

# LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Little Waltham Parish Council held on 10 January 2024 at 9am at the Pavilion, The Street, Little Waltham

Present:	Councillors	Antony Kingham (Chairman) Rupert Watson Lallie Godfrey
	City Councillor	Mike Steel
	Clerk	Michelle Harrison

One member of the public was present.

### **24/19 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Allen.

### **24/20 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were registered.

### **24/21 Public Forum – To receive any representations from the Public**

The member of public registered their opposition to the extension of the license application for Wheelers Farm, Wheelers Hill. They experienced many issues during the events previously held at Wheelers Farm. The resident had called the City Council to report the excess level of noise and was promised that Environmental Health would attend to measure the level of noise (on more than one occasion), but never arrived.

Councillor Steel confirmed that the application was a large extension of the previous license that had been granted. Councillor Steel noted that the application did not include any condition about the number of events that could be held per year, and the application requested for the sale of alcohol, provision of recorded music, provision of live music and the provision of films Monday to Sunday between the hours of 09:00/10:00 until 23:00. Councillor Steel noted that the previous condition of 6 events per year was not volunteered by the applicant, but applied by the Committee. Councillor Steel commented that it would be sensible approach to request for this condition to also apply for any further license.

### **24/22 To consider the Licencing Application for Wheelers Farm, Wheelers Hill, Little Waltham**

The reason for this Extra Ordinary meeting was to discuss the Licensing Application for Wheelers Farm as the consultation date would expire before the next Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk commented that this application has been referred to the Licensing Committee for decision as numerous representations had been received by the City Council.

The Councillors discussed the licensing application and noted the extent of the scope of the application, which was vast, not only the increase in the number of attendees, but also the lack of any condition surrounding the amount of events that could be held each year.

The Council agreed that they were vehemently against the application and did not feel that the site was suitable for proposed application. The Council also noted that Wheelers Farm is currently on the market for sale, which raised questions.

The Councillors noted that both City Councillors Wilson and Bugbee had been invited to attend this meeting and had not attended. The Councillors agreed that they would request for both Councillors Wilson and Bugbee, who are both on the Licensing Committee, to attend the next Parish Council meeting in February to discuss this matter so they can understand the impact on the local community.

The Council agreed to make representations to the Chelmsford City Council Licensing Department, and to attend the Licensing Committee meeting.

The Clerk would draft a response, which would be circulated to the Councillors for comment prior to be submitted to the Licensing Department.

The Clerk noted that a date had not been set for the Licensing Committee meeting, but had requested to be notified by the Case Office when the date had been set. The Clerk further noted that residents and Councillors are able to attend the Licensing Committee and are able to speak, if they have made representations before the closing date of the consultation.

The Councillors discussed the issues the events raise for the local community, which included, but was not limited to; anti-social behaviour, increase in traffic and the intrusive and continual noise.

Councillor Watson noted that an Environmental Officer did monitor the level of noise inside his building and commented that it was 'extremely loud'.

Councillor Godfrey added that it was important for the local residents to make representations if they feel strongly about the application, as the Parish Council's representation only counts as one voice. The Clerk agreed to publish the application on the Parish Council's website and social media so local residents are aware of the situation.

Councillor Steel would keep abreast of the situation and keep the Parish Councillors informed of any developments.

The meeting closed at 9:36am.