

WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
on Tuesday 16 June 2015 in the Neville Hall at 7.00pm**

Present: John Birkett - Chairman
Mike Kay - Vice Chairman
Mark Hipgrave
Clive Scott-Hopkins
Katie Sarsfield
Maggi Bevan
Suzy Young
Sally Burtenshaw (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillors Cox, Evans & Hunt, RFO Hilda Holder & 4 members of the public

ACTION

Public Question Time:
There were no questions

FC13/06/2015 Apologies: none received

FC 14/06/2015 Minutes:
The minutes of a meeting held on 12 May 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman following an amendment

FC 15/06/2015 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Downfield Pit – Residents and councillors continue to experience frustration about the situation at Downfield Pit. A productive meeting and site visit was held in May between RBWM councillors, planning and environment officers, four members of the PC and the site manager and owner of Downfield Pit. Works have been considerably delayed by the discovery of rare newts by Natural England. Following its study, Natural England has requested the creation of new purpose built ponds, which must be left for at least 6 months for conditions to stabilise before newts are transferred from existing ponds. These new ponds have now been created.

Natural England now sees no reason why site work should not continue at normal pace outside the protected area, but this requires further clarification - as the site owner has been restricted to date.

While this has slowed infill progress, one resident still reported five lorry loads arriving at the site over a half hour period on the 3rd June. Concerned residents can call the site manager, Pete Campbell on 07786 636363 or follow up with the PC or Streetcare, 01628 683804. If possible, record dates and times and license plate numbers for reference.

Dustbin vinyl labels – following a request at the April meeting the Clerk asked the Councillors if they wanted to go ahead and purchase some vinyl labels to put on every residents dustbins asking drivers to slow down through the Parish. Mark Hipgrave kindly offered to obtain

MARK
HIPGRAVE

J.B.

some quotes to make the labels up.

FC 16/06/2015 *Agreement of Accounts & Annual Return:*
The RFO Hilda Holder presented the accounts and annual return to be executed by the Chairman – these were approved and signed off. A couple of questions arose from this about the budget process and investigating a better rate of return on cash balances

FC 17/06/2015 *Traveller update:*
The Borough Councillors presented this prior to the meeting

The Travellers lodged an appeal against the decision of the High Court to turn down their application for a Judicial Review of the decision of RBWM to take enforcement action. At the time of writing we have not heard whether or not the Court of Appeal has granted permission to appeal. The first stage in the process is for the appeal to be considered on paper only. If the Judge decides that in their view that there are no real prospects of a successful appeal then the Travellers have the right to seek an oral hearing to try and persuade a Judge that they should have permission to appeal.

We would like to be able to say that we have a clear indication from the Courts as to when they are likely to deal with these matters, but that information is very difficult to obtain.

The Travellers have also appealed against the decision of the Maidenhead DC Panel to refuse their planning applications. You will recall that there were two applications made that bore remarkable similarity to the planning applications that were dealt with several years ago. The latest information that we have is that the Travellers have chosen to seek a Public Inquiry. The Planning Inspectorate have told the Officers at RBWM that the earliest hearing date is likely to be in November 2015.

If that appeal fails then rightly people will be asking if we have to go through a similar process that was gone through before in the form of Judicial Review. The answer is yes, however it is hoped that the process will be swifter as there is now in place a "Planning Court" to consider Judicial Reviews of planning cases that has a swifter timescale.

We have met with the Leader of the Council to vent our frustration with the process. The meeting was productive in that he shares our frustration whilst maintaining his support for Residents to continue the fight to evict. He will be writing to Greg Clark and Michael Gove to, again, raise concerns at the way in which the system operates. We have also asked for a root and branch review of the case as to whether there are any other legal avenues which might be open to us - whilst this may be a long shot we have emphasised the need to look at any possibilities

As ever we continue to press for results on your behalf.

Carwyn, Maureen and David
The Councillors were advised by a member of the public that there

are now 16 caravans on site with another one expected

FC 18a/06/2015 Planning Applications:

15/00481: Heath Lodge Bungalow, Beenhams Heath

The Parish Council had no objection to this application but would like a condition added that the accommodation should be ancillary to the main house

15/00481: Little Martin Lodge, Shurlock Rd, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council made no comment as a decision of approval had already been reached

15/01505: 17 Downfield Rd, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council objected to this application on grounds of having an unacceptable impact on the neighbours amenity and it would reduce the number of smaller housing stock in the village. It is also out of character with the adjoining properties

15/01526: Sunbeam House, Broadmoor Rd, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council had no objection to this application

15/01720: Land at Church Farm north of the railway between Milley & Weycock Bridges

The Parish Council had no objection to this application

FC 18b/06/2015 Trees in a Conservation Area:

15/01562: Land to the south Of Boveney Cottages

The Parish Council had no objection to this application

FC 18c/06/2015 Plans that have arrived in the last couple of days:

15/01893: The Star, Broadmoor Rd, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council received this application too late to discuss. It was agreed that as the Council is now made up of 4 new people it would be good for them all to do a site visit and discuss at length rather than rush it through without the benefit of doing this. The Clerk will write to the Case Officer to request that we send our comments no later than 15 July the day after the next meeting

15/01904: Beech House, Halls Lane, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council received this application too late to discuss. The Clerk will write to the Case Officer to request that we send our comments no later than 15 July the day after the next meeting

FC 18d/06/2015 Other Planning Matters:

It was noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness has been received for Blackthorn Farm Stables, West End to determine whether the existing use of part of the stables as a single dwelling is lawful. The Parish Council made no comment

FC 18e/06/2015 Enforcement Notices & Appeals:

Nothing to report

JB.

FC 19/06/2015

Finance:

- The cheques issued in May were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- The Chairman advised that he had been approached to see if the Parish Council would donate some monies towards the repairs to the churchyard wall. It was agreed in principle to donate up to £500 should there be a shortfall in the funds. The Chairman will respond accordingly
- The Clerk asked if she could purchase a new Exclusive Rights of Burial record book at a cost of £95 + VAT – this was unanimously agreed
- Discussions were held as to whether to improve the condition of the Pound fencing. Mark Hipgrave will obtain 3 quotes to either replace or refurbish the fencing
- The Internal Auditor requested that the addition of the purchase of the wooden shed which is located in the churchyard be added to the Asset Register. The question of whether the church or the Parish Council should insure the shed and contents arose.. The Chairman will check with David Crawley-Boevey. This will be deferred to the July meeting
- One of the Parish Council's cheque signatories is no longer a Councillor so a new one needs to be appointed. Mark Hipgrave proposed himself and this was seconded by Mike Kay. Mike Kay proposed himself and this was seconded by Mark Hipgrave. The Parish Council unanimously agreed. The Clerk will request new bank mandate forms
- The Internal Auditor has requested that the bank statements addressee is regularised as they are currently addressed to the wrong person. This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk will prepare the paperwork for the Chairman to sign
- Insurance renewal – Mike Kay had digested the paperwork and advised that, having investigated alternative options, it was not an unreasonable premium. It also includes the Neville Hall. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would proceed with the renewal. A cheque will be raised in the June payments and reimbursement from the Neville Hall will be applied for

CHAIRMAN

CLERK

MARK
HIPGRAVE

CHAIRMAN
& CLERK

CLERK

CLERK

CLERK

FC 20/06/2015

Neighbourhood Plan update:

The Chairman advised that as now drafted Waltham St Lawrence has protection from a 'rural exception site' in the Conservation Area although adjacent to a recognised settlement

FC 21/06/2015

Reports from Representatives:

Katie Sarsfield:

- IT matters – she requested that some-one acts as a backup on these matters – Suzy Young volunteered and Maggi Bevan will assist if required.
- The horsewalker on the Twyford Road is part of the Parish Initiative and part of the 5 year consultation of the Rights of Way. The Parish Council remain concerned about the amount of accidents that happen on this bend. She will call the responsible Officer and see what can be done
- Defibrillator – volunteers are required to tidy up the telephone

MIKE KAY &

JB

box, the door needs rehangng and an electrician is also needed. It was agreed that this needs to be progressed urgently Mike Kay & Mark Hipgrave advised that they would deal with it.

MARK
HIPGRAVE

Suzy Young:

- The Clerk asked if the burial records had been handed over from Jenny Baish – this was confirmed
- She has received an e mail from a resident of Halls Lane requesting that the speed limit is reduced, She is satisfied that following a discussion with the RBWM that this will be put forward later in the year
- Speeding on Milley Road – a petition was raised last year requesting that the speed is reduced to 30mph from 40mph. This will be sent to Cllr David Evans so he can assist with moving the matter on at the RBWM.
- Condition of Brook Lane – this lane took a battering when Broadmoor Road was temporarily closed for the replacement of the culvert earlier this year. Cllr David Evans has asked that the road and verges are repaired accordingly together with Halls Lane which suffered the same problem

Maggi Bevan:

- A matter that could affect the Risk Register needs to be repaired urgently. The bus stop sign by the Pond in Shurlock Row has been tied onto the wooden bench. Streetcare will be asked to attend to this matter

MIKE KAY

Mike Kay:

- Parish Maintenance contracts will be up for renewal next year – three quotes will be sought

MIKE KAY

Mark Hipgrave:

- Asked to be given an up to date allotment register to show all current holders and contact details. Clerk to provide

CLERK

Clive Scott-Hopkins:

- Updated the Councillors on the Smart motorway M4 plans

FC 22/06/2015

Correspondence:

- E mail received from a local resident advising that the Parish website needs to be updated with more information than it is currently showing. From the 1 July several documents need to be published these range from draft minutes to agendas, annual accounts and a list of the Parish Councils assets. The Vice Chairman advised that the council are aware that these changes need to be put in place, and stressed these changes will happen.
- Website <http://www.walthamstlawrence.info/index.php/council>
- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/WalthamStLawrencePC?fref=ts>
- Devolution of Services: The Chairman explained the new legislation which included highway & grass verge cutting, gritting, non urgent potholes, overhanging vegetation – all of these things could be adjusted within the current budget to better fit the Parish needs and/or could enhance if the Parish Council met the extra costs. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the team leader David Perkins to see if he could address the councillors prior to the August meeting . The Vice Chairman suggested that the Parish Council spend more money enhancing the Parish via the precept monies as

CLERK

JB.

we are the lowest in the Borough

FC 23/06/2015 A.O.B. There was no other business

*FC 24/06/2015 Date of Next Site Visits:
Saturday 11 July 2015 at 9:00am*

FC 25/06/2015 Next meeting: Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 7.00pm in the Neville Hall

The meeting closed at 21:23 & the confidential meeting commenced

J. Birkett .

14th July 2015