

WOODHAM FERRERS AND BICKNACRE **PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th July 2003 at 20.00 at Woodham Ferrers 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.

Two members of the Children's Playground Working Party.

Two members of the public.

Clerk of the Council.

183. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr. L. Carroll and Cllr. R. Poulter of Chelmsford Borough Council, who was unable to attend.

184. Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1st July 2003, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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.

Two issues were raised. The first was a request for an update on the Post A130 traffic calming situation. The Chairman outlined the present position, and the forthcoming discussions between County and Borough Councillors and Borough officers.

The second issue concerned Priory Farm. A resident has received correspondence from the solicitors for Monument estates referring to a land survey and a revised plan. Councillors were not aware of this, and the Clerk will raise the matter with our own solicitor.

185. Matters Arising.

A list of matters arising is appended to these minutes.

The Clerk added that he had received notice that the hedges along the B1418 road from The Bell to the garage are to be cut back, as requested.

186. Children's Play Equipment Working Party.

Representatives of the Working Party reported on the present situation. Two quotations for new play equipment have been received, and more are to follow. Contact has been made with R.C.C.E. regarding sources of funding, and also with a number of grant making organisations. A further meeting has been arranged for September. The Chairman thanked the Working Party for its efforts and gave them a copy of the RoSPA report.

187. Planning.

Members considered the following applications:

03/01250/FUL **14, Sunnyway Cottages, Bicknacre Road, Bicknacre.**
Extension to existing vehicle crossover. **NO OBJECTION**

03/01275/FUL **Shrubbery, Leighams Road, Bicknacre.**
Construction of double garage. **NO OBJECTION**

03/01307/FUL	15, Peartree Lane, Bicknacre. Erection of conservatory extension.	NO OBJECTION
03/01308/FUL	2, Peartree Lane, Bicknacre. Two storey side extension.	NO OBJECTION
03/01326/FUL	19, Priory Road, Bicknacre. Demolish garage; new ground floor and attic side extension.	NO OBJECTION

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

03/00935/FUL	1, Priory Road, Bicknacre. Demolition of existing house and erection of four detached dwellings and access driveway.	REFUSED
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Members noted the following appeal to the Secretary of State:

00/00085	St. Giles Lodge, Bicknacre Road, East Hanningfield. Alleged breach of planning control.
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Priory Farm. The Clerk reported the following comments from Cllr. R. Poulter on the documents recently received from our solicitors:

1. The Drainage Agreement. The Parish Council should ask our solicitor to ensure that we have confirmation that the final copy follows the draft.
2. Financial Contributions and the Indemnity referred to be the solicitors for monument estates. The Parish Council needs to see original documents, and to secure some alterations to the Indemnity. The Clerk will write to our solicitor on these matters.

CK

188. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

				V.A.T.
R.C.C.E. Subscriptions 2003/4.	Ch. No 103059.	£	50.00.	
B.M.V.H. Lettings.	Ch. No 103061.	£	4.50.	
Playground Management Ltd. RoSPA.	Ch. No 103062.	£	138.65.	£ 20.65.

Payment of two invoices was deferred until further inquiries have been carried out.

189. **Field Reports.**

189.1 **Priory Field.**

Drainage. Members noted the contractor's estimate for the laying out of a new football pitch. The Clerk reported on a letter enlarging on previous recommendations for drainage improvements. Cllr. J. Bishop will study this.

189.2 **The Hooe.**

Maintenance. The Clerk reported that the handyman has had some parts made, and will be able to work on the barrier next week. The gate to the dog walk area is proving more difficult. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reported that heat treatment on the damaged bolts has not been successful, and the handyman is investigating what can be done.

Litter Bins. The Clerk produced a number of catalogues of litter bins. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh will confer with the Playground Inspector to see which type would be best for the BMX ramp.

Insurance. Members considered the draft response to the Insurers re the extent and valuation of play equipment to be insured. More work needs to be done here. Field Officers will look into each playing field and report to the Clerk.

Play Equipment. Members wished the Clerk to ascertain when the work on the equipment on the far side of the field from the car park will be carried out. **CK**

RoSPA report. The Clerk produced copies of the RoSPA Report which has just been received. To be considered at the next meeting.

189.3. Lodge Road.

Football. Councillors considered further the requests to use the pitch on Saturdays. Cllr.

Bishop pointed out that the pitch would need to be rolled and repaired before it could take any increased usage, and in the present weather conditions this will not be possible.

Councillors considered that the chances of getting the pitch into a good enough condition by the start of the new season were slim, and so regrettably, they were not able to offer the use of the pitch for Saturdays for the forthcoming season, but hoped to be able to do so in future seasons. The Clerk will write to the applicants. **CK**

Showers. Cllrs. G. Woricker and J. Bishop reported on plans to improve the shower facilities in the changing rooms. Several options emerged and consultations will take place with the clubs which use the facilities.

190. **Parish Tours.**

Woodham Ferrers. Cllrs. G. Woricker and R. Blanks reported that the churchyard has benefitted greatly from the work of volunteers.

Bicknacre Village Green. Cllr. B. Arnold reported that he has made enquiries about the possibility of adopting the village green officially. Replies are awaited.

Cllr. J. Rushworth reported that residents have complained that the litter bin on the green has not been emptied for several weeks, and that domestic rubbish is being left there. The Clerk will take this matter up with the litter collection contractors. **CK**

Bicknacre Common. Members noted that the grass has recently been cut. Cllr. G. Woricker undertook to approach our grass cutting contractor to see if he did the work.

Bicknacre village. Cllr. J. Rushworth reported that the hedge along the side of the B1418 road from Horseshoe Farm to the layby opposite the Estate Agents is overgrown and in need of cutting back, particularly by the sweep of the bend in the road. The Clerk will contact Chelmsford Borough Council to ask for this to be done. **CK**

Councillors J. Bishop and R. Blanks will investigate the possibility of having signs erected at Bicknacre Common and Leighams Common.

191. **The Good Councillor's Guide.**

Members agreed that this is a very useful publication, and wished the Clerk to obtain six further copies. **CK**

Members also considered Cllr. J. Bishop's memo on issues raised by the guide.

S. 137. Cllr. Bishop suggested that the Parish Council should be aware of the fact that expenditure authorised under S 137 needs to be minuted at the time it is made. He will assess the extent of this issue by checking on recent expenditure. The Clerk will check on future payments.

Prejudicial Interests. Cllr. J. Bishop drew members' attention to the section in the guide on this matter. The Chairman suggested that it was adequately dealt with by the disclaimer printed at the head of every Parish Council Agenda.

Internal Audit. Cllr. J. Bishop drew attention to section of the guide dealing with internal auditors. The Clerk advised that the White Book and Local Council Administration give somewhat different interpretations. Members agreed that in due course the Parish Council would need to adjust its practice in line with the guide.

192. **Post A130 Traffic Calming.**

Members considered the draft letter to Cllr. Bass produced by Cllr. Bishop, and the views of Cllr. R. Poulter (reported in his absence by the Clerk). Cllr. J. Bishop agreed to amend the first draft and circulate the letter again before posting.

193. **Information.**

The Clerk drew attention to the letter from Cllr. P. Harvey re the proposed withdrawal of the C.B.C. Local Plan, and the letter from S.W.F. Town Council inviting members to a meeting to discuss the proposal. A number of Councillors hoped to go to the meeting at S.W.F. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh voiced his approval for Cllr. Harvey's letter, and strongly disagreed with the proposal to withdraw the Local Plan, and felt that it should go to the Public Enquiry as originally proposed. The Clerk reported the reservations of Cllr. R. Poulter to Cllr. Harvey's letter, and also reminded members of the C.B.C. meeting on 23.7.2003.

The Clerk reported, on behalf of Cllr. R. Poulter, on the closure of the B1418 road at Woodham Ferrers. It is intended that about 170 yards of the road, from The Bell public house to St. Mary's School, should be closed for 2 to 3 weeks for road surfacing and drainage work, and possibly also for kerbing. HGV's will be diverted along the new A130 and other traffic along Creephedge Lane.

The Clerk also reported on behalf of Cllr. R. Poulter that the requested traffic survey outside Priory School should take place soon. He had asked that it not take place during the school holidays, and expected that it would be done in September. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh reported that the equipment is in place and the survey is under way now.

Cllr. G. Woricker advised that grass in White Elm road near the nursery is getting very long and needs cutting. The Clerk will request that C.B.C. cuts the overgrown areas. **CK**

Cllr. J. Bishop reported traffic problems at the road island where Priory Road joins main Road. The sign by the road island is facing the wrong way, and drivers are driving the wrong way along the one way stretch. The Clerk will inform C.B.C. **CK**

Cllr. T. Dawkins advised members that he had attended the recent R.C.C.E. meeting and made his report.

194. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

21 st July 2003.	Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
23 rd July 2003.	C.B.C. Council Meeting. Council Chamber. 19.00.
5 th August 2003.	Parish Council Meeting. W.F.V./H. 20.00.
6 th August 2003.	Parish Sports Programme. Priory Field.
11 th August 2003.	Children's Play Day. Bicknacre V.H.
25 th August 2003.	Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.
2 nd Sept. 2003.	Parish Council Meeting. Bicknacre M.V.H. 20.00.

David Godfrey. Parish Clerk. 17.7.2003.