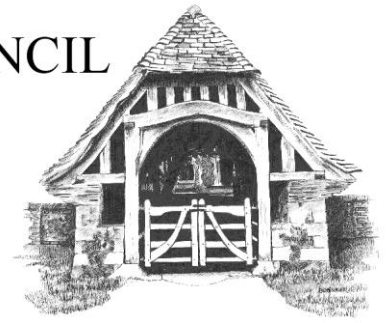


WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL

The Old School, The Street, Shurlock Row, Berkshire RG10 0PR
 Clerk to the Council: Mrs MJ Streater
 Telephone: 07956 217783
 Email: parishclerk@wslpc.uk



Minutes of the Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024

Present: Cllr Kay (Chairman), Cllr Hipgrave, Cllr Williams, Cllr Patel, Cllr Goodchild, Cllr Craig, Cllr Crawley-Boevey, and MJ Streater (Clerk).

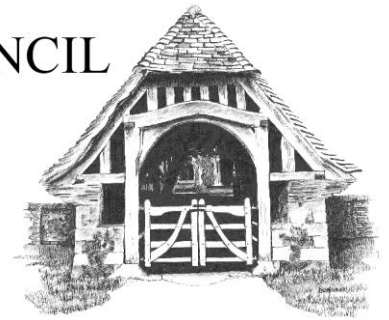
Also present: 8 Members of the Public.

Summonsed to attend: Cllr Kay, Cllr Hipgrave, Cllr Patel, Cllr Goodchild, Cllr Williams, Cllr Craig, Cllr Crawley-Boevey

	Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public.	
FC/152/3/2024	Apologies: Received from Borough Cllr Hunt.	
FC/153/3/2024	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 th February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.	Clerk
FC/154/3/2024	Declaration of Interests: Cllrs Goodchild and Crawley-Boevey declared an interest in Exton House	
FC/155/3/2024	Significant Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes: There were none	
FC/156/3/2024	Planning Applications: Reference 24/00336/CPD Address The Cottage The Straight Mile Shurlock Row Reading RG10 0QN Proposal Certificate of lawfulness to determine whether the proposed detached outbuilding and swimming pool is lawful. Parish Council Comments: Noted. The Parish Council did however comment that it is an area subject to significant flooding. Reference 24/00280/FULL Address Valentines The Straight Mile Shurlock Row Reading RG10 0QN Proposal Outbuilding (Retrospective). Parish Council Comments: Objection as the outbuilding is in front of the building line. There are no apparent very special circumstances.	Clerk Clerk
FC/157/3/2024	Trees in a Conservation Area: There were none.	
FC/158/3/2024	Plans that have arrived in the last couple of days: Reference 24/00503 Address Exton House The Street Shurlock Row Reading RG10 0PR Proposal Part single part two storey side and rear extensions with x1 rear Juliet balcony. Parish Council Comments: No Objection provided it is not considered to be over development.	Clerk
FC/159/3/2024	Other Planning Matters: Old Oak Farm, Pool Lane - Flooding in the area appears to be significant, largely residents of Pool Lane believe due to the amount of hardcore deposited, blocked drains and most recently the arrival of containers and a mobile home. There is no recent evidence of cattle. The Clerk was requested to highlight these points to Enforcement. It was also requested that if Enforcement attend the site, Cllr Craig should be involved	

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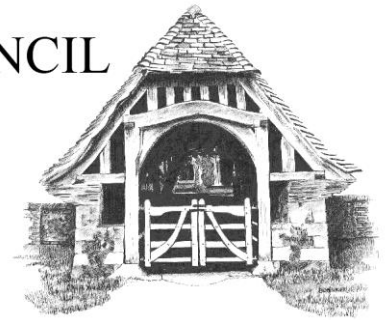
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	<p>Housing Needs Survey will be distributed with the April Lychgate. This to establish affordable housing requirements within the Parish. This had been initiated by Cllr Hunt but with no cost to the Parish.</p> <p>8 Orchard Cottages - Despite efforts made, no solution has been found to retain this property within the affordable housing portfolio. Raising significant funds up front for the potential benefit of only 1 family versus a true Community Asset, did not attract the funding required. It is likely to go on sale on the open market early April. The potential grant providers are disappointed but await the results of the survey referred to above.</p>	
FC/160/3/2024	<p>Enforcement Notices and Appeals:</p> <p>Bellman Hanger - A significant number of Conditions are stipulated in the Inspectors report. A close watch on the site should be maintained once building activity starts.</p> <p>Solar Farm - There has been clearance of vegetation at the end of the Chicken Farm track (anticipated that this is in preparation for the access road). Due to the late-stage introduction of this access road, close attention should be paid by all to developments.</p> <p>The Oaks - The new access is currently blocked but still there. There does not appear to be any usage of it as an entrance.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
FC/161/3/2024	<p>Finance:</p> <p>Two ANB invoices for dog bin collection were added to the schedule (as per contract), as was the invoice to cover purchase of litter picking equipment approved at the February meeting. Total £1,338.23 was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. (Clerk Salary, Dog Bin Collections and Litter picking equipment).</p> <p>The Clerk advised the Council that HMRC were checking back on Parish Council data to ensure compliance. The services of the payroll facilitator (MyFiscal) have been engaged to ensure transparency.</p>	Clerk
FC/162/3/2024	<p>Reports from Representatives:</p> <p>Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purely for interest, but maybe of more interest to Parishioners and the CEO of RBWM, who asked the question, than the functioning Parish Councillors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first Parish Council Meeting was held on 8th December 1894. There was no mention of a Clerk to the Council, but there were 6 Councillors, 1 fewer than our 7 today. • Suggestions for speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting had been requested and were discussed. It was agreed that in addition to The Parish Council, WSL Charities, WSL Primary School and the Neville Hall Management Team, the following local representatives would be invited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speedwatch - Building awareness. ○ Preservation Society - How can the Parishioners help to preserve our villages. ○ Ditches and Drains - What can the Parish do to minimise the flooding we have all had to endure. ○ Working Groups – How can we engage people to keep our Parish looking the way it should. ○ The Lychgate – over 1 year in, what do we want from our local magazine? • Electric Charging Points in the Village - The Clerk to pass the request received to the Neville Hall Management Team for consideration. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Clerk Clerk</p>

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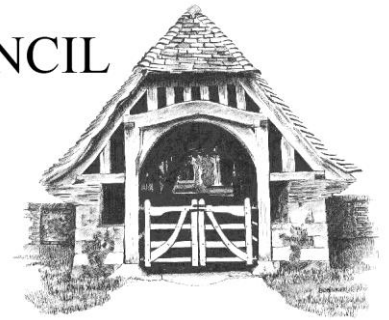
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to Halls Lane - Clerk to contact Church Farm to stress the inappropriateness of Halls Lane for HGV's and ask this to be passed to their contractors. (Clerk to also include this in the Weight Restriction Project) • Clerk stressed the need for Working Groups to have the Risk Assessment highlighted to them. <p>RBWM Borough Councillors: Nothing reported</p> <p>Allotments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New contracts will be circulated after 1 April 2024. Having sheds on allotments has been raised, no objection to the principle of having sheds, but there may need to be a deposit required (Only refundable if the shed is removed). Will be considered for incorporation into the new allotment terms and conditions at the next Annual Parish Council meeting in May. <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose to run an article on Ditches and Flooding in the Lych Gate and other media. Also to include working groups, litter picking and the housing needs survey. <p>Burial Ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to supply to Cllr Patel the burial ground map showing reservations <p>Memorial Garden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braywick to investigate whether they can manage this area. The rose garden, in particular, is a very sensitive area. All are aware of this. May have to consider replacement of current rose bushes. To be considered together with hedge replacement (date TBC). <p>Bridleways and Footpaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mire Lane moss clearance to be looked at. East Berks Ramblers report back on state of footpaths to RBWM. Cllr Crawley-Boevey has asked for them to report back to her as well. <p>Defibrillators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new defibrillator for West End has been sourced with a grant. Requires fitting within 4 weeks. An awareness session is being considered. <p>Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding in Darvills Lane appears to be due to a collapsed culvert. There have been several makeshift repairs down Hungerford Lane. All residents should be requested to report issues about ditches or flooding or highways via the RBWM 'Report It' system. This generates a case number which can then be chased or followed up with Sarah Plowman @RBWM. For example: <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1608 1332 1675"> <tr> <td>Type of Issue Flooding Broadmoor Road</td> <td>Case Number 24677- 458670</td> <td>Reported by Cllr Patel</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">www.rbwm.gov.uk/report-it</p> <p>Drains/Ditches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main drainage system in the village is extremely old and has had very little maintenance. Some drains run along the side of roads and some are on private land. Clearing the ditches and drains alongside roads is a complex business requiring road closures and removal of silt to a nominated site. A map has been requested of where the culverts are. It has been noted that the main drain in Pool Lane has been blocked in (illegally). • A quote was reviewed for clearance of blockages in the main drain showing a substantial cost (unaffordable). Although the Environment Agency are technically responsible for some of the stretches, they have not historically responded. 	Type of Issue Flooding Broadmoor Road	Case Number 24677- 458670	Reported by Cllr Patel	<p>Cllr Crawley-Boevey</p> <p>Clerk Cllr Goodchild Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Patel/Cllr Goodchild</p> <p>Cllr Crawley-Boevey Cllr Hipgrave</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>Landowners next to the highway are responsible for drains and ditches running parallel to their land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shottesbrooke appear to have cleared their ditches. Cllr Craig to discuss with them how this has been achieved. A member of the public offered to have a look at an alternative solution and to pass information to Cllr Craig. • Ditches within Shurlock Row etc all feed into the Main Drains. • The Chairman suggested that if the expensive solution is the only way, we may have to approach RBWM regarding the permit charges included in quotes received relating to road closures. Rather than accept flooding of the Parish there may be a need, to consider an increase in the Precept to cover the works required. • The importance of educating people as to their responsibilities should not be underestimated. Further copies of leaflets to be obtained and used in an article in the Lychgate. • This is an ongoing major project which requires further investigation. <p>Speedwatch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sites applied for. Cllr Patel still investigating an ANPR camera. To be incorporated in CIL discussions. <p>Parish Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braywick Contract approved and signed. <p>CIL Monies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of a replacement projector was approved (ideally wireless to be used by any user) <p>Working Groups and Litter Picking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two groups are already fully active, one in West End and one in Shurlock Row. Groups have been identified in key areas in the villages. They will be supplied with the risk assessment, and equipment if they require. Bags are to be supplied by RBWM and picked up at a central collection point (the allotments). Many people have offered space in their bins. This facility should be used as much as possible. Cllr Crawley-Boevey is co-ordinating this. <p>Nature Reserve: No further update</p> <p>Other: All to feedback to Cllr Goodchild or the Chairman for the Clerk's appraisal</p>	<p>Cllr Patel Cllr Hipgrave/Cllr Goodchild</p> <p>Cllr Crawley- Boevey</p> <p>All</p>
FC/163/3/2024	Reports from Representatives who attended meetings representing the Parish Council: Clerk's Forum: nothing additional to report.	
FC/164/3/2024	Correspondence: None	
	AOB: None	
	Date of Next Site Visits: 9am Saturday 6 th April 2024 Neville Hall	
FC/165/3/2024	Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 9 th April 2024 Neville Hall.	
	Date of Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 for 7pm Tuesday 23 rd April 2024 Neville Hall	
	The meeting closed at 8.30pm	