Alterations to fenestration and changes of location of where materials are to be used.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council has no objections.***

23/1729 Finance Report.

Current Account: **£10,592.17**
• Interest £170.67 (moved from reserve account)

Reserve Account;	£34,138.48
• £10,000	Ford End Speed Cameras.
• £750	Allotment deposits.
• £23,000	Capital Works.
• £559.15	Cil.

Total **£44,730.65**

23/1730 Confirmation of payments-(Clerk) :

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list Start of year 01/04/23

No	Payment Reference	Gross	To pay	Heading	Invoice date	Invoice no.	Details
1208		£32.97	£32.97	135	11/01/24		Amazon - hp951xl yellow cartridge
1207		£157.46	£157.46	140	14/01/24	IV00218263	SSE Energy Solutions - electricity in the pavillion
1209		£114.00	£114.00	125	14/01/24	17227	Essex Association of Local Council - cllr training
1210		£660.00	£660.00	200	14/01/24		Writtle Forest Consultancy - Tree condition survey as part of the tree management process
1212		£790.75	£790.75	103	14/01/24		HMRC (PAYE/NI) - jan paye
1214			£544.24		14/01/24		Essex Pension Fund - Confidential
	2	£37.72		110			Confidential
	3	£415.89		115			Confidential
1215		£39.18	£39.18	120	14/01/24		Will Adshead-Grant - expenses for jan
Sub Total		£2,247.97	£2,247.97				
		£1,485.90	£1,485.90				Confidential
Total		£3,733.87	£3,733.87				

Resolution: **The payments were approved.**

23/1731 Monthly Bank Reconciliation.

Resolution: **November Bank Reconciliation – This was confirmed with zero difference between the cash book and bank accounts.**

Resolution: **December Bank Reconciliation – This was confirmed with zero difference between the cash book and bank accounts.**

23/1732 Update on the Action Tracker (circulated with the agenda).

All open items were discussed, updates provided and, if applicable, closed as being complete. A revised report will be published on the website.

23/1733 Discuss the request from the community network to change the colour of the Banbury tree lights to white and have them higher in the tree for the Christmas tree festival 2024.

See also the comments under item 23/1723.

The oak tree in Banbury Square used to display the lights needs some identified tree cutting work to be completed by a tree surgeon, so it may be that work to (re)install lights can be effected at the same time.

Resolution: **In consultation with the Community Network, investigate the purchase of new Christmas tree white lights that will cover the Banbury Square tree.**

23/1734 To receive a presentation from the Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Team on current policing priorities and issues in the parish.

The Community Policing Team was unable to attend on the night due to an operational emergency. The relevant issues raised at the meeting will be fed back to the Team so they may be considered when the presentation is rescheduled.

Resolution: **Defer item to next month.**

23/1735 To consider a request to place an anti-pylons banner on the green at Broad's Green.

The meeting noted the request from a local resident requesting permission to place a banner on the Council's land at this location.

Resolution: **In principle the Council agrees to the placement of a 'Say No' pylons banner on the green, but if there are complaints from local residents it will be removed. The banner must be placed within the circle of bollards and due consideration must be taken in relation to identifying the location of, and avoiding damage to, underground utility pipes, wires etc.**

23/1736 To agree the proposed media update statement for the Ford End Average Speed Camera scheme (circulated prior to the meeting).

Because of limited space in Parish News, two statements have been prepared. A detailed one which would be posted on the parish website, and a précised version for submission to Parish News. Minor amendments were suggested to each document.

Resolution: **The two statements (with suggested amendments) were agreed. The detailed version will be posted on the parish website. The précised version will be sent to Parish News to be considered for inclusion in its next issue.**

23/1737 To discuss and agree next steps in relation to the Ford End Average Speed Camera scheme.

Cllr Cuningham, the ECC cabinet member for Highways has been contacted by both the ECC Cllr Steel and the Chair of the Parish Council but with no returning engagement to date.

It is understood that it is unlikely the Highways design manager will be available to discuss in detail the reasons for the revised cost estimate for the scheme. The Parish Council has an option to pay for a new design itself – it is understood the work involved to get a new design would be £4,000 to £5,000.

Resolution: **Cllr Steel to chase up SERP to establish whether they would continue to support the ASC since it would be their operational responsibility once installed.**

Resolution: **Cllr Steel to follow up with enquiries to establish the process for reconsidering the 3-way agreement between SERP, Essex Police and ECC needed for any scheme to progress.**

Resolution: **The Parish Council to write to the Leader of ECC (Kevin Bentley) to request his intervention given the lack of engagement, and to request that any redesign costs be paid for by ECC.**

The meeting then considered its next steps and the following proposal was made and seconded:

This Parish Council reconfirms its view that the weight, volume and speed of vehicles using the B1008 through Ford End village continues to present a risk to pedestrians and other road users and will continue to lobby Essex County Council Highways for road safety improvements.

A named count was requested and called.

Cllr Martin – Yes.	Cllr Micklem – Yes.	Cllr Bradley – Yes.
Cllr Palmer – Yes.	Cllr McDevitt – Yes.	Cllr Jackson – Yes.
Cllr Stephenson – Yes.	Cllr Jenkins – Yes	Cllr Gilbert – Yes.

Cllr Steel – Abstain.		
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The Proposal was passed by majority vote.

Resolution: **This Parish Council reconfirms its view that the weight, volume and speed of vehicles using the B1008 through Ford End village continues to present a risk to pedestrians and other road users and will continue to lobby Essex County Council Highways for road safety improvements.**

23/1738 Discuss and approve any items for publication.

- Advert for the cleaner at the Pavilion. (Cllr. Jenkins)
- Precis of the minutes. (Cllr. Gilbert)
- Allotments. (Cllr. Palmer)

Next Meeting:

2024	
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 @ 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 @ 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 @ 8.00pm
Monday 20th May	Great Waltham Parish Council AGM and Monthly Meetings @ 7.30pm
Tuesday 16th June	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30pm at FE Village Hall

Meeting closed : 9.45pm
 Will Adshead-Grant CILCA.
 Clerk to the Council.