

Wheathampstead Parish Council Playing Fields & Youth Committee 2 December 2009, 20.00h

Present Councillors:	A Brewster	Chairman
	I Begg	
	Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
	Press	0
	Public	0

705-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors K Stammers and A Waterfield (personal reasons).

With just two councillors present the meeting was inquorate but the decision taken to discuss agenda items and take recommendations forward for later resolution.

706-09 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

707-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

708-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 were recommended for approval.

Recommendation: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 and for these to be signed by the Chairman

709-09 WHEATHAMPSTEAD CRICKET CLUB

The Chairman reported on her discussions with the Wheathampstead Cricket Club in support of their funding search to replace the cricket square. She had also met with Mr Dredge of the Herts Association of Cricket Groundsmen and CVS St Albans to consider funding avenues. The Parish Council did not currently have a grant budget but this would be recommended by the meeting for the next budget round.

Recommendation: To consider a grant budget to which the Cricket Club might in future apply within

the 2010-11 WPC budget.**710-09 WHEATHAMPSTEAD WANDERERS FOOTBALL**

Members wished to support the Wheathampstead Wanderers in their funding search. The progress on the partial refurbishment of the Marford changing pavilion by the Wheathampstead Wanderers and WPC was noted and the work of the team appreciated. The chairman continued to assist the Footballers in searching for Football Foundation support, noting their comments about desire for improved facilities at both Marford Road and Butterfield Road sites. It was further reported that the rabbit issue at both Marford and Butterfield Road was being addressed, further advice to be sought from SADC regarding discouraging rabbit burrowing.

Members acknowledged the concerns raised about dog fouling on pitches and agreed to recommend that signage advising owners to be responsible and clear up after their pets, and noting the health risks particularly for children using the playing fields. Recommendation would also be given to install a doggy bag dispenser on the footpath adjacent to the pavilion. The football club would be asked to keep it replenished, and the Clerk to source bags from SADC if possible

- Recommendation:**
- 1 To support the Wheathampstead Wanderers in their grant search**
 - 2 To install doggy bag dispensers and signage nearby the football pavilion**
 - 3 To confirm the siting of dog bins at the Butterfield Road pitch and**
 - 4 consider the need for additional bins**
- To investigate rabbit limitation**

711-09 PLAY IN THE PARK – FEBRUARY 2010

A request had been received to use the Memorial Hall for an afternoon in February 2010 half term for children's free activities. Members agreed to recommend that the Playing Field and Youth Committee's budget supports this venture by providing the venue

- Recommendation:**
- To make available through the Playing Fields and Youth Committee use of the Memorial Hall**

712-09 YOUTH CONNEXIONS

Youth Connexions had requested use of the Memorial Hall for a week's Easter 2010 course, working around bookings already diarised. Members recommended that these activities be supported through the Playing Field and Youth Committee's budget. The Thursday evening Youth Connexion events in the Memorial Hall will commence in 2010 working around diarised bookings.

Recommendation:

- 1 To support the Easter 2010 course**
- 2 To liaise with Youth Connexions about Thursday evening bookings**

713-09 PLAY AREA UPDATE

All play areas were discussed and the RoSPA report acknowledged. Specifically it was reported that:

Folly Fields

The new play equipment was very successful, well used and enjoyed by the community.

With regard to football, car sharing by players and supporters appeared to have alleviated earlier parking issues, the chairman continued to liaise with the residents' group.

The request to use the pitches from Kimpton Rovers was considered. Subject to confirmation that their match schedule did not coincide with the regular Skewbridge/Lifted Music team and/or archery it was recommended that for the remaining season (January – April) a per match fee be agreed between chairman, vice chairman and clerk.

The Archery Group request for assistance with renewing their storage unit was discussed. Their plan was for a similar size steel unit (to be painted to blend in the landscape) to replace the leaking old building. Members considered that, should council agree a grant budget in 2010-11 an application may be made. Their recommendation was that in principle there would not be an objection to renewing the small storage hut and that a grant of £100 be made once agreed from 2009-10 budget to support the club. The clerk would also invite an article for the Pump to promote club membership and its sport. In the Council's charter year 2010 the club may also consider a competition/display as a fundraising event at Village Day

Caesars Road

It was reported that Councillors Brewster and Clark, together with the Clerk, had attended the first Play Builder Project meeting. The next meeting, facilitated by SADC was scheduled for January 2010.

Marford Playing Fields

It was reported that WPC had won a flymobile in the free draw at Saltex, attended by Cllr Brewster and the Clerk. WPC was

responsible for its installation which would be scheduled once a possible play area refurbishment had been agreed. The Chairman was working with Youth Connexions on a possible Big Spend grant application for 2010/11.

Members noted that the Tennis Club had been unsuccessful in its planning appeal to extend floodlit hours.

Rectory Meadows

The expression of interest grant application to HCC to install outdoor gym equipment was awaiting a decision. An in principle response would be returned by year end.

It was reported that the children's play equipment needed urgent refurbishment, particularly following the problems with dogs damaging the swing seats. County Councillor Maxine Crawley had previously indicated that funding would be available from her locality fund, a figure of £3,000 had been requested. Members recommended that the Clerk progress this. They further agreed that a design for refurbishment of the area be presented to the next meeting. Consideration would be given to removal of the fence and incorporation of trim/adventure trail equipment.

- Recommendation:**
- 1 To note the reports**
 - 2 Clerk to contact Kimpton Rovers & Skewbridge/Lifted Music football teams re match schedules**
 - 3 Clerk to contact Archery Club re publicity & future events**
 - 4 £100 grant for Archery Club storage facility**
 - 5 Clerk to progress locality grant application**

714-09 BUDGET REVIEW 2009-10

Budget provision had been made for a multi use games area, this project awaited feedback from SADC and the police regarding the new provision at nearby Batford. Members also noted that two applications for grant funding had been received, a recommendation for an overall Council grant budget would be made.

Recommendation: To note the report

715-09 PROJECTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2009-10

It was considered that a committee name change to 'Leisure' may be appropriate. The use of the Memorial Hall by young people had previously been discussed (Minutes 711-09 and 712-09) as had improvements to facilities at Rectory Meadows (Minute 713-09). The chairman reported that she had attended the Heartwood Forest first tree planting and world record planting event with many local young people competing. It was recommended that a link between the Parish Council website and Heartwood Forest's be made

**Recommendation: To note the report
To add a website link between WPC and Heartwood Forest**

716-09 BUDGET 2010-11

As the meeting was not quorate this was deferred.

Recommendation: To defer to a quorate meeting

717-09 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS

Progress was discussed

L1	Provide MUGA	In consultation with SADC & police following installation of MUGA at Batford
L2	Youth Connexions	Agreement to use Memorial Hall
L4	Folly Fields play area	Refurbishment complete
L6	Caesars Rd play area	Working with SADC and Playbuilder grant fund
L9	Improve sign	New village entry signs and fingerposts in

	posting	High Street installed
L10	Facilities for	Ignition project expanded
L11	young people	
L12	Tennis /golf	Tennis sessions made available in Ignition course
L13	Adult leisure facilities	Grant bid to Vibrant Towns in association with WEB. Decision awaited (Min 713-09).
L16	Inadequate football changing facilities	Working with Wheathampstead Wanderers FC (Minute 710-09)
L19	Heartwood Forest	Working with, attended launch and first planting (Minute 715-09)

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.00h.

Dated this day of 2010

Chairman