

WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held at Wethersfield Village Hall on Wednesday 11th October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr A Bowers (Chairman)
Cllr R Burdge
Cllr K Daniel
Cllr N Godley
Cllr D Martin
Cllr Mrs E Newell
Cllr M Taylor
Cllr P Schwier (Braintree District Council)

In Attendance: 4 Members of the Public
Mrs A Lucas (Clerk)

17/112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr G Butland (Essex County Council), Cllr J Barker and Cllr B Vincent.

17/113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Bowers, Godley and Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 as they are Trustees of Wethersfield Village Hall.

17/114 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th September 2017

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 2017 were approved. Cllr Mrs Newell proposed the approval of the minutes; they were seconded by Cllr Martin, agreed by the Council unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

17/115 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- A resident expressed concern that the tree outside the Old Coach House in Wethersfield is causing damage to the property. She was informed that the matter was on the agenda to be discussed. (Agenda item 19(ii))
- Planning application 17/01621/FUL was raised. Although a letter of objection to this application has been sent by the Parish Council to Braintree District Council, a resident expressed concern that the Parish Council appears to accept that the area of land known as WETH 414 on

the draft Local Plan will be developed on at some point. She also stated that residents had not been consulted. Cllr Burdge explained that the Parish Council held two public meetings earlier in the year and Braintree District Council had not received any objections to the site's inclusion in the Local Plan. Cllr Schwier stated that Braintree District Council had undertaken a number of leaflet drops to all residents to keep them updated on the Local Plan process.

17/116 REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The following update on matters arising together with correspondence received was circulated prior to the meeting and accepted.

Missing Directional Sign: Hedingham Road junction with Blackmore End Road

Although Braintree District Council's highway rangers have reported the missing fingerpost to ECC maintenance, it has still not been replaced.

Section 106: Blackmore End Playing Field access improvements

Three quotations are still awaited and when received they will be sent to BDC.

30mph Speed Limit in Beazley End and Codham

There are no further developments on this.

Speed Survey on Braintree Road near the Gosfield Road junction

A speed survey has been completed and the results show very good compliance with the speed limit.

Extension of 30mph Speed Limit at either end of Blackmore End

Cllr Butland will submit a scheme request to the LHP so the matter can be added to the schedule of potential schemes.

Coutenham's Site Forecourt

Cllr Vincent has reported that the forecourt has been tidied up.

Responsible Financial Officer

An advert for the vacant position has been placed on the website.

Twisted "Wethersfield" sign on Braintree Road

The Chairman and Cllr Bowers are going to form a working party to try and straighten the sign.

Footpath from Nortofts Farm to Petches Bridge junction

Numerous residents have complained about the state of this footpath which is in the Parish of Finchingfield and has been reported to Essex Highways on several occasions without success. Cllr Butland has been approached to see if he can assist.

Correspondence Received:

- (i) A public consultation on proposed changes to the mobile library service is currently taking place. Information, proposals and the consultation survey can be found at libraries.essex.gov.uk. The deadline for completion of the survey is 6th November.
- (ii) Documents and a questionnaire relating to Braintree District Compact Consultation was received on 12th September and circulated.

- (iii) A District Funding Fair is taking place on 19th October. Details are on the website.
- (iv) Essex County Council sent details of the “Get Involved with the Art of the Possible” project which is running from 14th to 31st October. Further information can be found on www.artofthepossiblefestival.com and details are on the website.
- (v) Essex County Council launched its Local Services Fund on 19th September and details are on the website

17/117 BLACKMORE END PLAYING FIELD

The Chairman of Blackmore End Playing Field gave a short presentation on the financial state of the playing field and plans for the future. He requested financial assistance with the cost of grass cutting and a motion will be proposed at the next meeting. To assist with cash flow, Members unanimously agreed to loan Blackmore End Playing Field £1,400 to help purchase fireworks for the forthcoming display which is the major fundraising project.

Action: clerk

17/118 DOG CHASE, WETHERSFIELD

A letter has been sent to all residents of Dog Chase and Barrack Cottages seeking their agreement to partially blocking off the High Street end of Dog Chase with a bollard. Reply slips will be collected in the next few days. It was noted that a majority agreement is required.

Action: AB

17/119 WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

- (i) Wethersfield Village Hall Club will be asked to obtain at least two quotes to address the problem of water leaking from the outside wall into the gent’s toilet cubicle. The Parish Council agreed to fund the work.

Action: clerk

- (ii) Following a few minor amendments to the latest draft lease, Cllr Mrs Newell hopes to have a final version to present to the CIO for approval and signature shortly.

Action: EN

17/120 BROADBAND

- (i) Blackmore End & Beazley End: There is nothing further to report and this will be removed as a regular agenda item.

- (ii) Wethersfield: A response to the Parish Council’s recent letter has not been received from either Essex County Council or Openreach. A copy will be sent to the constituency MP.

Action: clerk

17/121 WETHERSFIELD COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Cllr Burdge reported that the new website is now live and the second phase is well underway. He will be preparing a flyer to go out to all residents and would welcome any feedback.

Action: RB

17/122 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE, CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDING ORDERS

This matter is still outstanding but a draft will be sent out prior to the next meeting.

Action: JB/clerk

17/123 GROWING A RURAL COMMUNITY FOR ESSEX

The questionnaire will be completed on the Parish Council's behalf by the clerk. Cllr Bowers stated that he already serves on the Rural Parish Council Sounding Board and is prepared to continue to do so.

Action: clerk

17/124 PLANNING

(i) **Update on applications listed in minutes dated 13th September 2017:**

17/00098/TPOCON	St Georges House, High Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4BY Application to carry out work on trees affected by the Conservation Area.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (No objection email sent to BDC on 10/04/17)
17/00184/TPOCON	1 Sims Cottage, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4BX To carry out work on trees affected by the Conservation Area.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (No objection email sent to BDC on 15/06/17)
17/01122/FUL	Land at King & Co, Beazley End, Wethersfield Replacement site access with associated engineering works.	APPLICATION GRANTED
17/02036/FUL & APP/Z1510/W/17/3176810	Rear of 2 Upper Barn Cottages, Hedingham Road, Wethersfield, Essex Proposed change of use of outbuilding to residential use including alterations and extension to existing building.	NOT YET DECIDED FOLLOWING AN APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
17/01500/FUL	Land Next To Mushroom Farm, Hedingham Road, Wethersfield Proposed removal of outbuilding and erection of agricultural style industrial unit.	APPLICATION GRANTED
17/00257/TPOCON	Woodland, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, Essex Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (No objection email sent to BDC on 06/09/17)

17/00285/TPOCON	1 Sims Cottage, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4BX Application to carry out work on trees affected by the Conservation Area.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (No objection email sent to BDC on 21/09/17)
17/01621/FUL	Land South Of Silver Street, Wethersfield Erection of 9 dwellings with associated access and landscaping.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (Letter of objection sent to BDC on 03/10/2017)
17/01643/FUL	17 Hereward Way, Wethersfield, CM7 4EG Demolition of existing conservatory and proposed single storey extension.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (No objection email sent to BDC on 03/10/2017)

(ii) **New applications received since September meeting:**

17/01767/FUL	The Farm Cottage, Braintree Road, Wethersfield CM7 4AQ Erection of first floor rear extension, replacement of porch and erection of garaging and storage.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (Comments to BDC required by 30/10/2017)
17/01781/FUL	OS Field 5185 Land at Hedingham Road, Wethersfield, Essex Erection of new agricultural barn for the purposes of storing grain, straw and other agricultural activities.	PENDING CONSIDERATION (Comments to BDC required by 06/11/2017)

Action to be taken on applications awaiting consideration:

- **17/01767/FUL:** There were no objections to this application.
- **17/01781/FUL:** There were no objections to this application.

17/125 HGV LORRIES

A letter has been drafted as agreed at the meeting held in September; however Cllr Daniel has requested a delay in sending it until Bovingdon Road has been re-opened. He also asked that the letter is sent to all firms in the area as no one particular organisation should be singled out. He would like to put a plan forward over the forthcoming winter.

Action: KD

17/126 EVENTS POLICY FOR USE OF THE GREEN

A draft policy has now been produced. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

17/127 LEAVES IN THE VICINITY OF THE GREEN

A working party will be set up to collect leaves.

Action: JB/AB

17/128 REQUEST FOR A MIRROR ON THE GREEN

Cllr Godley has contacted Essex Highways and been informed they do not give approval for mirrors to be erected as they are not considered to be an effective safety aid. The clerk will contact the resident who requested one to inform him.

Action: clerk

17/129 GULLY IN SLIP ROAD ALONGSIDE THE GREEN

Cllr Godley has reported the blocked drain to Essex Highways and has not yet received a response.

17/130 TREES IN WETHERSFIELD

(i) Cllr Godley has contacted Essex County Council but has not managed to establish ownership of this tree. He agreed to contact the electricity supplier as the branches are interfering with electricity and telephone cables. Cllr Bowers agreed to contact BT.

Action: NG/AB

(ii) Braintree District Council has undertaken an inspection of the trees on The Green and recommended some work to be undertaken. Quotes can now be obtained as it has been confirmed there is no requirement to go through the formal application process for the work required. Removal of the lower branches of the fir tree next to the telephone box will be requested at the same time as the tree does not have a TPO on it.

Action: clerk

17/131 PURCHASE OF TELEPHONE KIOSK AT BLACKMORE END

The contract for this has not yet been signed. Cllr Vincent has stated he would like it to be purchased, as previously agreed, as it is an iconic piece of street furniture.

17/132 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING IN BLACKMORE END

A request for a training session has been made and confirmation of a suitable date is still awaited from Saling & Wethersfield First Responders. This will be chased.

Action: JB/clerk

17/133 FINANCE

(i) The following cheque payments were made:

Item No	Cheque No.	Cheque Dat	Payee	Description	Column1
1	102082	11/10/2017	Smith of Derby Ltd	Annual service of St Mary Madgalene Church clock (agreed minute no 17/109 (iv))	£256.80
2	102083	11/10/2017	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Limited assurance review of Annual Return for y/e 31 March 2017	£240.00
3	102084	11/10/2017	E.ON	Footway lighting	£151.97
4	102085	11/10/2017	Mr E Butcher	Litter picking for September 2017	£95.00
5	102086	11/10/2017	Mrs A Lucas	Clerk's salary (41½ hrs @ £9.64 per hour)	£400.06
				TOTAL	£1,143.83

Payment of the invoices was proposed by Cllr Godley, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

17/ 134 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

Nothing was requested. Councillors are asked to inform the clerk of any items by 7th November 2017.

NEXT MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of Wethersfield Parish Council will be held at Blackmore End Village Hall on Wednesday, 15th November 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: