

# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend meeting of the  
Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in  
the Neville Hall at 7pm

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

1 APOLOGIES:

2 MINUTES:

To approve and sign minutes of a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4 SIGNIFICANT MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – not covered elsewhere

- Open Space Shurlock Road – update
- Bellman Hanger – update if any
- Thames Water – flooding in The Street update

5 TRAVELLERS UPDATE:

5a DOWNFIELD PIT UPDATE:

6a PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

16/03078: Sleepy Hollow, Milley Road, Waltham St Lawrence  
Indoor swimming pool following demolition of existing workshop & carport

16/03123: Cherry Hill, Milley Road, Waltham St Lawrence  
New dwelling & double garage following demolition of existing dwelling & double garage

6b TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA:

16/02961: Shurlock House, The Street, Shurlock Row  
Willow trees within garden boundary need crown reduction

16/03255: Land to the rear of Baskerville House, Shurlock Row  
Fell a Willow

16/03263: Cherry Tree Cottage, 1 Milley Road, Waltham St Lawrence  
Various works to 7 different Cherry trees & 1 Italian Cypress

6c PLANS THAT HAVE ARRIVED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS – (IF ANY)

6d OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

6e ENFORCEMENT NOTICES & APPEALS:

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:

8 FINANCE:

- To agree cheques issued in October 2016

- To acknowledge receipt of cheque from Jubilee Fund for the bench

9 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – matters notified and brought forward:**

*Report from the Clerk:*

- Nothing to report

*Communications:*

- Wi-fi update

*Bridleways & Footpaths:*

- Nut Lane Kent Carriage Gap – update

*Highways:*

- Brook Lane passing places – update from Suzy
- Hungerford Lane/The Street sight lines update

*Burial Ground:*

- Nothing to report

*Parish Maintenance:*

- War memorial
- Milley Lane playing field fence update

*Capital Projects:*

*Ditches & Allotments:*

- To include update on blocked culvert & clearing ditches

*Drainage ditches – update from Mark*

*Other:*

- Parish letterhead – update from Katie
- Revisit meeting dates – Maggi (PLEASE BRING DIARIES)
- Response from NALC on costs letter

10 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED MEETINGS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

- Report from Maggi on NALC conference
- Maggi attending Mayors Charity afternoon

11 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

12 **AOB:**

13 **DATE OF NEXT SITE VISITS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 commencing at 9am

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 commencing at 7pm

**CONFIDENTIAL MEETING**

**RFO - update**

*To clarify that the Chairman will be covering budgeting & auto enrolment issues*

*Replacement of Pound Fencing update from Mark*

## Burtenshaw, Sally

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**From:** Kay, Mike [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 October 2016 19:23  
**To:** Maggi Bevan [REDACTED]; Mark Hipgrave; Suzy Young; Katie & Ian Sarsfield [REDACTED]; Burtenshaw, Sally  
**Cc:** David Evans; John Birkett; Clive Scott Hopkins  
**Subject:** Thames Water

Notes on Thames Water Meeting – 10am 12 October 2016 – The Street, WSL

Attendees: David Evans, Mike Kay, John Birkett, Clive Scott Hopkins plus 5 representative of Thames Water including Alex Saunders (Regional Manager Waste Management) and Bob Cunningham

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the sewers overflowing in The Street, WSL after heavy rainfall (and recently in Shurlock Row). In addition the subject of Bellman's Hanger was raised.

The main points to note were

1. TW are of the opinion that 20 houses at Bellman's Hanger would not materially increase the foul water capacity of the sewers
2. The reason for this conclusion is that volumes from houses with soak aways etc (as required at Bellmans Hanger) produce relatively little waste. The reason for the capacity problems is that (their statistic/quote) one house with rainwater gutters connected to the sewer rather than a soak away produces the equivalent volume as the waste produced by 150 houses. **[NB MJK research after this meeting struggles to find statistics to agree this – see below]**
3. A similar issue applies where surface water leaks into the sewers eg from neighbouring fields or overflowing ditches.
4. The PC made the point that the sufficient capacity could not be measured on the basis of a perfect world where no rainwater entered the foul sewer system and, given the profile of houses in the village, there were a large number where the rainwater did flow into the sewers and this could not be expected to be addressed by homeowners given that this arrangement pre dated any legislation on the subject. A realistic approach had to be taken.
5. Nevertheless, assuming that the TW statistic is correct, 20 additional houses is unlikely to materially change the volumes in the foul water sewers
6. TW are of the opinion that small changes can have significant impacts on the volumes in the foul sewers. The issue is identifying those changes.
7. TW were pleased that the PC were focusing on getting and keeping ditches clear. The lack of cooperation between organisations was discussed (each arguing that another was to blame) and therefore it was proposed that a meeting before Christmas is set up (the PC highlighted that Mark Hipgrave should be involved) hopefully involving the PC, TW, the Environment Agency and RBWM.
8. TW would look to install monitors on the sewers to measure volumes of water and to try to identify where there are increased volumes with a view to identifying the causes and aiming to address the situation (eg water flowing into the sewers from a field).
9. The subject of whether or not there was increased flow through the village from Knowl Hill was discussed and the extent to which this caused problems. This would also be investigated.
10. TW confirmed that a pump at Shurlock Row was replaced in 2014 and no further issues had been identified there.
11. TW provided the PC with maps of the sewers in the village. They asked the PC to mark the sewers where the problem areas were.

Conclusion – it was clear that TW did not have a budget to spend on improving infrastructure in the village. However they did acknowledge the costs of 24 hour tankers pumping in the Street and that spending some money on identifying the route cause of problems would pay for itself.

With the apparent imbalance in rainwater flowing into drains compared with foul waste, sewers are unlikely to stand up to scrutiny as a reason to object to 20 houses at Bellmans Hanger. Realistically, homeowners are not going to individually redirect rainwater from gutters into newly created soak aways. With the high water table it was also pointed out that water had to flow away from the area somehow. The fact that Nick Phelps had been told by the Environment Agency not to clear a ditch to the Loddon was highlighted as an example where the agencies/organisations are not working together.

TW are keen to build regular dialogue with the PC and are keen to hold a follow up meeting in the near future with a subgroup to advance matters. MJK will introduce Mark Hipgrave to the customer relations contact at TW.

I have probably missed something so others in attendance, please [redacted] to fill in the gaps.

Notes on subsequent research into rainfall [redacted] – please find the fault in my logic

**Rainfall statistics (source Climate Data) – WSL 689mm per annum**

**Planning portal – average person uses 150 litres water per day = 54,750 litres per annum.**

**Therefore roof of 10m x 10m would produce  $100 \times 0.689 = 68,900$  cu m or litres per annum**

**With maybe 2 people in a house I am nowhere near the TW statistics – therefore to be revisited at the next meeting**

Kind Regards

Mike

**Mike Kay**  
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## 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016 NALC Annual Conference.

### Smaller Councils Committee Session

The attendance was very homogenous in terms of age, race and sex. To my eye – at the whole event, it was 90% over 45 (including self), 99% white and 95% male.

When I raised the point about affordability and inclusion for very small councils like ourselves – there was support from the room but the chairperson was dismissive as she said a majority of those in the room represented a small council – ignoring the fact that there were only about 40 people there. Further most of those 40 were there because they were on various NALC committees and had their fees paid by other organisations. She also said that similar events were often organised more locally around the country – ignoring the fact that although that may be true, this is the Annual Conference and this was the Smaller Councils Committee which was supposedly speaking and representing Smaller Councils. Therefore, even though it was extremely time consuming and not hugely beneficial to us at first pass, I think it is hugely important that we make our best efforts to attend as many national events for Smaller Councils as we can.

There was a general introduction about what NALC has been doing.

- Encouraging that the formal appraisal of staff be done by all councils. Aiming to bring out a toolkit on this soon.
- Encouraging all councils to implement pension enrolment procedures, but acknowledging that some small councils will not have to make any payments (like us).
- Encouraging auditors to identify a recommended level of reserves and that this should be sensible in both percentage and absolute terms. Among other things, the reserves should cover the cost of a bye election.
- Encouraging all councils to respond to the consultation on the referendum principle re increases of more than 2% in the precept. Currently it is only high spending councils that may be held to a 2% cap without holding a referendum but the paper indicates that this can be applied to all councils. The consultation period ends next Friday (28<sup>th</sup> Oct). **Have we responded? Shall I respond for us?**

### Results for the Developing Capacity Survey for Smaller Councils

I am afraid I missed the name of the chap giving this segment.

They were very pleased with the response to their survey – 278 replies out of a possible (he didn't know the exact population – I asked) 3,500. In this context “Smaller Council” means less than 6000 voters.

There were several case studies which would be useful to others and the plan is to make these available on the NALC website.

### Transport – Stephen Joseph CBE Campaign for Better Transport

He spoke about the difficulty in rural areas where new housing developments normally include many parking space and no pavements and no connections to local bus services. He spoke of ways that have been tried in other areas to increase the local bus service possibly by franchising out a profitable corridor with the requirement that the bus company must also service feeder services from rural locations.

The lack of adequate public transport in rural areas has been shown to lead to higher adult social care costs.

In some instances, when District Councils have threatened to withdraw funding for bus services altogether they have been (successfully) challenged using the Equalities Act that withdrawing services altogether is discriminatory towards the ill, the elderly and the poor.

The forthcoming Bus Services Bill is suggesting further franchising be allowed and that data re fares and timetables be openly available on the internet.

They are campaigning for funding of many small transport projects not just the big headline catching ones.

The post talk discussion was centred on bus shelters and who should pay – the PC or the DC. I made the point that although we have a very convenient Lych Gate at one of our bus stops we would much rather have more buses than more shelters.

### Housing – Matthew Dodd, policy advisor Homes and Communities Agency

There is a new Housing White Paper due out, probably by the time of the Autumn Statement. There will be encouragement for all types of housing development – affordable, starter, market value, self build, custom build, accelerated construction models etc.

There are some issues with the “right to buy” policy in rural areas and it is hoped that an exemption can be gained because it is so difficult to replace those properties in those locations. It is also hoped that the duty on councils to sell their higher value assets can exempt rural locations too.

Exception Sites will allow starter homes and market value homes.

Many councils are having trouble in their planning departments. Consequently, permitted development rights applications may not be getting proper/sufficient review.