

WOODHAM FERRERS AND BICKNACRE

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th August 2003 at 20.00 at Woodham Ferrers Village Hall.

Those in attendance: Cllr. C. Saltmarsh in the Chair.
Cllr. J. Bishop. Cllr. R. Blanks. Cllr. L. Carroll.
Cllr. T. Dawkins. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh. Cllr. G. Woricker.

Cllr. R. Poulter, Chelmsford Borough Council.
P.C. A. Wall, Community Police Officer.
Clerk of the Council.

195. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. B. Arnold and J. Rushworth who were unable to attend.

196. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2003.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the motion of the Chairman the meeting was adjourned for a maximum of 15 minutes for members of the public to address the Council.

The Community Police Officer, P.C. Wall raised a number of points.

1. Opening times for the car park at The Hooe. P.C. Wall has received a number of complaints about cars parked at The Hooe in the evening and causing a nuisance to residents whose houses back onto the playing field through loud music from their radios. The possibility of closing the car park gate one hour earlier, ie at 8.00 p.m. was discussed. Councillors will monitor the situation.
2. Car parking problems in Brockenhurst Way. There are numerous abandoned vehicles in the two car parks in Brockenhurst Way, causing residents who would otherwise be able to park off the road to leave their vehicles on the road. This is a major cause of congestion in the area. C.B.C. have declined to move the abandoned vehicles because the car parks are privately owned. It was agreed that the Clerk will approach C.B.C. Highways Department to see if anything can be done to alleviate the situation. **CK**
3. P.C. Wall asked if Councillors had any issues to raise. A Councillor mentioned steps taken by residents to slow traffic, primarily by parking vehicles in the road. Discussion followed about the effectiveness of doing this, and of cars parked in dangerous positions, which could be an offence. Cllr. Poulter mentioned that a resident of Lodge Road had reported a coach travelling at 63 mph. P.C. Wall agreed to speak to the coach company. Councillors Bishop and Blanks referred to recent newspaper reports relating to speed cameras being operated by residents of a village in another county. P.C. Wall will enquire whether this could be done here.

197. **Matters Arising.**

A list of matters arising is appended to these minutes.

198. **Planning.**

Members considered the following applications:

03/00830/FUL

Allcar, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 2 no. dwellings.

Local Council Review. Subs.	Ch. No 103065.	£ 34.77.	
B.G. Appleton. Litter.	Ch. No 103066.	£ 213.10.	£ 31.74.
Powergen. Priory Field.	Ch. No 103067.	£ 19.13.	£ 0.91.
Clark Partnership. Surveyors fees.	Ch. No 103074.	£ 650.00.	

200. **Field Reports.**

200.1 Priory Field.

Drainage. Cllr. J. Bishop will contact the company and report at the next meeting.

BT Huts. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reminded members that one needs to be moved, and the other needs proper locks to be fitted. Cllr. J. Bishop undertook to contact the football club secretary regarding the locks.

200.2 The Hooe.

Parish Tour. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh reported on the recent parish tour. It was noted that the repair work on the assault course has not yet been done. The recommendations of the RoSPA report were reviewed, and a number of tasks for the handyman were identified. The Clerk will contact him. **CK**

Maintenance. The Clerk reported on jobs completed by the handyman, and on contacts with the contractor who is to repair the assault course.

Residents' Concerns. The Clerk reported that children have been climbing in a large tree and putting up a swing, which was considered dangerous. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh will look at the situation.

200.3 Lodge Road.

Football. Cllr. G. Woricker outlined his concerns about football related issues: the state of the pitch; the time needed for new grass to grow and the wishes of teams to play pre-season friendly games, and the possibility of moving the goal areas on alternate years. Members agreed that the ground should not be frequently rolled or a vibrating roller used.

It was agreed that the pitch is not yet fit to play on, and Cllr. J. Bishop undertook to discuss the matter with Priory Sports.

On the matter of moving the goal areas it was agreed that the Clerk should order two pairs of 3" sockets so that this can be done. **CK**

The Clerk reported that the handyman has taken away the broken stanchion to be repaired by a blacksmith. Members felt that when it is repaired teams should be asked not to hammer it into the ground.

Members agreed that alterations to the hire of pitch agreements should be considered for the season 2004-05.

Showers. Cllr. G. Woricker reported that the showers are now working. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts.

201. **Insurance.**

Members considered the latest letter from the insurers. The Clerk reported that an initial response had been sent, with a copy of the RoSPA Report.

Members decided that Field Officers would draw up a list of responses to the RoSPA recommendations and these would be sent to the insurers as soon as possible.

Members also decided that the Working Party should be involved in drawing up a list of prices of replacement values for play equipment, also to be sent to the insurers.

The Clerk will write to the insurers to inform them of the Parish Council's intentions, and also to send them a photograph of the Priory Arch, as they requested. **CK**

202. **Bicknacre Village Green.**

The Clerk reported that he has been in contact with the litter contractors, who feel that the bins are insufficient for the demands made on them. They feel that the problem lies with the

two bins nearest the shops which are emptied by C.B.C. on Mondays, but soon become full again. The contractors have been correctly emptying the bin on the green. Members agreed that this is the case, and felt that some residents have been putting household waste in the bins because of the less frequent emptying of domestic bins. Cllr. J. Bishop agreed to refer to this problem in his next notes for "In Touch" magazine.

203. **Woodham Ferrers Village Sign.**

Members discussed the recent repairs and repainting of the sign by the manufacturer. It was agreed to keep a watch on the condition of the sign.

204. **Chelmsford Borough Council Local Plan 2001-2011.**

Members reviewed the C.B.C. decision to abandon the existing local plan before the Public Enquiry could take place.

Cllr. R. Poulter remarked that the plan was flawed on planning grounds, and as the time for amending it has now passed, withdrawal of the plan is the only way forward. Cllr. Poulter felt that the costs involved in the process to date have not been entirely wasted, and the costs of the proposed Public Enquiry will now be saved. C.B.C. is at present preparing a briefing on the situation, to which all Parish Council Chairmen will be invited, and this will take place in September. It is hoped that the new plan will be published next February.

205. **Post A130 Traffic Calming Measures.**

Cllr. J. Bishop produced copies of the amended letter to go to Cllr. Bass. It was agreed that the letter should be sent shortly, after members had read and considered it.

Cllr. R. Poulter reported that a number of residents of East Hanningfield are unhappy with the plans for their parish and wish changes to be made.

Cllr. Poulter also reported on the results of the traffic survey near Priory School. Members were concerned that the traffic levels were higher than anticipated, and also that speeds exceeded the speed limit substantially.

206. **Training.**

Members considered the training opportunities presented to them. The Clerk will make the appropriate arrangements for members to go on training courses. **CK**

207 **Information.**

The Clerk drew members' attention to a number of reports from C.B.C., E.C.C., D.E.S., and DEFRA which are available for consultation. Cllr. J. Bishop suggested that the document on Councillors' allowances should be considered at the next meeting.

The Clerk also circulated copies of a document from E.A.L.C. regarding a Complaints Procedure. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh felt that complaints and congratulations should be given equal weight in future minutes.

Cllr. G. Woricker referred to the forthcoming road closure at Woodham Ferrers. It is thought that this will not now take place in August. The Clerk will contact E.C.C. for more information. **CK**

Cllr. J. Bishop raised the matter of dustbins on the footpath outside 49, Priory Road. C.B.C. have asked residents to move them, and councillors will monitor the situation.

Cllr. R. Poulter gave his apologies for the next meeting, and mentioned that breaches of planning permission at Lodge Farm are being investigated, and that a request for a 40 mph road sign in Lodge Road has been received. The Clerk will acknowledge this. **CK**

208. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

11th August 2003. Children's Play Day. Bicknacre V.H.
25th August 2003. Agenda for next P.C.meeting closes.
2nd Sept. 2003. Parish Council Meeting. Bicknacre M.V.H. 20.00.
8th Sept. 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
16th Sept. 2003. Parish Council Meeting. Bicknacre M.V.H. 20.00.

David Godfrey. Parish Clerk. 11.8.2003.