

WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st. September 2004 at 20.00 at The Pitman Room, Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall.

Those in attendance: Cllr. C. Saltmarsh in the Chair.
Cllr. B. Arnold. Cllr. J. Bishop. Cllr. R. Blanks.
Cllr. T. Dawkins. Cllr. J. Rushworth. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh.
Cllr. G. Woricker.
Cllr. R. Poulter, Chelmsford Borough Council.
P.C. A. Wall, Community Police Officer.

Clerk of the Council.

Six members of the public were present.

245. **Apologies.**

Cllr. L. Carroll. Family business.

246. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd August 2004 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

The first matter to be raised was the possible rebuilding of St. Andrews Church at Priory Field. Representatives of the congregation explained the attempts they have made to discuss the issues of access and parking with Essex County Council. Members recommended that if difficulties persist, they should contact our County Councillor and seek his assistance.

P.C. Wall then raised a number of issues. The first of these was the graffiti recently daubed on the BMX ramp. Enquiries are continuing, but there are evidential problems. P.C. Wall may be able to assist with graffiti remover.

P.C. Wall requested that the gates to The Hooe Playing Field be closed earlier now that the evenings are drawing in. Members were able to reply that the earlier closing time will start on 1st October.

P.C. Wall has received requests for the goal areas at The Hooe to be improved. The Chairman reported that repainted goalposts are to be placed in a different position on the field. This will provide a better and more even goal area. The Clerk will discuss the matter with the handy man. **CK**

P.C. Wall reported that the problem of nuisance mini motorbikes in Crows Lane is being investigated, and that the persons thought to have tried to set fire to the teenage shelter have been spoken to.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Wall for all his efforts.

247. **Matters Arising.**

The Clerk reported that the C.B.C. officer in charge of the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams has been invited to attend a Parish Council meeting in October or November.

248. **Planning.**

Members considered the following applications:

- 04/01858/FUL **Builder's Yard adjacent Deers Haunt, Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre.**
Use for storage of light commercial vehicles.
Deferred to next meeting for further consultation.
- 04/01901/FUL **The Hoppit, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.**
Single storey rear extension. **NO OBJECTION**
- 04/01921/FUL **Trio Lodge, Main Road, Bicknacre.**
First floor side extension. **NO OBJECTION**
- 04/01958/FUL **6, Ormonds Crescent, Woodham Ferrers.**
Rear conservatory.
Deferred to the next meeting for further consultation.

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

- 04/00871/FUL **Charity Farm, Crows Lane, Woodham Ferrers.**
Retention of use of part of agricultural building for storage of beer barrels
A
- 04/01420/FUL **Dawn. Moor Hall Lane, Bicknacre.**
Replacement garage; single storey side extension; rooms in roof space to
existing bungalow to include new dormer windows to front and rear..
REFUSED

249. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

V.A.T.

A to Z Supplies. Sports eq.	Ch. No 103313.	£ 59.46.	£ 8.86.
Adventure Playgrounds.	Ch. No 103314.	£25,208.12.	£6,733.12.
Bounce It. The Hooe.	Ch. No 103315.	£ 125.00.	
The Open Spaces Society.	Ch. No 103316.	£ 30.00.	
Playground Management Ltd.	Ch. No 103317.	£ 5.00.	
Mrs. C. Prior.	Ch. No 103318.	£ 17.74.	
Ace Bins. Cleaning.	Ch. No 103319.	£ 10.00.	
Mrs. C. Coe. Audit..	Ch. No 103320.	£ 20.00.	
P.C. World. Computer eq.	Ch. No 103321.	£ 1008.11.	£ 147.15.

250. **Field Reports.**

250.1 **Priory Field.**

Members discussed further the proposals to build a new church and football changing rooms on Priory Field. Members felt that they need to know the views of the Church of England Commissioners towards the proposal of St Andrews Church. The Clerk will make enquiries with the St. Andrews representatives. **CK**

Members also await the resolution of the access and car parking issues before taking discussions any further forward.

Cllr. J. Bishop reported that the football club is still working on its plans for changing facilities.

250.3 The Hooe.

Renovation of the site of the old play equipment. Members noted receipt of the brochure from the park furniture supplier, but felt that there is necessary ground clearing work to be done first. The Clerk will ask the grass cutting contractor to remove the concrete foundations and return the area to grass. **CK**

CCTV. Members discussed preliminary steps for the installation of CCTV. Field Officers will discuss the siting and electricity supply, and following that Cllr. R. Poulter will enquire whether planning permission will be required.

Hedges. Members discussed the recent call from a resident regarding the hedges, and felt that no action was appropriate.

250.3 Lodge Road.

Cllr. G. Woricker reported that a replacement bench for the damaged one will soon be delivered.

Cllr. G. Woricker also reported that discussions about the overhanging branch are to take place between the resident and the grass cutting contractor. No action to be taken by the Parish Council.

Members then discussed the letter from the insurers regarding the climbing frame. It was decided that the Clerk should reply, informing them that no adaptive part is available, and the situation is described by RoSPA as "Low Risk". The Clerk will also ask the handyman to cover the existing part in question with plywood. **CK**

Members agreed to investigate the possibility of installing rubber safety surfacing under the horizontal ladder bars, as requested by the insurers.

Cllr. B. Arnold left the meeting at this point.

The Clerk reported that all first instalment football fees have now been paid. The second instalment invoices will be sent out in October.

The Clerk also reported that the grass cutting contractor has recently cut and edged the three playing fields, and because of the continued grass growth proposes to cut them again shortly.

251. **Priory Arch and Fields.**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reported that the metal railings are now up and the fencing materials have been delivered. The fencing will be completed shortly.

Members considered the draft letter to residents about fencing issues presented by the Clerk. The letters will be sent out to residents with property adjacent to the monument field when any necessary amendments are made. **CK**

The Clerk reported on steps taken to improve the Parish Council's chances of qualifying for a Heritage Lottery Grant. Further steps to increase residents' involvement were discussed.

Members will discuss the issues relating to the pathway and the bridge informally, and will report back to the Parish Council when appropriate.

252. **Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall.**

Members considered the recent letter from the Village Hall Committee.

Members decided to make a grant to cover the necessary work to the bench area.

The Parish Councillor who is also a School Governor will raise the safety issue with the school.

The question of the drains is not a Parish Council matter and should be referred to Essex County Council who are the land owners.

The Village Hall's concerns about the litter bins is noted.

The Clerk will respond to the Village Hall Committee's letter. **CK**

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh undertook to raise the subject of fire alarms with the Village Hall Committee.

253. **Children's Play Equipment. The Hooe.**
The Aerial Runway. The Clerk reported on the differing views of the supplier and the grass cutting contractor about the firmness of the towers at the time of the recent accident. Field Officers will examine the damaged poles.
The Clerk will ask the supplier to send the estimate for repairs directly to the grass cutting contractor, with a copy to the Parish Council. **CK**
Signs for the Children's Playground. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh hoped to be in a position to report to the Parish Council shortly.
254. **Woodham Fenn.**
The Clerk presented the documents received from the Land Registry to the Parish Council. Cllr. R. Poulter's view was that the Clerk should try to contact the solicitor named in the documents. The Clerk will attend to this. **CK**
255. **Traffic Problems. Peartree Lane.**
Cllr. R. Poulter advised members that Cllr. Bass and Cllr. Hume of Essex County Council have been informed of the responses from residents to the Parish Council's letter regarding the possible closure of Peartree Lane, either at the bridge or at the White Elm Road end. The possibilities are being costed, and E.C.C. will respond as soon as possible.
256. **Fixed Assets Register.**
The Clerk proposed a number of adjustments to the register to incorporate the new play equipment at The Hooe. These were agreed, The Chairman asked members to consider whether any further additions are necessary. **CK**
257. **Risk Assessment.**
Members approved the Risk Assessment schedule produced by the Clerk. To be reviewed at the first meeting in November.
258. **Training.**
The Clerk drew members' attention to the latest training opportunities. The Clerk will make the arrangements. **CK**
259. **Tree Warden Scheme.**
The Clerk reported on the latest plans for tree planting from Chelmsford Borough Council. Possible areas for planting were discussed.
Cllr. G. Woricker enquired about the damage done to trees by ivy. The Clerk will consult with C.B.C. **CK**
260. **Information.**
The Clerk advised members of the results of the results of a police traffic survey.
Cllr. J. Bishop gave his apologies for the next meeting.
Cllr. J. Bishop also reported that his monthly notes are to go to the Danbury Journal as well as In Touch magazine. The next issue will canvass interest for the setting up of a "Friends of Priory Arch" group.
Cllr. T. Dawkins advised members that he has been in contact with the tree officers at C.B.C. Their view is that it would not be appropriate to reinstate the T.P.O. on the tree referred to in discussions about planning application 04/01794/FUL. Further meeting with C.B.C. Officers are planned for November.
Cllr. J. Saltmarsh reported (on behalf of Cllr. B. Arnold) that requests have been received for repairs to be made to the basketball facilities at The Hooe. To be considered at the next meeting.
Cllr. R. Poulter gave his apologies for the next meeting.

Cllr. R. Poulter also reported that a new planning application has been made relating to Hyde Hall, proposing a fresh access off Creephedge Lane. He felt that it was likely to be determined in November.

Cllr. R. Poulter informed members that the new C.E.O. of C.B.C. is to have meetings with the Councillors of each ward in the Borough. Cllr. Poulter proposes to make the point that traffic issues are the main concern in this ward.

Cllr. G. Woricker raised the issue of residents obstructing the pavements in Woodham Ferrers with flower pots.

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh advised members that the footpath in Priory Lane is becoming overgrown with weeds.

261. **Council Diary.**

Members to note the Council Diary as follows:

27 th September 2004.	Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
28 th September 2004.	EALC Law and Procedures Course. Dunmow.
1 st October 2004.	B.M.V.H. A.G.M.
5 th October 2004.	Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.
11 th October 2004.	Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.

David Godfrey
Parish Clerk
29.9.2004.