

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Village Plan Committee
13 October 2009, 19.30h**

Present Councillors:	I Begg J Burgess	Chairman
	R Brett D Johnston	WEB WEB
	Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
	Press	0
	Public	0

598-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A Brewster, Clements and A Waterfield (personal reasons) and from Julie Bell. The meeting was not quorate.

599-09 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

600-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Begg declared a personal and prejudicial interest (as owner of an empty retail unit) in minute 605-09 and took no part in the discussions surrounding the Rural Vision findings about planning policies regarding empty shops in the village.

601-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 were approved.

Resolved: To recommend confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

602-09 MARKETING & UPDATE - DISTRIBUTION OF PLAN

The Village Plan, since its approval by Council and official launch at the Annual Parish Meeting in April, had been available electronically on the Village website www.wheathampstead.net and more recently on the Parish Council website www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk. Hard copies had been distributed to individuals as identified by the committee and were available for purchase. A number of additional recipients were identified

Resolved Clerk to distribute copies of Village Plan as discussed.

603-09 MARKETING & UPDATE – TREASURE HUNT

It was noted that this had been a most successful event enjoyed by participants. Thanks were given to committee members and friends for organising and running the event and to T Potts for providing cakes at cost price. Disappointment in the turnout particularly of councillors was voiced. It was agreed that overall the treasure hunt had achieved its objective of publicising the Village Plan in a fun and accessible way and should be repeated at a similar time in 2010 and possibly annually. The winners of this year's treasure hunt would be invited to assist in constructing the next treasure hunt.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To thank those involved in organisation**
- 3 To recommend repetition of the treasure hunt in 2010 and possibly annually encouraging greater community participation**

604-09 MARKETING & UPDATE- COMMITTEE STATUS UPDATES

It was reported that Mr Brett had compiled the committee responses updating the Village Plan for the treasure hunt, some of which had been limited or absent. Members agreed that a more permanent accessible record be created for the website and display on the council notice board in the bus shelter in the High Street. Mr Brett would write a short article for the Pump newsletter.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To provide public updates via notice board, website and Pump.**

605-09 MARKETING & UPDATE – LINK TO ST ALBANS RURAL VISION

Members discussed the Rural Vision which St Albans District Council had commissioned Urban Practitioners to produce. This was to form part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. Members had worked with the Urban Practitioners during the consultation phases facilitating two drop in sessions in April 2009. A number of observations were made of the report to be fed into the imminent briefing session with SADC and Urban Practitioners. Some of the findings of the consultations added value to the Village Plan and would be incorporated into its evolution. Members were keen that SADC enable the inclusion of a future Village Design Statement as well as the Village Plan into the planning process as supplementary planning documentation.

