

## **Wheathampstead Parish Council Playing Fields & Youth Committee 21 September 2010, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	A Brewster I Begg T Reason	Chairman
		K Buckler A Ellis	Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club
		Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

### **1338-10 Apologies and substitutions**

No apologies were received. Councillors Page and Waterfield were absent. The chairman welcomed members of the Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club to the meeting

### **1339-10 Questions from the Public**

None.

### **1340-10 Specific Declarations of Interest**

None

### **1341-10 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 7 June 2010 were approved.

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

### **1342-10 Update on Football Pavilions**

Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club confirmed that a meeting had occurred in June with the Football Foundation and Cllr Brewster to discuss a replacement building at Butterfield Road. It had become apparent that funding was unlikely to be available, and Football Foundation recommended structures were likely to be cost prohibitive.

The planning application for a new container to house a pavilion /clubhouse /centre had yet to be progressed. Consideration was given to potentially constructing a community building, not least as

footballers' use would be restricted to weekends. If appropriately constructed the new centre may be a focus for those living in the new development site adjacent, or further afield.

It was confirmed that the developer will install a vehicular lockable gate between the houses and the car parking area for use by Wheathampstead Wanderers. Meanwhile the developer had been asked to avoid parking contractors' vehicles at Butterfield Road at weekends as space was limited. It was reported that the developer had sponsored the Club with new kit for the 2010-11 season. An article had been included in the Autumn Pump. Wheathampstead Wanderers would approach Charles Church to include identifiable signage for the Club.

Refurbishment of the Marford pavilion continued. New doors had been fitted and the roof (weather permitting) would be renewed within the next few weeks. The Wheathampstead Wanderers had a new door key, the Clerk would give the Wheathampstead 89 a replacement key when they attended to pay the new season's fee. Under the lease terms the Wheathampstead Wanderers, as other pavilion users, were bound to keep it clean and tidy. Their input to the refurbishment process had given a sense of 'ownership'. Mr Buckler confirmed the ongoing commitment. Councillors recommended approval for £36 cleaning materials. A request to include a name sign on the pavilion was to be investigated.

- Recommended**
- 1 To note the report & thank the football club**
  - 2 To recommend approval to purchase £36 cleaning materials**
  - 3 Wheathampstead Wanderers to look into signage**

### **1343-10 Other Matters Relating to Football, Cricket and Tennis**

It was reported that the Wheathampstead Cricket Club had failed to obtain funding from Sport England's Small Grants Fund as groundworks for a new wicket was ineligible under the rules. Despite severe disappointment some alternative (take out alternative) funding had been sourced including from the Parish Council and the County Council the Club planned to continue the project and work would begin imminently.

The Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club had advised that the foul drainage to the WC in the Clubhouse had blocked twice since the new building was built. An emergency plumber had unblocked it and confirmed that there was no unusual foreign objects in the drain. The blockage was at a bend in the drain as the pipe exits the Clubhouse. They suggested that this may be a latent defect under the terms of the contract let to build the Clubhouse. The Clerk was advised to bring this matter to the formal attention of the builder.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 Clerk to contact the builder**

## **regarding plumbing problems at the Tennis Club**

### **1344-10 Melissa Field**

This was deferred.

### **1345-10 Play Areas**

It was reported that the Rectory Meadows Play area refurbishment was complete aside from a small amount of repainting of the slide. Councillor Burgess's offer to assist the volunteers had been accepted. The play area was very popular almost without exception.

Parking at Folly Fields was a perennial problem. The Clerk had spoken and corresponded with the Chairman of the Residents Association and it was understood members had been informed through their newsletter and more personally. It was recommended that letters be sent to all householders, perhaps hand delivered in conjunction with the young football players, advising that the area in front of the pavilion was designated parking for footballers and the larger area a tuning area provided for all by the Parish Council. Complaints had recently been received regarding inconsiderate parking adjacent to the marked gate to the horse field, and that upon arrival footballers had found numerous vehicles, including vans parked up. The Parish Council did not want to remove the obvious benefit of temporary parking, for example by a barrier as at Butterfield Road, so would ask that space be left, particularly the area left clear by the pavilion during weekends. The Clerk was to write to Kimpton Rovers regarding their use of the facilities. Skewbridge leased the pitches Sundays.

Plans to refurbish the Marford Play Area were on hold following demise of the Big Spend Grant. The Clerk had requested quotations to reinstate the edging around the cushionfall in the older play area. Councillor Burgess had proposed a 'small project' for this, recommended for approval.

Consultation for the Caesars Road Playbuilder scheme had concluded immediately before Central Government announcing a freeze in funding (Minute 1153-10). We are awaiting a report from Central Government on the future of the grant and Cllr Brewster is looking into alternative funding options.

Councillor Brewster and the Clerk had attended the annual Saltex exhibition in September. During discussions with Lapsett the offer to loan a play dinosaur for 6 months had been made. Consideration to its placement was given and locations would be examined by Councillors Reason and Brewster. The dinosaur comprised head, tail and ribs and could be located direct on grass. Wheathampstead Parish Council would be responsible for insurance (£315pa), Lapsett would install it including signage advising it was their play equipment.

The issue of hedge pruning at Maltings Drive Play area had been referred from Council (Minute 1314-10) for discussion following clarification of the homeowner's request to prune the inside of the hedge alongside their fence. The hedge was planted some 20 years previously at public expense following the previous owner's request to protect the fence. The field facing side was pruned annually by the Parish Council. Members recommended that this current request not be attended by the Parish Council as it would not be a good use of public money benefiting one household only but that the owner be permitted to cut or remove the hedge if desired.

The Committee recommended that the hedge along FP70 (Barton Rd – Wick Av) be pruned and added to the annual contract. The hedge belongs to WPC. One quotation had been obtained, a second was awaited from the usual contractor. The recommendation was that this was pruned asap as it impeded the public footpath, and its maintenance be included in future hedging contracts. As neither of these items had been budgeted it was recommended that this be paid for from general reserves.

<b>Recommended</b>	<b>1 To note the report</b>
	<b>2 To permit householder to prune hedge parallel to the fence at Maltings Drive Play Area</b>
	<b>3 To prune hedge along FP70 and in future add its maintenance to the annual hedge contract</b>

#### **1346-10 YOUTH PROVISION**

The success of the Parish Council sponsored youth provision was reported including the successful 'Dorothy and the Wicked Wiz production', Talent Show (part of charter celebrations over Village Day weekend in July) and the summer 'Ignition' project run by Youth Connexions. Artskool had resumed for the autumn term with 26 attendees, Top Hat's winter production would be 'A Christmas Carol'. Watford Football club events also continued as usual.

<b>Recommended</b>	<b>To note the report</b>
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#### **1347-10 BUDGET REVIEW 2010 - 11**

The expenditure report had been circulated and was noted

<b>Recommended</b>	<b>To note the report</b>
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#### **1348-10 SMALL PROJECTS**

As discussed under Minute 1345-10.

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>To note the report</b>
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**1157-10 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS**

Progress was discussed

C1	Provide sports and other activities for young people eg Artskool	Artskool increased from once to twice monthly effective from March 2010. Subsidy increased from £3.50 to £4 per child wef April 2010 (Minute 864-10) Top Hat Stage School now also available subsidised to £2 for 9-17 year olds
L1	Provide MUGA	In consultation with SADC & police following installation of MUGA at Batford
L2	Youth Connexions	Agreement to use Memorial Hall
L4	Folly Fields play area	Refurbishment complete
L5	Rectory Meadows play area	Refurbishment complete except for repainting of old slide etc (Minute 1153-10)
L6	Caesars Rd play area	Working with SADC and Playbuilder grant fund
L9	Improve sign posting	New village entry signs and fingerposts in High Street installed
L10	Facilities for young people	Ignition project expanded
L11		
L12	Tennis /golf	Tennis sessions to be requested in Ignition course
L13	Lack of leisure facilities for adults	Over 50s weekly dance classes in Memorial Hall

