

Wheathampstead Parish Council

26 November 2009, 19.30h

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Present Councillors: | I Begg | |
| | A Brewster | |
| | J Burgess | |
| | N Clements | |
| | D Hills | |
| | N Page | |
| | T Reason | |
| | K Stammers | |
| | J Turner | |
| | S Walford | |
| | A Waterfield | |
| | A Robertson | SADC |
| | J Warren | Clerk to the Council |
| | Press | 0 |
| | Public | 5 |

The members of the public and Andrew Robertson, Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services at St Albans District Council were welcomed to the meeting. Councillor Turner then advised members that the Clerk, whose honours degree in Local Policy had been conferred the previous week, had at that point also received the Aon Insurance Prize for the best performing degree level student. All congratulated the Clerk upon her award

687-09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Clark (personal reasons).

688-09 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Lucy Smith, photographer for the Wheathampstead Cricket Club spoke about the club's need to fundraise in order to finance extensive repairs and renewal to the cricket table. She asked that the Council support the Club by purchasing copies of a 2010 cricket calendar and in any other means it felt able. The details to purchase this splendid photographic calendar had been included in the winter Pump. She was also advised to contact WEB

689-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

690-09 RECYCLING BINS

Mr Robertson thanked the Parish Council for its support for the recycling initiative, a provision at the Memorial Hall since 1994

preceding any form of doorstep collection service and one of the first nationally. He acknowledged the growth of the facility from paper to include glass, plastics and tetrapacks.

He confirmed that kerbside recycling should be available to all Wheathampstead households within the next few months and residents without access should contact the District Council. Static banks had served a huge need and whilst the peak demand was past, in his opinion they still served a community need.

Confirmation that contractors should not start work before 07.00hours was given, if, as had been reported, the facilities were emptied earlier residents were encouraged to report the specifics to the District Council.

The number and mix of recycling bins was discussed, as was the location of alternative nearby facilities. Consideration was given to reducing the number of bins, removing all and of changing their location. The potential problems of flytipping following bin removal was also discussed. It was agreed that notice of intention to remove the facility be posted nearby together with a list of alternative recycling venues. Mr Robertson agreed that if initial problems were experienced with flytipping of recyclable waste the District Council would assist with its removal. This would not include eg mattresses.

- Resolved:**
- 1 That the Clerk advise St Albans District Council that with effect from 1 February 2010 the Parish council withdrew its permission for the location of recycling facilities at the Memorial Hall**
 - 2 That in the period to 31 January 2010 the recycling bins be relocated to their previous site adjacent to the wooden Drama hut, the first bins being for glass recyclables**
 - 3 That notices advising this decision be placed nearby the recycling facilities**
 - 4 That a list of alternative nearby recycling facilities be posted nearby**

691-09 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The Minutes of the meetings held on 29 October 2009 were approved

- Resolved:** **To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 29 October 2009 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

692-09 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following committee reports were received and receipted:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Highways & Public Transport Committee | 3 November 2009 |
| Pump Committee | 10 November 2009 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Planning Committee | 17 November 2009 |
| Rights of Way & Commons Committee | 17 November 2009 |

In receiving the draft minutes of the Rights of Way and Commons Committee of 17 November Members considered the need to establish a working relationship with a Land Agent. The need for a working group to take forward the wayleave matters relating to Nomansland was agreed. Councillors Begg, Brewster and Page were appointed to the working group.

The minutes containing budget items were receipted with the exception of the budget matters which would be taken to the Finance Committee for consideration on 231 January 2010.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To receipt the Minutes excluding 2010-11 budget items which would be taken to Finance Committee on 21 January 2010**
Highways & Public Transport Committee 3 November 2009
Pump Committee 10 November 2009
Planning Committee 17 November 2009
Rights of Way & Commons Committee 17 November 2009
 - 2 To set up a working group to consider the wayleave request on Nomansland consisting Councillors Begg, Brewster and Page**
 - 3 To investigate local land agents with whom a working relationship might be established**

693-09 DEVIL'S DYKE PROJECT UPDATE

The Devil's Dyke Project Management Plan, agreed and submitted through the CMS to English Heritage for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, had been discussed at the Rights of Way & Commons Committee on 17 November with particular reference to access. The Committee resolved to recommend that Council consider writing to Hertfordshire Highways requesting that they install a footway adjacent to the roadside in Dyke Lane (Minute 671-09). Council agreed that this was a matter for the Highways and Public Transport Committee.

- Resolved:** **To refer the request to install a footway along Dyke Lane to the Highways and Public Transport Committee.**

694-09 VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE – FORMER RAILWAY STATION

Following a site visit by a group of volunteers to the former railway station, as agreed at Minute 574-09, initial vegetation clearance had revealed much of the former platform remained. Further work was enthusiastically undertaken on 12 November by 5 volunteer sailors from HMS St Albans, ably assisted and supervised by 3 Countryside Management Service volunteers who transformed the area. Members were asked to consider setting up a formal project working group to build on this successful partnership working between WPC, Royal Navy (facilitated through SADC), CMS and local volunteers. The aim would be to improve this heritage site and bring vibrancy to the Village. The Rights of Way & Commons Committee on 17 November had agreed in principal to fund the purchase of materials to provide access to the station platform (Minute 683-09).

It was agreed that following the Clerk's confirmation of land ownership of the site this restoration project be managed through a working group which would report to the Rights of Way and Commons Committee from which some budget provision would be made in 2010-11. External funding opportunities would also be sought. Councillor representation on the working group would include Councillors Brewster, Burgess and Reason; additional members from the community, had already come forward and were welcomed.

- Resolved**
- 1 To thank volunteers who had initiated this project**
 - 2 Clerk to establish ownership of former railway station site**
 - 3 To set up a Station Working Group, reporting to the Rights of Way & Commons Committee**
 - 4 That membership of the Station Working Group be open to volunteers from the local community and include Councillors Brewster, Burgess and Reason**

695-09 WORKING GROUPS

Members agreed to set up a number of working groups.

- Resolved**
- 1 To set up the Station Working Group as at Minute 694-09**
 - 2 To set up 3 working groups reporting to the Village Day Committee: Saturday events, field, parade**
 - 3 That councillor representation on working groups include
Saturday events - Cllrs Begg, Burgess, Reason & Waterfield
Field – Cllrs Brewster, Burgess, Clements, Reason, Walford & Waterfield
Parade – Cllrs Brewster & Waterfield**
 - 4 That the Village Day Committee encourage public participation in the working groups
To set up a Heritage Trail Working Group including Cllrs Brewster, Burgess, Page, Reason & Waterfield.**

696-09 EMERGENCY WORK TO MEMORIAL HALL HEATING

It was reported that over the last few months continued problems had been experienced with the main boiler servicing the Hall and the central heating boiler servicing the Hewitt Room and kitchen. The broken pump for the Hewitt Room boiler had been replaced and when pressure continued to drop daily and no 'above ground' leak detectable liquid pipe sealant was added. Work to date had been paid through the Memorial Hall maintenance budget.

However, this had not resolved the problem. The burst pipes were buried, unclad, beneath a concrete floor so not readily accessible. Concrete was acknowledged to react chemically with copper pipe so further deterioration was likely in time. The solution agreed between Clerk, and chairman and vice-chairman of Memorial Hall Committee, at a cost of £770, was to bypass the old pipes and install surface mounted new copper piping as soon as practicable to maintain hirer commitments.

The problems for the main boiler awaited advice from the plumber.

Resolved: To refer this item to the Memorial Hall Committee

697-09 BANKING

At its June Meeting, Minute 380-09, Council had discussed potentially changing banking arrangements, including to benefit local traders. Members agreed to bank through the local Post Office using a business account provided by the Co-operative bank. Advantages of using the Co-op included footfall through the High Street Post Office, easier access to banking facilities, free banking and a more straightforward means of amending councillor signatory details.

Members further agreed to retain the current banking provision with limited funds to forestall potential problems with direct payments and credits etc.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To open a Co-operative bank account as the main banking facility**
 - 2 To retain the present current account for the immediate future**

698-09 USE OF FORGE

At its September meeting, Minute 566-09, Members had considered WEB's request to use Council facilities for storage of various items and considered no location appropriate. WEB had subsequently liaised with Wheathampstead Scouts who leased part of the Forge from WPC. The Scouts had stated that they had no objection to WEB using storage space in the Forge. Councillors agreed that an informal arrangement between Scouts and WEB would be acceptable, subject to all parties acknowledging that the Forge was subject to dampness and flooding, flammable items should not be stored on the premises and use of the facility was at own risk.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To note the informal arrangement between the Scouts and WEB.**
 - 2 That the Clerk advise WEB that the Forge was liable to dampness and use was at own risk**
 - 3 That flammable items should not be stored in the Forge**

699-09 RAINBOW HOUSE NURSERY

Members considered a request from the Rainbow House Nursery for permission to prune trees and alter the premises. They noted that Rainbow House would be responsible for confirming acceptability of building changes with WPC and approval for tree pruning with the Rights of Way Committee Chairman and Vice chairman. Subject to these in principal WPC had no objection, however members sought more information in order to base a decision.

- Resolved:**
- 1 Clerk to write to advise that whilst in principal the Parish Council had no objection but that further information was required for consideration by an independent builder. This would include full details of the proposals, evidence of building regulations and planning permission**
 - 2 Chairman and Vice Chairman of Rights of Way Committee to be consulted with prior to tree pruning**

700-09 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Members agreed that the Parish Council Office be closed to the Public from 24 December 2009 to 3 January 2010 inclusive. Provision would be made for the hall hire bookings on 2 January.

Resolved: That the Parish Council Office be closed to the Public from 24 December 2009 to 3 January 2010 inclusive

701-09 AUDIT

The audited accounts 2008-9 and Auditor's report had been circulated and the comments within digested. The Chairman impressed upon the Council, and members acknowledged their corporate responsibility, in particular for the need to ensure that decisions were based on fully documented information, and that the legal power had been identified. The sources of information for local councils such as NALC were discussed.

Resolved: To accept and approve the audited accounts and Auditor's report for 2008-9.

702-09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of accounts for payment amounting to £25,732.37 had been circulated.

Resolved: To pay the accounts per November 2009 schedule amounting to £25,732.37 Nett

703-09 PLANNING

Plan 5/09/2147, Wheathampstead Education Centre, Butterfield Road, application for reserved matters following outlined permission 5/05/2284 for 67 new residential units and garages with associated parking, internal roads and amenity landscaping (resubmitted after refusal of 5/09/0182) had been received the day of the Council meeting. Members agreed to consider the planning application on 3 December at a specially convened Planning Committee.

Resolved: To defer consideration of plan 5/09/2147 until 3 December 2009

704-09 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Clements reported on a highways meeting at Trident House, Standards Committee Training at Hertsmere DC, preparation for the Parish Conference and the consultation presentation for the East of England Plan.

Councillor Brewster reported on the Transport Conference and the Heartwood Forest meeting including the tree planting event scheduled for the following weekend.

Resolved: To note the reports.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.55hr.

Dated this day of 2010

Chairman