

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 7.30 pm.

24/1804 Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert

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

24/1805 Apologies.

Cllr Micklem.

24/1806 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

No declarations of interest made.

24/1807 Public Participation session for any items regardless of its existence on the agenda.

51 members of the public attended the meeting and made the representations summarised below:

- **Pylons – item 24/1822**
 - Offshore option is the only long term and future proof solution. 50% less infrastructure therefore cheaper.
 - Consider brownfield sites such as Bradwell.
 - Does the Parish Council have a plan B ? – undergrounding, narrower trenches.
 - Parish Council urged to protect the village. Access roads and lorry parks along the pylon route will create chaos and damage the agricultural land for years.
 - NG to carry wind power using 100,000 tons of concrete and steel pylons.
 - 5 pylons going on the 250 acres across Broad's Green behind the hospital – huge impact on farmers' businesses – with access roads and associated infrastructure impacting soil use in future.
 - Crops grown for human consumption and huge swathes of agricultural land will be damaged or lost for the pylons and will impose higher costs on the consumer and likely require increased imports of grain from abroad. Everyone will pay for the pylons.
 - Objection over using the 'Waltham Gap'. Narrowest gap across the whole of the route. Two historic villages and classic Essex views will be affected.
 - Degradation of the soil during and after construction.
 - Preliminary environmental report identifies significant cumulative effects for the Walthams. Worst affected rural area in East Anglia.
 - 10 pylons proposed on parish land.
 - Judicial review of scheme likely if goes ahead unaltered.
 - Grade 1 agricultural land, heritage assets and local ecology will be affected, but likely NG will ignore representations and continue.
 - The number of people who object will make a difference.
 - Concern over the height of the pylons and the impact on the air ambulance service at Broomfield Hospital.
 - ECC and CCC have both objected at the two previous non-statutory consultations. Also, will likely object to this statutory consultation. Number of objectors was very low on the non-statutory consultations.
 - The sea route is not cheaper or quicker for Norwich to Tilbury due to the routing from Norwich. £5bn. more expensive to go underground but just £1bn. more over its lifetime due to low maintenance.
 - CCC has initiated a heritage report request on the effects of the 'Waltham Gap' proposal.
 - Important when responding on line to focus on loss of amenity and heritage concerns.
- **Ford End call for development sites – Dandara. Item 24/1823**
 - Representative of the company attended. It currently has local sites at Braintree and Elsenham and is considering the site on land south of the FE primary school. Legacy values are important and the landowner wants to improve the village. Currently looking at

options such as benefits for the school, solutions for traffic in the area, nursery provisions associated with the school, and potential retail facilities.

- Likely that options would be offered for public consultation.
 - A number of parcels of land in the parish are identified in CCC's Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment with an amber status, yet these are not on the Chelmsford Master Plan to 2035.
 - The new proposed Local Plan has 2 sites of 20 units each in Ford End, one near the school and one in Back Lane.
 - Opportunity to comment on the future plans.
 - CCC has accepted the Back Lane proposed site, but the following comments were made:
 - Terrible access.
 - Very narrow access from the B1008.
 - Alternative is Woods Road to Pleshey Road, again awkward access.
 - Concerns with traffic especially construction traffic.
 - Site is likely to be 30 to 40 houses and therefore 100 vehicles.
 - Flooding on Back Lane already – surface water run off increase.
 - Height difference will create loss of light in traditional existing small dwellings.
 - Would be adjacent to Grade 2 listed cottages, designated heritage assets – very small windows and sit low in the land – flooding concerns.
 - Foundations/footings concerns on the Grade 2 properties.
 - National Planning Framework – significance of heritage asset conservation.
 - Preference for the school site.
 - Back lane – is not a favourable site. The development near the school is a preferred option of the two
 - FE speed limit. Volume of cars is already very concerning. Additional vehicles from the village would be a concern.
 - ECC – do not recognise a speeding problem but do accept the volume of traffic currently through the village. Highways development would be more likely through building development.
 - PR1 route traffic cannot be impeded but a speed camera will enable reduction in speed.
- **Eagle Cottage/VG150 – item 24/1821**
Concerns on the information already released. Some of the hedge planted by the owners of Eagle Cottage has been vandalised.
 - **School Sign missing at Ford End** – Cllr Steel will work to try and resolve.

24/1808 Report by County Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

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

- Local Highways Panel (LHP) has just £250k budget for low-cost schemes.
- EHS – directly funded schemes which LHP must validate.
- Member led carriageway repairs scheme continues.
- Wig-wags at Ford End school – funded found by Cllr Steel to get them fixed.
- Functional Route Hierarchy review – internal views only.
- Playground signs will need a LHP request.
- Sheepcoates roundabout signage – no more information is available (that is, current signage is in accordance with policy).
- Quiet Lane at Ringtail Green requires LHP validation and then passed to EHS for costing which can be considered
- NG – Norwich to Tilbury. Volume of objections is the best route to raise the issue.
- Casualty reduction initiatives.
- Police presence – additional patrols through Great Waltham.

24/1809 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

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

- Local Plan due to be issued.
- VG150 – actions with Essex Highways.

24/1810 Confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th March 2024.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

24/1811 Note the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on 8th April 2024.

Resolution: The minutes were noted.

24/1812 Note the minutes of the Highways & Transport Committee held on the 15th of April 2024.

Resolution: The minutes were noted.

24/1813 Local Planning Authority Decisions.

Reference	Address	Status
24/05055/TPO	3 Glebe Meadow Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1EX	Application Permitted
24/05615/CAT	The Old School House South Street Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1DF	No Objection
24/00269/FUL	Little Garretts Mill Road Great Waltham Dunmow Essex CM6 3PE	Application Permitted
24/00270/LBC	Little Garretts Mill Road Great Waltham Dunmow Essex CM6 3PE	Application Permitted
24/00168/FUL	Building Northwest Of Well House Farm Littley Green Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Application Refused
24/05622/CAT	War Memorial Banbury Square Great Waltham Chelmsford	No Objection
24/00192/FUL	Sunningdale Margaret Woods Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex	Application Permitted
24/00163/FUL	Firtree Cottage The Village Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1AS	Application Permitted

24/1814 Planning Applications.-(All).

1. Reference: 24/00417/FUL

Address: Greenways Church Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford.

Description of works: Proposed two storey side and rear extensions, single storey front extension and external alterations.

Resolution: The Parish Council has no objections.

2. Reference: 24/00266/FUL

Address: Corner Cottage Lucks Lane Howe Street Chelmsford.

Description of works: Demolition of existing garage and construction of two storey front extension. Reduce existing two storey rear extension to single storey and extend to the side. New front porch roof. Alterations to fenestration.

Resolution: The Parish Council has no objections.

3. Reference: 24/00400/CUPAQ

Address: Barn North Of Top Farm Black Chapel Lane Great Waltham Dunmow.

Description of works: Determination as to whether the prior approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 1 dwellinghouse (Class C3)

Resolution: The Parish Council does not believe it would qualify for part Q as it is on a Protected Lane. It understands this is a dilapidated barn with heritage value and in the past may have been used for egg production. It believes approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change.

4. Reference: 24/00395/FUL

Address: Fairview Farm Littley Green Road Great Waltham Chelmsford.

Description of works: Proposed two storey side extension and alterations to fenestration.

Resolution: The Parish Council has no objections.

5. Reference: 24/00001/HRN

Address: Littley Park Farm Littley Park Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1LB,

Description of works: Remove hedgerow.

Resolution: The Council notes the proposed removal of 1.31km of hedgerow with the eventual replacement elsewhere of 1.495km, and that the removal/replanting areas are split across the Chelmsford City Council (CCC) and Uttlesford District Council (UDC) administered areas, with CCC having a net gain of 495m of hedgerow and UDC having a net loss of 310m. N.B. The Council has been unable to find an equivalent application on the UDC planning website.

The Council has concerns that (a) there will be a time lag between the removal of the old hedgerows and the maturing of the new ones, and (b) the new hedgerows may not generate the same opportunities for biodiversity as the old ones because a number will be replanted along vehicular transport routes (albeit the likely volumes of vehicles will be low), whereas the existing ones are less liable to disturbance. The Council would find comfort knowing that the application has also been reviewed by the other named consultees (Chelmsford Biodiversity Forum and Essex Wildlife Trust Ltd.) and that they have raised no concerns based on their expert assessments.

In addition, the Council has concerns that the positioning of some of the new hedges alongside roads and footpaths will, when they are mature, result in the loss of visual amenity value for walkers and cyclists in particular as the vistas from these publicly accessible routes will become obscured.

24/1815 Finance Report.-(Clerk).

Current Account: **£3,849.09**

Reserve Account: **£34,138.48**

- £10,000 Ford End Speed Cameras.
- £750 Allotment deposits.
- £23,000 Capital Works.
- £388.48 Cil.

Total £37,987.57

24/1816 Confirmation of payments :

Payee	Description	Payment
Handyman Expenses	Expenses	£37.26
Combined Salaries	SALARY	£1,108.11
Essex pension Fund	Combined Pension	£1,069.64
Cleaning Services	Pavilion	£51.00
HMRC	PAYE	£586.34
Clerk Monthly Expenses	SALARY/EXPENSES	£65.16
Amazon	Toilet roll for Pavilion	£11.00
Amazon	Magnets for the Pavilion	£13.44
Amazon	PPE issue for Handyman - Gloves	£26.15
Amazon	Wire Brushes for Handyman	£5.65
Amazon	A4 paper	£20.98
Amazon	Long wire brush - Handyman	£18.99
Amazon	Ink cartridges	£54.95
EALC	Clerk Training	£40.80
EALC	Foundation	£96.00
EALC	Annual subscription	£561.15
The Community Heartbeat	Defib for Broad's Green	£3,102.00
The Community Heartbeat	Service Charge for Defib	£324.00
Clerk Expenses	Keys for Pavilion	£54.00
Amazon	Roundup for Handyman	£36.66
ANGLIAN WATER	Water at Pavilion	£47.20
ANGLIAN WATER	Water at Brookmead	£43.89
SSE	Energy for the Pavilion	£422.02

Total

£7,796.39

Resolution: The payments were approved.

24/1817 Monthly Bank Reconciliation

Resolution: The reconciliation was approved with zero difference.

24/1818 Update on the Action Tracker (circulated with the agenda) – All.

The recommended updates to the Tracker were noted.

24/1819 Clerk's Report.

The Clerk highlighted that the main focus this month is the end of year accounts and the updating of the new system process for year end. The Annual Assembly and the Parish Council AGM are also imminent.

24/1820 To agree the Recreation Committee's proposal for the provision of Wi-Fi at the Pavilion.

A proposal from EE was part of the agenda pack. A proposal from '3' was sent just before the meeting. More time required to identify the best option for the Parish Council.

Resolution: Defer to next month to allow for all proposals to be gathered.

24/1821 To agree to set up a working group to discuss all aspects of and make recommendations in relation to Village Green (VG150) at the southern end of Church Lane, Ford End.

- The owners of Eagle Cottage sent in a written response after last month's meeting concerning the issues raised at the monthly meeting.
- Issues raised over the ownership by the Parish Council and implications of the area being a designated Village Green.
- Essex Highways comments required around visibility due to the fences and hedge planted.
- The newly planted hedge has been vandalised.
- Village Greens can be fenced – if it enhances the recreational aspect of the green.
- Does the hedge and fence fall within the Essex Highways land? Must be more than 45cm away from the highway (or pavement). If it does not block the view of emerging traffic joining the B1080 it would not be a concern for that reason.
- If fence is above 1m in height planning consent may be required.
- This is a complex issue covering Highways' interests, village green regulations, and other relevant legislation.

Resolution: Create a working group to discuss the VG150.

Resolution: The working group to comprise Cllrs. Gilbert, Martin, Stephenson, Palmer, Bradley and McDevitt.

24/1822 To discuss and agree the Council's process and timetable for responding to the statutory consultation feedback questionnaire issued by National Grid in relation to its proposals to upgrade the transmission network between the existing substations at Norwich Main in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk, and Tilbury in Essex.

- 10th April statutory consultation opened. All residents affected by the proposal have received information. Information on the route has an open meeting on 27th April at the Chelmsford City Racecourse. 18th June the consultation closes. A webinar on the 5th May is also available for information on Section F of the route.
- PC did respond to both non-statutory consultations and objected. Section F of the route covers the Chelmsford area.
- This item is to review the process and approach. PC to gather information from interested parties to make a considered response. The PC is one submission – all parishioners are encouraged to respond to build numbers. Written responses to the PC will inform its response. Potential to consult on SurveyMonkey and/or Parish News, and to secure input from the NW and SW of Chelmsford Parishes Group.
- Parish website to have details of the sessions being held by National Grid.

Resolution: The Parish Council to arrange a focused separate pylons community meeting and advertise at the Annual Assembly.

Resolution: Parish News item to highlight the consultation.

24/1823 To hear and discuss the Dandara proposal for Ford End and consider comments to the Local Plan Consultation.

- The Council considered it reasonable to have the school area proposal, but expressed concerns about the Back Lane site.
- The landowner's wish for a legacy and benefit to the whole of Ford End Village was noted.
- There will be two opportunities for comment, the Chelmsford Local Plan consultation and then any subsequent planning applications with specific detailed plans.

Resolution: **The Parish Council will wait until the Local Plan Consultation opens in Spring 2024.**

24/1824 To update PC on use of volunteers to side out footways, including Main Road/Pendon Hill Great Waltham/Howe Street and to discuss and agree a way forward including an appropriate budget of up to £300 to cover signage, additional high vis and any other items agreed necessary.

- Concerns had been raised about the assumption of insurance cover for all types of activities, some which would have been conducted historically by higher authority employees.
- In particular, the issues associated with work adjacent to national speed limit roads should be properly considered.

Resolution: **Discuss the need for a risk assessment and to devise as necessary.**

Resolution: **The Clerk to ask our insurers for their view and advice.**

24/1825 To discuss and agree whether Great Waltham Parish Council should join the Parish Paths Partnership scheme offered by Essex Council Highways and in what capacity.

Option to take on the annual budget and arrange the cuts. Option to work with ECC on a voluntary scheme to maintain the footpaths. Work would cover surveys, signage liaison with landowners and general maintenance.

Resolution: **The Parish Council supports the scheme subject to resource of volunteers.**

24/1826 Discuss the missing dog bin provision in South Street and discuss options to replace it.

- Due to vandalism the dog bin had been damaged over the Easter weekend.
- It was removed by Chelmsford CC Street Clean team who service the bin. It was subsequently disposed of as they felt it was too damaged to continue to be serviced.
- The Parish Council did not fully agree with this assessment and wanted the bin returned however it has been disposed of by CCC.

Resolution: **The Parish Council agreed to replace the missing dog bin.**

Resolution: **A second unit to be ordered to carry as a spare unit.**

Resolution: **CCC to supply with a request for a discounted second unit given the unilateral decision to dispose of the original one.**

24/1827 To confirm and sign the Annual Governance Statement which forms part of the Annual Return for Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, and other smaller authorities in England for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Resolution: **The annual governance statement was confirmed and approved. The chairman signed the return.**

24/1828 To adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 and to sign the Annual Return.

Resolution: **The Parish Council adopted the annual accounts, and the Chairman signed the return.**

24/1829 Consider removal of the tree inside Great Waltham Children's Play Area.

- The Clerk has been asked by some parents to have it removed due to the berries it drops, the low hanging limbs and the insects it encourages.
- The Council had concerns about the loss of habitat for birds, pollinators, and the berries for feeding the animals in the winter. The Council felt that the loss of the hawthorn tree inside the playground would be an error on environmental and sustainable grounds.
- A recorded Vote was called for:
In support of the proposal: Cllrs. Martin, Jenkins, and Gilbert.
Against the proposal : Cllrs. Stephenson, Bradley, Palmer, Jackson, and McDevitt.
Abstained: Cllr Steel.

Resolution: **The proposal was defeated, and the hawthorn tree will remain in the playground.**

24/1830 Discuss and approve any items for publication.-(All).

- Volunteers for painting of the phone box at Broad's Green.
- Precis of the minutes.
- Pylons – Norwich to Tilbury.
- Defib at Broads Green.

Next Meeting:

2024	
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 22:15.

Will Adshead-Grant.

Clerk to the Council.