

WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
REPRESENTING WETHERSFIELD, BLACKMORE END & BEAZLEY END



MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held at Blackmore End Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Cllr P Schwier (Braintree District Council)
Members of the Public: 5

201/18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Taylor (reason provided) and accepted.

202/18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Daniel declared an interest in item 212/18-19 by virtue of being a member of a group of Beazley End residents who propose to part fund the sign.

203/18-19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

204/18-19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- Members of the Parish Council were thanked for agreeing to frame the memorial boards at the last meeting (minute ref: 192/18-19).
- The Chair of the Wethersfield Village Hall CIO confirmed the new before and after school club was going well. Unfortunately a new planter purchased by the club has been stolen from the rear of hall.

REPORT FROM THE CLERK

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

Annual Parish Meeting: 20th March 2019 at 7.30pm (Wethersfield Village Hall)

Any residents interested in finding out more about what is involved in being a parish councillor are encouraged to attend. A leaflet drop has been undertaken.

Code of Conduct, Standing Orders & Code of Conduct

These documents are currently with EALC for checking prior to adoption at the next meeting.

Two “Keep off the Grass” signs for the small green at the junction of Bovington Road and Park Hall Road Beazley End and one for Lower Green Road, Blackmore End

The clerk has obtained two options and is waiting for a third quote.

Hatched Markings by the Defibrillator in Wethersfield

The area in front of the defibrillator now has hatched markings to stop cars parking there and two parking spaces have been marked.

Parish Plan Questionnaire 2019

Printing and distribution of the questionnaire continues to be delayed due to technical problems with the option to complete the form online.

Speeding in Blackmore End and Beazley End

The Parish Council has been advised by the Local Highways Panel that there are no further options available to the deter speeding. This item will therefore not be discussed during the March meeting as previously requested.

Update on Planning Applications Listed in the Minutes dated 13th February 2019:

1. **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: APPLICATION REFUSED
2. **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
3. **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
4. **18/02118/FUL: Land West of The Old Coach House, Silver Street, Wethersfield, Essex**
Erection of 5, two-bedroom, one and a half storey dwellings with associated infrastructure.
STATUS: APPLICATION REFUSED

5. **18/02280/FUL: Little Codham Hall, Codham Lane, Beazley End, Wethersfield, CM7 5JD**
New window in North elevation & upgrade of flat roof to warm construction on Sun Room and the replacement of existing rear boundary fence with brick wall.
STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION
6. **19/00001/TPOCON: South Lodge, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4AD**
Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area.
STATUS: APPLICATION GRANTED
7. **19/00010/TPOCON: St Georges House, High Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4BY**
Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Thin out crown of Horse Chestnut by up to 30% and reduce the overhanging branches by up to 3 metres.
STATUS: APPLICATION REFUSED
8. **19/00117/HH & 19/00118/LB: Blenheim House, High Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4BZ**
Householder Application - Replacement Windows and Fencing
Listed Building Application - To replace rotten sole plates and associated repairs, removal of modern finishes between dining room and kitchen, internal recladding, replacement of external back door with new french doors, minor internal alterations, installation of woodburning stove with flue liner and new external joinery.
STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION
9. **19/00170/HH: Rima Cottage, Hedingham Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4EW**
Two storey side extension, remodelling of existing roof slopes and dormer windows, application of new surface materials and landscaping.
STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION
10. **19/00245/AGR: Beazley End Orchard, Beazley End, Wethersfield, CM7 5JQ**
Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - Proposed extension to access track.
STATUS: PENDING CONSIDERATION

Correspondence Received:

- (i) Posters with information on the ID required to vote in the Local Elections on 2nd May have been received.
- (ii) The Finchingfield webpage (link is on the community website) has been updated to reflect that the onsite investigations which required a five day closure of the bridge have been completed and the bridge has reopened.
- (iii) A briefing note from Braintree District Council on MDPGA Wethersfield has been posted on the community website together with an update from the Ministry of Defence.
- (iv) Tree Preservation Order No 03/2019/TPO for St Georges House, High Street, Wethersfield dated 26th February has been received.
- (v) Details of the Calor Rural Community Fund with the chance to win up to £5,000 for a community project have been posted on the website.

206/18-19 **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The District Councillor highlighted the following matters of local interest:

- The Three Fields Ward Annual Report 2018/19 is now available.
- The Manor Street regeneration project has been granted planning permission.
- The problems caused to businesses by the recent week-long closure of the bridge at Finchingfield has been noted by Essex County Council.

207/18/19 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT MoD WETHERSFIELD**

- The final vacation and disposal of MoD Wethersfield has been delayed from 2020 to 2025.
- Concern was expressed about the lack of infrastructure to accommodate the large number of new homes proposed.
- Preference was expressed for a prison on the site and/or high tech companies.

208/18-19 **WETHERSFIELD COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

- (i) Cllr Bowers and Cllr Barker agreed to go to Barclays to look into the possibility of obtaining a Parish Council credit card to set up an AWS account.
- (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.

209/18-19 **CROWS (Community Redevelopment of Wethersfield Shop)**

- (i) Cllr Buchan updated the meeting:
 - Three councillors attended a recent meeting and plans have already been circulated.
 - A meeting with Essex Highways and a highway survey are vital before matters can be progressed further.
 - An open meeting is to be organised.
- (ii) Consideration was given to funding a meeting between CROWS and Essex Highways and also for a highway survey to be undertaken.

RESOLVED that funding of approximately £320 and £400 be given for a meeting between CROWS and Essex Highways and for a survey.

210/18-19 **HEDGE NEXT TO THE OLD COACH HOUSE**

Consideration was given to the hedge which was removed prior to the submission of planning application 18/02118/FUL (refused by Planning Committee on 19/02/2019)

RESOLVED that BDC would be contacted to see if the developers could be forced to reinstate the hedge.

211/18-19 **PLANNING**

RESOLVED that the District Council be informed of the comments as set out below for the following applications:

- (i) **Application No:** **19/00246/VAR**
 Location: The Old Brewery, Braintree Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4BU

 Proposal: Application for a variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 17/01927/FUL - modify the position of the workshop and amendment to boundary

NO ADVERSE COMMENTS

- (ii) **Application No:** **19/00302/FUL**
 Location: Land at 22 West Drive, Wethersfield, CM7 4BT
 Proposal: Detached two storey 2 bedroom dwelling

NO ADVERSE COMMENTS

- (iii) **Application No:** **19/00060/TPOCON**
 Location: Memories, High Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4BZ
 Proposal: Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Clearance of self sown Sycamores, 1 Laburnum and Hazel trees

NO ADVERSE COMMENTS

212/18-19 **BEAZLEY END SIGN**

Consideration was given to two options for the proposed sign at Beazley End.

RESOLVED that the money received from funders (Essex County Council CIF and Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund) should be returned with a covering letter explaining why the Parish Council no longer supported the sign.

*Please see additional notes at the end of minutes relating to this.

213/18-19 **SALT BINS IN WETHERSFIELD**

This will be deferred to next month's meeting.

214/18-19 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Consideration was given to renewing the Grounds Maintenance Service Level Agreement with Braintree District Council which is due to expire on 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED that the contract should be renewed for a further 12 months at a cost of £2,540 + VAT.

215/18-19 **GRASS VERGE TRIMMING IN THE PARISH**

Consideration was given to a quotation from CW Low & Son Ltd for grass verge trimming in the parish

RESOLVED that the quotation dated 1st March 2019 for verge trimming at £36 per mile be accepted.

Cllr Daniel left the meeting.

216/18-19 **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	102175	26/02/2019	Wethersfield Community Shop	Reimbursement of the cost of a pre-application meeting held on 6th February 2019 between members of the CROWS committee and Braintree District Council as agreed at the extraordinary meeting held on 17th July 2018	£420.00
2	102176	13/03/2019	Mr E Butcher	Litter picking for February 2019 (extended litter pick to include Beazley End)	£120.00
3	102177	13/02/2019	Mrs A Lucas	Clerk's salary (50½ hrs @ £10.30 per hour)	£520.15
TOTAL					£1,060.15

217/18-19 **ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA**

Raised kerb in West Drive.

The condition of the footpath at the side of the Old Fire Station in Wethersfield.

The footpath running from Nortofts Farm towards Finchingfield.

Councillors are asked to inform the clerk of any items by 3rd April 2019.

218/18-19 **NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**: The next meeting of Wethersfield Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place at Wethersfield Village Hall on Wednesday, 20th March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm. The April meeting will be held on 10th April 2019 at Wethersfield Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

***ADDITIONAL NOTE RELATING TO MINUTE REF: 212/18-19 BEAZLEY END SIGN**

Following an email communication from Cllr Daniel stating that on behalf of a large number of Beazley End parishioners, he thanked the Parish Council for the offer of funding (minute ref: 56/18-19) but indicated that the proposed sign would proceed without the financial assistance of Wethersfield Parish Council and go ahead with private funding. Based on this course of action, he requested that the monies received from the two grantors ie Essex County Council (£2,000) and Stansted Airport (£500), be sent direct to the company he was commissioning to design and make the sign (Village Sign People). For the record it should be noted that the Parish Council only approved the design of the sign **without** reference to Codham (minute ref: 147/18-19). The majority of members of the Parish Council do not believe that Codham as a place or location currently exists and should not appear on a sign.

The payment of the £2,500 direct to Village Sign People caused the Parish Council some concern and it was decided to seek advice from EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils) as it would appear in the accounts as if WPC were funding, and therefore endorsing, the sign. EALC voiced serious concerns regarding the situation in which WPC found itself and suggested two viable options for consideration and resolution at the meeting.

At the meeting a protracted discussion took place which involved Cllrs Barker, Martin, Buchan, Godley, Booth and the Chairman, with all questions and concerns being addressed to Cllr Daniel.

The queries included:

- where is the sign actually going?
- who owns the land?
- has a planning and licence application been made?
- what are the estimated installation costs?
- does the word “Codham” still remain incorporated within the design?
- how many Beazley End parishioners are involved in ownership of the sign?
- are those parishioners aware that the sign was recently voted down by the PC if the word Codham was included?
- are those parishioners involved in the private funding, fully aware that they will be responsible for the ongoing insurance and maintenance costs?
- are those parishioners aware that the sign will not be listed as a parish asset?

Despite all these questions, not one valid answer was forthcoming and it became very clear to those attending the meeting that there was not any verifiable evidence to support private

funding and even more concerning to the PC, no verifiable paper trail to substantiate support for a sign at Beazley End.

The majority of members of the Parish Council therefore considered and agreed that the only option was to return the grants in order that they could be redirected to a named person/ persons by the respective funders.