

# Wheathampstead Special Parish Council

**15 April 2010, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors:	I Begg	Chairman
		A Brewster	
		G Clark	
		N Page	Arrived 20.00h
		T Reason	
		K Stammers	
		J Turner	
		S Walford	
		A Waterfield	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

## 1023-10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Clements and K Stammers (personal reasons).  
Cllr J Burgess' apologies were received but not accepted

## 1024-10 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

## 1025-10 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 1026-10 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The Minutes of the meetings held on 25 March 2010 were deferred to the 29 April Council for approval

**Resolved To defer confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2010 to 29 April Council**

## 981-10 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE REVIEW

Council agreed, at Minute 985-10, for this meeting to specifically review its committee structure. Members acknowledged that meetings extending beyond 11pm were unacceptable. It was agreed that this meeting would conclude at 8.30pm.

The Chairman reminded councillors that in December 2008 (Minute 6), following advice from internal audit, Council had set the target to revise its structure. This had subsequently been

discussed at length both in council and with the peer mentor, and with NALC, SADC's monitoring officer and other parish council representatives. The legal specification for committees was included at Minute 905-10.

An overlap between the Parish Council's Police Liaison Committee and Ward meeting was identified. Members noted the wider membership of the Ward meeting and its setting of neighbourhood targets. Members considered that there was a good working relationship with the local police, now more accessible with the police office in the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that unless the police identified the Police Liaison Committee as valuable it would be disbanded.

Possible duplication of Highways meetings was also identified but any decision on change deferred.

Much discussion and debate following about the comparative advantages of numbers and types of committees and working groups, including how the structure had evolved. Members considered that all should be involved in all decisions as delegated decisions could not be readily rescinded within 6 months. It was agreed that delegated powers be removed from committees with immediate effect and standing orders amended accordingly.

- Resolved**
- 1 To conclude this meeting by 20.30h**
  - 2 To dissolve the Police Liaison Committee unless, following consultation with the local police, they do not want it disbanded**
  - 3 To remove all delegated powers from committees with immediate effect**
  - 4 To revise Council Standing Orders to reflect removal of delegated powers from committees.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.40h.**

**Dated this            day of            2010**

**Chairman**