

Wheathampstead Parish Council
Highways & Public Transport
4th May 2010, 20.05h

Present Councillors:	N D Clements	Chairman
	D Hills	Vice Chairman
	I Begg	
	G. Clark	
	T. Reason	
	Irene Casper	Deputy Clerk
	Julie Bell	WDPS arrival 21.15
	Press	0
	Public	0

1059-10 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS - None

1060-10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

1061-10 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

1062-10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010 were approved.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1063-10 MARFORD ROAD SURVEY

A pedestrian survey of the Marford Road, near the Memorial Hall, had taken place on Friday 23rd April. Councillors and members of the public had covered the whole day from 6am to 6pm to count the number of people crossing the road. Two graphs giving details of the survey were put before members. The Clerk is collating and summarising the information, which will be submitted to Hertfordshire Highways, this document should be ready within the next week.

Cllr. Clements was concerned that this survey was not a direct comparison to a survey conducted by HCC, that one counted vehicles as well as pedestrians. Cllr. Reason informed members that HCC had advised on what information was to be collected.

Cllr. Clements will contact County Councillor Crawley and an officer from Hertfordshire Highways before the Annual Parish Meeting to make sure we are all in agreement.

Recommendation: 1. Members thanked everyone who took part in the survey. A note of thanks is to go in the Summer issue of the Pump.

2. Cllr. Clements will contact Cllr. Crawley and a Highways Officer to confirm that the information collected is correct.

1064-10 MILL WALK BRIDGE – Update

Resurfacing work has still not taken place on the bridge and it is in an appalling state. Members expressed concern about the safety of the bridge surface.

The committee agreed that a strong letter should be sent to the officer in charge of the resurfacing, with copies to the Head of Hertfordshire County Highways and the local Highways Engineer.

Recommendation: Clerk to write to the Officer in charge of the resurfacing work, with copies to the Head of HCC Highways and the local Highways Engineer.

1065-10 PARKING ON MARFORD ROAD VERGE -update

A map of the area with the works highlighted was shown to members.

Stout wooden bollards have been installed to prevent parking on the footway.

A grid which allows grass to grow through (similar to grasscrete) will be installed imminently.

Members are very interested to see how the new surface works. The situation to be reviewed in six months.

Recommendation: New surface to be reviewed in six months.

1066-10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – VILLAGE DAY

The Village Day committee had expressed an interest in some of the Christmas Lighting being used to illuminate the High Street during the celebratory weekend this year. Members agreed the Clerk is to consult the Village Day committee as to whether they would still like to use some of the lighting.

Some of the Christmas Lighting and 19 of the 26 timer clocks in the lamp posts had been faulty during the Christmas lighting period. A decision had been made at the time to run the lights as they were faulty and all address the situation in the new financial year.

Quotations had been sought to repair the Christmas Lighting, replace 19 faulty timer clocks, installation and removal of Christmas Lighting 2010

A quotation had been received from Peckfords to repair the lights £1,490.00.

Members agreed to accept the quotation subject to the price of replacement being substantially more.

A quotation had been received from Peckfords to repair the 19 timer clocks - £1,102.00. (Prices held from last year).

Members agreed to accept the quotation.

A quotation had been received from Peckfords to carry out the installation of Christmas Lighting - £3,750.00. (Prices held from last year)

Members agreed to accept the quotation.

Recommendation:

- 1. To accept the quotation from Peckfords of £1,490.00 to repair the Christmas Lights subject to the price of replacement being substantially more. Clerk to ascertain costs.**
- 2. To accept the quotation from Peckfords of £1,102.00 to replace 19 faulty timer clocks. Action Clerk.**
- 3. To accept the quotation from Peckfords of £3,750.00 to install/remove the Christmas Lighting in 2010. Action Clerk**

1067-10 BUS SHELTER

a) design/price issues.

b) Possible new site – a & b were taken together.

Members discussed where new/replacement bus shelters were needed and the costs involved.

Cllr. Reason informed members that if the Committee agrees to have the SADC approved bus shelter at one site they will supply one free. Members agreed the Clerk should approach SADC regarding a bus shelter to be sited on Hillydyke Road.

A modest amount of money has been allocated in the Highways and Public Transport Committee's budget to purchase a new bus shelter. Members identified a site at Gustard Wood and agreed that residents in that area should be contacted and asked if they would contribute to the costs of supplying a shelter.

Recommendation:

- 1. Clerk to approach SADC regarding the supply of a new bus shelter at Hillydyke Road.**
- 2. Residents of Gustard Wood to be asked to contribute towards a bus shelter.**

1068-10 Item 10 was moved to the end of the agenda as the member of the WDPS who was giving the report had not yet arrived.

1069-10 H.C.C. – UPDATE

Cllr. Clements gave a report on a meeting of the Joint Members Panel.

He circulated the agenda from the meeting and highlighted items that were of interest to Wheathampstead. These included a traffic calming system; School Transport Plans; replacement of lampposts at Station Road Roundabout and the Cory Wright Way/Marford Road roundabout.

The Deputy Clerk had written to HCC on a number of highway matters and reported to members on - the sponsorship of potholes (an idea from Germany featured on a TV programme); sight lines at Station Road roundabout.

Cllr. Clements to ask the District Council when Mount Road parking changes will be implemented.

Members were informed that last year 26 hanging baskets were installed in the centre of the village, but the gardener had received complaints about 4 impeding sight lines. Members agreed to the installation of 22 hanging baskets this year.

Recommendation:

- 1. Clerk to reiterate to HCC the colour members wish the new lampposts at Station Road to be.**
- 2. Cllr. Clements to chase the installation of parking restrictions at Mount Road.**
- 3. 22 hanging baskets are installed this year. Action Clerk to inform Townsend Nursery.**

1070-10 PARISH COUNCIL – Actions from P.C. Meeting

No actions from April P.C. meeting.

Julie Bell WDPS arrived 21-15pm; Cllr. Hill left during the following item at 21.20pm

1071-10 SIGNAGE AUDIT

A member of the WDPS gave a report on the progress of their signage audit.

The first aspect being a street scene guidance document.

The intention of the document is to encourage shops and other businesses to think about the look and feel of signage in Wheathampstead. The High Street is a Conservation Area and the document would be a help to shopkeepers and businesses. At the moment no guidance is given when anyone wishes to install a new sign/change a sign. The document would be a point of reference giving advice on colour schemes/style/illumination (how to light signs etc.).

Members discussed the merits of each area having its own character.

Cllr. Reason attends the SADC Street Scene Working Party; they have produced a street scene document. If Wheathampstead produces a street scene document it can be adopted within the SADC street scene guidance, this will be a point of reference for future planning issues.

The WDPS draft report will be available in a few weeks time and will be circulated to the Parish Council.

The second aspect of the signage audit is an audit of existing signage.

WDPS have researched what requirements there are for signage in a Conservation Area. The English Heritage web site gives lots of advice on this subject.

The WDPS have highlighted the Station Road Roundabout area (there are numerous poles there) and the improvements that can be made to highway/road name signs.

A draft document has been produced explaining the steps that can be taken in a Conservation Area to visually improve street signage. The document will be circulated to the Parish Council.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. To receive the verbal report**
 - 2. Members thanked Julie and the WDPS for their work so far on the signage audit.**

1072-10 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS.

Members agreed that when an item in the Plan says the Parish Council should apply pressure, at least an annual letter should be sent to the authority involved.

Members were asked to identify their three main priorities in the Transport section of the Plan.

1. T9 – A pedestrian crossing is needed on Marford Road (near “police houses”).
2. T14 – The 20mph zone in the village should be extended to include Church Street and parts of The Hill, Brewhouse Hill and Marford Road.
3. T6/7/8 – HGV traffic on Marford Road/Lower Luton Road/The Hill

T1/2/3/4 – to help address the constant problem of volume of traffic in the village it was proposed that the Parish Council purchases a hand held battery powered speed gun. This would be kept in the Parish Office and operated by volunteers who would pass their findings on to the police. Cost under £100. A vote was taken – 4 in Favour 1 Abstention. CARRIED.

Update on targets

T9 – A traffic survey has taken place on Marford Road

T18 – Constant pressure is put on HCC to fill in potholes

T25 - This item is being addressed.

T31 – Being addressed

T.32 & T.33 – Completed. Request bins are filled in Autumn.

T.34 – Being addressed. There will be 4 less hanging baskets this year as complaints regarding sight lines have been received.

T.35 - Completed.

Layout of Transport Section of the Plan.

Members agreed that the transport section of the plan should follow the layout of the environment section. The generic issue on the left and the specific actions listed a/b/c/ etc.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. The top three Transport priorities are – T9 –T14 – T678. Action Clerk to inform Richard.**
 - 2. A battery powered speed gun is to be purchased – cost under £100.**
 - 3. The layout of the Transport section to be in the same format as the Environment section of the Plan. Action Clerk to inform Richard.**

1073-10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24th August 2010

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.20hr

Dated this day of 2010*

Chairman