



W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held in the John Lampon Hall on 24th February 2010

Chair	Bob Tyrrell
Parish Councillors Present	Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Bernard Colbron, Andrew Savage, David Short, Peter Sleigh, Chris Stevenson, Harry Stone
Parish Clerk	Val Walsom
Borough Councillors Present:	Dennis Willetts, Jill Tod Gary Walls, Rob Hicks, Sergeant Mike Lee, 1 member of the public

Prior to the meeting the owner of Horsepits made representation about proposed changes to footpath 17 adjacent to Horsepits. A meeting will be arranged with members of the Land and Recreation committee to discuss this further.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from John Gili-Ross and Sue Day.
- 2 **Declaration of Interest** Bernard Colbron declared an interest in the discussion about proposed new cleaning contract in item 11.
- 3 **Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2010 were approved with no amendments.
- 4 **Borough Councillors Report** Councillor Willetts advised that the Council Tax increase for 2010/2011 is 2.47%. Borough Councillors pay is in the final year of a 3 year negotiation.
- 5 **Neighbourhood Policing** Sergeant Mike Lee advised that the PC could receive periodic crime figures, relevant to West Bergholt on request. It was suggested these could be issued quarterly. Of 38 incidents recorded last year 13 warranted police intervention.
Sergeant Lee advised that the recent problem with removal of household refuse from the front of properties before the refuse collection is not a crime. There had been no reports of identity theft resulting from this problem. The police will try to monitor the village during the times likely to be a problem and leaflets about identity theft have been distributed to affected areas.
Police are aware of the graffiti problem and other minor anti-social behaviour. Evidence of drug taking was discussed. 'Bongs' are not considered illegal. However, the drugs used in them are.
It was agreed that appointing a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the village is a priority.
- 6 **Progress Report for information** Future courses:
EALC - Advanced Councillor Training Day - 31/03/10
Annual Parish Meeting - 28th April 2010 - Similar format to last year with refreshments available. The main topic will be The Village Design Statement. County Broadband will also be discussed.
- 7 **Planning and Village Design Matters** Minutes of the Planning and Village Design Matters Committee meeting held on 17th February 2010 were received. There was no further discussion.

- 8 **Parish Plan** The main focus of the Parish Plan Steering Group is currently Broadband. 24 people attended a meeting on 11th February with a representative from County Broadband. The next stage will be to survey as many areas of the village as possible. A meeting is arranged for 25th February 2010 to discuss this further. Sergeant Lee was advised about the survey in case of queries from residents.
A discussion on neighbourhood policing will be a feature in the next Bulletin.
- 9 **Quality Broadband in the village**
- 10 **Land & Recreation Matters** Minutes of the Land and Recreation Committee meeting held on 11th February 2010 were received.
 - A tree on the Lorkin Daniell Field with branches hanging over the garden of a resident in Mumford Close has been inspected by a tree surgeon. It was felt that the resident should pay the bulk of the cost to cut the tree back.
 - Robert Hicks has been employed as a second village handyman to work in conjunction with Gary Walls.
 - The Parish Council will sign up to the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme.
- 11 **Halls Matters** No meeting was held in February but a report was received.
 - It was suggested that any new cleaning company employed would initially be on a 3 or 6 month probationary period.
 - A letter was received from the Fellowship Pentecostal Church about problems with ball games near the hall and the fact that an ambulance was unable to get close to the play area when a child was hurt. This was discussed and a reply will be sent to them.
- 12 **Village Street Scene & Communications Matters** There was no meeting in February.
 - The Village Bulletin, about to be delivered, will be the last issue in black and white.
 - The grant application to CIF has been refused. To introduce 20mph speed limits speed reducing features would need to be installed every 100 metres. A speed survey needs to be conducted in School Lane and New Church Road. Waiting restrictions at the New Church Road/Chapel Road junction will be investigated.
- 13 **BYG** BYG meetings are going very well.
- 14 **Finance and Personnel Advisory Team** The January accounts were presented as follows:
The General Account showed 94% income, 55% general expenditure, 84% environment expenditure and 62% expenditure overall.
The Hall Account showed 88% income and 70% expenditure.
 - The Social Club has paid the quarterly rent up to November 2009. They advised that the next payment will be in March. Utilities etc. are still outstanding but the Social Club will be making this payment as soon as possible. They have advised that payments will be made by Direct Debit from April 2010.
 - The Football Club has new proposals for their clubhouse but more details are needed before discussions can take place.
 - A letter against the changes to the judging panel for the Colchester Parish and Community Initiatives Grant 2009/2010 will be sent to the Chief Executive of Colchester Borough Council. It was felt that Parish Councils would not have fair representation on the panel.
 - An insurance claim for removing the chimney and repairs to the kitchen in the hall is to be pursued.

- AS agreed to prepare the Planning Application for the change of use of the MUGA. HS will let AS have any useful information to support the application.
- A request from Heathlands Primary School for a donation to support 2 teachers visiting Kenya to create links with a school was rejected. It was agreed that a statement for the criteria for making donations should be drawn up.

Expenditure

It was proposed by Andrew Savage and seconded by Chris Stevenson to make the following payments:

Payment Details	Expense Purpose	Amount
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
T & LC Tree and Lawn Co.	Cutting back trees	1426.00
EALC	Structure for Standing Orders	25.00
Zurich	Annual membership	170.38
ECC	Village signs	3168.21
AWA	Water rates-Allotments/Poors	163.21
Harry Stone	Ink Cartridge	9.98
V Walsom	Hostroute renewal	28.00
Inland Revenue	NI	18.89
John Gili-Ross	Expenses	110.65
Christopher H Day & Co	Plaque for bench	176.25
HALL ACCOUNT		
B Colbron	Cooker	353.88
Elanar Technical Services	Boiler repairs	176.49
Caroline Nix	Cleaning	84.00

Salary payments were made to Val Walsom, Gary Walls and Robert Hicks from the General Account and June Mayhew from the Hall Account.

- 14 **Correspondence** Best Kept Village Competition - It was agreed not to enter this year.
- 15 **Considerations of Items for the Next Agenda**
- Criteria for making donations.
 - Organisation of Committees
- 16 **Date of Next Meeting** 24th March 2010

Signed:

Date:

Position on Parish Council: