

# Waltham Parish Council

EST. 1894

Website: <https://waltham-pc.gov.uk>

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2024 at Waltham Village Hall

**In line with the Transparency Code all public documents relating to the meeting are published on the Parish Council website. Please note that the minutes remain in Draft form until approved at the next meeting.**

**Present:** Parish Councillors John Barry (JB) (chair), John Hockley (JH), Jane Robinson (JR) and Yolande Barnes (YB)

**In attendance:** two members of the public and Clerk / RFO Tracey Block

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

JB welcomed all to the meeting

### **24/25.149 To receive any apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mike Bland who had another meeting to attend.

### **24/25.150 To receive Declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests.**

There were no declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to be received.

### **24/25.151 To approve the minutes of Motions and Resolutions of the meeting held on the 2nd of July 2024.**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

### **24/25.152 Public Session:** To receive representations questions and evidence from members of the public.

The 2 members of the public reported that there had been several people visiting a plot of land. There is a plot called the "Badger Plot" and this had caused previous concern about being built on.

There is an exercise as to whether there is a badger on the site. Martin Newcombe, the badger specialist has visited recently and he alerted the residents that "Murston" are interested in developing the plot. The area is being cleared and there is interest in assessing whether there are badgers on site. The area can be cleared by hand tools only of bracken etc. They will assess how active the badgers are at present. The residents had seen young badgers in the spring. There is a holly tree with a TPO on the plot. The residents attended the meeting to alert the PC to the prospect of this plot being developed. There is concern regarding the likelihood of development on the land.

The PC will be alerted should an application is submitted.

### **24/25.153 Chairman's Report:** To receive an update on current issues:

- a) The new Councillor email system is up and running.
- b) The Clerk will send the minutes to PAW News.
- c) A member of the public had noted that the view of the front of the bus shelter is obscured by the Christmas Tree which is a safety concern. JH to ask the VH Committee to prune the tree back. YB noted that she would like to see a restricted speed limit of 20mph in the village. There is a concern that there is no data to support the reduction and the PC will look to lobby Kent Highways Services.
- d) The bonfire was lit as it was too big. The bonfire is to be held on 3/11 at the Recreation Ground.
- e) There was an email regarding a reduction in Community Wardens.
- f) **Capital Grants from CCC** – Last year WPC applied for a grant for road safety, JB decided that we do not require the grant for 2024-25. The PC do not have the bandwidth to spend the capital grant. There was some discussion regarding solar panels on the Village Hall.  
Discussion continued regarding synergy with farmers and PCs, it is difficult as some farm owners do not live locally and are managed by land agents.  
Grant season is open if we wish to apply.
- g) **Highways gates and signs** – The gates and the sign have now been installed at no cost to the Parish Council.
- h) **Invitation from Stelling Minnis Parish Council** – JB will attend the meeting at Stelling Minnis.

- i) **Cllr Vacancy** – there is someone interested in being co-opted, they will attend the next meeting.
- j) **Noticeboard** – JB has looked at the noticeboard and will re-glaze this in the future.
- k) **CCC owned flat** – JB met with Pip Hazelton regarding this property. No progress has been made yet but there are a few complexities regarding the housing of Council tenants. It was agreed that the Parish Council should note that this flat remains empty with Canterbury City Councillors.

**24/25.154 To receive reports:** from County and City Councillors.

Report from Cllr Sole. Cllr Brady reported that he had met with several residents in Anvil Green.

**24/25.155 Planning:** To receive any outstanding planning applications and to approve a response as necessary.

WPC raised no objection to CA/24/00808

WPC objected to the retrospective application CA/24/01471. YB expressed concern about the failure of action in planning enforcement in the area.

There is both a planning application and an enforcement issue in Anvil Green.

The Planning Enforcement issue at Duck Pit remains outstanding. JR to draft a letter to the Planning department at Canterbury City Council from the Parish Council.

**24/25.156 Finance:**

a) To **note** year to date receipts and payments.

The receipts and payments to date were noted.

b) **Payment Schedule:** To approve payment transactions for September 2024.

Payments were approved in line with the payment schedule.

c) **Update** on the position regarding the HMRC penalty charges from 2023-24

The Clerk is following this up regularly with HMRC as the refund has not been received and has been referred to a technician.

d) **Budget preparation** for 2025/26

The Clerk had prepared a draft budget that had been circulated. It was noted that the VHMC have increased their letting costs.

**24/25.157 Concurrent Functions Grant arrival: The grants have been received.**

**Grant applications** from St Bartholomew's Church, WSRA (Playing field) and Village Hall

**The grant from St Batholomew's Church was approved**

**The grant from WVHMC was approved**

**The grant from WSRA was approved**

Payments to be made after the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

**24/25.158 Parish Plan**

To agree the next steps with the Parish Plan.

The pressing issues for parishioners are about planning and development.

YB was looking at the results of the Parish Plan regarding where there is a consensus of responses. A summary document should be produced for further comment/clarification from the parishioners as there may be circumstances that some development would be acceptable. The City Council have offered some assistance. YB suggested that a framework could be provided, she will provide this for the discussion next month.

**24/25.159 Dates of meetings:**

The next **Ordinary Meeting** of the council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday the **5<sup>th</sup> of November 2024**.

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm**

Chairmans signature:

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024