

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
29 July 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	
		D Payne	Hammersmatch
		R Holloway	Hammersmatch
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	7

1244 -10 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Waterfield (personal reasons), and for Councillor Clements' late arrival.

1245-10 Public Speaking

The Clerk reported that the BBC had requested permission to film at Devil's Dyke for the BBC2 archaeological series 'Ancient Britain', an 8 part series due to be broadcast in 2011. The presenter for the series would be Neil Oliver, the presenter of 'Coast'. Episode 7 would focus on Roman Britain and Neil would be explaining how Caesar laid siege at Devils Dyke. There would also be a Roman expert present to show what armour and weapons the Romans would have used. It was confirmed that public access would continue to be available to the site and a filming fee would be paid to the Parish Council. There would be no reconstruction of events. Members enquired whether a DVD could be made available and a link to the websites be possible.

- Resolved**
- 1 To permit the BBC2 filming at Devil's Dyke as specified.**
 - 2 Clerk to request a DVD of the episode and website link.**

1246-10 Specific Declarations of Interest

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in Minute 1265-10, 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.

Councillor Begg declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in Minute 1247-10, as he owns a property adjacent to the garage. Councillor Stammers declared a personal interest in Minute 1270-10, being a friend of the wedding party.

1247-10 Old Rectory Planning Application

This item was brought forward on the agenda because of the public interest and attendance by the applicant to assist the Parish Council in responding to the letter from the District Council Development Control. The minutes of the Planning Working Group (6 July)(Min 1186-10) and letters from WEB (Wheathampstead for Enterprising Businesses), WDPS (Wheathampstead & District Preservation Society) and King Edward Place Residents' Association had been circulated.

Mr Holloway gave a presentation to Council explaining planning applications 5/10/0596 and 5/10/0622LB and subsequently responded to all questions. The proposal was that the Parish Council would take ownership of the land (freehold or on 999 year lease) of the green hatched area including the garage and car park area. It was envisaged that the garage's use may be converted to, for example, a Village museum, the open space for parking and, beyond the crinkle crinkle wall, for relaxing and access from the High Street to the churchyard and the west side of the Village.

Responsibility for maintaining the crinkle crinkle wall would contractually rest with the flats and home owner of the redeveloped canteen and listed building (Old Rectory). The crinkle crinkle wall and car park would be left to the new owner in a good state of repair anticipating that no additional work to be required within about 10 years. The remaining open space proposed for unilateral transfer would be left grassed. A sum of £25,000 would be transferred to the Parish Council for the upkeep of the area. Vehicular access for grass mowing and other horticultural tasks would be adjacent to the flats.

Members then considered the specific questions from Development Control.

It was agreed that:

- the Parish Council wished to take ownership of the area of land hatched green on the plan.
- The land would be used as public open space
- Maintenance of the public open space would be as for the many other areas of public open space and footpaths currently managed by the Parish Council, through its Rights of Way and Commons Committee. Input from a residents' association of the newly developed flats may be sought.
- Maintenance of the Grade II crinkle crinkle wall would be the responsibility of the future house and flat owners thus the Parish Council did not need to consider its financial

position to maintain the wall

Concerns were raised regarding public rights of access to the site. It was further agreed that:

- The Clerk was to ask SADC for confirmation of vehicular and pedestrian access to the site from the High Street

Councillor Stammers asked that his vote AGAINST this transfer of ownership be recorded.

Councillor Clements arrived at 20.25hours during discussion of the finer details of the response to SADC

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report and thank Hammersmatch for their attendance**
 - 2 Clerk to respond to St Albans District Council confirming that:**
 - 3 The Parish Council wished to take ownership of the area of land hatched green on the plan**
 - 4 The land would be used as public open space**
 - 5 Maintenance of the public open space would be as for the many other areas of public open space and footpaths currently managed by the Parish Council, through its Rights of Way and Commons Committee. Input from a residents' association of the newly developed flats may be sought.**
 - 6 Maintenance of the Grade II crinkle crinkle wall would be the responsibility of the future house and flat owners thus the Parish Council did not need to consider its financial position to maintain the wall**
 - 7 There was public vehicular and pedestrian access to the site from the High Street**

Councillor Burgess, the representatives from Hammersmatch and 5 members of the public left the meeting.

1248-10 Minutes of Council

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June were approved. Members noted that the Clerk was liaising with Mr Coates regarding the memorial bench.

- Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

1249-10 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The following draft committee minutes were received and adopted:

Planning Working Group	6 July 2010
Allotments Committee	15 July 2010
Station Platform Working Group	15 July 2010
Village Day Committee	20 July 2010
Rights of Way Committee	27 July 2010

Resolved: To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of

Planning Working Group	6 July 2010
Allotments Committee	15 July 2010
Station Platform Working Group	15 July 2010
Village Day Committee	20 July 2010
Rights of Way Committee	27 July 2010

1250-10 Planning Working Group Recommendations

Consideration of the recommendations had been included under Minute 1247-10.

Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Planning Working Group

1251-10 Allotments Committee Recommendations

The recommendations of the Allotments Committee, including removal of concrete shed base following allotment vacation (cost £200+) and hire of two skips (cost approx £320-350) were approved.

Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Allotments Committee

1252-10 Village Day Committee Recommendations

The recommendations of the Village Day Committee including booking of attractions for 2011 and Saturday talent show and barn dance were approved

Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Village Day Committee

1253-10 Rights of Way Committee & Station Platform Working Group Recommendations

The recommendations of the Rights of Way Committee and Station Platform Working Group were approved. Councillor Page confirmed his resignation as Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Rights of Way Committee.**
 - 2 To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Station Working Group:**
 - 3 To conduct a Residents' Former Station Platform on-site consultation meeting on 16 August**
 - 4 To approve plans for the 150th Celebration to coincide with the Heritage Open Days**
 - 5 To approve the acquisition of railway artefacts/ paraphernalia**
 - 6 To further explore options to improve the Meads Area**
 - 7 To conditionally approve the wedding request for use of the Cricket Club with dodgems, bouncy castle and marquee**
 - 8 Fees & Charges Committee to consider revenue generation for open spaces**
 - 9 To approve strimming work around the ant hills on Bower Heath**
 - 10 To approve 2 days tree work at £410 per day**
 - 11 To note the need to more carefully track expenditure and to consider this carefully each meeting with all commitments going through the Clerk**
 - 12 To note the resignation of the committee chairman**

1254-10 IT Committee Recommendations

Members considered and approved the verbal report of the recommendations of the IT Sub- Committee. Given the recent problems with powercuts and potential for data corruption which incorrect shut down could bring councillors agreed the necessity for an uninterrupted power supply

Resolved: To accept the quotation of £2,089 for the installation of 2 new desktop computers with Microsoft Office 2007 and uninterrupted power supply; and to transfer on-line backup to Hertscom.

1255-10 Asset disposal

Members were asked to consider the disposal of unwanted and obsolete items including plastic planter seat, screens and office items. It was agreed to refer asset disposal to appropriate committees, specifically here the planter seats and compost to Highways & Public Transport Committee. For all other assets only the Clerk could authorise disposal. Once disposal had been agreed assets would be offered to the public through advertisement in the Pump. Immediately this would include the printer decommissioned in 2008 and partition screens. Advice on disposing of the old computers to be sought from the computer consultant to ensure data had been removed.

Resolved

- 1 Committee asset disposals to be referred to committee**
- 2 Clerk to authorise all other disposals**
- 3 Obsolete and unwanted items to be advertised in the Pump**

1256-10 Swan Roundabout planting

Council agreed at Minute 1130-10 that the Clerk sought advice from Herts Highways who contracted planting work to SADC. Following a site visit and discussion recommendation was for low growing bushes such as rose of Sharon and heathers with annual planting, initially reducing/removing the largest plants. At minute 512-09 the Horticultural Society offered to donate £250 towards new planting. Members of the Horticultural Society had subsequently suggested consideration of re-landscaping the area. Agreed that this be referred to Highways Committee, Councillor Turner would brief the Chairman on behalf of the Horticultural Society

Resolved Refer to Highways & Public Transport Committee

1257-10 Village Sign

Members noted that the Village sign had now been installed and was officially unveiled by the Mayor of St Albans as part of the Charter celebrations on Village Day. Much positive feedback has been received. The initial project had begun many years back with £5,000 budget provision made in 2008 and subsequent grant funding accessed. Details would be circulated to councillors.

Resolved To note the report

1258-10 Small Projects update

It was reported that painting of the Rectory Meadows railings was partially complete, the slide was on-going

Resolved To note the report

1259-10 Bench requests

Council had approved the acceptance of a donation of benches for the station platform project (Min 1107-10) subject to approval of inscriptions. Members approved the following inscriptions:

'Jean'

And 'Presented by Cllr Chris Oxley, Wheathampstead Councillor and Mayor of the City & District of St Albans 2009/10'

Resolved To approve the inscriptions

1260-10 Risk policy

The draft risk policy as circulated (agreed at Minute 1189-10) was approved for adoption

Resolved To approve and adopt the risk policy as circulated

1261-10 Internal auditor appointment

The Clerk's report on Internal Audit was considered and the appointment of David Smy of HW Associates as Internal Auditor for 2010-11 approved. A 5% fee reduction on 2009-10 had been negotiated for a continuing contract.

Resolved To approve the appointment of David Smy of HW Associates as Internal Auditor for 2010-11

1262-10 Budget Review 2010-11

Expenditure for the first quarter April – June was reviewed.

Resolved To note the report

1263-10 School prizes

Nominations had been received and awarded to Beech Hyde & St Helens Schools

Resolved To note the report regarding the annual awards.

1264-10 Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment in July had been circulated.

Resolved To pay the accounts per July 2010 schedule amounting to £31,671.00

1265-10 Planning

Councillor Clark took the Chair for this item

Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of no objection:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 5/10/1071 | Plot 53 Former Education Centre, Butterfield Road | Two storey building comprising four garages at ground level and a two bedroom coach house at first floor. (amendment to 5/20092147 dated 26/01/2010) |
| 5/10/0524 | Orchard Cottage, Mackerye End | Replacement pool house/studio |

Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of refusal – overdevelopment of site

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|-----------|---------------|--|
| 5/10/1263 | 51 Manor Road | Front porch and side extension including attached garage and alterations to openings |
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Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of refusal

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|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| 5/10/1413 | Pipers Stud, Pipers Lane | Detached outbuildings for use as a horse shelter |
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The following plans were considered:

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 5/10/1590 | 45 Long Buftlers | Partial conversion of garage into habitable room. Part single, part two storey side and rear ext with flue and roof-lights and enlargement of existing side dormer windows |
| 5/10/1634 | Land adj 3 Garrard Way | Two two storey detached dwellings with associated access and landscaping (resubmission following refusal of application 5/10/0787) |
| 5/10/1653 | 1 The Broadway, Gustard Wood, | Single storey side infill extension, between garage and main house, insertion of front dormer window, widening of existing rear dormer window, alterations to openings, removal of chimney and retiling of roof (resubmission following refusal of 5/1020/0496, dated 26/04/2010) |
| 5/10/1544 | St. Thomas More Church, 7 Marford Road | Front canopy |

5/10/1220	The Old Farmhouse, 55 Ash Grove	Single storey rear extension and insertion of rooflights to existing rear extensions. Listed Building Consent to above
5/10/1728LB	The Old Farmhouse, 55 Ash Grove	Single storey rear extension and insertion of rooflights to existing rear extensions. Listed Building Consent to above

Resolved RECOMMEND: No objection

1266-10 Conservation Area Character Statement consultation

Councillor Begg resumed the Chair and commented upon the disinterest of councillors in voting
Members were asked to respond to the public consultation on the review of the Conservation Area Character Statement 2001 (by 31 August) which had been previously circulated.
It was agreed that comments be submitted to the Clerk for compilation

Resolved Members to submit comments to the Clerk

1267-10 Licensing Policy Review

SADC's licensing policy expires in January 2011 is due for view. A response was invited by 11 October. It was agreed that this be delegated to Councillor Clark in consultation with the Clerk

Resolved Response delegated to Cllr Clark in consultation with the Clerk

1268-10 Conservation grazing at Wheathampstead Local Nature Reserve

It was reported that 27 Shetland wethers (young male sheep) were to graze the area to prevent scrub overwhelming the grassland for a period approximating 5 weeks. They would be overseen by the Countryside Management Service

Resolved To note the report

1269-10 Power outages

A request has been received from WEB to write to EDF regarding the power cuts. Members were reminded that the Clerk together with various councillors had met with EDF in February and March to discuss both tree felling and power failures. After a few months of good power supply there had recently been a number of interruptions to power, a matter also taken up by a local resident who wished to convene a meeting with EDF. It was agreed that the Clerk write to EDF strongly objecting to the poor service, follow up on matters raised in March and join the meeting which WEB would also attend

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 Clerk to write to EDF, attend subsequent meeting, and report back to Council**

1270-10 Cricket Club request

Wheathampstead Cricket Club has requested permission to park contractor vehicles on car park during cricket square refurbishment. This was anticipated to last 7-10 days beginning mid September

Resolved **To approve the request**

1271-10 Reports form Councillors on Meetings Attended

Councillor Clements reported upon the Parish Conference, also attended by Councillors Clark and Brewster and the Clerk at which the Charter between Hertfordshire County Council, St Albans District Council, and the Parishes was signed.

He had also attended a Highways Joint Committee, Standards Committee meeting, and the six weekly meeting with highways engineers. Following the Parish Council led pedestrian survey of the Marford Road in March it was reported that the request for a pedestrian crossing would be part of the County Council's summer bids.

Councillors Clements and Brewster, and the Clerk had attended the consultation workshop on shaping the community lead by the Head of Planning.

Councillor Reason spoke of her meeting of the Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town councils and its role in influencing government bodies.

Resolved: **To note the reports**

1272-10 Exclusion of Press & 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**

1273-10 Hillend Farm Wayleave

Members considered the letter of 9 July detailing the principles for calculating a wayleave. They had previously agreed (Minute 832-09) to negotiate with Althorp Estates and accepted the terms.

Resolved **1 Clerk to agree in principle to the calculation**
 2 To readmit press and public

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.55h.

Dated this day of 2010

Chairman