

# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a meeting of Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council on Tuesday 8 September 2015 in the Neville Hall at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: Borough Councillor Hunt 8 members of the public

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### ACTION

#### *Public Question Time:*

*A resident spoke about the speeding along Shurlock Road and asked if the hedge cutting for sight line purposes had been actioned. Clive Scott-Hopkins advised he had suggested in the past that a slow sign be painted in the road in each direction as he feels this would be a good deterrent. The question of traffic lights was also discussed whilst the lorries are still going to and from Downfield Tip. The road is not wide enough to take two lorries abreast. Cllr Hunt will contact the site officer and arrange for a meeting she would then be in a position to provide an up to date report to the Councillors.*

*A resident expressed his concern at the height of the spoil heaps. The general feeling is that this is due to the great crested newts so the spoil is not being spread across the whole site. Cllr Hunt advised that the case officer could visit the site and take some measurements*

FC44/09/2015 Apologies:  
Received from Borough Councillors Cox & Evans

FC45/09/2015 Minutes:  
The minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman

FC46/09/2015 Matters arising from the Minutes:

- Vinyl labels – The Clerk advised that White Waltham Parish Council have 400 spare labels which they would sell to us for £150. The expenditure was approved. A note will be put on the WSL website, twitter, facebook page and the Lych Gate for any residents to put on their dustbins to discourage speeding
- The 2016 council meetings dates were agreed and these will be available to view on the WSL website, twitter,

CLERK

CLERK

- facebook page and the Lych Gate
- Insurance for shed in the church yard – still ongoing and will be discussed next month
- Landscaping at school – Clive Scott-Hopkins advised that this cannot be put on as a condition as the application has already been approved although some screening will be planted. A further update will be provided at the next meeting
- Parking at school – Cllr Hunt advised that at a recent meeting with the parking officer from RBWM and Parish Councillors these present issues were discussed. An area opposite Rogers Platt was identified as a good place to create 12 car parking spaces with appropriate surface material. The Parish Councillors discussed the options and agreed that a public consultation should be carried out in terms of a letter drop to all those residents affected followed up by a visit. The Vice Chairman volunteered to compose the letter – a copy will be provided to Cllr Hunt. The insertion of yellow/cream lines along the road at the corner was also discussed and in principle agreed. If the parking restrictions are not adhered to traffic wardens can be organised. Better use of the bus for Parish residents was required
- Hedge near the school – a note was made that a hedge at the corner was significantly overgrown and impacting the road. The Clerk was asked to write to the homeowner and follow up with RBWM if necessary.
- Public Open Spaces – Cllr Hunt will approach the RBWM to see whether the Parish Council can adopt the parcel of land on Shurlock Road to utilise as a public open space following the ecological survey. Maintenance of the area was discussed along with the possibility of an additional access gate
- Asset Register to be carried forward to October

CHAIRMAN

VICE  
CHAIRMAN

CLERK

FC47/09/2015 Travellers update:  
The hearings will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> November and Clive Scott-Hopkins will attend on behalf of the Parish Council

FC49a/09/2015 Planning Applications:  
15/02289: Great Martins, Shurlock Row  
The Parish Council had no objection to this application

15/02288: Great Martins, Shurlock Row  
The Parish Council had no objection to this application

15/02405: Land to the south of Pool Lane Farm, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council advise that from the information shown on the RBWM website it is difficult to give an informed opinion as many details are missing. We object on the following grounds:-

1. There is no definition of the area of land to be raised
2. There is no access statement
3. There is no FRA

JB.

4. *There is no information on the amount of imported soil*
5. *The applicant claims the land is not in the flood plain but it is clearly shown on the EA flood map as being in Flood Zone 3*
6. *The applicant further claims there would not be any increase to flood elsewhere. It is self-evident that if you raise a piece of flood plain land by one metre the water has to go somewhere*

*Separately the Parish Council established the site would be approximately 6.5 acres. It is estimated to raise the land by just one metre would require 26,300 tons of soil*

*Current access to the site would be via Pool Lane which is a restricted byway being part of footpath 31. The sides of the road are in a poor state of repair and to transport the required quantity of soil would destroy the road*

*The Parish Council understands that the land in question is subject to an "Article 4 Direction" approved by the RBWM in relation to the land east of Pool Lane*

*Based on similar neighbouring plots of land, it is probable that there is an abundance of wild life and possibly the presence of Great Crested Newts in the pond so a report needs to be carried out by Natural England in the same way as at Downfield Tip*

*15/02476: Blueys Farm, Waltham St Lawrence*

*A majority of Councillors declared an interest and the remaining Councillors did not provide a quorum representation. Therefore the Parish Council response was:*

*The majority of the Parish Council declared an interest as the applicant was a former parish councillor therefore they made no comment on this application*

*15/02324: Ivybank Farm, Waltham St Lawrence*

*The Parish Council had no objection as it stood but would wish to see an informative that the applicant should not expect to have a replacement garage bearing in mind a listed building and in a Conservation Area*

*It was noted that this was a majority decision*

*15/02390: Paddocks, Waltham St Lawrence*

*The Parish Council maintained their objection on over development grounds contrary to Policy GB4*

*It was noted that the Chairman dissented*

*15/02578: Milley Road Railway Bridge*

*The Parish Council objected on design grounds, and would wish to see the parapet similar to the bridge in Bottle Lane (Shottesbrooke), as this is the gateway to our village and needs to be in keeping with the surrounding area.*

*The existing iron bridge is already rusted and deteriorated after*

*JB.*

only one year and is currently an eyesore. This further demonstrates how unsuitable the existing proposal is, as the maintenance requirement would be huge.

The Parish Council will write to Network Rail to request that the current application is withdrawn and would welcome receipt of an amended application. Cllr Hunt also offered to follow this up with Network Rail

15/02579: Chalk Pit Bridge, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council objected on design grounds, they would wish to see the parapet similar to the bridge in Bottle Lane (Shottesbrooke

The Parish Council will write to Network Rail to request that the current application is withdrawn and would welcome receipt of an amended application. Cllr Hunt also offered to follow this up with Network Rail

CLERK

FC49b/09/2015 Trees in a Conservation Area:

15/02516: Hope House, Binfield Road, Shurlock Row

The Parish Council noted that this application had already been decided by RBWM as no objection. The Clerk advised that she had written to the Case Officer to enquire why they had reached a decision prior to the cut off date

Councillors expressed concern that local views are set aside by RBWM without consultation with the Parish Council or local residents in contravention of their legal duty. Cllr Hunt offered to liaise with RBWM and DCLG on this issue.

15/02517: Southlake House, The Street, Shurlock Row

The Parish Council noted that this application had already been decided by RBWM as no objection. The Clerk advised that she had written to the Case Officer to enquire why they had reached a decision prior to the cut off date

Again Councillors expressed concern that local views are set aside by RBWM without consultation with the Parish Council or local residents in contravention of their legal duty.

15/02600: Brooklands House, The Street, Shurlock Row

The Parish Council strongly objected to the removal of T1 and wish to see a TPO put on both oaks.

This view was also supported by local residents.

However we would not object to pruning or crown reducing both T1 & T2.

These two trees are fundamental to the street scene in the centre of the Conservation Area

15/02593: Foxwood, Halls Lane, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council had no objection to this application

15/02723: The Grange, The Street, Waltham St Lawrence

The Parish Council had no objection to this application

FC49c/09/2015 Plans that have arrived within the last couple of days:

JB.

15/02443: Farm barns approx. 300 mtrs south of Hungerford Lane, Shurlock Row

Clive Scott-Hopkins declared an interest and left the meeting  
The Parish Council strongly objected to this application on grounds that the buildings were unsuitable for conversion, furthermore they questioned whether these buildings had ever been used for agricultural purposes. The Borough should see some supporting evidence prior to making a decision on the lawfulness of permitted development  
Clive Scott-Hopkins returned to the meeting

FC49d/09/2015 Other Planning Matters:

FC49e/09/2015 Enforcement Notices & Appeals:

The Chairman advised that the recent appeal at Beenhams Farm had been dismissed. Clive Scott-Hopkins explained that this was a re-hearing for all three following a High Court ruling on the sport of polo in the Green Belt.

FC50/09/2015 Finance:

The cheques issued in August were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman  
The costs for fitting the village defibrillator in the telephone box in The Street was approved. It is noted that the Parish has not received an invoice for the purchase of this and will be chased up by Katie Sarsfield. Cllr Hunt mentioned that under the Borough Councillors Participatory Budget she may be able to donate £750 towards these costs

KATIE  
SARSFIELD

FC51/09/2015 Neighbourhood Plan update:

The Parish Council formally approved the draft plan  
Cllr Hunt was thanked for all of her efforts in getting this plan to this stage

FC52/09/2015 Reports from Representatives:

Suzy Young:

- Discussions were held following a request from a family requesting the reservation of grave space in the burial ground with a strong family history of living in the Parish many years ago.
- Highways – Work to Brook Lane & Halls Lane verges are still outstanding and will be chased up. The village gateway is still being designed

VICE  
CHAIRMAN

Maggi Bevan:

- Advised that she is investigating the practicalities and costs of setting up a dedicated Parish Council website

Mark Hipgrave:

- The vacant allotments have been cleared by David Aldridge
- It is evident that the ditch running alongside and to the front needs clearing out. Mark Pottinger has been asked to quote for the clearance of the front ditch and also in Broadmoor Road along to the Twyford Road and note that this should be cleared annually. Katie Sarsfield will

MARK  
HIPGRAVE &  
KATIE  
SARSFIELD

JB.

contact Sharon Wootten at RBWM to see if the ditch alongside the allotment can be cleared too

- He is still chasing for two additional quotes to repair the fencing in the Pound
- The defibrillator has now been fitted but as yet not operational as it needs to be registered with the ambulance service. The phone box still needs to be painted and the quotes are awaited. The defibrillator needs to be checked on a weekly basis - the Clerk volunteered to do this

Clive Scott-Hopkins:

He has received a quotation from Chissock Woodcraft to make and install a 7 foot oak bench which will be placed on the triangle at the end of Neville Close, to replace the one that went missing. He has arranged to have this paid for with Section 106 monies from RBWM. It will be inscribed to commemorate the Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch.

CLIVE SCOTT  
HOPKINS

FC54/09/2015 Correspondence:  
E mail received relating to Parish Council Workshops which will be held on 16th, 17th, 23rd, & 28th September at various locations. Several councillors have already signed up to attend

FC55/09/2015 AOB – nothing raised

FC53/09/2015 Date of Next Site Visits:  
10 October 2015 at 9.00am

FC56/09/2015 Next meeting:  
13 October 2015 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21:44 Confidential meeting commenced

J. Birrell

13 October 2015