

# WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 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. R. Poulter, Chelmsford Borough Council.

Clerk of the Council.

1. **Apologies.**  
Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Yarham, who was unable to attend due to illness.
- 2 **Minutes.**  
The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2002 were approved (with a number of small amendments) and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising.**  
A summary of Matters Arising is appended to these minutes.
4. **Planning.**

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

- |              |   |                 |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 02/01318/OUT | <b>Allcar, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.</b><br>Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two houses and eight flats.   | <b>REFUSED.</b> |
| 02/01989/FUL | <b>1, Woods Cottages, White Elm Road, Bicknacre.</b><br>First floor side extension and detached garage.   | <b>A.</b>       |
| 02/02154/FUL | <b>69, Hillview, Bicknacre.</b><br>Single storey rear extension.  | <b>A.</b>       |
| 02/02186/FUL | <b>12, Canons Close, Bicknacre.</b><br>Remove existing car port. Construction of two storey side extension to house, continuing as single storey extension at rear. | <b>A.</b>       |

Members considered the present position at 49, Priory Road, Bicknacre and the draft letter composed by Cllr. J. Bishop. Cllr. Bishop remarked that the boundary fence is now inside the hedge, but that much of the hedge has now

been cut down. Cllr. R. Poulter commented that the Enforcement department at Chelmsford Borough Council is not working very efficiently at the moment. It was decided that the letter drafted by Cllr Bishop should be sent to CBC by the end of the week, and that the Clerk should enclose the full history for both the situation regarding FP32 (see item 7) and the 49 Priory Road site with the letter.

**CK**

Members then turned to the question of Priory Farm. Cllr. G. Woricker reported that he had discovered through research in the Parish Council minutes that Essex County Council had acted for the P.C. in the purchase of the land which makes up the present playing field, and might be able to do the conveyancing work in the present circumstances. It was also possible that E.C.C. is holding the deeds to Priory Field. The Clerk will enquire about the deeds, and whether E.C.C. can act for the P.C., and also request estimates from three local solicitors' firms. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Woricker for his efforts.

**CK**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh mentioned that he had been approached by a resident with a query about a planning permission, but felt that he should declare an interest as he knows all the people concerned. Cllr. R. Poulter agreed to take up the matter if the person mentioned would contact him.

**5. Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

			V.A.T.
Essex and Suffolk Water. June to Dec.	Ch. No 102941.	£ 15.56.	
D. Godfrey. Clerk's travelling exp. Dec.	Ch. No 102942.	£ 55.32.	
D. Godfrey. Clerk's acc. allce. Oct-Dec	Ch. No 102943.	£ 75.00.	
Philip Lees. Elec'l work. Xmas lights.	Ch. No 102944.	£110.00.	
RCCE. Training Course fees	Ch. No 102945.	£ 8.00.	
BT. Telephone bill. Oct-Dec	Ch. No 102946.	£ 275.29.	£ 41.00.

**6 Field Reports.**

**6.1 Priory Field.**

- Football. The Clerk reported that Priory Sports had raised queries about the suggested new procedures, and these have now received a response from the Parish Council. Cllr. J. Bishop suggested that as no further questions had been raised, it should be assumed that all Bicknacre FC are now in agreement. This was accepted.

**6.2 The Hooe.**

- BMX Ramp. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the contractor, who will be making a start on the work shortly.

The Clerk advised that he had just received a reply from Cornhill Insurance in response to our report to them and that it would be reviewed at the next PC meeting.

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh produced reports from the Playground Inspector.

The notice requesting that the BMX area be kept tidy is now in place.

6.3 Lodge Road.

- Play Equipment. The Clerk reported that a replacement swing cradle seat and chains and shackles have been ordered. Twist link chains at the bottom and straight links at the top. Cllr. Woricker agreed to install the chains.

Cllr. R. Blanks reported that the willow tree which has fallen onto the playing field from a neighbouring garden will be cut down and removed by Chelmsford Borough Council when the weather improves and the ground is firmer. Some concern about lorries on the field was expressed by Councillors. The Clerk will ask Chelmsford Borough Council to liaise with the Parish Council before the work starts.

7. **Footpath 32.**

This was discussed under 'Planning' together with the situation at 49 Priory Road. Cllr. L. Carroll pointed out that it is a footpath and not a bridleway which is being considered. The Clerk will make the adjustment and send off the letter as agreed in minute 4. **CK**

8. **Parish Website.**

The Clerk reported on contacts with South Woodham Ferrers Town Council and Great Baddow Parish Council. Cllr. R. Poulter suggested that the Chelmsford Borough Council IT Department might also be able to help. Cllr. J. Bishop will now start to circulate local businesses to gauge their interest. **JB**

9. **Training.**

Members considered a number of training courses at present on offer, and the Clerk reported on arrangements made for Councillors to attend courses discussed at the last meeting.

Cllr Woricker	Risk Assessment	27 Feb
Cllr Blanks	Crime & Disorder	3 Feb
Cllr Saltmarsh	Insurance	22 Jan.

10. **Grass Cutting Contract.**

Members considered the existing grass cutting contract, and decided upon a number of alterations for the coming year, and some additional work before the grass cutting season starts. The Clerk will contact the grass cutting contractor and request a quotation for the coming year to take into account the adjustments to the contract and the continuation of the contract. **CK**

11. **Bridleway at Deerhurst Chase.**

Members discussed the condition of the bridleway at Deerhurst Chase following the representations made to Cllr. B. Arnold in recent weeks. Members recognised that it is in a bad state and needs attention. The problems arise from a lack of maintenance, the fact that the bridleway has to be used for vehicle access by residents. The adjoining footpath is also unpaved and therefore seriously eroded and dangerous with large water filled potholes. The Clerk will write to Chelmsford Borough Council to outline the problem and ask them to resolve the situation. **CK**

12. **Ormonds Crescent.**

Members considered the state of the bus shelter and the implications of the situation for the Standing Orders. It was decided not to make any alterations to the Standing Orders. Cllr. Woricker kindly offered to clean the bus shelter. Cllr. R. Poulter informed members that he has requested from Chelmsford Borough Council a bus shelter to be constructed on the other side of the road opposite the existing shelter.

13. **Local Elections.**

Members considered the response of Chelmsford Borough Council to the Parish Council's letter requesting that the cost of staging local elections be borne by the Borough Council (as is now done in some other parts of the country), and not passed on to the Parish. It was hoped that supporting letters from E.A.L.C. and N.A.L.C. might have more success. Cllr. J. Bishop suggested that a summary of the timetable of events leading up to the forthcoming elections be published in In Touch magazine. This was agreed.

14. **Waste Disposal.**

Members considered the correspondence on matters relating to waste disposal. It was agreed that Cllr. A. Dawkins would attend the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Chelmsford Borough Council, and that the Clerk should display the dates for the visits of the bulk refuse vehicle for 2003. **CK**

15. **St. Mary's Churchyard.**

Members considered the letter from the vicar of St. Mary's Church regarding work needing to be done in the churchyard. Members were willing to offer some financial help but wished the Clerk to contact her for more specific details of what needs to be done and the costs. **CK**

16. **Information.**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reminded members that it is time that the Christmas lights were dismantled. Cllr Saltmarsh has already switched them off. The Clerk will ask the contractor to do the work, and to let us know when it will be done so that Cllrs. C. Saltmarsh or G. Woricker can collect the lights. **CK**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh also raised the matter of the Entertainment License at PriorySchool, which has been refused because of the PC's request for a minor amendment regarding weekday use. As a result, it will be necessary for the school to re-apply for the licence and go through all the necessary vetting procedures again. To avoid this unnecessary action, the Clerk will write to Chelmsford Borough Council to withdraw the objection (copy of letter to the School), changes in future applications. CBC have advised that this action will enable them to grant the license. The Parish Council has asked the School to make the appropriate revisions to future applications. **CK**

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh suggested that, as a goodwill gesture, the Scouts should be allowed to use some of the storage space in the container. This was agreed. **CS**

Cllr. T. Dawkins referred to rodent problems in Priory Road. There was some discussion as to the causes of the problem, and members decided that residents should be advised to write individually to Chelmsford Borough Council Environmental Health department if they were affected.

Cllr. G. Woricker reported flooding problems on the B1418 road at Mill Hill by the corner which has recently been kerbed. The Clerk will write to Chelmsford Borough Council about the problem, and copy the letter to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council. **CK**

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh informed members that she had been contacted by a handy man who would be prepared to do jobs for the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact him. **CK**

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh raised the matter of the visit of officers of Essex County Council to the meeting on 21.1.2003. It was decided that the meeting would start at 7.30 p.m. and would be for Councillors only at that time, but the officers would be asked to stay until the adjournment in case any residents wish to ask questions. The Clerk will write to confirm the arrangements. It was agreed that the Officers would also be invited to the APA in order that the public had an opportunity to learn of their proposals **CK**

Cllr. L. Carroll mentioned the meeting with a resident of South Woodham Ferrers who is interested in the maintenance of local footpaths. It was agreed that Cllrs. Carroll and Woricker, and the Clerk would meet him to discuss the matter. **LC;GW;CK**

Cllr. J. Bishop suggested that the question of recognition of the support of the village shopkeeper with the Christmas lights should be considered at the next meeting. This was agreed. The Clerk will put it on the Agenda. **CK**

Cllr. R. Poulter reported that he has arranged a meeting with the police to discuss the problem of excess weight vehicles using Priory Road and Pear Tree Lane, and will report the outcome at the next meeting. **RP**

17. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2003. Parish paths meeting. W.F.V.H. 10.00.  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2003. Insurance Briefing. Foakes Hall, Gt. Dunmow. 10.00. to 12.00.  
Waste Disposal meeting. Civic Centre.  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003. Provision for Young People meeting.  
Galleywood Youth Centre. 19.00.  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2003. C.B.C. Crime & Disorder Strategy Workshop.  
Civic Centre. 19.30.  
4<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.  
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.  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Risk Assessment of Play Equipment. Blackmore Village Hall.  
David Godfrey. Parish Clerk. 8.1.2003.