

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
30 September 2010, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	I Begg	Chairman
		G Clark	
		N Clements	
		N Page	
		T Reason	
		K Stammers	
		J Turner	
		A Waterfield	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

1359 -10 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Burgess, Hills and Walford (personal reasons) and Councillor Brewster (SADC meeting); and from Councillor Stammers (late arrival).

1360-10 Public Speaking

None.

1361-10 Specific Declarations of Interest

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in Minute 1383-10, 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. She also declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in Minute 13837-10, item 5/10/2108 as she was a close neighbour. She introduced the application then took no part in the discussion of it.

Councillor Clements declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in Minute 1383-10, application 5/10/224 as he was a close neighbour.

Councillor Clements declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in Minute 1367-10 (dinosaur insurance) as he works in the insurance market.

1362-10 Minutes of Council

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August were approved.

Resolved **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

1363-10 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The following draft committee minutes were received and adopted:

Allotments Committee	2 September 2010
Pump Committee	2 September 2010
Planning Committee	20 September 2010
Playing Fields & Youth Committee	21 September 2010
Station Platform Working Group	23 September 2010
Memorial Hall Committee	27 September 2010

Resolved:	To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of
	Allotments Committee 2 September 2010
	Pump Committee 2 September 2010
	Planning Committee 20 September 2010
	Playing Fields & Youth Committee 21 September 2010
	Station Platform Working Group 23 September 2010
	Memorial Hall Committee 27 September 2010

1364-10 Allotments Committee Recommendations

The recommendations of the Allotments Committee including bonfire request, poultry report and structure requests were approved.

Resolved	To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Allotments Committee
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1365-10 Pump Committee Recommendations

The recommendations of the Pump Committee were approved

Resolved	To note and approve the report and recommendations of the Pump Committee
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1366-10 Planning Committee

The recommendations of the inquorate Planning Committee were approved

Resolved	To note and approve the recommendations of the inquorate Planning Committee
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1367-10 Playing Fields & Youth Committee Recommendations

The recommendations of the Playing Fields and Youth Committee were approved, including the purchase of cleaning items (£36) (minute 1342-10) and accepting the offer from Lapsett for a dinosaur on loan for 6 months, for which the Parish Council would be responsible for insurance (annual premium £315). Lapsett would install (and later remove) it (at a position to be agreed in conjunction with the Chairman of Playing Fields Committee, Cllr Reason and Clerk) at no cost to the Council. In return a poster indicating their ownership and loan offer to Wheathampstead would be displayed (Minutes 1345-10).

It was further agreed that the householder who had requested that the hedge behind his fence on Malting Drive Open Space be pruned be advised that he was permitted to prune the hedge himself but that the Parish Council would not at this time permit the use of public money to prune the hedge benefiting just the one household.

Members agreed that the hedge along FP70 (Barton Road- Wick Avenue) which overhung the footpath be pruned. The quotation of £125 was accepted (taken from the Playing Field Committee budget) and the Clerk asked to ensure that this pruning be added to the annual hedging contract (approximate cost £30pa).

- 1 To note & approve the recommendations of the Playing Fields and Youth Committee including**
- 2 Purchase of cleaning materials (£36)**
- 3 Acceptance of no obligation free loan of Lapsett play dinosaur, to be insured at £315 for one year**
- 4 Clerk to advise householder of permission to prune the hedge parallel to his fence at Malting Drive Open Space**
- 5 Hedge overhanging FP70 to be pruned (£125) and in future years added to the Council's annual maintenance contract**

1368-10 Station Working Group Recommendations

The recommendations of the Station Platform Working Party including the site meeting with residents was approved.

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

1369-10 Memorial Hall Recommendations

The recommendations of the Memorial Hall Committee, including servicing the kitchen gas cookers (£175), fixing the loft ladder (£30), painting the render by the north exit (£145) and changing gas supplier to take advantage of better contractual terms were approved

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

- **Cooker servicing £175**
- **Loft ladder repairs £30**
- **Painting of outside north exit wall £145**

1370-10 Tree Purchase

Members considered replacement of the felled sycamore in Rectory Field and approved a *Tilia cordata* (lime) of 12 – 14cm girth costing up to £180 including planting. Two offers to donate *Salix* (willows) had been received for the Meads. These would cost the benefactors up to £320.

It was agreed that bramble clearance of the Old Station Yard would be considered by the Rights of Way & Commons Committee.

Resolved

- 1 To approve purchase of a *Tilia cordata* tree for Rectory Field £180**
- 2 To accept the offer of *Salix* trees for the Meads (to be donated)**
- 3 To refer consideration of bramble clearance at Old Station Yard to the Rights of Way and Commons Committee**

1371-10 Forge Break-in

Members noted that the Forge had been broken into and the interior doors damaged, but no apparent thefts. The police continued their enquires and had given security advice. Councillor Burgess had repaired the doors and beautifully painted them, and was formally thanked.

Resolved

- 1 To note the Report**
- 2 To thank Cllr Burgess for the repair work**

1372-10 Town Twinning Request

A request has been circulated, along with a more detailed report, to all members and also to WEB to consider twinning with the French town of Cavalaire-sur-mer. Members were pleased to support any initiative Mrs Levi / WEB wished to undertake but in a non active, non financial manner.

Resolved To support an initiative to twin in a non financial manner.

1373-10 Referendum response to DCLG

A response to the DCLG consultation that from next financial year, any "excessive" council tax increase by precepting authorities (including local [parish and town] councils in England) must be supported by a majority positive vote in a referendum to be run by the principal authority had been circulated to all councillors and was attached for formal documentation. The response's receipt was acknowledged by the closing date of 10 September. Members recorded their appreciation for the response sent by the Clerk.

Resolved To thank the Clerk for the consultation response and formally record its submission to the Department for Communities & Local Government.

1374-10 Bench donations

Four benches had recently been donated to the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to formally thank the individuals who donated these benches to the Station Platform site and outside the Memorial Hall entrance near to the bus stop. Three had already been installed and were much admired, the fourth would be in position within the near future. Members were asked to consider placement for future donated benches as another offer had just been received.

Resolved

- 1 Clerk to thank those who had so generously donated benches**
- 2 Councillors to consider possible location for further benches**

1375-10 Training

Members were reminded of the forthcoming free training including Better Places to Live Conference (4 Oct) Local Strategic Partnership Conference (13 Oct) and Hertfordshire Women's Association Event (18 October)

Resolved To note the report

1376-10 Small Projects Report

It was reported that there was no change since August.

Resolved To note the report

1377-10 Picnic Report & Treasure Hunt

It was reported that despite the inclement weather Wheathampstead for Enterprising Businesses, WEB, had organised a successful event. Members wondered whether a slightly earlier date may be set in future. The winners of the (now) annual Treasure Hunt had agreed to assist in the 2011 event. The Clerk was asked to formally thank Ms Bell for the events.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to formally thank WEB for arranging these community events**

1378-10 Farmers' Market

Concern was expressed regarding attendance at the Farmers' Market and its administration particularly regarding the current economic climate and the District Council's restructuring programme. The need to support the market – 'use it or lose it' was discussed as was the fact that the Village Plan identified the support for retail as of key importance. Members agreed the need to personally physically support the market and that the Parish Council should, where possible, make available its resources to support local enterprise. The Clerk was to communicate this to WEB.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to write to WEB stating that where feasible and in principal, the Parish Council was pleased to support local commercial enterprise and make available Council land.**

1379-10 Budget Review 2010 -11

The budget review for April – August had been circulated. A full list of committed expenditure was requested. Members noted that the utilisation of an accounts package would assist reporting and agreed that this be considered for the next financial year.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 To include all committed expenditure**
 - 3 To consider inclusion of purchasing an accounts package in the budgeting process for 2010-11**

1380-10 Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment in September had been circulated. Anomalies were queried as against the budget review. (Post meeting note, this was confirmed s being 2009-10 creditors shown under budget heads when cheques were drawn).

Resolved To pay the accounts per September 2010 schedule amounting to £29,207.91

1381-10 Annual Return

The Annual Return and audit opinion had been received and circulated. These were approved and accepted by Council. The issues arising report would be addressed next meeting.

Resolved

- 1 To approve and accept the Annual Return for 2009-10**
- 2 To consider the issues arising report next meeting**

1382-10 Northern Rural Design Statement

The request from Harpenden Town Council regarding a Northern Rural Design Statement had been circulated and was considered in some detail including the advantages of partnership working and pooling resources. In this instance it was agreed that since Harpenden was predominantly urban, and Wheathampstead and Redbourn were rural parishes, it was not appropriate to join forces. It was noted that Redbourn Parish Council had similarly chosen not to engage.

Resolved Clerk to write to Harpenden Town Council declining the invitation to collaborate in promoting a planning strategy for the northern part of the District

1383-10 Planning

Councillor Clark took the Chair for this item

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

In respect of 5/10/2132 Members noted that:

Whilst recognising the precedent for this development, the Parish Council is disappointed in the loss of the corniced Georgian style portico.

5/10/2122	37 Waddling Lane, Wheathampstead	Partial conversion of garage into habitable room, link between house and garage and 2.25m high wall to side boundary
5/10/2132	4 Old Rectory Gardens, Wheathampstead	Single storey front extension and replacement windows

**Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made
– recommendation of APPROVAL**

**The Parish Council is pleased with the improvement to the
Visual Street Scene of the High Street**

5/10/2015A	29 High Street, Wheathampstead	Display of three non illuminated fascia signs, one non illuminated door sign and one non illuminated wall plaque (resubmission following refusal of 5/10/0466)
5/10/2123LB	29 High Street, Wheathampstead	Display of three non illuminated fascia signs, one non illuminated door sign and one non illuminated wall plaque (resubmission following refusal of 5/10/0466)

**Under delegated powers (minute 1114-10) decisions made
– recommendation of refusal- Overdevelopment,
Overdevelopment of the site & proposed flat roof out of
keeping with tendency towards pitched rooves**

5/10/1992	15 Dawes Lane, Wheathampstead	Single storey side and rear extension following demolition of conservatory, conversion of garage into habitable room, loft conversion with two side dormer windows and roof lights and alterations to openings (resubmission following refusal of 5/10/1142)
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The following plans were considered:

5/10/2224	116 Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead	Two storey side ext. loft conversion with raising and extension of roof, two front and one side dormer windows and rooflights. Alterations to openings and removal of chimney. (Resubmission following refusal of 5/10/0969)
5/10/2108	13 Tudor Road, Wheathampstead	Part single, part first floor front and rear extensions. (Amendment to planning permission 5/10/0685 dated 03/06/10)

Resolved RECOMMEND: No objection

The following plans were considered:

5/10/2074 Danes Spring 30m x40m woodchip corral with
Farm, Kimpton timber post and 1.2m high wire
Bottom fencing gates and associated
landscapes (resubmission
following refusal of 5/10/0764)

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

5/10/2188 11 Wick Avenue, Part single, part two storey rear
Wheathampstead extension, single storey side
extension, front porch
extension, insertion of front
dormer window and alterations
to openings.

**Resolved RECOMMEND REFUSAL- Out of Keeping with
the Street Scene and overdevelopment of
site.**

1384-10 Nomansland Update

It was reported that St Albans District Council had erected 5 signs on the Wheathampstead Parish Council owned part of Nomansland welcoming people to the Common. No request had been made to the Parish Council, landowners and Lords of the Manor, nor was the Parish Council acknowledged on the signage. Members agreed that the Clerk write to SADC strongly objecting to the highhanded manner in which signs carrying the District Council's name only had been erected on Parish Council land without request nor permission, and ask that the signs be amended to include the Parish Council's logo within the month. It was further agreed that registration of the land (discussed at Minute 1321-10 and identified as unregistered) be urgently actioned.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 Clerk to write to SADC**
- 3 Clerk to register Nomansland with Land Registry**

1383-10 Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended

The Chairman reported that the Clerk, in her own time and expense, had been attending some of the Monthly WEB breakfast networking breakfasts in order to promote the Parish Council's activities and work more closely with local businesses. It was agreed that reimbursement should be given for quarterly attendance (currently £5 per meeting). Councillor Stammers asked that his vote AGAINST this resolution be minuted.

Councillor Clark reported on her attendance at the Cleaner District meeting, upon signage particularly the problems created by excessive/redundant works signage, and the 'in Bloom' initiative.

Councillor Clements reported that he had attended the LSP Board meeting; and Environmental Forum at which energy saving measures were discussed and a copy of the Hertfordshire Environmental Forums Quality of Life Report 2009 obtained..

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports**
 - 2 To approve paid attendance of the Clerk at 4 WEB breakfast networking events pa (£20)**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.35.

Dated this day of 2010

Chairman