

Wheathampstead Parish Council Highways & Public Transport 3rd November 2009, 20.00h

Present	Councillors:	N D Clements	Chairman
		G. Clark	
		D Hills	Vice Chairman
		A Brewster	
		K stammers	
		I Begg	arrival 8.10 item 647 arrival 8.58 item 650
		Irene Casper	Assistant Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

643-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS - None

644-09 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

645-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

646-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2009 were approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2009 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

647-09 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A) Pea Lights

To date the trees have not been cut back. The Environment Agency has done a slight trim and contractors are expected in early November to cut back as requested.

Members discussed the situation, and what action to take if the trees were not cut back as promised.

Cllr. Stammers proposed, 'If the Environment Agency cannot cut the trees back in time the Parish Council do not put lights up this year, seconded Cllr. Hills. Vote For 3 Against 1 Abstentions 1. So Resolved.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the officer at the Environment Agency for a firm date for when the trees will be cut back. If the trees are not cut back the lights will not be re-installed this year.

B) SWITCH ON

The evening will start at 5pm with attractions in the High Street. The Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6pm. The lights to be lit from 4pm – midnight.

A small events licence has been applied for.

The Environment Agency consent form has been completed and returned.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Peckfords and inform them of the switch on time and the timing of the lights (4pm – midnight)

648-09 MILL WALK BRIDGE – comments on test surface

A patch of test surface material has been put down and Hertfordshire Highways Engineers are waiting for comments. Members discussed the test material and agreed it was excellent. Hertfordshire Highways to be contacted and informed that the committee is happy with the trial surface.

Some of the timbers on the bridge have a very poor surface and councillors were concerned that putting a new surface on damaged/worn wood would negate the effects of the material. Councillor Clements informed members that the wood was constructed from very heavy timber and it was only surface damage. The resin would sink down into the good wood and bond tightly. Councillors Clements and Hills are to have a site visit to inspect the bridge surface and report back to members.

Councillor Stammers proposed, 'that the Clerk contacts the Environment Agency and informs them that the Council expects the bridge to be uniform with no slip/trip risks', seconded Councillor Hills. Agreed.

Resolved:

- 1. Hertfordshire Highways to be informed that the Committee is very happy with the test surface. Action Clerk.**
- 2. Cllrs. Clements and Hills to inspect bridge surface and report back.**
- 3. Environment Agency to be informed that the bridge surface should be uniform with no slip/trips risks. Action Clerk**

649-09 BUS SHELTER CLEANING

All bus shelters are now being cleaned. Previously only the bus shelters in the centre of the village were cleaned. Councillor Clements had inspected the shelters and recommended to members that the cleaning firm are given the cleaning contract to the end of the financial year. The cost is £100 per month

Councillor Clements informed members that the bus shelter on Marford Road (by the allotments) had been vandalised and is being repaired.

Resolved **The contractor who cleans the bus shelters is given a contract to clean all the shelters at a cost of £100 per month to the end of the financial year, (March 2010).**

650-09 H.C.C. - update

The bollard outside the Brewhouse Gallery in the High Street has been knocked over again. The bollard is being put back in situ today.

Councillor Clements referred to a Hertfordshire Highways booklet. (Copy in office)

Street Lighting – 60% of the street lights in Hertfordshire are over 40 years old and do not meet British or European Standards.

Four lampposts are being replaced at the Station Road roundabout. They are on order and should be in place by spring 2010.

Members were concerned that light spillage would intrude on the houses at Garden Court. Councillor Clements informed members that new modern lighting columns meet all standards on light spillage and should cause no problem.

Butterfield Road has been resurfaced.

Councillor Clements updated members on CCTV matters.

The installation of a Keep Clear sign at the end of Meads Lane would have to be installed at Parish Council expense.

Approach to King Edward Place – on the north side there is an area of tarmac, a change of surface is being considered; it would not be York Stone but bonded gravel. Consideration is being given to changing the York Stone surface at the start of East Lane (by The Bull) to a similar surface.

651-09 PARISH COUNCIL – Actions from Parish Council Meeting

This item covered in item 647-09

652-09 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS

Pot Holes – work in Butterfield Road completed.

2 new grit bins ordered to arrive imminently. All grit bins to be refilled early November.

653-09 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2010-2011

Members resolved the budget for 2010-2011 = £26,500.00

See separate sheet.

Members agreed the need to explore where funding/grants could be sourced to pay for new bus shelters i.e. SADC.

Members to be informed of the Christmas Lights repair costs paid to the previous contractor.

