

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Parish Council Meeting  
26 August 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	

	J Warren	Clerk to the Council
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	Press	0
	Public	7

**1304 -10 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Burgess and Stammers (personal reasons).

**1305-10 Public Speaking**

Mr Pearce thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to expand upon his previous letters concerning public access particularly for people with access difficulties. The Marford Playing Fields were accessible to those in wheel chairs but he had concerns regarding the uneven approach to the Meads footbridge. Councillor agreed that the item dealing with taken next on the agenda.

**Resolved**

- 1 To note the request.**
- 2 To consider access to the Meads Footbridge and other small projects next**

**1306-10 Specific Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in Minute 1320-10, as she is on Plans North of the District Council Planning Authority and also a member of the Licensing Committee. 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 1307-10, as he is a close neighbour of Mr Pearce.

Councillor Reason declared a personal interest in Minute 1320-10, owning an adjacent property to Leasey Bridge Stables.

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in Minute 1320-10, owning an adjacent property to l'Olivo

### **1307-10 Small Projects**

This item was brought forward on the agenda because of the public interest.

Councillor Burgess had reported that he had completed all small projects previously agreed to. Some painting, by other volunteers, of the Rectory Meadows slide remained outstanding. Councillor Burgess had previously submitted a small projects proposal form to relay the paving by the Meads Footbridge, but was no longer free to undertake the work.

Councillor Clark drew attention to parking at the end of Melissa Field and possible requirement for bollards. Agreed that this be referred to the Rights of Way & Commons Committee.

Councillors discussed ownership of the Meads Footbridge which was built above a sewer pipe. The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency had confirmed it did not own the bridge, no definitive response, despite numerous attempts, had been received from the Water Authority. Should work be undertaken upon the bridge, such as painting it, permission would be required from the Environment Agency as it spanned the River.

Councillors confirmed that access across the River had been previously discussed as part of the Meads development, the bridge provided an essential link to the riverbanks. It was agreed that improvements were needed to the uneven access and noted that the underground installation of EDF power cables on the north bank was imminent, work to pathways prior to these earthworks may cause unnecessary duplication and costs. In the meantime level access was possible from Mount Road and East Lane.

It was agreed that access via a relocated bridge may be a good long term solution. This would include removal of the current substandard bridge whose ownership could not be identified but which was often incorrectly perceived to be that of the Parish Council. The Clerk was to write to the Water Board advising that the sewer pipe should be removed. Councillor Page asked that his vote AGAINST this proposal be recorded

Quotations to relay the paving slabs in the immediate future would be presented to the Rights of Way & Commons Committee.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 To refer consideration of bollard installation to Rights of Way & Commons Committee**
  - 3 Clerk to write to the Water Authority to advise them that they would need to remove their sewer pipe because the Parish Council**

**was considering relocating the footbridge which carried the sewer pipe across the River Lea (Cllr Page voted against this).**

- 4 Clerk to obtain quotations to relay the access paving to Footbridge for subsequent consideration b the Rights of Way & Commons Committee**

#### **1308-10 Minutes of Council**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July were approved. Members were reminded to send any further comments on the Conservation Area Character Statement to the Clerk by 27 August as the deadline for submission was 31 August, immediately after the bank holiday weekend

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

#### **1309-10 Minutes of Committee Meetings**

The following draft committee minutes were received and adopted:

IT Committee	29 July 2010
Memorial Hall Committee	6 August 2010
Station Platform Working Group	19 August 2010
Pump Committee	24 August 2010
Highways & Public Transport Committee	24 August 2010

**Resolved: To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of**

IT Committee	29 July 2010
Memorial Hall Committee	6 August 2010
Station Platform Working Group	19 August 2010
Pump Committee	24 August 2010
Highways & Public Transport Committee	24 August 2010

#### **1310-10 Memorial Hall Recommendations**

The recommendations of the Memorial Hall Committee, including rewiring external lighting (£852), deep clean of the toilets and 'lino' floors of Hewitt Room Kitchen, library corridor, Green Room (£295- the Clerk was thanked for negotiating a reduction on 2009), replacing corroded pipe in gentlemen's toilet (£200) and painting the cement finish between the two bays on eastern side of the building (quotation to be obtained, price ceiling agreed), re-contacting a handyman to carry out works on the loft ladder and accepting a booking fee of £100 for a Mothering Sunday Service in 2011.

It was reported that quotations for improving the north access had been obtained. The building had level access to west and south sides. It was not clear whether it was also necessary, at much greater expense to just step access, to build regulation compliant slope access to all entrances. Written confirmation of access requirements would be sought from both the Fire Service and St Albans District Council, specifically regarding requirements for disabled access and ramps to the north elevation.

Advertising for an assistant caretaker for holiday/sickness cover would be included in the Pump and permission would be granted to Wheathampstead Dramatic Society to install a camera and TV monitoring system in the Hall for drama productions. The WDS could also permanently install a digital projector as a project when the new stage lighting was installed. Wheathampstead Parish Council approval had been sought prior to purchase by WDS.

**Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Memorial Hall Committee**

**1311-10 Station Working Group Recommendations**

The recommendations of the Station Working Group, including the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the opening of the Station in September 2010 were approved.

**Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Station Working Group.**

**1312-10 Pump Committee Recommendations**

The recommendations of the Pump Committee were approved

**Resolved To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Pump Committee**

**1313-10 Highways & Public Transport Committee Recommendations**

The recommendations of the Highways and Public Transport Committee were approved subject to amendment of Minute 1297-10, Christmas lighting. The Clerk was to speak to the newly appointed Priest in Charge at St Helen's Church regarding the Christmas tree, and Councillor Reason would conduct a survey of the Village's bus shelters (Minute 1298-10) to inform a maintenance schedule. Councillors Brewster and Reason reported on potential designs for new bus shelters and progress on ascertaining outside funding assistance.

Council had removed all delegated powers from committees (Minute 981-10, 1033-100) thus it was agreed that committee recommendations could be revisited by Full Council. The Highways & Public Transport Committee had considered increasing the use of pea lights along the Mill Stream beyond the Christmas period as supplementary lighting, and consulting adjacent retailers to this effect (Minute 1297-10). The debate was reopened and a recorded vote requested. Consideration was given to the need for additional lighting, its cost and consultation.

The motion to consult the users of Mill Walk about supplementary lighting along the Mill Race, including whether shop owners would be prepared to make a financial contribution to this, was put to a recorded vote and carried by the Chairman's casting vote. Councillor Hills asked that it be recorded that he 'refused to vote' on this motion.

	For	Against	Abstain
Iain Begg	√√		
Annie Brewster	√		
Gill Clark			√
Niel Clements		√	
Derek Hills			√
Neil Page		√	
Tessa Reason	√		
Jacqueline Turner	√		
Sue Walford		√	
Andrew Waterfield		√	

- Resolved**
- 1 To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Highways & Public Transport Committee with Minute 1297-10 amended as 2 below.**
  - 2 To consult the users of Mill Walk about supplementary lighting along the Mill Race, including whether shop owners would be prepared to make a financial contribution to this**

### **1314-10 Maltings Drive Hedge**

A request has been received from a householder to prune the inside of the hedge adjacent to his fence on Malting Drive Play Area. The hedge side facing the play area was contractually cut. Councillor Turner confirmed that the hedge was planted by the Parish Council at the request of a previous owner to screen the fence from footballs some 20 years earlier. The additional cut

would cost approximately £120 to leave a gap between hedge and fence. Hedge removal and reinstatement of the ground was estimated at £1,000. The Clerk was asked to advise the homeowner of the history of the hedge and confirm whether s/he wished his security to be compromised by reduction of hedging; and to remind him that he was permitted to prune branches which overreached his property.

**Resolved: Clerk to clarify request.**

### **1315-10 Training**

Members considered the requests from the Deputy Clerk to attend the SLCC Finance for Local Councils Training Course on 15 September, cost £25; and a Fire Safety Presentation on 20 September together with the Vice Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee (£10 each), this would provide an insight into legislation to fire safety, premises and statutory requirements, plus fire risk assessments etc. These courses and one day attendance at the SALTEX exhibition by Clerk and Chairman of Playing Fields & Youth Committee (FOC) (7-9 Sept) were approved

- Resolved**
- 1 Deputy Clerk to attend Finance training course**
  - 2 Deputy Clerk & Vice-Chairman of Memorial Hall Committee to attend Fire Safety presentation**
  - 3 Clerk & Chairman of Playing Fields Committee to attend Saltex exhibition**

### **1316-10 Picnic Request**

WEB had requested to hold a community picnic on the East Meads on 26 September to which all who work or live in the Village would be invited. They would hope to include a pass the parcel, music and possibly BBQ. The Clerk confirmed that they had public liability insurance and risk assessments would be prepared. Consideration had been given to a generator/power source, parking, clearing up, 'crowd management' and informing SADC Safety Advisory Group and police. A Temporary Event Notice would be required if was music played.

Concern was raised that large numbers may seek to attend and that in approving the request this be communicated to WEB, such as at previous firework events and Village Day. A local group would also be commended to WEB to consider for catering.

- Resolved**
- 1 To approve the request subject to completion of necessary documentation including risk assessments, insurance and advising SADC and police.**
  - 2 To advise that similar events had been very popular**
  - 3 Clerk to suggest a local group may assist with catering**

**1317-10 Budget Review 2010 -11**

The first quarter had been reviewed in July, (Minutes 1262-10).  
Agreed to review next month

**Resolved To review next month**

**1318-10 Accounts for Payment**

The schedule of accounts for payment in August had been circulated

**Resolved To pay the accounts per August 2010 schedule amounting to £14,789**

**1319-10 Annual Return**

Councillors authorised the correction of the total fixed and long term assets in box 9 of the annual return from £2 280 094 to £2 295 653. The asset register contained a formula error and the addition was incorrect.

**Resolved To approve the amendment**

**1320-10 Planning**

Councillor Clark took the Chair for this item

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

5/10/1606	43 Necton Road, Wheathampstead	Alterations to opening and materials of single storey extension
5/10/1632 AB	Bride Hall, Bride Hall Lane, Ayot St. Lawrence	Prior Approval – agricultural barn
5/10/16	Hunters Lodge, Aldwickbury Farm, Piggottshill Lane, Harpenden	2.8m high brick wall to replace existing 2.2m high fence and wall, swimming pool and outbuilding containing pump room and WC, and associated landscaping (resubmission following invalid application 5/10/1151)

**Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of refusal - The Parish Council object most strongly to using Heartwood Gardens as sales name. Very, very confusing with the forest in Sandridge. Would prefer a name with a Wheathampstead connection**

**At the meeting concern was raised that the name could lead to local confusion with Hartwell Gardens in Harpenden.**

**Concern was further raised that the name boards had been in situ prior to planning approval. The Clerk was to contact Planning enforcement.**

5/10/1540	Former	Display of four non-illuminated
A	Wheathampstead	fascia signs, eight non-
	Education Centre,	illuminated wall mounted panels,
		non-illuminated wall lettering
		and logo, and two non-
		illuminated post mount
		advertisements comprising four
		signs

**Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of refusal- Overdevelopment, the proposed extension is dominant for the neighbours**

5/10/1784	38 Butterfield	Single storey rear ext
	Road	

**Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made – recommendation of refusal – overdevelopment in Green Belt**

5/10/1770	Appleshwaite,	Single storey side and rear
	Gustard Wood	extension following demolition of
		existing conservatory and side
		extension, single storey front
		extension, conversion of
		basement into habitable
		accommodation, addition of
		porch roof to main entrance and
		alterations to openings

**The following plans were considered:**

5/10/1956	Sauncey Edge,	Manege with 1.5m high fence
	6 Sauncey	and associated works
	Wood	
	Harpenden	
5/10/1672	31 The	Part single, part two storey front
	Broadway,	& Side extension with integral
	Gustard Wood	garage & Juliette balcony,
		pitched roof & roof lantern to
		rear projection, & alterations to
		openings

5/10/0793 L'Olivo, 135 Variation of licensing  
Marford Road, conditions  
Wheathampste - increase hours for alcohol &  
ad food daily until midnight. No  
changes to music or other  
elements of the licence.

**Resolved RECOMMEND: No objection**

**The following plans were considered:**

5/10/0214 Leasey Bridge Demolition of livery yard and  
Stables, Leasey associated buildings and erection  
Bridge Lane of single storey detached  
dwelling (resubmission following  
withdrawal of 5/09/1541 (NB PC  
Recommended Refusal – Green  
Belt)

**Resolved RECOMMEND REFUSAL- Overdevelopment in  
the Green Belt**

#### **1321-10 Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended**

Councillor Brewster reported upon the meeting with EDF, Clerk and Village representatives including from WEB and WDPS to discuss the sporadic power failures. The EDF representatives gave explanations of power failures, particularly about the need to utilize overhead cables, which were prone to interference by birds, branches etc, to enable work to be undertaken upon problematic underground cables. A copy of the map of cabling was provided.

EDF had, at an earlier meeting assured that the Parish Council would be informed of planned maintenance. It was suggested that avoid some bad press EDF could easily improve its PR, for example explaining that any line interference triggers a failure and this was a safety mechanism Also that temporary use of overhead lines had recently been used, but that once the switch back to underground cabling then fewer power failures were anticipated. In March EDF promised improvements and indeed for a while it was much better. We now understood what was hopefully a blip in service caused by a return to using overhead cables. The Parish Council would include an information article to this effect in its quarterly newsletter, the Pump. An offer to approach the Water Authority regarding the underground cabling at the Meads, for which we had already agreed easement, was made. Similarly we were advised that in times of crisis power failures EDF automatically sent the Red Cross to the affected area to provide blankets, hot drinks etc. Potentially our local (welfare) community group may be happy to assist and had a number of contacts particularly for elderly and vulnerable individuals.

The Clerk had formally requested that EDF (or its successor body) include refurbishment of the overhead cabling in Wheathampstead in its programme as we now understand that underground cabling was not always an option. Specific mention was to Gustard Wood and Coleman Green as these areas of the Village appear to be particularly prone to electrical faults. We understand an additional meter/isolator may be feasible.

Councillor Clements advised that he had attended a meeting with Highways engineers, reported through the Highways Committee minutes.

Councillor Brewster drew attention again to the St Albans & District in Bloom 2010 event and asked that it be further publicised to friends and groups. Categories included Best Front Garden, Young Gardener, Retail Frontage, Parish in Bloom, Environmentally Friendly Garden and Senior Citizen Garden.

She further advised of an exploratory meeting with the Woodland Trust and Sandridge Council regarding a grant application for a transitory project on Nomansland – to include working with an event provider for activities for young people, schools, youth groups, police and perhaps holiday activities for specific groups including the less able. Activities could include orienteering, wildlife awareness themes and shelter building.

The Heritage Trail was progressing, a meeting with Heather Cheesbrough, Head of Planning, scheduled in Wheathampstead in September.

Tesco were also on target for opening in the High Street. During the refurbishment of the former One Stop a shopping bus ran weekly from the Village to the Co-Op store in Southdown.

Councillor Page spoke of the Nomansland Joint Committee meeting's annual inspection and his concerns over assertions made by the District Council officer regarding approval for works on parts of the Common owned by Wheathampstead Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate records held by the Parish Council and write asking SADC for evidence of the transfer of Nomansland from the Rural District Council to Wheathampstead Parish Council. An enquiry regarding registration should be made to the Land Registry. Councillor Page expressed concern about the officer's announcement to cut a bridleway through the Wheathampstead-owned part of the Common. He further offered to take interested councillors to view the cutting of a bridleway on the south side of the Common and, for comparison, a bridleway cut by Wheathampstead Parish Council on Bower Heath.

**Resolved: To note the reports  
Clerk to write to SADC**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.45h.**

**Dated this            day of            2010**

**Chairman**