LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Tufnell Hall

Present: Councillors Edith Robertson (Chair) Antony Kingham Chloe Tron Rupert Watson Jo-Ann Tinson John Burrow Clerk Suzanne Walker County Councillor 8 members of the public were present

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

22/55: Apologies

Received from Councillors Allen and Williamson and from City Councillor Knight and a representative from the Channel's Residents Association.

22/56: Declarations of Interests

Councillor Watson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 22/59.13 and Councillor Tinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 22/59.8 and 22/59.9

22/57: To consider and approve the Minutes 3 March 2022

Councillors wished to discuss the wording of the minutes held in private session so it was **agreed** to consider the contents of the minutes at the end of the meeting.

22/58: Public Forum- to receive any representations from the public

A resident raised his objections to the proposed licence at Wheeler's Farm and the impact upon his property. During previous events he had witnessed drunken behaviour, people urinating in public and dangerous behaviour of people wandering in the main road. He advised that there was a severe litter problem after the events as well as the noise from the event. He asked the Parish Council to object to the grant of the licence and if it is granted to request that there is a limit on numbers and the same restrictions put in place in line with the licensing review following the grant of the previous licence.

A resident objected to the change of use of an agricultural building opposite the Whitbread centre in Chatham Green. His objection was on the basis that the proposals are almost the same as the previous application which was refused on the basis of impact in the area particularly upon the listed building of Liberty Hall. The building will be unattractive and the only change is that the applicant proposes to remove the Dutch barn which is the better looking agricultural building. Also the road in Chatham Green is single track and there will be an adverse impact in relation to traffic.

A resident complained about speeding and fly tipping at Wheeler's Hill.

A resident objected to the planning applications relating to 107 The Street being the White Hart public house. The primary objection was in relation to the retention of a

large pirate ship play structure which he advised was overly intrusive in that those using the ship could see into most of the rooms of his house and also into his garden. Although it is proposed to reduce the overall height of the ship the deck height will remain the same so the impact will not be reduced.

The Landlord of the public house spoke to support his application for the pirate ship suggesting that it would be a community asset and there was a dispute as to how intrusive it was as the public house is also close to a football ground.

Councillor Steel provided an update on the support for Ukrainian refugees and drop in sessions for the 'Ride London' event in May. He also provided an update in relation to the latest Local Highway Panel meeting and the importance of an origin and destination survey to establish the severity of any rat running and suggested that members of the panel, especially the Parish representative, are lobbied for support. He also suggested that a financial contribution from the Parish may assist in progressing such a survey. An explanation of what is affordable would be useful. He also confirmed that he will be attending a committee hearing in relation to the Bulls Lodge Quarry planning application to make the points in relation to the impact of the use of the RDR.

22/59: New Planning applications

- 22/59.1 22/00004/FUL Site at Windermere, Main Road, Broomfield Demolish existing dwelling and garage. Construction of 3 separate buildings comprising of 10 supported living units, 1 staff apartment with an office/communal space and 5 self-contained units (Class Use C2). Provision of cycle parking, 11 car parking spaces with landscaping/courtyard space. Addition of perimeter site fencing. Formation of access Agreed to support the objection of Broomfield Parish Council that the access onto Hospital Approach is not appropriate in view of current congestion in the area.
- 22/59.2 22/00357/CUPAQ Rolph's Farm, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham -Determination as to whether the prior approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use from Agricultural Building to 1 Dwelling (Class C3) – **No Comments**
- 22/59.3 22/00275/FUL The Belstead's school, Back Lane, Little Waltham -Retrospective application for the construction of a respite centre building to accommodate full time residential school use for children with special needs. Associated parking area and landscaping – **No Comments**
- 22/59.4 22/00391/FUL Littlefields, Wheeler's Hill, Little Waltham formation of access **No Comments**
- 22/59.5 22/00473/REM Land North West of Boreham Interchange Chelmer Road Boreham - Application for the approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Condition 7 of Planning Permission Reference 10/00021/EIA, for Beaulieu Park Station and associated development and for the discharge of Conditions 8,9,10,11,12,13 and 14 – **No Comments**
- 22/59.6 22/00425/FUL Merefields Main Road Little Waltham New entrance and exit gates with brick piers and boundary walls **No Comments**
- 22/59.7 22/00420/ADV Land East of 1-5 Eagle Way Two internally illuminated totem signs **No Comments**

Councillor Tinson left the meeting for the next 2 agenda items

- 22/59.8 22/00257/FUL 107 The Street, Little Waltham Retrospective application for the construction of a children's play equipment area. Associated landscaping and tree planting
- 22/59.9 22/00273/FUL 107 The Street, Little Waltham Retrospective application for the construction of a food preparation building. Extension of a storage/fridge building. Provision of additional grassed parking surface for total of 31 parking spaces. Associated landscaping and tree planting
 - Councillors considered both planning applications. Some Councillors had viewed the area as well. It was considered that the pirate ship is extremely intrusive especially as it points towards the property 'Knights' and looks into several rooms of that house and it is an invasion of privacy. It was agreed to object to the pirate ship application on those grounds. It was noted that in 2017 the application for a carpark was refused on the basis of impact within the conservation area, the rural area and surrounding properties and it does not appear that the new application is any different. It was therefore **agreed to object** to that aspect on the basis of the impact on the area, especially the surrounding properties. Councillors were particularly concerned at the felling of mature trees in the area and agreed to make representation that existing trees and any tree to be planted under the proposed landscaping scheme should be made subject to Tree Preservation Orders to provide extra protection as it appears that the conduct of the landowner in disregarding planning restrictions, indicates that they are at risk. It was also agreed to ask Councillor Knight to call in this application to be considered by the planning committee.

Councillor Tinson returned to the meeting.

- 22/59.10 22/00496/FUL The Chimneys, Braintree Road, Little Waltham -Conversion of the existing detached double garage into annexe accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling – **No objection** but to comment that the annexe should be used in conjunction with the property and not as a separate dwelling.
- 22/59.11 22/00491/EIASO Chelmsford Garden Community Phase 1 Pratts Farm Lane, Little Waltham - Request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for an outline planning application with all matters reserved, other than access, for a mixed-use scheme comprising 1,500 new homes, commercial and community uses, open space, transport infrastructure and the safeguarding of land for the potential expansion of the existing Chelmer Valley Park and Ride – **Agreed** to submit that areas to be covered in an EIA should cover the impact of traffic, the impact upon wildlife, the impact upon trees, noise impact and light impact.
- 22/59.12 21/00450/REM Land North of Cranham Road Little Waltham Application for the approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) in relation to outline planning permission 16/01394/OUT for 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 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION – **No comments**

Councillor Watson left the meeting for this agenda item

22/59.13 22/05525/CAT - Little Waltham Hall, Brook Hill, Little Waltham - x11 Leylandii Trees Works: To fell the trees Reason: originally planted as a hedge to screen garden from road. Now oversized with no screening value at low levels – **No Comments**

Councillor Watson returned to the meeting.

22/59.14 22/00615/CUPAQ - Barns Opposite Whitbreads Business Centre Whitbreads Farm Lane Little Waltham - Determination as to whether the prior approval application of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use from agricultural buildings to 5 dwellings (Class C3) – **Agreed to object** to the application on the basis of the adverse impact of the proposed housing on local property especially the listed building Liberty Hall with the removal of some trees making the situation even worse. Also, the impact upon the rural area in view of the appearance of the proposed housing and the impact of additional housing on a single-track road. Also, to object to the removal of the Dutch barn. It is noted that the proposed removal of the barn is the only real difference to the previously refused application. Also it was agreed to request that Councillor Knight call this application in to be considered by the planning committee.

Councillor Robertson also mentioned to Councillor Steel the concerns about IT issues with the Chelmsford City Council planning portal which he will take up .

22/60: To consider representations in relation to TRAF/7182 - The Essex County Council (Channels Bus Gate, Broomfield) (One-Way Bus Gate) Order 2022

It was noted that it is proposed that the bus gate may be used by buses, emergency service vehicles and construction traffic. It was agreed to **object** to the use of the bus gate by the construction traffic.

22/61 To consider representations in relation to application for a new premises licence at Wheeler's Farm, Wheeler's Hill, Little Waltham

Councillors considered the limited amount of information that had been made available for this application which appears to be a music event with alcohol being served up to 11pm. It was noted that previous events in the location have created substantial issues resulting in the Police having to attend to control the traffic and nuisance as explained by the resident who spoke in the public forum. The Parish Council had also attended the review hearing and set out details of the considerable noise and nuisance problems and adverse impact upon traffic, which had resulted in a limit of 4 events a year with a maximum number of 1,500 attendance being made in relation to a previous licence.

Councillors agreed to object to the application on the grounds of noise nuisance, public order issues, such as urination in public and also traffic and safety issues as those attending were walking along Essex Regiment Way having parked on verges and in laybys which presented a danger to themselves and other road users. The Clerk was asked to let residents know about this with Facebook and website postings and to let neighbouring Parish Councils know as well.

22/62 To note Planning Results

The following results were noted -

- 22/62.1 21/02126/REM Land North West of Montpellier Villa, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham Approval of reserved matters application (landscaping) in relation to outline planning permission 20/01907/OUT for the construction of 10 dwellings with associated access from Blasford Hill. The provision of landscaping details (included within the Landscaping Strategy Ref: 21002-101 Rev: D), includes evergreen boundary hedging to the perimeter of the site, ornamental hedging to the front of plots, strategic native tree planting and the creation of wildflower grassland around the swales at the entrance of the site **Permitted**
- 22/62.2 21/02166/OUT The Willows, Domsey Lane, Little Waltham Outline application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a new dwelling with detached double carport. Formation of new access and associated landscaping. Access and layout being sought, all other matters (appearance, landscaping, scale) reserved – **Permitted**
- 22/62.3 20/00071/S73 Land East Of 1 To 5 Eagle Way Little Waltham Variation of condition 2 to approved permission 20/00071/FUL (Hybrid application, part full and part outline comprising: (i) Retail foodstore (A1), retail/cafe units, including drive thru (A1, A3, A5), associated parking, servicing and landscaping (full). (ii) General industry (B2) and storage and distribution (B8), associated servicing and landscaping, outline all matters reserved except access). Construction of a garden centre that is ancilliary to the approved foodstore **Permitted**
- 22/62.4 22/05004/TPO Sparrowhawks, Main Road, Little Waltham T1 Oak -Reduce height of crown by approx. 5m and selectively reduce lateral spread to east by approximately 2m and lateral spread to west by between 3-4m to balance crown; remove major deadwood over 50mm in diameter overhanging the road - as recommended in report 211127 T2 -Oak -Reduce height of crown by between 4 and 5 metres and selectively reduce lateral spread to east by approx. 1.5m-2m and lateral spread to west by up to 3m to balance crown; Remove major deadwood over 50mm in diameter overhanging the road - as recommended in report 211127 – **Permitted**
- 22/62.5 21/05656/TPO 100 The Street, Little Waltham T2 Horse Chestnut -Crown reduction of 2.5-3m back to previous pruning points. Reason: to prevent further damage to neighbouring thatched roof – **Permitted**
- 22/62.6 22/05509/CAT 9 Winckford Close, Little Waltham T1-6 Hawthorns reduce height by 2 metres. Reason: they are blocking the light for my neighbours **No Objection**
- 22/62.7 21/02515/FUL Newlands, Drakes Lane, Little Waltham Proposed part single, part two storey rear extension. First floor rear extension and new dormer to side elevation. Proposed porch and replace existing window with garage door – **Permitted**
- 22/62.8 22/00198/FUL Timbuctoo, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham Change of use from Office (Class E) to Residential dwellinghouse (Class C3) **Permitted**
- 22/62.9 22/05510/CAT 80 The Street, Little Waltham C1-9 Conifers reduce overhanging branches by 0.3 0.4 metres. Reason: branches overhanging from neighbours garden **No objection**

22/63: Corre 21/63.1 3/2/22 4/3/22 10/3/22 10/3/22	espondence Essex County Council	Information about closures of Drakes Lane Response from Councillor Lee Scott regarding RDR issues information about bus gate consultation Response from the cabinet member for highways in relation to RDR issues
21/63.2 1/3/22 23/3/22 25/3/22 25/3/22	Chelmsford City Council	Update regarding Community Governance Review Mayor's newsletter Confirmation of adoption of Community Governance Review recommendations Information about reduced grass cutting
21/63.3 1/3/22 7/3/22 11/3/22 14/3/22 16/3/22 25/3/22	Other	Update regarding Solar Farm proposals Update on Stansted Airspace consultation Information about Community Payback scheme Information about Ride London event Information about CCG meeting Information about Ride London event Beaulieu development update

22/64: Amenities report

22/64.1 To consider Quotations for the upgrade of the tennis court and installation of outdoor gym equipment

A number of quotations had been received for the outdoor gym and/or the goal ends. After careful consideration including considering the various financial priorities that have arisen this year, Councillors **agreed** to defer the acquisition of the outdoor gym for 12 months to allow the project to be re-assed with reference to community need. It was **agreed** to purchase the goal ends for the tennis court. Having considered the various quotes it was agreed to order what appeared to be the sturdiest being the item from Sutcliffe Play. It was noted that there will be a need to update the Tom Amos charity who have agreed a grant and on the proviso of them still providing assistance the order may be placed.

22/64.2 To consider quarterly play area inspection

The contents of the inspection were noted.

22/65: Financial Matters

22/65.1 Payments for approval

The following payments were approved -

		£	VAT	Total
Clerk	Salary (March)	504.09	0.00	504.09
HMRC	PAYE (March)	121.80	0.00	121.80
Essex Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Feb)	188.30	0.00	188.30
Clerk	expenses	119.46	3.55	123.01
Wave (Anglian Water)	new water meter (April 2019)84.35	16.87	101.22
TMA Surveyors	plans for garden licences	240.00	48.00	288.00
Chelmsford City Council	rent for playing fields	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Paul Clark Printing	production of magazine	548.00	0.00	548.00
Solar Graphics	sign for allotment site	151.32	30.26	181.58
Dor-2-Dor Chelmsford	distribution of magazine	498.00	99.60	597.60
K&K Professional Ltd.	Traffic consultancy work	536.25	0.00	536.25
DW Maintenance	gardening and litter picking	429.50	0.00	429.50
Perspective Landscapes	gardening	20.00	4.00	24.00
EALC	Annual subscription	459.20	0.00	459.20
Myers Scott Ltd	Domain name 2 yr. renewal	32.98	6.60	39.58

22/65.2 Bank account balances to be reported at the meeting

As at 31 March 2022 the current account balance is £61,571.67 and the saver account £2386.32

22/65.3 To note the Clerk's salary increase as a result of NJC scale upgrade

The scale point increase was **noted and agreed** and it was further **agreed** that it is backdated to 1 April 2021.

22/65.4 To consider internal financial control procedures The report was **noted and approved.**

22/65.5 To approve annual list of payments

The following annual list of payments were approved in principle with reference to financial regulation 5.6

Payee	Payment type	Frequency
Employee	Salary and expenses	monthly
HMRC	Tax and NI	monthly
Essex pension fund	Pension provision	monthly
DW Maintenance	Litter picking and gardening	monthly
Perspective Landscapes	Gardening	Monthly
JCM Services and Groundcare	Grass cutting	Monthly during the cutting
Ltd.		season
Seagrave Inspections	Play area inspections	Quarterly
Paul Clark Printing	Publication of magazine	Quarterly

Dor-2-Dor	Distribution of magazine	Quarterly
Wave	Water bill	Every 6 months
Lambert Smith Hampton	Allotment rent	Every 6 months
D Malley	External Payroll	Annually
Information Commissioner	Data protection registration	Annually
BHIB	Renewal of Parish Council	Annually
	insurance	
Titan Storage	Renewal of rent for storage unit	Annually
Myers Scott	Domain fees and SSL certificate	Annually
	together with ad hoc IT support	
EALC	Annual subscription and NALC	Annually
	subscription	

22/66: Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported as follows –

- 1. The defibrillator at Channels is now available for public use. As the Parish Council was the main funder of this project this was announced on the website and Facebook page alongside a photo.
- 2. I have registered the Parish Council to enable renewal of the Foundation award
- 3. I have submitted the application for the Memorial Hall to be added to the list of assets of community value held with Chelmsford City Council and the City Council has advised that a decision will be notified no later than 6th May 2022.
- 4. I have received details of the National Parish magazine awards and would like to enter the Little Waltham Parish magazine into the competition. Could you confirm you are happy for two copies of the magazine to be submitted for adjudication?

Councillors agreed to enter the publication into the competition.

- Chelmsford City Council has confirmed that the 'Love Your Parish' day for this Parish will be taking place on 4th August 2022 when additional litter picking will be provided plus the street sweeper will attend the Parish.
- 6. On 30th March I attended an SLCC webinar in relation to organising Parish Council projects.
- 7. 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 can not be justified but they are considering a refuge to assist those crossing the road – cost estimate $\pounds7,500$ – project in design phase which may include a filter land for Chelmer Avenue.	November 2019
Local Highway Panel – application for speed reduction along Back Lane, Stand out chicanes in Brook Hill and access only	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– in reliance on old speed survey	December 2020

provisions to the village	the officer will be recommending a village	
centre	gateway to the panel	
Essex County Council Bus	The Parish Council has confirmed	December
shelter project	ownership status of the shelters and	2020
	awaiting licence documentation	
Local Highway Panel	Application for 40mph buffer Zone on	April 2021.
applications	approach to 30mph limit to be shown with	
	a 'village gate'. The village centre from	
	the War Memorial to the school at The	
	Street, and Brook Hill from the junction	
	with The Street to Church Hill to be a	
	20mph area with 'wig wag's by the School	
	 the officer will be recommending a 	
	village gateway and is investigating the	
	suggestion of wig wags	
Essex County Council	The issue of the removal of trees and the	April 2021
	installation of white posts along Back	
	Lane – As the posts were not authorised	
	the issue is being investigated by Essex	
	County Council	
Byway 51	Essex County Council has extended the	August 2021
	partial closure order until October 2022	
Glebe Field Right of Way	Application for right of way to be added to	September
	the definitive map – it has been advised	2021
	that it is on the list for assessment by the	
	Essex County Council legal team	
Repair of pavements	Various fault reports referred to Essex	November
	County Council cabinet member for	2021
	highways to investigate	
Registration of the Memorial	Await confirmation regarding the site plan	November
Hall with HM Land Registry	from the Memorial Hall	2021
Provision of new dog poo bin	Await Chelmsford City Council	June 2021

It was noted that the advertising period for the casual vacancy has now expired without the call for an election, so the Clerk will not advertise the vacancy with a view to co-opting a new Councillor.

The report was otherwise accepted.

22/67: Affordable Housing project

No further news.

22/68 To consider Allotment issues

22/68.1 To note asbestos report and agree the cost of remedial work

The damage to one shed was noted and it was **agreed** to accept the quotation from Mid Essex Environmental to repair the damage forthwith.

22/68.2 To note results of allotment inspection

All plots are in good condition and being cultivated with the exception of one at Blasford Hill. A warning letter has been sent for the plot to be cultivated.

22/69: To consider the issue of traffic in the Parish

22/69.1 To receive a report of the meeting with Essex County Council regarding traffic issues

The report was noted.

22/69.2 To consider options for an Original and Destination survey and agree contribution to the costs of such a survey.

It was **agreed** that the Chairman will send a letter to Councillor Daden who is the Parish representative on the Local Highway Panel seeking her support for an origin and destination survey which is clearly so vital to obtain assistance from Essex Highways to resolve the rat running issue, and Councillor Tron will approach other City Council members to seek their support.

After discussion it was **agreed** to offer a contribution of £3,000 towards the survey with Essex County Council paying the balance of £15,000.00.

22/70 To note outcome of Community Governance Review and to discuss representations to be made in relation to the boundary of the Broomfield Neighbourhood plan

The outcome of the process was noted in that land to the north of Essex Regiment Way including Channels will become part of a new large Parish Council to encompass the Garden Community. Some properties at Petty Croft and on the corner of B1008 and Hospital approach will move into the Broomfield Parish. The boundary at the proposed Bloor Homes site will remain as it now stands. Broomfield Parish Council had requested the support of this Parish Council to arrange for the boundary for their Neighbourhood plan to be put into line with the CGR boundaries as soon as possible. This will not impact upon residents but assists that Parish Council administratively with that plan. Councillors therefore **agreed** as follows – Little Waltham Parish Council supports Broomfield Parish Council's proposal to amend the designated Broomfield Neighbourhood plan area, so that the forthcoming Neighbourhood plan will reflect the revised parish boundaries.

22/71 To consider representations in relation to the issue of damage to the verges at Chatham Green

Complaint had been received from residents at Chatham Green regarding damage to verges and the Essex Way footpath in front of the Ziggi store. Councillor Steel confirmed he has raised the issue with Essex Highways and the public rights of way officer.

22/72 To discuss representations in relation to issue of a local postmaster

Councillor Burrow explained how a local postmistress has recently given evidence to the enquiry in relation to the issues in relation to the treatment of postmasters, some of whom were wrongly imprisoned. The postmistress had run the post office in Little Waltham some 20 years ago and he said she had lost her livelihood as a result of the legal proceedings. Councillors authorised Councillor Burrow to express his sympathy to the lady in relation to the predicament.

22/73: To receive update regarding recreation grounds and pavilion project 22/73.1 To receive update regarding adverse possession claim

The Land Registry is now dealing with Chelmsford City Council having confirmed that the claim does not impact upon any of the land occupied by the Parish Council but solely upon the land within the garden fencing of the property at Church Hill.

22/73.2 To receive report on garden licences

The draft licences have been received from the Solicitor with the plans prepared by the surveyor. She has asked that the consent of the City Council is provided so they will initially be sent to the Council for approval.

22/73.3 To consider strategy plan moving forward for the Pavilion upgrade

The documentation, reports and strategy plans for the Pavilion were considered and some Councillors had visited the building. It was **agreed** that the next step is to initiate community engagement to ascertain if residents are happy with the proposals going forward for a community hub which will enable the Parish Council to host meetings not just of the Parish Council but for example first aid, dementia friends etc. It was **agreed** to fund and organise a leaflet drop as well as using social media to liaise with residents. An offer of a visit to their new Pavilion has been made by Ingatestone Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to organise a visit for Councillors.

22/74: To consider arrangements for Glebe Field

After discussion on the proposed terms of any arrangements for a licence for the field, the terms of an offer to the Diocese were **agreed** and the Clerk will report back on the response.

22/75: To discuss and agree future venue and dates for Parish Council meetings

It was **agreed** that the Annual meetings in May remain at the Tufnell Hall to take place on Thursday 5th May but as from the June meeting, the meetings take place at the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of August. The meeting date in June was agreed for Tuesday 7th June 2022.

To enable the private aspect of the draft minutes to be discussed it was **agreed** in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of the business, that the public be excluded and instructed to withdraw for this discussion.

The one remaining member of the public then left the meeting.

22/57: To consider and approve the Minutes 3 March 2022

After discussion relating to the confidential aspect and an exchange of views in that regard, the minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2022 were formally **approved** by Councillors as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

22/76: Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda.

Usual ongoing items.

Meeting concluded at 10pm.