

**Wheathampstead Parish Council**  
**Highways & Public Transport**  
**24<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 20.03h**

Present Councillors:	N D Clements	Chairman
	D Hills	Vice Chairman
	G Clark	
	T Reason	
	A Brewster	
	J Turner	
	Irene Casper	Deputy Clerk
	Press	0
	Public	0

**128910 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Begg and Stammers (personal reasons)

**1290-10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**1291-10 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5, she is Chairman of the Horticultural Society.

**1292-10 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2010 were approved.

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2010 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**1293-10 FLOWER BEDS**

There are two areas of flower beds in the village causing concern. The beds on the Station Road approach to the roundabout and the two beds at the end of Marford Road opposite The Swan. Complaints have been received relating to sight lines.

Cllr. Clark informed members that the shrubs used on these beds were of a definite design intended to force drivers to slow down.

The Horticultural Society look after the beds near The Swan PH and the bed on the High Street side is the one causing most concern.

Cllr. Turner informed the committee that the neat domes (Lonicera) cause most complaints and give members of the Horticultural Society the hardest work. This could be resolved if a contractor was asked to trim this shrub regularly. The Society is perfectly happy to carry on maintaining these two beds; but no member has a petrol driven hedge cutter which is needed to do this work.

The second problem – predominately at each end of the bed is

lavender, if this shrub is not properly maintained in youth it can become very straggly. The lavender on the northern bed is on its last legs and needs pulling out. The Society is happy to remove the straggly lavender and replace and plant tulips.

On Station Road the lavender in the beds by the Station Road roundabout to be left alone because of the safety element of the height. Members agreed that it would be nice, in future, to have a planting scheme (colours/plants etc) throughout the village and Cllr. Reason suggested contacting Oakland College or Capel Manor and enquire if students are looking for a project for a year.

Cllr. Brewster will enquire if any funds are available from District in Bloom.

Budget Review had been accidentally omitted from the agenda, which had been circulated to all members 6 days before the meeting.

Cllr. Reason wished it minuted that the committee expressed their regret that there was not a budget sheet to look at.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. A letter of thanks to go to the Horticultural Society for tending the flower beds opposite The Swan.  
Action Clerk.**
  - 2. If funds are available, after checking the Highways and Public Transport Budget, a sum of up to a maximum £30 be allocated to replace 2 lavenders and plant tulips in the northern flower bed (opposite The Swan).**
  - 3. A contractor to be found to trim the Lonicera. Quotations to be sought.  
Action Clerk.**
  - 4. Lavender in flower beds on the approach to Station Road roundabout to be left alone.**
  - 5. Cllr. Brewster to look for further funding through SADC, if funding is available then approach the colleges regarding setting up the planting scheme as a student project.**
  - 6. Budget Review to be on the next agenda.**

***Cllr. Turner left the meeting 20.30***

**1294-10 MARFORD ROAD SURVEY – Update**

Cllr Clements informed members that at the last meeting of the Joint Members Panel the Marford Crossing scheme has the highest score and should go ahead, possibly this year, or next year.

**1295-10 MILL WALK BRIDGE – Update**

The new light has been installed.

Members are very unhappy with the new surface of the bridge which they regard as a poor finish and a trip hazard. The wall is covered in slime, which also needs to be brought to the attention of the Highways Officer. Members agreed to invite the Highways Officer in charge to a site visit to discuss the situation and find a solution.

**Recommendation: Clerk to write to the Officer in charge of the resurfacing work inviting him to a site meeting with committee members.**

**1296-10 PARKING ON MARFORD ROAD VERGE -update**

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

Some additional bollards will be installed between the area and the footway.

**Recommendation: To note that the 'grasscrete' will be installed imminently.**

**1297-10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**(a) Update on Lighting** – The lighting company will install the new timer switches and take the broken lights away for repair in readiness for switch on day. Lights to be on from 4pm. Christmas Tree lights to be on 24hrs.

**(b) Christmas Trees** – Clerk to write to Mr. Nall-Cain thanking him for the wonderful gift of two Christmas Trees last year and asking if he would like to repeat the gift explaining that this year the trees will be lit 24 hrs

**(c) Pea Lights at Mill Race**

Cllr. Reason suggested that the lights on Mill Walk be switched on when the clocks go back as supplementary lighting in this area.

Cllr. Brewster proposed that she and Cllr. Reason canvas the village shopkeepers to see if they would like Mill Walk lights to be switched on during the winter months.

Vote 2 FOR 3 Against. The proposal was lost.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. Christmas Lights to be on from 4pm. Action Clerk.**
- 2. Christmas Tree lights to be on 24hrs. Action Clerk.**
- 3. Clerk to write to Mr. Nall-Cain.**

**1298-10 BUS SHELTER**

A 50% grant is available from HCC towards the installation of a new bus shelter at Hilldyke Road.

The Clerk is to check the Highways and Public Transport budget to confirm the amount budgeted for a new bus shelter in this financial year.

Cllrs. Brewster and Reason volunteered to look into providing a large bus shelter with proper seating at the Hilldyke site. They will give a verbal report to the Parish Council on Thursday with details of the shelter, costs etc.

The bus stop/seat at Gustard Wood is partly within the Kimpton boundary. Clerk to contact Kimpton Parish Council regarding joint funding of a bus shelter.

Cllr. Clark reported that the two bus shelters at Castle Rise on the Lower Luton Road are in need of re-painting. If funds are available a volunteer group in the village might take this project on.

***Cllr. Hills left the meeting during this item. 21.30***

**Recommendation:**

- 1. Clerk to check the amount in the budget for a bus shelter and inform committee members.**
- 2. Cllrs. Brewster and Reason to look into providing a large bus shelter at the Hillydyke site. Verbal report to be given to the Parish Council at it's meeting on Thursday.**
- 3. Clerk to contact Kimpton Parish Council regarding joint funding of a bus shelter at Gustard Wood.**
- 4. Clerk to check budget to see what funds are available to re-paint the bus shelters at Castle Rise.**

**1299-10 DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

The committee agreed that details of the planter seats are to be put in the Pump and bids invited. If no offer comes forward they are to be disposed of.

**Recommendation: Details of the planter seats to be placed in the Pump and bids invited. If no offer is received they are to be disposed of.**

**1300-10 H.C.C. – UPDATE**

The top section of the hand rail at the bottom of Wick Avenue will be installed imminently.

HCC have agreed that poles in the High Street can be painted in Conservation Green and they accept future responsibility for them

On a date fairly soon Station Road will be closed for re-surfacing.

White lines will be replaced.

Signs and bollards left after street works have ended to be reported to HCC via the fault report website, HCC will then arrange removal.

A request to move the speed limit sign at Amwell Lane, which will have the affect of moving the 30mph zone to cover the top of Amwell Lane, High Ash road and Hill top View. Members agreed to leave the situation alone.

Yellow lines agreed on Marford Road/Conquerors Hill/ Necton Road will be advertised next week.

Yellow lines at top of Mount Road/Waddling Lane to be advertised next week.

The committee agreed to request the results of a speed trap that took place on Lower Luton Road last week.

The committee agreed to request accident statistics for Lower Luton Road.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. Poles in High street to be painted. HCC will have future responsibility for the poles.**
- 2. No action to be taken re speed limit at Amwell Lane.**
- 3. Clerk to ascertain results of speed trap on the Lower Luton Road.**
- 4. Clerk to ascertain accident statistics for Lower Luton Road.**

**1301-10 PARISH COUNCIL – Actions from P.C. Meeting**

No actions from July P.C. meeting.

**1302-10 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS.**

T16 – A new 20mph zone to cover the new housing estate at Butterfield Road. Cllr. Clements had been informed by Highway Engineers that this will not happen.

T14 & T15 - The 20mph zone in the village centre. This is being looked at by HCC.

T7 – HGV traffic on Marford Road/Lower Luton Road/The Hill – Cllr. Clements keeps pushing for this when he attends HCC meetings.

**1303-10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.07hr**

**Dated this                      day of    2010**

**Chairman**