

# WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2004 at 20.00 at The Pitman Room, Bicknacre Memorial 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.

Clerk of the Council.

Thirty five members of the public were present.

211. **Apologies.**

Cllr. B. Arnold. Family business.  
Cllr. J. Rushworth. Family business.  
Cllr. R. Poulter, Chelmsford Borough Council. C.B.C. business.

212. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>. July 2004 were approved (with one amendment) and signed by the Chairman.

On the motion of the Chairman the meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes for members of the public/press to address the Council.

The first issue to be raised was the children's playground at The Hooe, Bicknacre. Two members of the P.L.A.Y. group reported that a number of modifications are to be made to the recently installed equipment, and it is hoped that the work will be completed within three weeks. The Chairman thanked the group for all its efforts.

The second issue was the traffic situation in Peartree Lane. Following the delivery of a letter from the Parish Council to residents of Peartree Lane and adjoining roads, residents came to put their views on various possible traffic calming measures for the area. Many shades of opinion were expressed, but at the end, on a show of hands, twenty five residents were in favour of closure, seven were against, and one abstained. When asked where the road should be closed fourteen favoured closure at the bridge and ten at the White Elm Road end. The Chairman thanked everybody for their interest.

213. **Matters Arising.**

The Clerk reported that he has written to Danbury Parish Council on the matter of a possible joint approach to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding speed limits in White Elm Road and Hyde Lane. We await their response.

214. **Planning.**

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

04/00909/FUL

**Chapman's Gorse, Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre.**

Removal of condition to permission CHB/057/48 which required dwelling to be occupied by a person engaged in the working of the farm.

215. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

			V.A.T.
A to Z Supplies. VAT.	Ch. No 103280.	£ 8.57.	£ 8.57.
E.A.L.C. Course fees.	Ch. No 103281.	£ 107.00.	
Cutting Power. Grass cutting	Ch. No 103282.	£ 400.00.	£59.57.
D. Wybrow. Handy man.	Ch. No 103283.	£ 215.66.	£ 9.61.
Mrs. C. Coe. Audit.	Ch. No 103284.	£ 30.00.	

216. **Field Reports.**

216.1 **Priory Field.**

The Clerk reported on the work done by the grass cutting contractor during the previous month. All three playing fields have been cut and the edges strimmed.

Members felt that the south west corner of the field needs to be cleared. The Clerk will arrange for this to be done. **CK**

216.2. **The Hooe.**

The Clerk reported that the handyman has done all the smaller jobs on the field with the exception of welding the gate, which he is unable to do.

BMX Ramp. The Chairman reported that the handyman is now working on repairs to the BMX ramp which is the major task. Some timbers will have to be replaced.

Grass Cutting. The grass cutting contractor has mowed the field, but has concerns about the area where the old children's playground was sited. Members agreed that this area needs attention as there are concrete blocks in the ground. To be considered further.

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh reported on concerns raised by the Playground Inspector: glass bottles have been found on and around the BMX ramp, steel fragments have been found protruding from one of the tyres on the assault course, and the amount of litter on the field has increased considerably since the start of the school holidays.

216.3 **Lodge Road.**

The Clerk reported on the work done by the grass cutting contractor. The field has been mowed, the edges have been strimmed and the bark on the children's playground has been raked.

Field Officers commented that the weeds in the bark area still need to be removed. The Clerk will draw this to the contractor's attention. **CK**

The Clerk has asked the contractor to cut back the undergrowth around the edges of the field, particularly behind the houses in Lodge Road. The contractor has some difficulty with this as there is a good deal of debris as well as weed growth along the edges. The job can be done but will involve some extra expense. Field Officers will look at the situation again, and the Clerk will investigate the possibility of Community Service workers doing some of the work. **CK**

The contractor has also acquired a bench to replace the damaged one, though not identical to the old one. The Clerk will arrange with the contractor for Field Officers to examine the bench to see if it is suitable. **CK**

217. **Priory Arch and Fields.**

The Clerk reported on the latest developments.

The developer of Priory Farm has been asked to replace the missing markers on the plot of land transferred, and particularly at the most strategic points, ie the corners.

The fencing contractor has been asked to go ahead, and to install the fencing as soon as possible. The contractor has promised a precise starting date soon. The Clerk mentioned the possibility of an extra panel for the railings.

The developer has confirmed that the fencing contractor can have access to the field by way of the farmyard.

Our solicitor has confirmed the details of the fencing to be installed to the Land Registry

according to the contract and in consultation with the developer's solicitor and the Clerk. The insurers have been informed of the present situation.

A letter of thanks for all his help has been sent to Mr. Mark Woricker.

The Clerk produced copies of a letter just received from the fencing contractor containing the specifications of the fencing and railings. Agreement to the specification will constitute the contract between the two parties. Members will study the document before the Clerk responds. Cllr. G. Woricker reported that members of Maldon Archaeological Society have visited the site and wish to make further studies.

Cllr. L. Carroll referred to the footpath and the bridge which will need to be constructed before the public can have access to the site, and will investigate any help the Parish Paths Partnership may be able to give. Cllr. Woricker will provide members with copies of the relevant section of the Definitive Map on which the proposed pathway and bridge can be marked.

Members decided that the Clerk should approach the officers at Essex County Council and English Heritage who have offered their support in the past, to see if they will be able to help with funding for the fencing. **CK**

The Chairman thanked everybody who has helped with the clearing and preparation of the monument site.

**218. Children's Play Equipment. The Hooe.**

Members considered the improvements to the children's playground equipment negotiated by the P.L.A.Y. group. The Chairman remarked that it is essential that these are brought to the attention of the RoSPA inspector when she makes her visit.

**219. RoSPA Report.**

The Clerk reported that a copy of the RoSPA Report together with the Chairman's review of the findings and the covering letter have been sent to the insurers.

The Clerk also reported that a post installation inspection of the children's playground at The Hooe and the newly repaired climbing frame at Lodge Road will take place shortly.

**220. Woodham Fenn.**

The Clerk reported that a recommendation that the proposed meeting with South Woodham Ferrers Town Council be put off until September has been made.

The Clerk also reported that Cllr. R. Poulter has studied the documents sent to the Parish Council by the solicitors for S.W.F.T.C. His recommendation is that the Clerk should apply to the Land Registry for office copies of the documents relating to Woodham Fenn. It was agreed that this should be done. **CK**

**221. Traffic Problems. Peartree Lane.**

Members discussed the outcome of the discussions during the adjournment earlier in the meeting, and were gratified by the number of residents who took part. The Clerk will notify Cllr. R. Poulter of the results. **CK**

Cllr. J. Bishop undertook to write a piece about the response to the Parish Council's letter to residents in his next article for In Touch magazine and also to contact The Journal, which now has a new proprietor.

**222. Parish Tours.**

Members discussed the findings of the recent parish tour in Woodham Ferrers.

It was noted that Footpath 32 is still not in a good state and that many walkers find it necessary to take an unauthorised route to avoid the difficult sections.

Members also discussed the ownership of the green near St. Mary's Church. Cllr. G. Woricker undertook to make some enquiries about this.

223. **Information.**

The Clerk reported that details of the forthcoming R.C.C.E. Village Halls Conference have been sent to the two Village Hall Committees.

The Clerk also reported that he has received a very interesting response to his approach to other Parish Councils regarding risk assessments. To be considered at the next meeting in conjunction with the Fixed Assets Register review.

Cllr. G. Woricker noted that the pear tree in Peartree Lane has been cut down. Cllr. T. Dawkins will investigate whether there is a Tree Preservation Order on the tree.

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh reported on the recent Bicknacre Village Hall Committee meeting. There is an ongoing refurbishment programme. Doors and walls have been repainted, and the floor is to be replaced. The Entertainment Licence has been received.

Cllr. J. Bishop mentioned the new article for In Touch magazine, and the topics to be covered. Draft copies will be circulated before it is sent off.

Cllr. T. Dawkins informed members that the new mobile police station was open in Bicknacre this evening.

Cllr. R. Blanks reported that Chief Superintendent W. Bernard has succeeded C.S. Jeapes at Chelmsford Police.

224. **Council Diary.**

Members to note the Council Diary as follows:

9 <sup>th</sup> August 2004.	Children's Play Day. B.M.V.H.
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2004.	Football Training. Priory Field. 13.30 – 15.30.
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2004.	Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
7 <sup>th</sup> September 2004.	Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 22.32.

David Godfrey  
Parish Clerk  
6.8.2004.