

Great Waltham Parish Council

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

E Mail: clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk Website: <http://www.e-voice.org.uk/great-waltham-parish>

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2022**

You are warmly welcomed to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Great Waltham starting at 8pm on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at Ford End Village Hall.

Agenda

- Chairman of the Parish Council to Open the meeting on behalf of the Parish of Great Waltham
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 5.05.2021
For ease of review they are copied below
3. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council
- 4 Charity Reports (if Available).
- 5 Organisation Reports .
6. Any Other matters raised by those present for discussion.

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly 05.05.2021 (Held on-line)

- Chairman of the Parish Council to Open the meeting on behalf of the Parish of Great Waltham

22 Residents of the Parish joined online.

Cllr Gary Dunn, Cllr Jim Jenkins and Essex County Councillor gave their apologies
- Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 28.05.2019 (no meeting 2020 due to the Pandemic).

Resolution The Minutes were confirmed

- Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council
Thanks were given to Cllr John Aldridge for his support for the last 16 years' service.

Introduction by Mike Steel, GWPC Chairman

Normally, I would be reporting on an active year in the parish, but this year many activities have been curtailed. Usually there would be something going on every week, but Covid-19 has meant we have had to make do with daily walks instead. We are blessed with being surrounded by beautiful countryside and footpaths and we have all seen their value this year. GWPC has become used to having on-line meetings and this year's Annual Meeting will also be held on-line. In conclusion,

I would like to express my thanks to all those volunteers, friends and neighbours who made a magnificent effort to help those who had to shield.

Report from Recreation Chairman, Alan Martin

In the last twelve months the Recreation Committee has made considerable progress in a number of projects. The Great Waltham (GW) changing rooms were in an extremely poor condition and we decided to change the building into a multi-use pavilion. The leaking asbestos roof has been replaced and work has started on the inside with a plan to remove the internal walls to create a single open plan room and reconfigure the space to create an inclusive toilet and a kitchenette area. We are grateful to Cllr John Aldridge who awarded £1,000 from the ECC Localities Fund to purchase the new kitchenette units. The GW Rec Ground has also seen the installation of an all-weather Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which was being used from the moment the installation team finished work. A Communities Initiative Fund (CIF) grant provided 50% of the cost. We are pleased to report a big uptake in the allotments at Bury Lane and Brookmead, due in part to the lockdown but also because GWPC have improved the facilities and upkeep. We have also made significant progress at Ford End (FE) Recreation Ground. Following a village consultation, we have an improvement plan. The first stage of the project saw the



planting of around 500 young trees (whips) at the top end of the field (provided free by Chelmsford City Council who will continue to monitor and manage them). Thanks to another grant from the ECC Localities Fund, we were also able to purchase and install a picnic bench near the new trees. The protective fence will be removed once the trees have become established. The full plan can be viewed on the GWPC website. A replacement program for some of the ageing wooden play equipment has also been agreed and work has

already commenced with a new multi-play unit at FE in April. Improvements for Howe Street included a seesaw, donated by Broomfield Parish Council, installed in April 2021.

Report from Planning Chairman, Alex McDevitt

Our rural parish consists of the villages of GW, FE and seven hamlets. Only GW village and FE have defined settlement areas. Planning objectives are to manage building development according to Government policies, community needs and the wishes of residents. We also wish to maintain the beauty of the countryside, protect wildlife and limit global warming drivers. All Planning Applications must comply with the new City Council Local Plan, covering 2013 to 2036, which does not include any major developments in our Parish but there are major developments proposed nearby, e.g., Broomfield, Great Leighs, North East Chelmsford. Our concerns mainly cover the need for infrastructure improvements such as Chelmsford North East Bypass, and the impact on traffic congestion. Whilst the Planning Applications are determined by Chelmsford City Council, GWPC is a Statutory Consultee, and our duty is to advise on any local issues, which includes aspects of the Village Design Statements, which are formal guidance material for planning decisions. All Parish Council meetings are open for members of the public to attend and we encourage members of the public to make their views known. During 2020/21, our Parish Council reviewed about 40 applications, which ranged from new buildings, extension, conversion, and changes to existing buildings. More than half of the

applications resulted in an increase in accommodation amounting to 14 new dwellings because they were either new buildings or conversions of existing buildings. Overall, GWPC supported a quarter of the applications as appropriate and beneficial to the parish. Also, about a quarter of the applications were for dwellings located in the conservation area in GW Village or involved a listed building. More stringent planning regulations apply to these applications.

Report from Finance Chairman, Gary Dunn

GWPC derives income from several sources, with the main one being the precept (allowance from Council Tax). The precept for the financial year 20/21 was £49,898. In addition to this, GWPC were successful in receiving grants of £5,098 plus £2,000 of ECC locality fund (received 21/22) plus income from allotment holders. For the previous financial year (19/20), we reported a spend less than income which meant being able to carry forward a large amount for reserves and future capital projects. Consequently, we were able to spend £65,447 in the year 20/21, with even more focus on making repairs and improvements to our three main recreation areas and much more. We finished 20/21 with a General Reserve of around £16,000 (equivalent to 4 months of operating costs which is a recommended amount). Other reserves, set aside for capital projects, have decreased from £34,371 at the start of 20/21 to £16,384, as a result of completing various projects. The spend on parks/open spaces and projects from reserve equates to over 50% of the total spend and includes £10,003 for a MUGA in GW (of which 50% was a grant), £8,467 refurbishing the GW Changing Rooms and £790 on the bench at FE (of which £2,000 will be recovered from grants) and £1,565 for repairing the FE vandalised fence. GWPC decided upon a 6% increase in the precept for 21/22, which equates to an increase to Band D council tax of £3.60 pa. Howe Street will be the target for some of the additional spend with a multi-play unit and a new bench. We are estimating that these will cost a total of £15,800, but grants will also be sought. We retain a £10,000 commitment to the Average Speed Camera project at FE (to supplement the £75,000 allocated by the Local Highways Panel).

4 Charity Reports.

These were not available at the time of the meeting.

5 Organisation Reports.

- COMMUNITY NETWORK

OUR AIMS - to enhance village life by organising events that bring together the people of the local villages and hamlets. Events are either run by ourselves, or in conjunction with other groups. We also support groups by making small grants.

Our events since the 2019 annual assembly were -
2019

Midsummer Music and Art Festival
Inter-pub Football Tournament
Old Codgers Cricket Match
Christmas Pudding Workshop
Christmas Tree Festival

2020

In 2020 everything stopped. In December 2020, we decided to cheer up the village by inviting householders to decorate a tree in their front gardens to create a Christmas Tree Trail round the village. Maps were given out and many people enjoyed strolling round to view the trees. We have been asked to run it again.

2021

We hope to be able to run some events later this year. If there is anyone interested in joining the committee in the future, email Joanna Steel on joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com.

GRANTS

Any money we make is ploughed back into our events, but we also give out small grants to local groups.

Since the last Annual Assembly, we have given grants as follows –

Up, Up and Away Preschool for storage and new tables
For the purchase of a new set of lights for the church star

Ask us if your group needs some help.

- TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2019 was the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the twinning charter between Great Waltham and Ceyrat, in 1979. In July 2019 it was our turn to welcome 48 visitors from Ceyrat for this special visit. Among the activities, the new mayor, Bob Massey, greeted us at his parlor in Chelmsford and also attended our Farewell Dinner.

In 2019, we ran many successful fundraising activities, open to the whole community to pay for the visit –

April Quiz

Boules Tournament

Cream tea

Safari Sunday Lunch

Music quiz

In February 2020 we ran a TV Gameshow Night before everything shut down in March. Our planned visit to Ceyrat in July 2020 was cancelled, and our intended visit to Ceyrat in July 2021 has also been cancelled. We look forward to 2022.

Finally....

If anyone is interested in joining the Twinning Association now or in the future, email Joanna Steel on joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com. It is open to people of all ages.

- Ford End Village Hall

Thanks to Cllr Steel for highlighting the covid grants available from the City Council
The Ford End Pre School may not restart. They have been in place for 25 years. The numbers are too low to support being open (less than 10). This will be reviewed in September 2021.
The hall has been refurbished and the outside areas cleared and improved.

- GW and FE Parish Churches

Church has been closed at times. Services held when restrictions allowed. Covid safe open for private prayer. Christmas 2020 event well supported. Ford End had a crib in the porch and the bells were rung.

12th June concert in the church.

27th June 150 years (2020) celebration with Bishop John of Bradwell and bless the Church. Noted the School was built the same year.

Thanks for the Parish Council and Cllr Steel for lighting the star on the top of the church through to Easter 2021. Vicar of Broomfield has pastoral oversight in the Parish and supports with a monthly service. The Churches will remain separate from Broomfield and are looking for a Vicar.

- Walthambury WI

Has not been able to function normally Been having monthly Zoom meetings incl a guest speaker.

Full program in September.

Additions of organised walks and visits.

FE + HS 5th July 2021 Tea Party in the British legion Garden. Celebrating 70 years of the NHS.

6. Other matters raised by those present.

- Request to open the Ford End recreation ground gates at weekends.
- Concerns raised over the continued use of the broken fence at Ford End Recreation ground.
- Request on information on the private allotment gardens at Pleshey Road – Ford End.
- Parish Council to consider a bin for the car park at Ford End.
- The noticeboard at Howe Street - when will this be back in action.
- Thanks, noted for Cllr John Aldridge, retiring ECC Cllr for all his hard work and interest in the Parish over the last 16 years.
- Ford End footpaths – Highway’s rangers will be requested to address.
- Essex Regiment Way looking a lot better after the litter clearance
- Dunmow lane – Byway- Green Lane - litter. Mature trees burned.
- Church Lane – deep dip – contact ECC Cllr to resolve.

Meeting closed 20:00
W.Adshead-Grant