

LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 29 July 2019 at 7:30pm in the Tufnell Hall

Present: Councillors Edith Robertson (Chair)
 Tony Campen
 Antony Kingham
 Barbara Denny
 Melanie Williamson
 Chloe Tron
Clerk Suzanne Walker
City Councillors Councillor Knight and Councillor Daden
County Councillor Councillor Aldridge
18 members of the public were present

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

19/148 Apologies

Received from Councillors Eve and Goff

19/149 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campen declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 19/151.1 as he is acquainted with members of the applicant organisation and took no part in that discussion.

19/150 Public Forum – To receive any representations from the Public

A resident commented on the cricket club fence application that there are 75 objections on the City Council website showing the strength of feeling in the village. Residents had formed a group to object to the application and had actively petitioned villagers in order for people to be able to voice their opinion. She stated that the group do not want the cricket to fold or for there to be any bad feelings going forward but wanted to make their views known.

A resident commented that interest in cricket is declining generally in the UK and thus not due to any dog poo issues

A resident stated that people would be willing to assist in clearing up dog poo on a volunteer basis.

Councillor Knight stated that he felt the group had put their objections in a professional way.

Councillor Aldridge advised that no libraries will be closing over the next 5 years and an extra £3million pounds has been committed to libraries over that time.

19/151 To consider the following planning applications

19/151.1 Little Waltham Cricket Club, The Street, Little Waltham - Retrospective application for the retention of a 2.4m high fence around the southeastern and southern boundaries of cricket pitch. – Councillors discussed the issue and in particular noted that no other clubs have fencing around their pitches. It was considered that the fence has a substantial detrimental impact upon the conservation area and is detrimental to the public as it

prevents access to a public amenity which is used for leisure and exercise by residents and is of benefit for all residents and for the health and wellbeing of the whole community. It was commented that this is a rural area and one would not expect the grass to be pristine and there is no factual evidence presented by the club to back up the suggested impact and extent of dog fouling. The Parish Council has worked hard to address the issue by working with the City Council and highlighting the issue in the Parish magazine. The Parish Council has also made a substantial effort to engage with the Club. The fence is industrial in appearance and thus does not fit in to the Conservation area and the size and height are also detrimental. Information from residents indicates that there has not been a fence in the area for over 50 years and it was previously a small picket fence. The lack of involvement of the community cannot be attributed to the demise of cricket generally. The club state that if it is permitted to have the fence it will expand the club with women's and disability cricket however this is something they could already have done should they wish to do so. It was noted that there are 70 objections submitted to the City Council. Thus, for the reasons above Councillors **agreed to object** to the application. It was also requested of City Council members that the matter be referred to the planning committee for a decision to be made as opposed to the devolved power of an officer.

19/151.2 19/00581/REM - Beaulieu Park, Springfield - Development of Zones K and L: Construction of 300 dwellings (92 x 1 bed, 141 x 2 bed and 67 x 3 bed) with associated infrastructure, servicing, landscaping and car parking spaces. Amendments to application – Councillors **agreed** to raise concerns in relation to parking provision and also the SUDS drainage plans. It was noted that Councillor Knights will be attending the planning committee meeting in August to comments upon the application.

19/151.3 19/01106/OUT - Land at Great Oaks, Main Road, Little Waltham - Demolition of existing workshop building. Construction of new dwelling – **agreed no comments.**

19/151.4 16/01394/S73 - Land north of Cranham Road, Little Waltham - Removal of Condition 5 (closure of existing access) to previously approved application 16/01394/OUT (Demolition of existing building and erection of a flour and feed mill (Use Class B2) including storage, alterations to the access, parking, landscaping and associated ancillary development.) – It was noted that when the application was granted on appeal it was a requirement that a new access and junction be constructed and that this was for road safety. The applicant now wishes to return to the original planned access. It was noted that the traffic survey in support was carried out during the Easter holidays when traffic would have been lighter. Councillors expressed concern that the amount of traffic using the road generally is increasing and that the road has a 50mph speed limit. Concern was also raised in relation to the width of the road to accommodate the HGV traffic, the size of the access to cope with HGVs and visibility of the proposed access. For reasons of safety Councillors **agreed to object** to the application.

19/154.5 19/01196/FUL - Tudor Barn, Tudor Cottage, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham - Retrospective change of use from domestic residential annexe (C3) to holiday let (C1). – It was noted that a resident had complained to the Parish Council that when the barn is being used cars are parked in the bus stop and on the road. On the basis that there appears to be insufficient parking provision for the proposed application Councillors **agreed to object** to the application.

19/154.6 19/00713/MAT - 30 Brook Hill, Little Waltham - Variation of condition 8 of the planning permission reference 17/01960/FUL (Proposed single storey rear extension to create 2no additional consulting rooms, 1no admin room and 1no Dispensary store. Repositioned Air Conditioning plant and enclosure). Change of hours of operation for the relocated air conditioning plant from 0700 and 1830 to 24 hours 7 days a week – updated documentation – It was noted that the acoustic survey that had been lodged was the same survey lodged originally and refers to a different make of air conditioning unit. It ignores the fact that in warm weather residents may wish to be in their gardens rather than inside the house and also that there is less ambient noise at weekends and during the night. There is therefore a real concern that it will have a detrimental impact upon local residents. Also there is no mention of the frequency of the sound or vibrations. Also, there is no reason for the air conditioning unit to be in operation 24 hours 7 days a week and indeed this is a waste of energy. In view of the above matters Councillors **agreed to object** to the application.

19/152 To approve expenditure in recreation area

19/152.1 To consider quotes in relation to cleaning of Tennis Court

Councillors considered the 3 quotes for power washing of the court and also a quote to brush the court and use an anti moss treatment. It was **agreed** to accept the quote of Tennis 2000 on the basis of the use of water from the Memorial Hall in accordance with the offer made by that organisation. It was **agreed** to cover the cost of water used by the hall.

19/152.2 To consider and approve acquisition of lock and chain for large gate at children's play area

It was noted that people are taking dogs into the play area so Councillors **agreed** to authorise the purchase of a combination lock and a chain plus new signage for both gates stating 'no dogs allowed'.

19/153 To consider response to modifications in the Chelmsford City Council Local Plan

It was noted that the consultation on the latest amendments to the emerging local plan opens on 1 August 2019 until 19 September 2019. The Clerk will send links to Councillors to the paperwork online so it may be considered and discussed at the September meeting. Also, Councillors Robertson and Kingham have met, together with representatives from Broomfield Parish Council with Bloor Homes in relation to their proposals to develop land adjacent to the hospital. The number of homes will be 450. Bloor Homes will be meeting with the hospital to clarify their requirements in relation to the access road. Objections have been raised to it only being for the use of hospital employees as it is considered it should be available for all persons accessing the hospital. The issue of the design of any junction, the need for a

crossing and the provision of affordable housing on site are yet to be addressed so there is due to be further meetings with Bloor Homes as part of their community engagement on the project.

Meeting concluded at 8.20pm