

# WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 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. G. F. Woricker. Cllr. M. Yarham.  
Cllr. R. Poulter, Chelmsford Borough Council.

Clerk of the Council.

Four members of the public.  
P.C. Ashley Wall, Community Police Officer.

32. **Apologies.**  
Apologies were received from Cllrs. B. Arnold, J. Bishop and M. Yarham, who would be late in arriving.
33. **Minutes.**  
The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup>. January 2003 were approved and signed by the Chairman.  
Cllr. J. Bishop joined the meeting at this point.

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

The matter raised was the planning application relating to land at the rear of 15-17, Priory Road, Bicknacre. The points made included the fact that access to the building site would have to pass over land of which the ownership was in dispute; access would be on a hazardous bend and would add to the traffic; a large oak tree would have to be removed, and possibly some other trees; and neighbours' privacy would be further eroded. Cllr. R. Poulter pointed out that ownership of land was not a planning issue, but trees certainly are. The Chairman recommended that residents write to Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Department to express their objections, and mentioned that an outline planning application relating to this site would be considered at a later stage at this meeting.

34. **Matters Arising.**  
A summary of Matters Arising is appended to these minutes.  
  
Cllr. M. Yarham joined the meeting at this point.

35. **Planning.**  
Members considered the following applications:-

02/01865/FUL      **Priory Farm, Priory Road, Bicknacre.**  
Erection of 10 homes and ancillary garages. Amended

application.

Members noted that pedestrian access to the ancient monument from Priory Road has now been removed from the plans. Councillors understood that C.B.C. were going to insist that this access was to be included in the plans. The Clerk will contact the Planning Officer urgently to raise the matter. The Chairman will contact the developer and will talk to the Planning Officer. **NO OBJECTION**

03/00069/FUL **Creephedge House, Creephedge Lane, East Hanningfield.**  
First floor extension to rear and side. **NO OBJECTION**

02/02638/FUL **Ladybrook, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.**  
Ground floor rear extension. **NO OBJECTION**

03/00071/FUL **Land rear of 15-17, Priory Road/Hillview, Bicknacre.**  
Two detached bungalows.  
Members objected to this application on the following grounds: it would be an overdevelopment on a small piece of ground; the plan with the application is not a true representation of the land involved, and does not show the grass verge, the ownership of which is in dispute; the application would involve the removal of a large oak tree, and possibly others, and this would possibly cause subsidence/heave in the future, and there will certainly be a loss of the rural amenity value which the trees provide; and the Parish Council supported the residents' comments made earlier in the meeting. **OBJECTION**

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

02/02165/FUL **Rosemary, Leighams Road, Bicknacre.**  
Conservatory to side. **A**

02/01786/FUL **High Oaks, Creephedge Lane, East Hanningfield.**  
New country residence and ancillary accommodation. **A**

Priory Farm. The Clerk reported on the present position regarding Priory Farm, the correspondence received, and meetings held. The following points were discussed:

- The Clerk has been in contact with the Planning Officer at Chelmsford Borough Council, and reported that it was her view that a Planning Application from the Parish Council for the change of use of the piece of land to be made over to the parish is not urgent. However, the relevant forms have been requested. Of more immediate concern is the Planning Committee Meeting of 11.2.2003, at which Parish Council representation is needed. Members agreed that the Parish Council would be represented by Cllrs. C. Saltmarsh and J. Bishop. Cllr. B. Arnold joined the meeting at this point.
- Members considered the letter from the solicitors. It was agreed that the Clerk should instruct the solicitor to go ahead with the searches recommended, and to respond to other issues raised. **CK**
- Members considered the report from the Clerk on the meeting between

Councillors and representatives of English Heritage. The kinds of maintenance and costs involved in the upkeep of the ancient monument were discussed. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh produced a document derived from the internet about lottery funding for ancient monuments. Cllr. M. Yarham undertook to examine this and to report on the possibilities of applying for lottery funding to pay for the upkeep of the monument.

**MY**

- Members decided not to pursue an endowment from the developer at this time.

49, Priory Road. Members considered the response to the Parish Council's letter from the Chief Executive of Chelmsford Borough Council. The response was felt to be very brief and hardly addressed the issues. Cllr. B. Arnold regarded Chelmsford Borough Council's lack of action as a blatant failure to uphold the conditions of a planning consent.

Lilacs. Members considered the letter from Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the removal of trees, and were disappointed that permission had been given for mature trees to be taken down.

### 36. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

			V.A.T.
J. Andrews. Christmas Lights.	Ch. No. 102955.	£ 20.00.	
This payment was agreed at the previous meeting, but not completed.			
Ace Bins. Cleaning. January.	Ch. No 102956.	£ 10.00.	
Cartex Ltd. Printer cartridges.	Ch. No 102957.	£ 37.44.	£ 5.58.
D. Godfrey. Clerk's exp. Jan.	Ch. No 102958.	£ 68.17.	
Butterworths Tolley. Arnold Baker.	Ch. No 102959.	£ 73.50.	
RCT Forestry Services. Priory Field.	Ch. No 102960.	£ 250.00.	
Mr. D. Childs. BMX repairs.	Ch. No. 102954.	£ 810.00.	£210.00.

### 37. **Field Reports.**

#### 37.1 Priory Field.

- Tree Surgery. The Clerk reported that the tree surgeon has removed the dangerous tree at the edge of the field.
- Dog Waste Bins. Members considered the problems caused by dogs being allowed on the playing field. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh remarked that the existing litter bin is being used as a dog waste bin. This was being done by the more responsible dog owners. Regrettably, many dog owners do not clean up after their dogs. Cllr. G. Woricker felt that dogs should not be allowed onto the playing field. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh pointed out that people do take their dogs onto the field, and there was little that could be done to stop them. He suggested that the installation of a dog waste bin be considered. The majority agreed with this and considered that the most suitable position for a dog waste bin would be at the side of the electricity box by the entrance to the car park. Cllr. G. Woricker wished to register his disapproval. Cllr. R. Poulter pointed out that the dog enforcement officer could be asked to visit the area. The question of emptying dog waste bins was also discussed, and it was thought that Chelmsford Borough Council could be asked to empty the bin, if it was

sited in a position where the collector would have access for his vehicle. The Clerk will produce details of suppliers of dog waste bins for the next meeting. **CK**

### 37.2 The Hooe.

- **BMX Ramp.** The Clerk reported that the repair work has been done and the bill settled. Members went on to consider the protective treatment which is now necessary. The handyman will now be asked to undertake this job. Members were aware that the youngsters who use the ramp had requested that a non shiny treatment be used. The Clerk will arrange this with the handyman. Members then turned their attention to the concrete area and considered the possibility of covering it with tarmac. The Clerk will obtain three quotations for this work.  
Cllr. J. Saltmarsh suggested that a concrete litter bin be placed by the BMX ramp. Cllr. M. Yarham felt that an anodised bin would be appropriate. Cllr. L. Carroll felt that the question of having the bin emptied should be considered as the siting was likely to be some way away from road access. Members agreed that it would be necessary for the bags of rubbish to be moved to a position at which they could be collected by the dustman. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh will approach the Playground Inspector to see if she is willing to do this task. The Clerk will obtain costings for both types of bin, and the tarmac and litter bin questions will be considered further at the next meeting. **CK**
- **Dogs Worrying Children.** Cllr. B. Arnold stated that residents had complained to him that unrestrained dogs on the playing field had been worrying children. He suggested that signs saying that dogs are to be kept on a lead except in the dog exercise area should be considered.  
Cllr. J. Saltmarsh asked whether similar signs (excluding the reference to the exercise area) should also be put up at Priory Field and Lodge Road. Notice that this is going to be done could be published in In Touch magazine.  
Cllr. T. Dawkins felt that it would be better if the signs were identical and stated that dogs should be on leads at all times.  
Cllr. J. Bishop wished a reason to be stated on signs, possibly stating that the fields are intended for children (and adults) playing and that therefore dogs must be kept on leads.  
The Clerk will obtain costings for signs to be considered at the next meeting. **CK**

### 37.3 Lodge Road.

- **Play Equipment.** The Clerk reported that he has been in contact with the suppliers of the swing equipment. Their representative will contact Cllr. Woricker early next week to arrange a suitable time for the collection of the equipment and its replacement.
- **Football.** The Clerk reported that he has been in contact with the football club believed to have left the changing rooms in an unsatisfactory state and requested that they ensure that this does not happen again.  
Cllr. J. Bishop reported that the other football club has requested that the Parish Council consider rolling the pitch. This cannot be done at present as

the ground is too wet, but it will be considered when the promised letter from the club arrives.

38. **Safety Inspections.**

The Clerk reported that it will be necessary to request RoSPA to make an inspection of the playing fields this year if the Parish Council wishes inspections to be made, as the original two year agreement has now expired. Members decided to defer consideration of this matter to the first meeting in March as alterations to the play equipment situation will then be clearer.

39. **Parish Footpaths.**

Members considered the matters deferred from the last meeting.

- Cllr. L. Carroll reminded members of the invitation to visit the Chelmsford Borough Council Footpaths Officer's office at Galleywood, and recommended that the Parish council should take up the offer. Cllrs. L. Carroll and G. Woricker expressed an interest in making a visit.

- The Clerk reported that he had received some information about the Parish Paths Partnership from Essex County Council, and has passed it on to Mr. and Mrs. Riley. The maps promised by E.C.C. were produced by the Clerk and handed over to Cllr. Woricker. Cllr. L. Carroll felt that the responsibilities of C.B.C. and E.C.C. should be clarified with the C.B.C. Footpaths Officer when the visit to his Galleywood office is arranged, as there appears to be some overlapping.

- \* Deerhurst Chase. Cllr. M. Yarham stated that he believes that the responsibility for the resurfacing of the bridleway and footpath lies with the residents of the area. Cllr. L. Carroll agreed to raise the matter with the Footpaths Officer when she makes her visit.

40. **Play Activities 2003.**

The Clerk reported that Chelmsford Borough Council have asked for expressions of interest in play activities for this year. Members discussed the matter and decided that the Clerk should make a positive response. Summer activities will be arranged at Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall, and St. Mary's School will be asked for their views on whether there should be such activities at Easter and/or in the summer. **CK**

41. **Chelmsford Borough Council Community Evening 2003.**

Members considered the letter from the Mayor's office, and decided to make a nomination which the Clerk will return. **CK**

42. **St. Mary's Church, Woodham Ferrers.**

Members considered the letter from the Vicar, and felt that the best way forward would be for Cllr. G. Woricker to speak to her.

43. **Essex Police Authority.**

Members considered the letter from the Police Authority regarding the Custody Visiting Scheme, and felt that it is a matter for individuals to take up if they wish, rather than for the Parish Council.

44. **Information.**

The Clerk drew members' attention to the copy of a letter from a resident of Priory Road, Bicknacre to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding a dog waste bin. The Parish Council has been advised that the information contained within minute 298.2 of 3.12.2002 was incorrect. The reference to a meeting on the matter of safety at St. Mary's School as reported should have stated that the subject was Road Safety. This error has been noted.

The Clerk informed members of the C.B.C. information caravan dates on the subject of the new kerbside waste collections.

Cllr. T. Dawkins reported on the Watch Your Waste meeting he attended recently. The planned changes are as follows: brown bins will be used for green or garden waste; a green box for bottles and cans; sacks for paper. These will be delivered to households with the normal black bin collections starting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first collection from brown bins will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>. At the moment there are no plans to collect plastic bottles or cardboard, but it is hoped to include these at a later date.

Cllr. M. Yarham reported that a large pile of soil from Rosemary, Leighams Road has been dumped in the road. Chelmsford Borough Council has been informed but nothing has happened. The Clerk will write to C.B.C. on this matter. Cllr. Yarham also pointed out that a large wall about 10 feet high which was not on the planning application has been built on the property. The Clerk will write to C.B.C. as a matter of urgency on this subject. **CK**

Cllr. L. Carroll reported that Mrs. Grocock was appointed Head Teacher at St. Mary's School. The appointment is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2003. The Clerk will write on behalf of the Parish Council to congratulate her. **CK**

Cllr. J. Bishop informed members that he has received 13 responses to his letter about a possible parish website, of which 12 were positive. The Clerk will make this an agenda item for the next meeting. **CK**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh raised the matter of the Voluntary Sector Training Scheme. It was agreed that Cllr. J. Bishop should attend a course on setting up a website. It was thought that other Councillors might be interested in this or other courses.

Cllr. G. Woricker reported that the situation at Mill Hill regarding water flooding the road is no better. The Clerk mentioned that he wrote to Chelmsford Borough Council but has not had a reply to date. He will contact them again. **CK**

45. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

- 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
  - 15<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Risk Assessment of Village Halls. Woodham Walter Village Hall.
  - 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.
  - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
  - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Risk Assessment of Play Equipment. Blackmore Village Hall.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.
  - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
  - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.
- David Godfrey. 7.2.2003.