

WOODHAM FERRERS AND BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2003 at 20.00 at Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall.

Those in attendance:

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh in the Chair.
Cllr. B. Arnold. Cllr. J. Bishop. Cllr. R. Blanks.
Cllr. L. Carroll. Cllr. A. Dawkins. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh.
Cllr. M. Yarham.
Clerk of the Council.
One member of the public.

81. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. G. Woricker and R. Poulter who were unable to attend.

82. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March 2003.**

The minutes were approved (with one small adjustment) and signed by the Chairman.

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

Two matters were raised. The first concerned the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly. Our visitor asked whether the question of traffic problems, and particularly speeding would be addressed. The Chairman replied that officers of the County and Borough Councils have accepted invitations to attend, and may be prepared to address these problems. The second matter related to litter and rubbish left in Lodge Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Borough Council about this, mentioning in particular two abandoned liquid gas containers which could be dangerous. **CK**

83. **Matters Arising.**

A list of matters arising is appended to these minutes.

84. **Planning.**

Members considered the following applications, which were presented by Cllr. J. Bishop on behalf of Cllr. G. Woricker:

03/00366/FUL **Oak Lodge, Leighams Road, Bicknacre.**
Single storey side extension. **NO OBJECTION**

03/00369/FUL **27, Lyndhurst Drive, Bicknacre.**
First floor front extension; ground and first floor side/rear extension.
Members felt that the Mill Meadow Estate is already short of space, and that further building would make matters worse, particularly with regard to parking. **OBJECTION**

03/00384/FUL **Fairfield, Main Road, Bicknacre.**

Two storey rear extension.

NO OBJECTION

Cllr. B. Arnold reported on two applications he had investigated, and raised no objections.

Members noted the following decisions by C.B.C.:

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|--------------|---|----------|
| 02/01718/OUT | Bicknacre Post Office, Main Road, Bicknacre. Demolition of Post Office/Stores and erection of building to provide 4 flats and replacement Post Office. REFUSED | |
| 02/02014/FUL | White Elm Farm, White Elm Road, Bicknacre. Change of use from barn to dwelling. | A |
| 02/02641/FUL | Oulton Lodge, 59, Peartree Lane, Bicknacre. First floor rear extension. | A |

Priory Farm. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reported on the recent meeting of representatives of the Parish Council with the solicitor and the developer. Members have received a written report and were pleased to hear that the meeting had been very productive. Discussions are continuing about the boundaries of the ancient monument, the type and extent of fencing required, and access arrangements. A mandate to allow the Chairman and the Clerk to sign the agreement when it is ready without further recourse to a Parish Council meeting was proposed and agreed.

Cllr. J. Bishop raised a number of concerns on behalf of Cllr. G. Woricker:

1. Access through the meadow could result in substantial use if the nearby land is sold, and it should be established that access is to be for agricultural use only. Possibly access could be limited to weekdays.
2. The stake and wire fences should include some concrete posts, as the fence will act as a boundary marker. This was agreed.
3. The Priory Arch is only the remaining visible remnant of the Priory, and further parts can be seen from the air. Could not the fence enclose the whole Priory? Cllr. C. Saltmarsh felt that the Parish Council should accept the decision of English Heritage as to where the fence should go.

Cllr. B. Arnold asked whether the foundations of the new houses, and the building operations might affect the ancient monument. This was thought unlikely because of the distance, and also the planning approval requires that the archaeology of the site is monitored throughout the development.

C.B.C. Planning Department Visit 25.3.2003.

Members considered the matters they wished to raise at the forthcoming meeting.

85. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheque for payment:

B.G. Appleton (Contracts). Ch. No 102988. £ 64.81. (VAT £ 9.65)

86. **Field Reports.**

86.1 Priory Field.

- Members considered the removal of the BT huts from the school field. Cllr. M. Yarham agreed to arrange for the removal and resiting during the Easter holiday. One hut will be placed on Priory Field for use by the football clubs. Disposal of the other hut to be decided.
- Cllr. J. Bishop reported on the removal of a wooden stake used to secure one of the sleepers at the entrance to the car park. This will now have to be replaced by a steel stake, to be cemented in position. Cllr. Bishop will speak to the handyman about the work needing to be done, and the Clerk will report the damage to the police. **CK**
- Cllr. J. Bishop also raised the matter of litter on the field. There is a good deal of litter, and the remains of fires and charcoal suggest that people have been holding barbeques on the field, clearly against the byelaws. The amount of litter in the area of the car park was also discussed. Private Security, and CCTV were discussed as possible deterrents to this and other such problems as possible drug dealing in the area, and these matters will be raised at the Annual Parish Assembly. In the meantime, the Clerk will inform the police. **CK**

86.2 The Hooe.

- BMX Ramp. The Clerk reported that quotations for the application of tarmac to the concrete area have been sought.
- Fences around the edge of the field. Members discussed the situation and decided to consult with Cllr. Poulter, our Borough Councillor.

86.3 Lodge Road.

- Cllr. R. Blanks reported that one of the football clubs using the field has complained that the showers are not working properly, probably due to the amount of mud in the base.
- Cllr. R. Blanks also reported that the bark around the play equipment has not been raked recently, and that he has now done this himself. The Clerk will contact the grass cutter to make sure this is done in future. **CK**
- Cllr. R. Blanks also reported that the litter bin has not been emptied recently, and is now also being used as a dog waste bin. The Clerk will contact the Borough Council about this. **CK**

87. **Annual Parish Assembly.**

Members discussed the preparations to be made for the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk completed the form for the hire of the School Hall and will also ask for the use of the P.A. system. Cllr. R. Blanks reported that Essex Fire Brigade, Essex Ambulance, and First Responders will all be represented, and will have displays to put up. The Clerk will enquire whether the officers from the County and Borough Councils will have displays and whether they will need display boards to be provided. Members then considered their own part in the proceedings, including reports from the Chairman, field Officers, and the Clerk. A newsletter will also be produced for circulation during the Easter period. **CK**

88. **Football.**

Cllr. J. Bishop proposed to defer discussion of the plans for whitelining and raising and removing goalposts to the football meeting on 8th April. He will draw up an Agenda.

Members also considered the matter of the fees which remain unpaid, and suggested a member of the club who might be able to help. The Clerk will try to make contact. **CK**

89. **Parish Council Elections.**

Members noted that notices of the election have now arrived and will be displayed, and discussed details of the Nomination Forms.

90. **Thrift Wood.**

Members discussed the situation at Thrift Wood. The Clerk reported that he has invited a representative of Essex Wildlife Trust to attend the A.P.A. Cllr. Saltmarsh wished a letter to be sent to E.W.T. asking that if they intend any further development of the area in future, would they let us know about it in advance. **CK** Cllr. L. Carroll reported on contacts with the Footpaths Officer at C.B.C. regarding motorists driving along bridleways. It depends upon permission from the landowner, and as there are several landowners in the case of this particular bridleway, the situation is complicated. The situation will be monitored.

91. **Parish Paths Partnership.**

Discussion of this matter was deferred until Cllr. G. Woricker could be present.

92. **Emergency Planning.**

Members noted the contents of the latest letter from C.B.C. on this subject.

93. **C.B.C. Environmental Gateway Team.**

Members decided to take advantage of the cleaning offer from C.B.C. The Clerk will return the forms and request their help. **CK**

Cllr. T. Dawkins suggested that the matter be raised again at a November meeting in preparation for next year. This was agreed.

94. **ACDPC.**

Members considered the activities arranged by ACDPC. Cllr. T. Dawkins expressed an interest in the meeting about the future of Chelmsford, to be held on 3.4.2003.

95. **St. Mary's Church.**

Cllr. R. Blanks reminded members that the bill for petrol from the grass cutting volunteers will soon be arriving. Members also considered the request for a grant for the upkeep of the churchyard. The Clerk will prepare a cheque for the next meeting. **CK**

96. **Training.**

Members considered two training opportunities. The first, relating to preparations for Quality status was deferred to the second meeting in May. The second was not considered appropriate.

97. **Compasses Farm.**

Members considered the draft letters to the resident and his agent, but decided the Chairman should contact the agent before any other action is taken.

98. **Information.**

Cllrs. C. Saltmarsh and T. Dawkins reported on the recent CPRE planning course they attended. It was very basic, but copies of some of the documents offered will be obtained.

Cllr. J. Bishop referred to the negotiations relating to Priory Farm and wished to record his thanks to Cllr. R. Poulter for all his help. This was approved by all.

Cllr. J. Bishop also commended the E.C.C. document "Community Strategy Consultation Document" to members. Cllr. T. Dawkins undertook to fill in the comments sheet on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. J. Bishop drew members' attention to a lamp post in Peartree Lane which is becoming obscured by trees growing around it. He will send a postcard to C.B.C. requesting action.

Cllr. L. Carroll reported that her e mail problems are now (hopefully) at an end, and her home and work addresses can now be used.

Cllr. L. Carroll also informed members that she has agreed to join the Organising Committee for the Woodham Ferrers Village Hall Summer Ball in July.

The Clerk reported that recent correspondence regarding dog waste bins has elicited the offer of a site visit from C.B.C. to discuss the problem. This will be considered further before a reply is made.

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh remarked that this parish has one of the lowest Council Tax rates within the Borough (23 out of 25). This could allow some flexibility should there ever be a need to raise small amounts of additional revenue.

99. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

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| 24 th March 2003. | Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes. |
| 25 th March 2003. | Meeting with C.B.C. re Planning B.M.V.H. 19.30. |
| 1 st April 2003. | Parish Council meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00. |
| 7 th April 2003. | Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes. |
| 8 th April 2003. | Football meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00. |
| 15 th April 2003. | Parish Council meeting. B.M.V.H. |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.25.

David Godfrey. Parish Clerk. 22.3.2003.