

# LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2021 at 7:30pm online

Present: Councillors Edith Robertson (Chair)  
Antony Kingham  
Melanie Williamson  
Michael Eve  
Chloe Tron  
Rupert Watson  
Jo-Ann Tinson  
Clerk Suzanne Walker  
City Councillor Councillor Knight and Councillor Steele  
County Councillor Councillor Aldridge

A representative from Chelmer Housing, a representative from RCCE, two representatives from Essex Highways and 9 members of the public were present

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

The Chairman opened the meeting by offering the condolences of the Parish Council to a former long-standing Councillor upon the death of his wife Pat Campen who had also been active in the community and it was confirmed that a card has been sent to him on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **21/17 Apologies**

None.

### **21/18 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **21/19 To consider the Co-option of Councillors**

Having received an application form and having spoken to him just prior to the meeting Councillors unanimously **agreed** to co-opt Paul Scott as a member of the Parish Council and it was further **agreed** that his declaration of acceptance of office may be signed prior to the next meeting.

### **21/20 To consider and approve Minutes 5 January 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of 5 January 2021 were formally **approved** by Councillors as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

### **21/21 Public Forum- to receive any representations from the public**

A power point presentation was presented by representatives from Essex Highways in relation to the current plans for the North East bypass and particular emphasis was given to the plans in the vicinity of Chatham Green. Questions were asked by members of the public as to why the bypass will be single carriageway in view of future development in the area and why the road from Deres Bridge to the new roundabout is dualled. It was stated that there is a commitment to dual the entire length with the assistance of developer contributions in due course. Concerns were expressed in relation to the impact upon the hamlet of Chatham Green but there was raised as to why the plans changed to move the roundabout from Deres Bridge to

the current proposed position and the lack of consultation with local residents especially those who live on the A131. Also, a concern over the impact of the actual work to construct the road. Also concerns raised about additional traffic and pollution in the area. It was noted that the acquisition of land for the road has yet to be concluded and that the new road will be higher from additional road levels but with bunding around the road. It was also noted that there are to be future consultation events for residents prior to the submission of the full planning application. It was noted that a recent newspaper report stated that the future of the new railway station is in doubt however it was stated that Essex County Council is committed to the delivery of the road and station.

Councillor Aldridge was pleased to note the number of people who have logged in to hear the bypass presentation and he has asked that more time is provided in relation to the consultation. Consideration on the future of the Army and Navy roundabout with the prospect of a new flyover being rejected with 3 options still being considered. The County Council has provided 5,000 additional laptops to local authority run schools. There have been many flooding issues with priority being given to houses that have been flooded as opposed to flooded roads. There appears to be an issue with a lack of maintenance of ditches. The Escooter pilot scheme has been launched with new orange scooters which may be used of cycle paths. The Park and Ride has now been shut for the time being. The Essex County budget has been approved with a 1.5% increase specifically for social care. Councillor Aldridge has been consulted in relation to the Pegasus crossing and has confirmed that he supports the scheme.

It was noted that there had been a serious accident at Blasford Hill near Woodhouse Lane and a resident confirmed that it was a pedestrian in collision with a car when trying to cross the road. It was noted that there is no pavement in that area despite the fact that it is by the Countryside development. He raised a concern about pavements and appropriate crossings of Blasford Hill when the Bloor development comes forward.

Councillor Steele commented that the Bloor Homes application proposed numbers of houses in excess of the amount proposed for the area in the Chelmsford City Council local plan and it was a surprise to the City Council that the additional 100 houses were included. Also, he has been contacted by some residents in relation to the state of pavements along The Street and he is supportive of reporting this to Essex County Council. He had also been contacted by a resident at Church Hill. It was noted that the City Council has asked a resident to remove a bench and Windmill from land adjacent to his property but which is owned by the City Council. It was noted that as landowners the Council is entitled to make that request. No request has been made by the resident at this meeting for assistance and the item is not on the agenda so no action will be taken by the Parish Council at this point.

Councillor Knights provided a Covid update and noted that although figures are coming down, they are still high.

A resident raised a concern about the state of the pavement in front of her property in The Street and stated that it is in poor condition and water is pooling by her wall.

She stated that work to repair the pavement has been approved but nothing has been done. Councillor Aldridge agreed to take the matter up with Essex Highways.

## **21/22 New Planning applications**

21/22.1 20/02038/LBC - Thorleys Cottage Blasford Hill Little Waltham - Extension to existing rear dormer – **No Comments**

21/22.2 20/02064/OUT - Strategic Growth Site North of Woodhouse Lane, Broomfield - Outline application for residential development for up to 550 dwellings (Use Class C3), Local Centre (Use Classes E, F.1 and F.2), formal and informal open space, and associated infrastructure. All matters reserved except for primary access – It was **agreed** to respond by raising the following objections and issues of concern being the extra 100 houses and the extra traffic that would generate, the impact of traffic upon the area, the fact that is also an application for 10 houses with another entrance close the roundabout would be detrimental, the difficulties of accessing the B1008 which is estimated at 98% capacity, the link road and the fact that no agreement has been established with the hospital as to position and the fact that it should not be reserved for staff, deliveries and users of the school playing fields but to be used for all, public rights of way into the village and the fact that it would be desirable for Bloor to contribute to the upgrade work to the paths. It was noted it is a 6-year building schedule which would mean 6 years of disruption with construction traffic and no connection of link road until the end of the development or later if there are issues. Also, a concern about whether a local neighbourhood centre could be serviced by only 450/550 houses and it would be better to receive a contribution to better facilities within the Parish itself. Also, to state that future maintenance of the area should be by a public authority and not have a situation of service charges which has created issues at Beaulieu.

21/22.3 20/01859/FUL - Land north of the Weir and west of Brook Hill, Little Waltham - Retrospective application for outbuilding to provide shelter for goats – **agreed to object** to the application on the basis that in view of the fact that the planning criteria requires developments in Conservation areas to enhance the character and appearance of the area with materials appropriate to the local context the proposed shelter does not meet the criteria in that the shelter appears to be a series of pallets and looks scruffy and out of character in the area. The application states it is not in a flood risk area which is not accurate as it is right next to the river and therefore raises issues of animal welfare. Also, to note that if the City Council is minded to approve the application it should be for that building alone and not for anything else the applicant chooses to replace it with in view of previous structures that have been in situ.

21/22.4 ESS/147/20/CHL - Bulls Lodge Quarry, Generals Lane, Boreham – continuation of development permitted by CHL/1890/87 without compliance with certain conditions – **No objection**

21/22.5 ESS/148/20/CHL - Bulls Lodge Quarry, Generals Lane, Boreham – continuation of development permitted by CHL/1090/87 without compliance with certain conditions – **No objection**

21/22.6 20/02069/FUL - Belstead School, Back Lane, Little Waltham - Construction of respite centre building to accommodate full time residential school use for children with special needs. Proposed new parking area and landscaping – **No Comments**

21/22.7 20/02132/FUL - Pratt's Farm, Pratt's Farm Lane, Little Waltham - Demolish existing single storey extensions. Construction of part two storey part

single storey rear extensions and single storey side extension. Construction of detached garden room – **No objection**

21/22.8 20/02133/LBC - Pratts Farm, Pratts Farm Lane, Little Waltham - Demolish existing single storey extensions. Construction of part two storey part single storey rear extensions and single storey side extension. Construction of detached garden room. With associated internal alterations – **No objection**

### **21/23 Planning Results**

The following results were **noted** -

21/23.1 20/05635/CAT - 76 The Street, Little Waltham - Ash - rear garden - Crown reduction of 4m off height and sides. Reason: crown is encroaching on neighbouring gardens and on house; blocking out a lot of light and potential for damage to the property; maintain the size of the tree as it takes up a huge section of the garden, being the gardens are only small. Crown reduction proposed every 4-6 years. All tree work will be carried out to British standard – **No objection**

21/23.2 20/05638/CAT - 77 The Street, Little Waltham - Silver Birch - Crown reduction by 3 metres to previous cut points. 15% crown thin – **No objection**

21/32.3 20/01879/FUL - Blasford Hill Fisheries, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham - Construction of new dwelling for use as fisherman's Lodge with associated infrastructure and landscaping – **Withdrawn**

21/32.4 20/05643/CAT - Taylor's Park, Little Waltham - G11 marked on plan - Hawthorn - To reduce the overhang off the bus shelter by 3m to the kerb line and in relation to the remainder of the tree line, to face back the vegetation to the pathway edge and raise low branches over the footpath by 1.5 meters; T9 marked on plan - Horse Chestnut - Remove the dead branches exceeding 3cm diameter - Reason: The tree is suffering from dieback in the top of its crown creating dead wood; T10 marked on plan - Rowan - Fell - Reason: Tree is in poor condition. The Health and Safety tree inspection recommends the tree is felled to ground level or monolith at 2 meters to retain standing deadwood habitat – **No objection**

At this point Councillor Tron left the meeting

It was **agreed** to deal with the following item at this point in the meeting

### **21/28 Affordable Housing project**

Following the updated Housing Needs Survey, the Chelmer Housing Partnership is bringing the project forward. It was confirmed that the intention is to proceed with 2 one-bedroom flats, 3 two-bedroom houses and one three-bedroom house. One of the two bed will be shared ownership and the other units will be affordable rent. The flats will have one which is wheelchair accessible. If they are to proceed on the basis of social rent a grant would be required from Homes England. The project needs to be approved by the board of the Housing Association and to lodge a pre-application to the planning authority. She will send some plans to the Parish Council to see. The provision will only be for those with a strong connection to the Parish of Little Waltham in perpetuity. To start on site would not be until autumn 2021.

### **21/24 Correspondence**

#### **21/24.1 Essex County Council**

6/1/21	Information about upgrade of Oasis Bridge
11/1/21	Information about test and trace support grants
12/1/21	Information about DfT Mobility fund bid

18/1/21 Information about Escooter trial

**21/24.2 Chelmsford City Council**

12/1/21 Mayor's Newsletter

**21/24.3 Other**

12/1/21 Information about upgrade to junction 19 A12

12/1/21 Information on Essex Climate action report

13/1/21 Chelmsford Police newsletter

18/1/21 Information about Environment agency consultation regarding Nuclear Power station design.

26/1/21 Further information about Nuclear Power station consultation

And usual bulletins

**21/25 Amenities report**

**21/25.1 To review the use of the play area and tennis courts with reference to the risk assessments**

It was confirmed that the tennis court is locked up but the play area is open subject to signage and risk assessment. Inspections of the area are undertaken and when users have been observed they have been socially distancing. No changes therefore to risk assessment or arrangements at present.

**21/25.2 To consider upgrade of Tennis Court area and potential outdoor gym equipment**

No action to be taken until the lease of the area has been concluded.

**21/25.3 To note risk assessment in relation to table tennis table**

The risk assessment was **noted and approved**.

**21/26 Financial Matters**

**21/26.1 Payments for approval**

The following payments were **approved** –

Payee	Item	£	VAT	Total
Clerk	Salary (Jan)	521.19	0.00	521.19
HMRC	PAYE (Jan)	125.80	0.00	125.80
Essex Pension Fund	Pension Contribution (Jan)	193.67	0.00	193.67
Clerk	expenses	43.51	2.40	45.91
Dor-2-Dor	distribution of magazine	375.00	75.00	450.00
EALC	Councillor training event	70.00	14.00	84.00
DW Maintenance	Gardening and litter picking Plus, fixing table tennis table	507.00	0.00	507.00
Perspective Landscapes	Gardening	24.00	0.00	24.00

**21/26.2 Bank account balances to be reported at the meeting.**

The Clerk reported the balances as at 31 January 2021 of current account £57,982.80 and saver account £2,383.34

**21/26.3 To consider Annual Data Audit**

The audit was considered and **approved**.

**21/26.4 Financial Risk Assessment**

The document was considered and **approved**.

**21/27 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported as follows –

1. The Table Tennis table has been delivered and has been bolted down onto the hardstanding. Free bats and balls have been provided and the City Council is keen to collaborate with the Paris Council regarding a promotional event when Covid allows.
2. Due to delays with suppliers the fencing repair at the allotment site will not be taking place until February 2021  
*The work is scheduled to start on 3 February 2021.*
3. The tree maintenance work in recreation grounds will be carried out in early February.  
*The work is scheduled on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.*
4. I have been liaising with the GP surgery regarding the availability of the Covid vaccine for Parishioners and thank Councillor Williamson for her assistance in obtaining information from the CCG. It appears that residents will be required to travel to the Danbury surgery and I have therefore provided information to residents on the availability of Community Transport to assist them.  
*There was a slow start at the surgery with some residents having to travel to Danbury but thanks to Councillor Williamson further information was provided by the CCG and the new vaccination centre has opened at the Chelmsford City Racecourse this week and some older residents have already advised that they have appointments this week for their jab and things appear to be moving at a much swifter pace now.*
5. It appears that the ONS will not be holding a physical event to promote the census however have provided some messages to use on social media.
6. On 19<sup>th</sup> January I attended the EALC Health and Wellbeing forum
7. As well as the Easter booking of 9 April Play in the Park has now also been booked for 13 August 2021
8. I have provided you with information as to the reasoning as to why the Local Highway Panel will not be progressing the application for a 30mph speed limit at Chatham Green which mostly surrounds the fact that traffic surveys show that traffic is travelling at around 20mph and there are no records of accidents in the area.
9. Each month I will keep you updated with matters that do not require action at this point in time by the Parish Council but need to be noted as ongoing. This month I can advise

Item	Actions awaited	Date raised
Local Highway Panel – application for a crossing at Ash Tree Corner	LHP has advised that they statistics show that a crossing cannot be justified but they are currently	November 2019

	considering whether to install a refuge to assist those crossing the road	
South Essex Parking Partnership – application for yellow lines on the junction of the B1008 and The Street by the school	Public consultation was undertaken in November/December 2020.	November 2019
Resolve issue of electric pole at Blasford Hill allotments	Essex County Council is negotiating a Wayleave consent	March 2020
Local Highway Panel – application for speed reduction along Back Lane, Stand out chicanes in Brook Hill and access only provisions to the village centre	The Parish Council has responded to questions from the LHP including request for downgrade of PR2 status of road and reduction in speed limit of Back Lane to 40mph– awaiting update on progress of application	December 2020
Essex County Council Bus shelter project	The Parish Council has confirmed ownership status of the shelters and awaiting licence documentation	December 2020

The Clerk also reported that NALC and SLCC have advised that the Government is not proposing to extend the legislation to allow online meetings to take place after 7 May 2021. This is a concern as it may be that by that time many people will still be awaiting vaccination and online meetings are vital to enable Parish Council business to carry on as usual. NALC and SLCC are lobbying Government and the Clerk will keep Councillors updated. Councillors authorised the Clerk to contact the local MP and raise this concern with her as well.

The report was otherwise **accepted**.

At this point Councillor Williamson left the meeting.

### **21/28 Affordable Housing project**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

### **21/29 To consider traffic issues**

#### **21/29.1 To consider parking issues adjacent to new play area at Channels**

Councillor Eve confirmed that the skate area has been closed. After liaison with Essex Highways agreement had been reached for a TRO to extend the yellow lines and for a crossing. Also, a parking scheme to be put in place to allow yellow lines along Fairway Drive and Essex have asked the developers to complete the parking spaces by the skate park as soon as possible and have agreed to approach those parking on verges to fish at the lake.

#### **21/29.2 To consider the progress of the Local Highway Panel Application in relation to Little Waltham village centre**

There was discussion around whether to continue to ask for the roads through the village centre and Back Lane to be classified as local roads as opposed to PR2

roads and general measures to take to reduce rat running through the village centre in connection with the existing LHP application. It was **agreed** to request that the Local Highway Officer be asked to log on to the next meeting to update Councillors on measures that may be approved by the LHP and any other measures to consider.

**21/29.3 To consider issues raised by a resident in relation to the impact of buses along The Street**

**Agreed** to again contact First Bus regarding the fact that the double decker buses are causing damage to the older houses along The Street as a previous approach has not been answered.

**21/30 To consider the issue of pavement defects at The Street, Little Waltham**  
Dealt with earlier in that Councillor Aldridge will take up this issue

**21/31 To consider litter issues and in particular the provision of a bin for Back Lane and the provision of additional dog poo bins**

It was **agreed** to approach the McDonalds store to ask that they purchase a bin to be located at the nature reserve and to empty it as the dog poo bin in that location is always full of rubbish from their outlet. Consideration was given to acquiring new dog poo bins in the village and it was agreed to purchase a dog poo bin to be located in the playing fields near the new gate opposite the White Hart pub and to ask the City Council to add it to its collection rota.

**21/32 To consider representations in relation to the Chelmsford City Council Community Governance Review**

It was **agreed** to respond to the consultation on the basis that the new Garden Community has its own Parish, that the Channel development – to reflect the views of residents – should be kept as one community and be incorporated into the Parish of Little Waltham and that as the impact of the Bloor development will fall squarely upon this Parish the boundary should be moved so that the entirety of that development is within the Parish of Little Waltham

**21/33 To receive an update in relation to issues raised regarding Glebe Field**  
The planning application was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**21/34 To receive update regarding recreation grounds leasehold arrangements**

The concrete bollards have been removed and the new gate installed. There will not be a pedestrian gate to aid accessibility into the area. In relation to the legal documentation the City Council just wanted clarity on the issue of rent review which they suggested should be every 5 years of the lease at RPI. It was agreed to suggest that there is a rent review every 5 years but at CPI and that there will therefore not be a need for break clauses.

**21/35 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda.**

Usual ongoing issues.

Meeting concluded at 9.39pm