



**WOODHAM FERRERS AND
BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL**
A QUALITY COUNCIL
ESSEX 'VILLAGE OF THE YEAR' - RUNNERS UP 2009



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 14th MAY @ 8PM**

@ WOODHAM FERRERS VILLAGE HALL, MAIN ROAD, WOODHAM FERRERS, ESSEX

Present on Top Table: Barry Arnold, JP Chairman, Richard Poulter, CBC, Mike Harris, CBC, Karen Kenny, National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Limited, Spencer Clark, CBC Community Safety & Resilience Manager & Karen Kuderovitch, Clerk to the Council

Parish Councillors: Cllr J. Saltmarsh, Cllr. C. Saltmarsh, Cllr. L. Brett, Cllr. R. Blanks, Cllr. G. Woricker, Cllr A. Mair, Cllr. K. Wilkin

Speakers: Chairman, Richard Poulter, CBC, Mike Harris, CBC Karen Kenny, NSofA&LG, Spencer Clark, CBC, Cllr J. Saltmarsh, Neville Jessop, NWatch

Displays: Priory Acres Community Project, Priory Primary School, Bicknacre, Neighbourhood Watch Group, Friends of Priory Fields, Parish Council (incorporating Youth Group) Essex Police, Essex Fire, Danbury Juniors, Karen Kenny

Approx. 80 Members of the Public

The Chairman introduced himself and all of the guests and people who had made displays present thanked them for attending. The Chairman announced this was an opportunity to ask any relevant questions not covered but suggested if the questions were complex to book an appointment with the Clerk.

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council is the first tier of local government and look after the interests of local people. The Chairman's asked for volunteers for the following new initiatives:

- A village design statement
- Provision of Allotments
- Emergency response volunteers

The Chairman explained the Parish Council Meetings and welcomed parishioners to attend, thanked the Councillors for giving their free time for the benefit of the community. Thanks were also given to all groups and working parties also working as volunteers to make our villages a good place to live.

Presentation: - Spencer Clarke – CBC.

Clerk of the Council:
Mrs K Kuderovitch
Parish Council Office,
Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road,
Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RJ
01245 328988
E Mail clerk@wfandbpc.org.uk





Mr Clark gave an informative presentations which covered Community Safety, CCTV and the effect they have had on reducing crime rate, violent crime and Education & Reality Roadshows.

12th June – 11am – 4pm
14th June – Chelmsford

Mr Clark referred to the importance of Emergency Planning Volunteers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Clarke for his presentation and reinforced the importance of volunteers and asked anyone interested to leave their details with the Clerk or Cllr. Chris Saltmarsh.

Presentation – Richard Poulter – CBC

Cllr. Poulter made reference to the current political news. In reference to Planning Cllr. Poulter informed the crowd that Chelmsford would have to supply 16,000 new homes by 2021.

Traffic Calming – Cllr. Poulter made reference to the recent works in Bicknacre and the concerns for safety of pedestrians, which he assured were being relayed back to Essex County Council. Peartree Lane was also referred to with an alternative option of blocking at the White Elm Road end and that options were also being discussed and further consultation may have to be made.

Affordable Housing – Cllr. Poulter gave an update that new sites had been identified and the Parish Council, landowners and Hastoe would work together to progress. Cllr. Poulter stated there must be a decision by September 2010 or the whole process has to be re-started.

Cllr. Poulter informed the crowd that he continues to work for the community and would be pleased to visit or respond to an e-mail, should anyone have any concerns.

Presentation – Neville Jessop – Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Jessop gave statistics on increased burglaries in Chelmsford/Little Baddow and Sandon and urged for vigilance from the 25 street co-ordinators and 130 members. Mr Jessop relayed a great community spirit and gave information on policing problems. Community Speedwatch was also discussed. Mr Jessop was thanked for his report.

The Chairman then gave mention to Jill Oliver and the Traffic Advisory Committee and their intended involvement in the Speedwatch initiative. The Chairman gave a personal synopsis of himself and an overview of Council life. The Chairman gave an overview of recent major activities within the last twelve months which included:

Clerk of the Council:

Mrs K Kuderovitch
Parish Council Office,
Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road,
Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RJ
01245 328988
E Mail clerk@wfandbpc.org.uk



- Post-office reopening 26th April 2010 and gave thanks to Lord Hanningfield for his vision and help.
- Roads: completed April 2010 and again thanks to Lord Hanningfield for his help in getting part one of the project completed.
- Bus Shelters: Plans for some more in the villages
- Youth Group: a new initiative and thanks as give to Alison Doherty, Karen Kuderovitch and Graeme Gordon for their efforts in organising a schedule of events.
- Allotments- gave reference to Karen Kenny and gave brief details of the Councils actions so far, resulting from Parishioners requests.
- Emergency Planning- gave reference to Mr Spencer and asked for volunteers for the project
- Priory Acres – gave an update of the plans so far.

Karen Kenny - National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Limited

Ms Kenny gave a very interesting and captivating speech on Allotments, covering modern allotments, the physical and mental health benefits, the wide range of people/organisations who could get involved, carbon footprint and emissions, food packaging. Details of funding available was also relayed, once a site had been established. The idea of an allotment association working with the Council was relayed. To finalise Ms Kenny offered to work with the Parish Council and if enough interest was registered with her, the next steps could be taken (ie.an open public meeting).

Cllr.Arnold - Priory Acres Community Project

BA to add some more

The Chairman made reference to an event on 24th July 2010 from midday onwards.

Village Design Statement- Cllr.J.Saltmarsh

Cllr June Saltmarsh gave an interesting presentation on the benefits and process of the possibility of the Parish Council adopting a Village Design Statement, and asked for volunteers to take the initiative forward.

JS to add some more

The Chairman offered a meeting for any interested parties.

Cllr. Mike Harris – Chelmsford Borough Council

Mr Harris referred to Cllr Richard Poulter and gave credit to him for his achievements in road traffic calming and the Post Office reopening. Mr Harris also thanked Cllr.Poulter as a friend and colleague. Mr Harris discussed the VDS of West Hanningfield and the importance for people of the future. Mr Harris referred also to the pilot Village Agent Scheme and suggested an agent in Bicknacre. Mr Harris also made reference to reducing bus services

Clerk of the Council:

Mrs K Kuderovitch
Parish Council Office,
Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road,
Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RJ
01245 328988
E Mail clerk@wfandbpc.org.uk



Question and Answer Session (commenced @ 9.20pm)

The Chairman read the following statement (submitted prior to the meeting to the Clerk):

To the Chair and Parish Council Members, via Parish Clerk, submitted for inclusion in Public Members question time at the forthcoming Annual Assembly.

"At the Annual Assembly 14th May 2010 can the Parish Council please supply details of their Management Plans and Budgets in respect the land known as Priory Fields - for clarity I understand this is comprised of an area of approximately 7 acres on which is situated the Priory Arch and the adjacent c.25 acres, per the attached map?"

The response was that, at present, there were no Management Plans and Budgets available.

A resident aired a view that the new roundabouts at Priory Corner were dangerous, especially when turning right and in ice and bad weather.

Cllr.Poulter response: a site meeting with Gordon Wyper was imminent and agreed the gap for turning was small, but the measurements fulfilled statutory requirements and met the safety audit requirements. The site would be re-audited after twelve months. Cllr.Poulter agreed the site "was not perfect".

A resident highlighted that crossing from Paul Bailey's garage to the White Swan side now involved crossing two roads instead of one.

The Chairman added that the plans took two years to develop and over ten years of campaigning. A resident asked for a vote to be taken which was refused by the Chairman.

A resident asked why the 30mph repeater sign has disappeared and asked for a permanent Speed Indicator Device.

A resident questioned why safety barriers were not erected at the new roundabouts a certain distance from the edge of the kerb.

Cllr.June Saltmarsh addressed the audience stating that, in her opinion, driver's behaviour was a major contribution to the new roundabouts appearing not to work. Drivers approached too fast, did not signal and, in her opinion, if drivers drove appropriately the issues would reduce.

A resident claimed the principle had been lost and that the roundabouts were poorly designed, there was a blind spot where you cannot see approaching traffic.

Cllr.Poulter responded again to state there would be a safety audit and he assured any concerns from any parties would be put to Essex County Council, as they were the specialists.

Clerk of the Council:

Mrs K Kuderovitch
Parish Council Office,
Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road,
Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RJ
01245 328988
E Mail clerk@wfandbpc.org.uk



WOODHAM FERRERS AND
BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL
A QUALITY COUNCIL



The Chairman stated, in his opinion, the majority of cars approached the junction too fast. He reminded the audience that the Parish Council had been under pressure for ten years to provide traffic calming.

Jill Oliver (TAC) was invited to make comment. Ms Oliver agreed it was not the roundabouts that were a problem but the speed. Ms Oliver asked for volunteers to join the Speedwatch programme and this was reinforced by the Chairman.

A resident asked about speed bumps and ripple bumps on a registered B road.

A resident asked of the intended location of the possible allotments but the Chairman stated at this stage this was unable to be dis-closed.

Cllr. Poulter gave details of the intended closure of Pear Tree Lane and the objections from resident in Blenheim Close. The audience was informed that consultation may have to take place on a new proposal, being possibly cheaper to block at White Elm Road end. Cllr.Poulter shared concerns but stated the no 1. Priory was to get Peartree Lane as a cul-de-sac. The Chairman agreed that the works needed to be done quickly.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for the re-opening of the Bicknacre Post Office and congratulations for getting a Youth Group up and running. It was mentioned that when crossing from the Grove to Thriftwood, there was a slip danger.

The Chairman informed the audience of the date of the next Parish Council Meeting (1st June 2010) and invited anyone with any further questions to come along.

The attendees and speakers were thanked, along with the Councillors and Clerk.

Meeting closed @ 9.55pm.

25.8.2010

Clerk of the Council:

Mrs K Kuderovitch
Parish Council Office,
Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road,
Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RJ
01245 328988
E Mail clerk@wfandbpc.org.uk

