

Wheathampstead Parish Council

28 January 2010, 19.30h

Present Councillors:	I Begg	Chairman
	A Brewster	
	J Burgess	
	G Clark	
	N Clements	
	D Hills	
	N Page	
	T Reason	
	K Stammers	
	J Turner	
	S Walford	
	A Waterfield	
	M Crawley	County Councillor
	J Warren	Clerk to the Council
	Press	0
	Public	7

809-10 APOLOGIES

None – all present.

810-10 AGENDA ORDER AMENDMENT

It was agreed that in light of public interest the recycling facility update be given first on the agenda; County Councillor Maxine Crawley had requested a later agenda position to enable her to attend another meeting and the exclusion item would follow last. A late item (previously circulated) to approve the minor lease amendment for the EDF cabling was also agreed

Resolved To amend the agenda order

811-10 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr Raine spoke of the debate on-going since mid 2009 concerning location and removal of the recycling facilities in the Memorial Hall car park. He spoke of residents' disappointment should the decision to remove the banks be altered, and of the availability of District Council provided doorstep recycling. In his view this duplicated the service of the static banks. He had personally visited the flats currently without recycling facilities and believed in all instances there was adequate space for its provision.

812-10 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in Minute 828-10, as she is on Plans North of the District Council Planning Authority. The

way she votes at Parish Council will not necessarily be the way she votes at District Council. She declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 827-10, specifically the cheque to her husband's business. She took no part in discussing this.

Councillors Burgess and Waterfield declared personal interests in Minute 820-10. Councillor Burgess further declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Stammers declared a personal interest in Minute 823-10. He volunteers for the CVS who grant fund the Wheathampstead Community Group.

813-10 RECYCLING FACILITY

Council resolved in November 2009 (Minute 690-09), following a presentation by the St Albans District Council's Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services, to withdraw its permission for the static recycling banks to be located in the Memorial Hall Car Park. At this meeting members had been advised that kerbside recycling should be available to all Wheathampstead households within the next few months.

The Clerk reported that SADC had since advised that suitable locations had as yet not been found for flats above High Street shops and Vale Court. The District Council was in correspondence with King Edward Place residents. Poor weather (ice and snow) had initially prevented the outside contractor removing the tetra pak bank and the Clerk had agreed that for this bank a later removal date would be acceptable.

The chairman advised that whilst he did not wish to disenfranchise the Wheathampstead community and would thus prefer all households to have recycling facilities, legally the Council's decision of 26 November stood. Notwithstanding this he suggested that Council in future ensure that all avenues had been adequately considered before a firm commitment made. In this instance perhaps more detailed consultation and contingency plans may have been agreed.

Members were reminded that Mr Robertson had assured WPC (Minute 690-09) 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. Residents without access to recycling should contact the District Council.

Resolved: To note the report including that glass, plastic and paper recycling were scheduled for removal by 1 February, Tetrapak (carton) recycling would be removed later in February. Residents without access to recycling facilities should contact St Albans District Council.

Councillor Burgess and 6 members of the public left the meeting

814-10 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The Minutes of the meetings held on 26 November 2009 were approved

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2009 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

815-10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following committee reports were received and receipted:

Playing Fields & Youth	2 December 2009, 18 January 2010
Planning	3 December 2009
Memorial Hall	3 December 2009
Village Day	8 December 2009
Allotments	10 December 2009
Rights of Way & Commons	12 January 2010
Personnel	13 January 2010
IT	15 January 2010
Finance Committee	21 January 2010

In receiving the draft minutes of the Village Day Committee of 8 December 2009 the chairman reminded members of the Code of Conduct requirement for declarations of interest.

The Minutes of the Finance Committee of 21 January 2010 were approved.

Resolved:

- 1 To receipt the Minutes of**
Playing Fields & Youth 2 December 2009,
18 January 2010
Planning 3 December 2009
Memorial Hall 3 December 2009
Village Day 8 December 2009
Allotments 10 December 2009
Rights of Way & 12 January 2010
Commons
Personnel 13 January 2010
IT 15 January 2010
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the Finance meeting held on 21 January 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

816-10 PERSONNEL & IT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of Personnel and IT committees as approved at Minutes 779-10 and 786-10 were adopted.

Resolved: To adopt the terms of reference for Personnel and IT committees

817-10 EDF LEASE

Members were advised of the Parish Council's solicitor's recommendation to hand amend the lease with EDF: that in view of the restriction entered against the proprietorship register numbered 2 (on the Land Registry title number HD172088) the disposal had to be in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 or some other act or authority. With this amendment it was anticipated that the lease would be ready for signature.

Resolved: To approve the hand amendment and for the lease to be signed

818-10 BUDGET 2010-2011 & PRECEPT

The budget as agreed at Finance Committee of 21 January (Minute 808-10) was considered. Councillor Clements clarified that the additional £500 requested by the Highways & Public Transport Committee for floral works had been included to create and maintain planting in the centre of the Village particularly surrounding the new Village sign. It was anticipated that this would make the village more attractive in its charter year and planting may discourage vandalism. Councillors agreed that this was particularly important in the year marking the 950th anniversary of the Charter. It was hoped that funding for this planting may be externally sourced, should this not be available it was agreed that up to £500 be provided from reserves.

Councillor Burgess rejoined the meeting.

Members were reminded that budget provision did not constitute project approval. All projects should be debated by the appropriate committee and if necessary taken to Council. In exceptional circumstances only would the Clerk and Chairman have delegated approval.

The expenditure budget as agreed at Finance Committee of £279,903 was agreed. Councillors Hill, Stammers and Turner asked that their vote AGAINST this motion be recorded.

A precept requirement of £189,651 as agreed at Finance Committee was agreed. Councillor Stammers asked that his vote AGAINST this motion be recorded.

- Resolved**
- 1 In view of the decrease of the Highways Committee recommended budget for money towards floral display in the Charter Year, should external funding not be available up to £500 could be later taken from general reserves.**
 - 2 To approve an expenditure budget of £279,903 for 2010-2011**
 - 3 To approve a precept requirement of £189,651 for 2010 -2011 and that the Clerk notify St Albans District Council on 29 January 2010**

819-10 PCSO

At its Finance Committee on 21 January 2010 councillors recommended the renewal of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) contract and inclusion of part PCSO funding (£7,125) in the 2010-11 budget. The commitment would be for a 3 year contract.

Members noted that at the police liaison meeting the Parish Council had been assured that by entering this agreement Wheathampstead (as Redbourn PC) would be guaranteed continuity and should the designated PCSO leave s/he would be a priority replacement. In contrast PCSOs in St Albans city, where no parish contribution was made, would be replaced as and when possible if vacancies arose. The inequity of the funding of PCSOs was observed

- Resolved**
- 1 To approve the continued funding of the dedicated PCSO for Wheathampstead (PCSO Jo Merritt) for a further 3 years.**
 - 2 That the Clerk write to Inspector Hanson voicing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction about the inequality between St Albans and the villages.**

820-10 GENERATOR PURCHASE

The Village Day Committee, at Minute 746-09 had recommended that Council consider the purchase of a generator. It was noted that during the discussions of this minute mention was made of Councillor Burgess' voluntary use of his personal generator for Council work. It was agreed that he should have, and in similar future instances would, declare a personal interest.

Councillor Burgess declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

Consideration was given to Council's requirement for a powerful generator. Councillor Waterfield declared a personal interest as his small generator had been used, for non-Parish Council events, at earlier Village Days. He suggested that a more powerful generator may be of use for both Village Day stalls/backup and a variety of small projects for Rights of Way and Playing Fields Committees. There was no clear record of previous need. It was agreed that a log be maintained to establish a need to buy (store, maintain and insure) rather than hire. The existence of power from the Memorial Hall, for Village Day, was noted.

County councillor Maxine Crawley arrived during this item.

- Resolved:**
- 1 That no generator be purchased at this time.**
 - 2 That a record be kept of instances where a generator is used in order to assist any future purchase considerations**

821-10 GENERATOR THEFT

It was reported that Councillor Burgess, who had on a number of occasions used his personal generator when undertaking voluntary small projects had stored it chained to a work bench in the locked Forge. Thieves had broken into the Forge using a crowbar or similar device and stolen the generator. Councillors sympathised with his loss but noted that on a number of recent occasions storage at the Forge of non council property had been discussed and clearly iterated as at 'owner's risk'. Consideration of Council's statutory powers to reimburse any payment for the lost generator was discussed including the absence of a power to pay an individual and a councillor. Advice and guidance had been sought and confirmed by the Council's insurance company, internal auditor and professional advisors (including Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils). It was agreed that, with regret, Council should not seek to reimburse Councillor Burgess' loss. This should be reclaimed through his personal insurance.

- Resolved: That with regret Council would not reimburse Councillor Burgess for his stolen generator.**

822-10 WHEATHAMPSTEAD TRAVEL PLAN

Councillor Maxine Crawley spoke of the steering group of County Council officers, Parish Council representatives and herself which met prior to Christmas to discuss a possible crossing on the Marford Road, an issue identified in the Village Plan (T9). Subsequently she

had had confirmed that should the Parish Council be able to obtain supportive evidence of need its consideration was likely to be favourably received by Hertfordshire Highways. The type of data was discussed. It was agreed to support this initiative; that a working group be established which included members of the community, and information collected forthwith. The working group would be chaired by Councillor Brewster and report to Highways and Public Transport Committee. Councillor Crawley agreed to formally write to Hertfordshire Highways. The consultation template would be agreed with Hertfordshire Highways to ensure suitable information was sought.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To support the application for a pedestrian crossing on Marford Road east of the Memorial Hall.**
 - 2 To set up a Working Group to include interested members of the community, chaired by Councillor Brewster and reporting to Highways and Public Transport Committee.**
 - 3 To work with County Councillor Crawley**
 - 4 To agree data requirements with Hertfordshire Highways prior to collection**

823-10 GRANT REQUESTS

A grant request had been received from the Wheathampstead Community Group for their public liability and personal accident insurance of £215.58. It was noted that Wheathampstead Parish Council had the legal power under LGA 1972 s137 to pay for this and that the Parish Council had previously supported this group..

- Resolved: 1 To approve payment of £215.58 to Wheathampstead Community Group for insurance cover.**

824-10 PARISH CHARTER

The draft Parish Charter, which had been previously circulated, was agreed without amendment

- Resolved: To approve the adoption of the Parish Charter**

825-10 FLOOD PROTECTION –Weir at the Mill, River Lea

Consideration was given to a letter written to the Environment Agency by the Wheathampstead Riverside Residents' Association which they had copied to the Parish Council. Councillor Page expanded on the background to this and the flooding issues for this part of the Village. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency supporting the need for a modest flood reduction project upstream of the Mill, as suggested by the Residents' Association. The letter would include a request that the Environment Agency meet with Councillor Page to consider aspects of river management

Resolved: That the Clerk write to the Environment Agency urging their response to the Riverside Residents' Association and requesting a meeting to consider aspects of river management

826-10 BENCH PLAQUES

A request had been received from the Harpenden Village Rotary Club to pay for and fix plaques to the refurbished bench on the High Street. It was agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting pending details of the club's history.

**Resolved: 1 To defer this matter to the February Council meeting
2 Clerk to contact Rotary Club**

827-10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of accounts for payment in January had been circulated. Included within the list were receipts for councillor reimbursement for items not previously authorised by Committee. It was agreed, that with regret, these would not be reimbursed. Council had a duty of care and its powers for expenditure included a need for approval through the agreed process. Items could only be purchased on behalf of Council if approved.

Approval was also sought for a chainsaw training course by Councillor Burgess. This was not approved and no cheque raised. Councillors agreed that treework should be contracted out to professionals who undertook such work with appropriate insurance and risk assessments.

Councillor Clark declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the payment to contractor A Clark, her husband. She did not take part in the processing of this single cheque.

**Resolved: 1 Not to reimburse councillor expenses which had not been previously authorised by Committee.
2 Not to authorise and pay for a chainsaw training course.
3 To pay the accounts per January 2010 schedule amounting to £9,010.19Nett**

828-09 PLANNING

Councillor Clark, as chairman of Planning Committee, took the chair for this Minute.

The following plans were considered:

5/09/2557	52 Necton Road	Two storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extension and replacement garage.
5/09/2578	The Grove, Pipers Lane, Harpenden	Listed Building Consent – Insertion of stair case

Resolved: RECOMMEND: No objection

5/10/0030	Ayres End Barn, Ayres End Lane	Alterations to existing garage including roof extension to create loft room (resubmission following withdrawal of 5/09/2203)
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**Resolved: RECOMMEND: REFUSAL
Out of keeping with Green Belt and Listed Building Environment**

829-10 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Clements reported on The Parish Conference of 27 November (attended also by Councillors Begg and Brewster and the Clerk) and the JMP meeting with Cllr Crawley. This meeting considered footway gritting, pot holes and the system used by Highways to prioritise repairs. He further reported that due to ill health he had missed a LLACC meeting on 4 January and that the ALC on 12 January had been cancelled because of ice and snow.

Councillor Reason reported on the Cleaner District and Streetscene working group and her investigations regarding Anglia in Bloom. SADC's litterpick week, the potential availability of gritting equipment and bus shelters.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the poor state of many local roads including those recently resurfaced/repared. Additional maintenance would create further disruptions to local traffic. It was also suggested that a local business had expressed interest in sponsoring a roundabout. Members agreed that these matters be referred to the Highways and Public Transport Committee. Businesses should write to the Clerk to formalise any requests.

Resolved: To note the reports and refer highways matters to the Highways and Public Transport Committee.

830-10 ADDITIONAL TIME

Resolved: To approve additional time to complete agenda items as the time approached 22.30.

831-10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: To exclude the press and public, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

832-10 WATER SUPPLY TO HILLENF FARM

As agreed at minute 692-09 councillors and Clerk had met for an informal fact finding meeting with the land agents for Hillend Farm. Members were appraised of the details and it was agreed that a 4 month temporary water supply be approved pending negotiations for a permanent supply. The Clerk was to contact the third party negotiating with Hillend Farm, Althorp Estates

Resolved:

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To approve a 4 month temporary water supply for Hillend Farm**
- 3 Clerk to contact Althorp Estates**
- 4 To readmit press and public**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.40hr.

Dated this day of 2010

Chairman