

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at Ford End Village Hall at 7.00pm.

24/2117 Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert.

Cllrs: Jackson, Bradley, Steel, Stephenson, McDevitt, Taylor and Martin.

24/2118 Apologies.

Cllrs Jenkins and Micklem.

Cllr Steel left after Item (24/2121) at 19.50 for another meeting.

24/2119 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

There were no declarations of interest.

24/2120 Public Participation session for any items regardless of its existence on the agenda.

2 Members of the public 24/2141.

- Concerns over the off-road parking in Cherry Garden Road – especially on green areas and pavements. The resident noted the parking survey run by the Parish Council several years ago [2021/22] but then nothing happened.
- It was noted that more people work from home since Covid and rely on the car. Children have now grown up are living at home longer due to home prices or returned to the family home – these additional residents need cars. The amount of cars parking in the street and on the greens has increased steadily over the last few years.
- The problem identified by the Parish Council when they ran the survey has not improved but has got worse. Real safety concerns over the lack of visibility created by vehicles parking on greens and pavements.
- Chelmsford City Council will not allow introduction of single driveways due to the loss of amenity under its open spaces policy. CCC will consider where 2 or 3 householders will share a driveway.
- It is an offence to park on the green areas (owned by CCC or CHP) without permission, but not an offence to park on the footway as long as it does not create an obstruction.
- Concern that bollards installed by residents to mark their permitted driveway have been removed in Cherry Garden Road.
- It was highlighted that there are parking spaces in Blossom Way.

A letter of thanks was received from Great Waltham Cricket Club for the recent grant from the Parish Council to purchase timber to replace the boundary fences.

24/2121 Report by County Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

The full report is online in the agenda section of the website.

24/2122 Report by Chelmsford City Councillor – (Cllr Mike Steel).

The full report is online in the agenda section of the website.

24/2123 Confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17th February 2025.

The Parish Council received a complaint from one parishioner but noted that the minutes are an accurate record of the discussions and statements made at the meeting.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

24/2124 Note the minutes of the Highways and Transport Committee meeting held on 24th February 2025.

Resolution: **The minutes were noted.**

24/2125 Planning decisions by Chelmsford City Council.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>
25/00058/FUL	Lucks Cottage Main Road Howe Street Chelmsford CM3 1BG	Application Permitted
25/00074/LBC	Lucks Cottage Main Road Howe Street Chelmsford CM3 1BG	Application Permitted
24/01602/OUT	Lavender Farm Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex CM3 1LL	Application Permitted

24/2126 Local Planning.

1. Reference: 25/00138/FUL

Address: 28 Wolmers Hey Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex.

Description of works: Alteration of internal layout and ground floor side extension.

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

2. Reference: 25/00236/FUL and 25/00237/LBC

Address: Greenend Farm Dunmow Road Great Waltham Dunmow

Description of works: Installation of an Ohme ePod compact electric vehicle charging point on outbuilding adjacent main farmhouse

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

3. Reference: 25/00249/FUL

Address: Cosy Cottage Hoe Lane Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed part single part two storey rear extensions with front entrance porch. Proposed loft conversion with rear and front facing dormers.

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

4. Reference: 25/00291/FUL

Address: 2 Mashbury Road Great Waltham Chelmsford Essex

Description of works: Replace roof (fire damaged). Loft conversion with rear dormer and front roof window.

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

5. Reference: 24/01326/FUL

Address: Site At Bridge House Lucks Lane Howe Street Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed new detached dwelling house and vehicular access onto Lucks Lane.

Resolution: **The Parish Council objects to this application as it is concerned about the change to the current street scene.**

24/2127 Finance Report.

Current Account: **£2,560.10** **(0% interest)**

Reserve Account; **£58,473.36** **(2.5% interest)**

Redwood Account **£17,000** **(4.1% interest)**

Interest accrued – Not Paid £261.61

Total **£ 78,033.46**

Resolution: **The financial position was noted.**

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 14/03/25 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

	2024/25	Actual Net	Balance
INCOME			
Total Council	<u>£109,427.00</u>	<u>£118,994.36</u>	<u>£9,567.36</u>
Total Income	<u>£109,427.00</u>	<u>£118,994.36</u>	<u>£9,567.36</u>

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 14/03/25 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

	2024/25	Actual Net	Balance
EXPENDITURE			
Total Council	<u>£86,126.61</u>	<u>£74,049.88</u>	<u>£12,076.73</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>£86,126.61</u>	<u>£74,049.88</u>	<u>£12,076.73</u>
Total Income	<u>£109,427.00</u>	<u>£118,994.36</u>	<u>£9,567.36</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>£86,126.61</u>	<u>£74,049.88</u>	<u>£12,076.73</u>
Total Net Balance	<u>£23,300.39</u>	<u>£44,944.48</u>	

The position is slightly ahead of the planned position due to the increased income from the Pavilion, a locality grant and several VAT reclaims.

Resolution: **The budget update was noted.**

24/2128 Confirmation of payments-(Clerk) :

Payee	Item	Budget heading	Payment
salaries	salaries	salaries	£ 1,180.07
unity trust bank	bank charges	bank charges	£ 6.00
HMRC	PAYE	PAYE	£ 629.69
Essex Pension fund	Pensions	Pensions	£ 1,099.34
Cleaning Service	Pavilion	Pavilion expenses	£ 37.50
Cleaning Service	Toilet Roll	Pavilion expenses	£ 8.50
Cleaning Service	tea towels	Pavilion expenses	£ 4.56
Three Mobile	Broadband	Pavilion expenses	£ 18.70
Clerk	Earth Anchors - HS - Base - Locality Fund Support	General reserve	£ 556.80
Earth Anchors	Bench- HS - Locality Fund Support	General reserve	£ 522.00
Clerk	Expenses	Expenses	£ 57.57
Handyman	Expenses	Expenses	£ 78.78
Amazon	A4 Card - Yellow	Stationery	£ 5.99
Amazon	120 laminating sheets - 150 micron	Stationery	£ 8.31
Amazon	100 laminating sheets for notices	Stationery	£ 6.22
JCM	ford end hedge cut back	Grounds maintenance	£ 180.00
M&G Fire protection	Fire extinguisher Annual Service .	Pavilion expenses	£ 44.40
Parish News	Annual report - printing in Parish News	Reserves	£ 200.00
ICO	Annual Subscription.	Subscription	£ 47.00
Tarset Farms	Annual rent for Howe Street		£ 20.00
Tarset Farms	Semi annual rent for the Allotments		£ 400.00
			£5,111.43

Resolution: The payments were approved.

24/2129 Monthly Bank Reconciliations.

Resolution: The monthly bank reconciliation was approved.

24/2130 Update on the Action Tracker (circulated with the agenda).

Several items were updated and closed as appropriate.

24/2131 Discuss the Love your Parish communication and pick an area.

It was agreed to submit a request for work for the full length of Ford End's footways along the B1008, through the village on both sides.

Resolution: The Clerk to respond to the 'Love your Chelmsford' team to request works along the B1008 footways in Ford End.

24/2132 To consider starting meetings of the council and of committees at 7.30pm unless otherwise requested.

Last reviewed May 2024.

Resolution From the April monthly meeting all meetings to start from 7.30pm

24/2133 Elect a councillor to fill the vacancy on the Highways & Transport Committee.

Resolution: Cllr Stephenson was elected.

24/2134 Approve the Recreation Committee's proposal to purchase a tablet for recording allotment inspections.

Resolution: The expenditure was approved.

24/2135 Discuss the removal of the yellow litter bin from Howe Street Bus Shelter. Chelmsford City Council were contacted for a response on waste bin options that the street clean team can empty. To date no response received from the street clean team. The area will be monitored for the next 6 months.

Resolution: **Close this item and monitor the situation for six months.**

24/2136 Clerks report.

Handyman.

Litter picks , GW / HS Play equipment – sanded and repainted , Pothole repair in the GW Car Park , Howe Street – Base and bench helped install, HS old bench removed , HS Bin removed to be reset, SID move and change battery.

Clerk.

Devolution call , Agendas , Minutes , Bank recons, Accounts prep for Audit , Help with base delivery and drop off HS, Bench delivery and install HS, Cover for Pavilion Cleaner, Variety of Calls from Parishioners , E-mails from Parishioners , checking Pavilion bookings and invoicing, Allotments – chase up letters and visits sites to put notices up. Various e-mails and chase ups. Set up and prep Annual assembly. Minutes annual Assembly.

Thanks were given to Cllr Martin for his hard work on the installation of the base and bench at Howe Street.

24/2137 To discuss and agree a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Greater Essex devolution consultation.

Cllr Gilbert to prepare a draft response on the potential effects on the Parish Council. It was noted that any proposed merger of Chelmsford, Brentwood and Maldon councils would seemingly be a more indirect level of governance than currently found with the direct link to Chelmsford City Council.

Resolution: **Cllr Gilbert will circulate a draft to be agreed and submitted before the 13th April deadline date.**

24/2138 To discuss and agree a response to National Grid's Targeted consultations on proposed changes in Essex and Thurrock under its The Great Grid Upgrade, Norwich to Tilbury proposals.

- This consultation is on just the latest minor changes proposed.
- The pylons are shorter, but one is significantly closer to Chelmsford Road.
- The proposals put an additional pylon in the run and move them closer to houses.
- The height reduction improves the view from a distance.
- The Waltham Gap is still a pinch point.

A draft response to be prepared to feed back the disappointment of the Parish Council that its comments made in response to the previous statutory consultation have been ignored, and that the latest proposals are no better (if not worse) than the previous ones.

Resolution: **Cllr Gilbert will circulate a draft response to be agreed and submitted within the deadline.**

24/2139 To agree the next spine point increase to the Clerk's salary following a recommended satisfactory annual performance appraisal.

Feedback from 60% of the Parish Council. The Parish Council wished to record their thanks and satisfaction with the Clerk.

Resolution: **The change in spinal point was approved.**

24/2140. To consider the request from a resident to facilitate the installation of a Great Waltham village sign.

- The existence of a village sign design draft from 2012 was noted.
- It was also noted that only one member of the public had raised this matter.
- Concerns about a location for the sign within the village.
- A sign installed in Ford End some years ago (before 2017) cost over £5,400.

- There is currently no budget for this work and funding at the moment is focused on the Great Waltham Recreation Ground play area project.

Without any additional public support this item will be closed.

24/2141 To consider the request from a resident to investigate solutions to alleviate the (on- and off-street) parking situation at the northern end of Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham.

- Proposal to set up a working group to discuss the options and gather data on the best way forward.
- The Group could consider requests for double yellow lines, turning the greens into parking spaces, report any parking issues to the appropriate authority etc.
- Can additional parking areas be created on Cherry Garden Road?
- While additional tree planting on some green areas could be requested, this may well make the on-road parking problem worse.
- The Group could consider recommending a challenge of Chelmsford City Council's policy on open spaces.
- The meeting noted that the Parish Council has no powers over highway matters or those concerning the use of land owned by others (in this case CCC or CHP).

Resolution: Set up a working group under the Highways and Transport Committee with invited non-councillors who have an interest in the matter.

24/2142 Discuss and approve any items to release for publication.

- Co-option re-advertises.
- Precis of the minutes.
- Allotments advertised.

Next Meetings:

2025

Monday 24th March 2025	Finance and General Purposes Committee at 7pm at the Pavilion.
Monday 7th April 2025	Recreation Committee at 7pm at the Pavilion.
Monday 21st April 2025 Bank Holiday.	
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Monthly Meeting at Pavilion at <u>7.30pm.</u>
Monday 5th May 2025 Bank Holiday.	
Tuesday 6th May 2025	Highways & Transport Committee at <u>7.30pm</u> at the Pavilion.
Tuesday 20th May 2025	AGM & Monthly Meetings at Ford End VH at <u>7.30pm.</u>
Monday 26th May 2025 Bank Holiday.	

New dates will be agreed at the AGM.

Meeting closed 21.07.

Will Adshead-Grant

Clerk to the Council.