

# WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held at Wethersfield Village Hall on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Mr A Bowers (Acting Chairman)  
Mr J Barker  
Cllr Mrs S Booth  
Cllr M Buchan  
Cllr K Daniel  
Cllr N Godley  
Cllr D Martin  
Cllr M Taylor  
Mrs A Lucas (Clerk to the Council)

In Attendance: Cllr P Schwier (Braintree District Council)  
Members of the Public: 17

## **159/18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

## **160/18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Godley and Cllr Martin declared an interest in item 161/18-19(i) and (ii) by virtue of being members of the Wethersfield Village Hall CIO.

## **161/18-19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **162/18-19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

- The Chair of Wethersfield Village Hall CIO wished to have it placed on record that the Christmas Tree Light Switch On event held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 was the most successful ever and pulled the entire community together. She wished to thank Cllr Barker, who instigated the event 5 years ago.
- A member of the public wished to know why Wethersfield Parish Council had changed its stance on The Bull, Blackmore End when it opposed a change of use in 2011, to having no objection in 2018.

He also asked to be sent a copy of the report with 21 signatures which was sent to CROWS objecting to the proposed shop being located at Wethersfield Village Hall. This report was recorded in the November minutes.

- A Beazley End resident spoke in support of Cllr Daniel.

He also asked if consideration could be given to creating a picnic area (benches and a rubbish bin) by the River Pant near Codham Mill using Public Open Space funds (Sec. 106).

- A Wethersfield resident stated how disappointed he was to note that the Chairman has resigned.

#### **163/18-19      RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that the resignation of the Chairman of Wethersfield Parish Council be accepted with regret.

#### **164/18-19      MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN A COUNCILLOR**

A motion of no confidence in the ability of Cllr Daniel to perform his duties as a councillor was proposed with 7 members voting in favour and 1 member voting against.

**RESOLVED** that the Council wishes Cllr Daniel to consider his position on Wethersfield Parish Council.

#### **165/18-19      REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The following update on matters arising, together with correspondence received was approved:

##### **Budget to support the Precept for 2019/20**

As agreed at the meeting in November, the budget for 2019/20 is now on the community website in the Parish Council's finance section.

##### **General Data Protection Policy**

The policy documents which were approved and adopted at the November meeting are now on the community website.

##### **Overgrown Path**

Cllr Martin has cleared the overgrown path running from West Drive to Old Mill Chase.

##### **Autumn Verge Cutting**

After receiving a quote for £799.50 + VAT a majority of councillors agreed not to commission a second verge cutting.

##### **Development South of Silver Street**

An Enforcement Order has been issued by BDC banning the use of the entrance which the developers have made next to The Old Coach House.

##### **Christmas Tree Light Switch On**

This event was a great success and raised approximately £1,700. All proceeds have been donated to the DFPFA (Wethersfield Playing Field).

**Update on Planning Applications Listed in the Minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018:**

- 1. 18/00182/TPOCON: The Broad, 1 Saffron Close, Wethersfield, CM7 4EY**  
Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Remove a Prunus Autumnalis.  
**STATUS: APPLICATION GRANTED**
- 2. 18/01741/FUL: 3, Meadside, Wethersfield, CM7 4BN**  
Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extensions. New front porch.  
**STATUS: APPLICATION GRANTED**
- 3. 18/01578/FUL: 39 Saffron Gardens, Wethersfield, CM7 4BL**  
Proposed new 2 bedroom detached dwelling.  
**STATUS: APPLICATION REFUSED**
- 4. 18/00310/TPOCON: Playing Field, High Street, Wethersfield**  
Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Crown reduce 9 Pine trees by approx 10 foot.  
**STATUS: APPLICATION GRANTED**
- 5. 18/01970/FUL: Wavers Farm, Blackmore End, Wethersfield, CM7 4DP**  
Demolition of existing industrial buildings and re-development of site to form 9 new residential dwellings.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION**
- 6. 18/01914/ELD: George Ann Cottage, School Green, Blackmore End, CM7 4DS**  
Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use: Occupation of outbuilding as a residence for over 4 years.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION**
- 7. 18/02072/FUL: The Bull Inn, Blackmore End, Wethersfield, CM7 4DD**  
Change of use of closed public house to a dwelling and annexe.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION**
- 8. 18/02038/VAR: Land South Of Silver Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4FF**  
Application for a variation of condition 9 of planning permission 17/02253/FUL- the condition to read 'Prior to the first occupation of the development a priority junction off Silver Street to provide access to the proposal site shall be provided in accordance with the details shown on Drawing CA16-019-S278(1) C4.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION**
- 9. 18/02021/FUL: Wavers Farm, Blackmore End, Wethersfield, CM7 4DP**  
Erection of stables for rescued horses and ponies, plus the associated track, yard/ hard standing, fencing.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION**
- 10. 18/02075/FUL: Codham Park Equestrian, Codham Little Park Drive, Wethersfield, CM7 5JQ**  
Retention of warm-up area and additional land for car parking in connection with the use of land for equestrian competitions. Erection of new kiosk for the sale of food and drink.  
**STATUS: PENDING CONSIDRATION**

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| <p><b>11. 18/02118/FUL: Land West of The Old Coach House, Silver Street, Wethersfield, Essex</b><br/>Erection of 5, two-bedroom, one and a half storey dwellings with associated infrastructure.<br/><b>STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION</b></p> <p><b>12. 18/02131/FUL: 27 Hereward Way, Wethersfield, Essex CM7 4EG</b><br/>Proposed single storey rear and side extension.<br/><b>STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION</b></p> |
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Correspondence Received:

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| <p>(i) Notification has been received that a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for the Wethersfield Conservation Area will be undertaken by Place Services on behalf of Braintree District Council over the coming months.</p> <p>(ii) A Public Consultation on Essex Future Library Services Strategy (2019-2014) has opened and closes on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Further details and a link to the survey are on the website.</p> <p>(iii) Details of the Fire and Rescue Plan Survey have been received from Roger Hirst, Police, Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner for Essex and details are on the community website. The survey closes at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.</p> <p>(iv) A £100 million plus plan led by Braintree District Council for the benefit of residents in the district has been announced.</p> <p>(v) A letter from E.ON advising of price rises from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 has been received and circulated.</p> <p>(vi) Following the closure of Wethersfield Post Office in May 2018, the Post Office is pleased to be able to reinstate the Hosted Outreach service as a permanent service from 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The new service is located at Wethersfield Village Hall, Old Mill Chase, Wethersfield, CM7 4EB.</p> <p>(vii) Details of changes to the information drop-ins at libraries about the future library services consultation has been received and placed on the community website.</p> <p>(vii) Amey Defence Services contacted the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> December attaching a woodland management plan for MDP Wethersfield together with a schedule of operations and harvesting map. If councillors have any comments they need to be made by the first week of February 2019.</p> <p>(viii) A Shalford resident has raised concerns that the Council's supported the diversion of Footpath 36 in April 2018.</p> <p>(ix) Details of a Winter Wellness Event taking place from 2:30-4:30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at Brambles, Quadrant, George Yard, Braintree have been received and are on the website.</p> |
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166/18-19

**REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The District Councillor highlighted the following matters of local interest:

- Councillor Community Grants are still available.
- Fibre installation in the area is going well.
- The revamp of Freeport should encourage growth across the district.

- It is hoped that Jamie Oliver's purchase of Spains Hall in Finchingfield will increase tourism.
- Plans for the redevelopment of Manor Street are progressing.
- Timescales for the Draft Local Plan (Part 1) have slipped and it will be going out to public consultation again in the latter part of 2019.
- The Braintree District Council Clean Team should be commended for completing all the Christmas and New Year collections in the district so efficiently.

**167/18-19**      **WETHERSFIELD COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

- (i) The volunteer community webmaster gave his apologies and sent a written report. He asked for consideration to be given to providing him with a debit/credit card to add to the AWS (Amazon Web Services) account. This would help him make progress. Cllr Barker stated a card would be difficult but Cllr Godley agreed to see if giving Mr Ballantyne a small amount of money in advance would be an acceptable alternative.
- (ii) It was agreed to defer the motion proposed by Cllr Barker (minute reference: 81/18-19(ii)) until the mailshot newsletter facility has been activated.

**168/18-19**      **CROWS (Community Redevelopment of Wethersfield Shop)**

Cllr Buchan updated the meeting:

- CROWS have not held a meeting since the Parish Council last met.
- A meeting with BDC has not taken place.
- There have been 2 or 3 fundraising events recently.

Cllr Bowers asked if the Parish Council could see copies of minutes of meetings and any drawings which have been produced. Cllr Buchan agreed to request these.

**169/18-19**      **WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

- (i) Cllr Godley is going to meet North Essex Parking Partnership to look into the possibility of creating marked parking spaces and a hatched area and/or a bollard by the defibrillator. He will report back at the next meeting.
- (ii) Consideration was given to the nomination of a Parish Council representative on Wethersfield Village Hall CIO.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Godley be the Parish Council's representative on Wethersfield Village Hall CIO.



## 175/18-19 SIGNAGE BRAINTREE ROAD/GOSFIELD ROAD, WETHERSFIELD

The Council considered supporting signage prohibiting HGV's from accessing Gosfield Road from Braintree Road.

**RESOLVED** that the clerk would contact Essex Highways offering the Council's support for the sign.

## 176/18-19 FINANCE

The list of payments due were received.

**RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

Item No.	Cheque No.	Cheque Date	Payee	Description	Column1
1	102162	04/12/2018	P A Taylor	To disconnect and move defibrillator from former shop to village hall	£188.40
2	102163	04/12/2018	W R Norman	Reimbursement for purchasing Christmas tree (minute reference 149/18-19)	£100.00
3	102164	20/12/2018	K Feveyear	Clearing elms from garden of Littleacres, Blackmore End (minute reference 144(i)/18-19)	£250.00
4	102164	20/12/2018	K Feveyear	Removing dead branches from oak trees on the green at Blackmore End (minute reference 119/18-19)	£800.00
5	102165	09/01/2019	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership Renewal	£106.00
6	102166	09/01/2019	E.ON	Footway Lighting	£172.70
7	102167	09/01/2019	Mr E Butcher	Litter picking for November 2018 (£95) and December 2018 (£120 including Beazley End)	£215.00
8	102168	09/01/2018	Blackmore End Village Hall	Hire of Hall by Parish Council during 2018	£90.00
9	102169	09/01/2018	Mrs A Lucas	Clerk's salary (61 hrs @ £10.30 per hour)	£628.30
10	102169	09/01/2018	Mrs A Lucas	Contribution towards use of clerk's home as office during 2018 (as agreed on Page 53/2016 of Minutes dated 10th February 2016)	£500.00
11	102169	09/01/2018	Mrs A Lucas	Expenses (car parking for election course on 29th November)	£3.50
12	102170	09/01/2018	Blackmore End Village Hall	Reimbursement of insurance payment to Allied Westminster	£893.28
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,947.18</b>

## 177/18-19 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Members requested more time to review the Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct.

## 178/18-19 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)

Consideration was given to the Council entering into a Service Level Agreement with Essex County Council and setting up a volunteer group to maintain footpaths in the parish.

- (i) **RESOLVED** not to enter into a Service Level Agreement.
- (ii) **RESOLVED** to put a notice on the community website to see if any volunteers come forward who are interested in forming a group to maintain footpaths in the parish.

**179/18-19**      **RUBBISH BEING DUMPED IN THE ROAD LEADING TO THE SEWAGE WORKS**

The Council considered whether to purchase a rubbish bin to be erected near the sewage works.

**RESOLVED** that a galvanised rubbish bin and fixing kit would be purchased from Broxap for £265.95 excl VAT with additional minor funding for a fixing slab.

**180/157**      **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019**

The Council considered moving the Annual Parish Meeting forward to give an adequate period of time to exclude the election period.

**RESOLVED** that a separate meeting would be held in March when residents would be encouraged to attend if they wish to learn more becoming a parish councillor.

**181/18-19**      **ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA**

To consider advancing the volunteer webmaster some funds to enable him to add to the AWS account.

Cllr Godley requested an update on the Beazley End sign.

*Councillors are asked to inform the clerk of any items by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019.*

**182/18-19**      **NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:** The next meeting of Wethersfield Parish Council will be held at Blackmore End Village Hall on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....