

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Highways & Public Transport
24th August 2009, 20.00h**

Present Councillors:	N D Clements	(Chairman)
	K. Stammers	
	G. Clark	
	I Begg	arrival 8.07 item 495-09a
	A Brewster	arrival 8.07 item 495-09a (Vice Chairman)
	D. Hills	arrival 8.09 item 495-09a
	Irene Casper	Assistant Clerk
	Press	0
	Public	0

492-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS - None

493-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

494-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 were approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

495-09 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A) CONTRACT

Two companies had tendered for the contract to install the Christmas Lights.

After discussion Cllr. Stammers proposed, "the Committee accepts the estimate from Peckfords of £3,750 + vat", seconded Cllr. Begg.

Vote: in favour 4 SO RESOLVED.

Resolved Clerk to accept the estimate from Peckfords of £3,750 + vat to carry out the festive lighting installation.

B) PEA LIGHT REMOVAL MILL RACE

The Chairman had met with contractors from Lamps and Tubes lighting company who had tested the lengths of lights in the trees at the Mill Race today. There are 4 lengths of lights and 3½ units are working. To purchase new LED lights from Lamps and Tubes each length would cost £88

A quotation of £250 has been received to remove the lights. £250 to have them re-installed.

Members discussed whether it was more cost effective to have the lights cut out of the trees when they were trimmed back and purchase new ones, incurring only the cost of installation, or salvage the existing lighting.

The Chairman had discussed the situation with an officer from the Environment Agency and, although the lights are not wired up to a power source, Environment Agency contractors will not cut the trees back with the lights still in situ.

Cllr. Begg recommended, that although the trees are not owned by the Parish Council, the Council does have an interest in the village environment and should communicate with the Environment Agency regarding the height to which the trees are cut back. The Council would like to be able to reinstall the lights at Mill Race for Christmas.

Members agreed:

1. To have the lights taken out. Peckfords to be asked for a quotation.
2. To have the lights tested after removal for possible reinstallation.
3. Keep communicating with the Environment Agency.

- Resolved: 1. Clerk to contact Peckfords to finalise festive lighting quotation and to ask for a quotation to remove and test the pea lights at the Mill Race.**
- 2. Clerk to communicate with the Environment Agency regarding the time scale of the removal of the lights; the cutting back of the trees; the height of the trees; the reinstallation of the lighting for Christmas.**

C) CHRISTMAS TREE – ORDER AND PURCHASE

Cllr. Stammers proposed, "We order two 20' Christmas Trees from Littlefield Farm at the same cost as last year (£440)", seconded Cllr. Begg.

Cllr. Brewster informed members, there is a possibility of having two trees donated from a local landowner.

Cllr. Begg added an amendment to the proposal, "Two trees are purchased from Littlefield Farm, at the same cost as last year, conditional on Cllr. Brewster reporting back on the outcome of her approach to a local landowner". Vote 4 For SO RESOLVED.

- Resolved: That if two Christmas trees are not donated to the Parish Council by a local landowner the Clerk to order two trees from Littlefield Farm.**

D) SWITCH ON

Members agreed Wednesday 25th November to be the date of the Christmas Lights switch on, subject to all interested parties being available on that night.

Final decision to be taken at the Parish Council meeting on 27th August.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to contact:

MacIntyre Homes

The Roundtable

WEB

Peckfords re 'universal switch on time'

and report back to Parish Council meeting on 27th August.

496-09 LITTER BIN REQUEST

a) Folly Fields – To date no response has been received from Folly Residents Association. No action to be taken at the moment.

b) Mill Quay – Cllr. Begg proposed, "the committee accepts Cllr. Burgess's offer to reinstall the concrete bin the Council already owns", seconded Cllr. Brewster. Vote 3 For 2 against. SO RESOLVED.

Resolved The Clerk to accept Cllr. Burgess's offer to re-install the concrete bin at the Mill Quay.

497-09 FLOODING

A) Ash Grove – Cllr. Clements updated members on the situation. Hertfordshire Highways engineers have discovered the problem; a pipe that was damaged when new houses were built was repaired by inserting a plastic sleeve inside the pipe, thus inadvertently cutting the water flow by 50%. This is being rectified under the supervision of the Design Team from Hertfordshire Highways.

B) The Slype – Cllr. Clements informed members that the soakaways were jetted on 10th August.

498-09 ROADMARKING

A) Meads Lane (far end) – A site meeting had taken place with Cllr. Clements, the Clerk and Highways Engineers. It is proposed that two white lines are installed with the wording 'Keep Clear' in the middle. AGREED

B) Mount Road – Complaints are being received that the bridle way end to this road is being blocked by parked cars. A solution, proposed after consultation with highway engineers, is to remove one parking space by putting double yellow lines around the area not to be used. The committee wish to support visitors/workers in the village by keeping as many parking spaces as possible. Members RESOLVED to leave the matter in the hands of Hertfordshire County Council staff.

- C) King Edward Place** – Cllr. Clements informed members that the contract has been placed to install yellow lines and bollards on the bell mouth of this road, mirroring the lining and bollards in situ on the Brewhouse Gallery side of the road, the work to be undertaken before December. The tarmac, which is a temporary surface, will be replaced by York Stone.
- D) Marford Road** – PCSO Jo Merritt relayed a message from some allotment holders that they are concerned about vehicles parking on the grass verges on Marford Road and impeding sight lines as they exit from the allotment field. Members agreed that the Assistant Clerk forward the email to Hertfordshire Highways and inform PCSO Merritt of this action.

- Resolved:**
- 1 The Clerk request Hertfordshire Highways to install white lines with the wording 'Keep Clear' at the end of Meads Lane.**
 - 2 The Assistant Clerk to forward the email received from PCSO Jo Merritt to Hertfordshire Highways and inform PCSO Merritt of this action.**

499-09 SALT / GRIT BIN REPORT

Cllr. Clements informed members that the majority of the bins are in good condition. One has to be replaced. One has been stolen. The bin at Leasey Bridge has been re-sited. Two new bins have been ordered. One for the churchyard; one for Amwell. Sites have been agreed with Hertfordshire Highways engineers. The bin in the churchyard is the smallest size and will be installed on gravel.

500-09 YORK STONE

A) High Street – See item 498-09 (C)

B) East Lane – The York Stone at the High Street end of East Lane is being damaged by large vehicles entering/exiting the road and becoming a trip hazard. Members agreed the best solution is to replace the stone with a bound material, the area to be a different colour to the 'road surface' to signify a pedestrian area.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Hertfordshire Highways that the Parish Council would like the York Stone to be removed and replaced with a bound surface, a different colour to the road surface

501-09 STATION ROAD ROUNDABOUT – Cllr. Clements informed members that the realignment of the kerb at the Lamer Lane/Cory Wright Way area of this road would make the area much safer for pedestrians. At the moment there is no funding for this work.

502-09 MILL WALK BRIDGE

To date the bridge has not been resurfaced.

A test patch – a resin bonded with anti skid surface – has been put in place. It is to be examined to see if the resin will bind with the wood, which is in a poor condition.

Resolved: To Assess the situation in one month.

503-09 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS**Items addressed:**

Item T12 - Topic raised with Hertfordshire Highways.

Item T16 – Butterfield Road – Every planning application that comes up for this site, a 20mph zone is requested.

Pot Holes – Pot holes on Butterfield Road. These will now be better filled as there is no imminent building taking place at the moment.

Nuisance Parking – addressed

Kind Edward Place – resolved

Items 32 & 33 – addressed tonight

504-09 STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT - Cllr. Clements reported that street lamps are on schedule to be replaced at Station Road roundabout and the roundabout nearest the Nelson PH.

505-09 BUS SHELTER CLEANING

Cllr. Clements has inspected the bus shelters after the cleaning 'trial'. The shelters in the village centre are mostly done well. Some of the shelters on the outer edges of the village disappointing.

The committee agreed to pay for the cleaning and the firm to be given an order for two more months cleaning.

Resolved: The Clerk pays the invoice for the bus shelter cleaning in August; gives the firm the feedback from Cllr. Clements; gives the firm an order for bus shelter cleaning in September/October.

506-09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd November 2009

The Chairman reminded members that this would be the Budget Meeting and to bring proposals on what this committee would like to achieve to the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.43pm

Dated this day of 2009

Chairman