

WOODHAM FERRERS AND BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st. October 2003 at 20.00 at Bicknacre Village Hall.

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

One member of the public.

254. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. T. Dawkins who was unable to attend.

255. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2003.**

The minutes 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 to address the Council.

A member of the public raised the matter of the planning application for Hobclerks Farm, Crows Lane, Woodham Ferrers. A number of points were made about the proposed facilities to be installed on the site and the impact of the change of use on the area. The effect of the development on the rural environment in terms of its appearance and increased traffic on narrow country lanes were mentioned. The Chairman pointed out that this application is due to be discussed on the Agenda of this meeting and asked if our visitor would be making these points directly to Chelmsford Borough Council. He replied that he intended to do so.

The Community Police Officer raised a number of issues.

1. The incidence of car crime has increased in the area recently. Theft of and from motor vehicles has occurred in South Woodham Ferrers and in this parish. The police are investigating.
2. A fatal accident occurred in Creephedge Lane last week. This is of great concern in itself, and also because the forthcoming roadworks in Woodham Ferrers will involve some diversion of traffic onto Creephedge Lane.
3. A road accident in White Elm Road occurred recently, in which a car hit a deer.

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh mentioned the problem of undue noise in the evenings at The Hooe caused by persons in cars. P.C. Wall remarked that he needed reasonable cause to stop and search anybody, but arrests have been made in similar circumstances. When the car park barrier is up the problem is solved, and P.C. Wall also commented that a number of the vehicles previously seen in The Hooe car park at night are now off the road. P.C. Wall undertook to contact the Bicknacre Village Hall secretary.

256. **Matters Arising.**

A list of matters arising is appended to these minutes.

257. **Planning.**

Members considered the following application:

03/01779/FUL

Hobclerks Farm, Crows Lane, Woodham Ferrers.

Change of use of agricultural buildings to storage of equine equipment, horse stables and office in association with equine practice.

Cllr. R. Blanks declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Members felt that the change of use would be detrimental to the area, and would cause additional traffic in Crows Lane. The car park would change the character of the area. Little has changed since the previous application was made. **OBJECTION**

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

03/00830/FUL

Allcar, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 2 no. dwellings. (Amended plans 29.07.03). **A**

Members noted the following appeal:

03/00335/FUL

Birkett Hall Farm, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers.

Continued use of existing grain barn for use in connection with repair and maintenance of coaches and farm vehicles.

Priory Farm. The Clerk reported on the present position. Our new solicitor has written, outlining the situation as he sees it. The Clerk has written to English Heritage and the builders who have maintained the Priory Arch in the past. A response has been received from the builders.

Cllr. G. Woricker queried the terms of the Deed of Covenant with the previous owner. Members discussed this and concluded that it is now urgent to bring the matter to a conclusion. Cllr. R. Poulter undertook to contact the solicitor.

Members wished to start collecting quotations for the fencing of the monument. Cllr. G. Woricker will recommend some possible contractors to the Clerk.

258. **Accounts.**

Members approved the following cheques for payment:

Ace Bins. Cleaning	Ch. No 103110.	£ 29.00.
B.M.V.H.C. Letting.	Ch. No 103111.	£ 13.50.
Woodham Ferrers Friendship Club.	Ch. No 103112.	£ 100.00.
R. Halls. Sand & topsoil. Lodge Road.	Ch. No 103113.	£ 70.00.

V.A.T.

259. **Field Reports.**

259.1 Priory Field.

C.C.T.V. Cllr. C. Saltmarsh declared an interest and took no part in the discussions. Members considered the letter from Priory School and agreed to the proposal for the installation of CCTV. The Clerk will respond. **CK**

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh advised members that the Village Hall Committee have decided not to proceed with the CCTV scheme. Cllr. J. Bishop suggested that a meeting between Councillors and the Village Hall Committee to discuss this development. Cllr. J. Saltmarsh will make the arrangement.

Football. Cllr. J. Bishop reported that he has conferred with Bicknacre F.C. about the state of the pitch. The ground is still too hard to play on. It was agreed that the possibility of

rolling the pitch be considered at the next meeting and also that the Planning Permission for Priory Field be reviewed. **CK**

259.2 **The Hooe.**

Cllr. J. Saltmarsh undertook to inspect the work carried out by the contractors on the play equipment before settlement of the bill is made and also advised members on some issues raised by the Playground Inspector.

259.3 **Lodge Road.**

Football. The Field Officers reported that the pitches are now fit for play, and some games have taken place. The Clerk informed members that the repainting of the goalposts has been completed, but that some difficulties remain. It was agreed that new goal net hooks be purchased. **CK**

Rolling the pitches will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

260. **Insurance.**

Cllr. L. Carroll suggested that the Parish Council might consider using a broker to arrange insurance for future years. The Clerk will send her details of the current policy, and the matter will be considered further at the next meeting.

Cllr. C. Saltmarsh suggested that it might be possible for the Parish Council to be included in Chelmsford Borough Council's insurance. The Clerk will investigate. **CK**

It was agreed that the Clerk will respond to the insurance company's latest letter. **CK**

261. **Signs for Common Land.**

Members considered the present options, but deferred a decision until the next meeting when all the information will be available.

262. **Training.**

Members considered some new training opportunities. It was felt that one course might be of interest to the Playground Inspector. The Clerk will contact her. **CK**

263. **Roadworks at Woodham Ferrers.**

Cllr. R. Poulter advised members of a meeting on Thursday 23rd October to discuss the implications of the forthcoming roadworks with representatives of Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council. Members agreed that the Parish Council would also be represented.

Cllr. R. Blanks reported on amendments to local bus services during the period of the roadworks.

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

264. **Dog Show.**

Cllr. L. Carroll outlined her plans for a dog show to be held in the parish for the purpose of raising funds for the rebuilding of Woodham Ferrers Village Hall. Members discussed the implications of having dogs on a playing field, and agreed that the best time would be during the period from mid-June to July, when the football season would be over.

265. **Farleigh Hospice.**

Members agreed that support for the hospice should be a matter for individuals, and that the Parish Council could not use public money to support charities outside the parish.

266. **Traffic Calming.**

Members considered the latest letter from Cllr. Bass. Cllr. J. Bishop felt that this letter left a number of questions unanswered.

Members then reviewed the traffic calming measures which are needed in the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the representatives of Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council who visited us earlier in the year, and invite them to attend a Parish Council meeting in January 2004 to discuss progress with traffic calming measures.

CK

267. **Remembrance Day Service.**

The Clerk reported that a wreath has been ordered. Members discussed arrangements for the service. Cllr. J. Rushworth will read the names, and the Clerk will lay the wreath.

268. **Christmas Lights.**

Cllr. J. Bishop undertook to obtain quotations for the erection and dismantling of the lights.

The Clerk will arrange for the handyman to test the lights and will also contact Priory School to invite them to the lighting up ceremony.

CK

269. **Grass Cutting Contract.**

Members deferred consideration of this matter to the next meeting.

270. **Ormond's Crescent.**

Cllr. R. Poulter advised members that funding from Chelmsford Borough Council for a hard standing at the bus stop opposite Ormond's Crescent will not be possible. Members decided to consider alternative sources of funding in the New Year.

271. **Information.**

Cllr. J. Bishop reminded members that the Parish Council's budgets need to be considered shortly. The Clerk will produce preliminary figures for the next meeting. **CK**

Cllr. R. Poulter offered his apologies for the next meeting, and referred to a letter from Chelmsford Borough Council relating to a new system of marking the edges of roads.

Cllr. G. Woricker advised members that the hedge along the bridleway at the side of The Hooe has been broken down by a flail machine. The Clerk will write to the person concerned to ask him to stop doing this. **CK**

272. **Council Diary.**

Members noted the Council Diary as follows:

27th October 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.

4th November 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.

9th November 2003. Remembrance Sunday.

10th November 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.

18th November 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.

24th November 2003. Agenda for next P.C. meeting closes.

2nd December 2003. Parish Council Meeting. B.M.V.H. 20.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 22.58.

David Godfrey. Parish Clerk. 22.10.2003.