

## **Wheathampstead Parish Council Highways & Public Transport 2 November 2010, 20.00h**

Present Councillors:	N D Clements	Chairman
	D Hills	Vice Chairman
	I Begg	
	G Clark	
	T Reason	
	K Stammers	
	A Brewster	Arrival 8.05
	J. Bell	WDPS
	Irene Casper	Deputy Clerk
	Press	0
	Public	0

**1485-10 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS - None**

**1486-10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**1487-10 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**

**1488-10 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2010 were approved.

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2010 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**1489-10 HCC - Report**

***Cllr. Brewster arrived during this item 8.05pm.***

**a) Parking -Yellow Lines**

The installation of yellow lines in three areas within the village have been advertised. The Chairman circulated a map showing the areas concerned.

- i. The entrances to King Edward Place
- ii. Marford/Necton Road
- iii. Mount Road

The map shows the yellow lines to be installed in Mount Road in slightly the wrong place and partly on private land. Members agreed this error is to be brought to the attention of HCC with WPC agreement to all three.

**b) Marford Crossing**

The Chairman updated members on the current position of the survey. The figures have been submitted and we should receive the response in early March. The application for the crossing is now at the top of HCC's list and things are looking positive.

**c) Slype Flooding**

HCC engineers have this in hand.

**d) Hand Rail – bottom of Wick Avenue**

HCC engineers have this in hand and the top part of the rail should be installed imminently.

**e & f) Salt supplies & PC emergency winter conditions**

A shopping areas schedule received from SADC was circulated to members. Each site in the schedule was classified. Within the resources available and subject to road conditions, staff availability and equipment serviceability SADC will endeavour to treat priority 1 and 2 locations.

In Wheathampstead the High Street, Mill Walk and Station Road have all been categorised as priority 1.

All bus routes will be cleared.

Salt bins will be filled as usual.

The Chairman and Clerk, in separate meetings, raised the matter of salt supplies for Town and Parish Councils. WPC are going to receive 2 pallets of salt for use in the village. The majority of the supply will be stored by our contractors; a small amount will be stored in the Forge for use with the salt spreader. At the moment we do not have a volunteer to use the salt spreader. Members agreed a note is to be put in the Pump asking for a volunteer/s who will be trained in the use of the salt spreader. WPC has received an extra supply to cover East Lane Car Park.

Members agreed that an item giving clear instructions of what the salt in the salt bins is to be used for is to go in the Pump.

An item regarding the clearance of snow was circulated to members. Members agreed that this information should be put in the Pump.

**g) East Lane Footway**

An area at the High Street end of East Lane has had the York Stone replaced with a tarmac surface (which has gold coloured pieces in). The Chairman had requested to HCC that the York Stone was replaced with a gravel type finish and indications were that the current surface would be replaced with this finish.

Members then discussed requesting the reinstallation of York Stone at the corner of the Bull and East Lane for continuity of surface and a better visual appeal on the High Street. It was agreed, that because lorries are subject to cutting the corner on the entrance to East Lane and York Stone is not structurally sound enough to take the weight of the lorries, not to further this request, but to push HCC for the gravel type material to be installed.

**h) Mill Quay Bridge**

Cllrs. Clements and Hills had attended a site meeting with an officer from HCC to look at the problems associated with the new resin surfacing that has been put on the bridge.

The surface that has been installed has gone into deep gouges in the already rotten wood. One area in particular is a trip hazard.

Members agreed that a flat surface is needed on the bridge which can then have the resin surface installed.

Cllr. Stammers proposed, "WPC write to HCC saying the surfacing job is not of sufficient quality or professionalism and they must come back and

do a proper job. A flat surface topped with resin is needed". Copies of the letter to go to Hertfordshire Highways and the Environment Agency. Seconded Cllr. Clark. Vote - unanimous.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. WPC agreement to all three schemes. SADC to be notified and the small error in the Mount Road scheme to be brought to their attention.**
  - 2. An appeal for a volunteer to be trained and use the salt spreader to be placed in the Pump. Action Cllr. Clark.**
  - 3. Guidelines for the use of salt in the slat bins to go in the Pump. Action Cllr. Clark.**
  - 4. An article on the clearing of snow and ice to go in the Pump. Action Cllr. Clark.**
  - 5. Hertfordshire Highways be requested to change the surface of the footway at the High Street of East Lane to a gravel surface. Action Cllr. Clements.**
  - 6. Letter to go to HCC pointing out the poor surface on the Mill Quay Bridge and asking that it be resurfaced with a flat surface with resin coating. Copies of letter to go to HH and EA. Action Clerk.**

#### **1490 -10 TESCO**

Members discussed the following items

- a) Deliveries** – timing and blocking the High Street
- b) Design of lay-by** – the wrong shape
- c) Shoppers** – more pressure on East Lane Car Park

The Tesco deliveries and parking in the lay-by had been discussed at a recent meeting between Hertfordshire Highways Engineers and Cllrs. Clements, Hill and Brewster.

Cllr. Clements will organise a meeting with representatives from Tesco, HCC, SADC and WPC to discuss, in particular, whether the deliveries can be made to the rear of the building.

Cllr. Brewster informed members that SADC had passed the Tesco planning application regarding the following delivery times:

7am – 6pm Mon – Fri

9am – 4pm Saturday

10am – 4pm Bank Holiday Mondays

Lorries being able to deliver at 7am will alleviate the problems with the morning rush hour traffic.

Members of the public are allowed to park in the lay-by after 10am for ½ hour intervals.

**(Note: The police and other authorities work to the TRO – no planning permission)**

Members discussed the need for more car parking space at East Lane Car Park to accommodate shoppers. Cllr. Stammers proposed, "that WPC push SADC for an extension to East Lane Car park if we can use it on agreeable terms, seconded Cllr. Begg. (See meeting proposed above).

Car Parking is free in this car park; WPC is barred under conditions of the lease from charging for parking.

WEB (Wheathampstead for Enterprise & Business) have offered to conduct a survey of East Lane Car Park.

After discussion members agreed to ask WEB to conduct a survey of E.L.C.P. first so that WPC will have fact and figures to put before SADC when requesting the use of the adjacent land as extra car parking.

- Recommendation:**
1. **WEB to be asked to conduct a survey of East Lane Car Park. Action Clerk.**
  2. **Request to SADC for a lease on land to extend E.L.C.P. to be implemented after the results of the WEB survey.**
  3. **Cllr. Clements to arrange a meeting between reps from Tesco, HCC, SADC, WPC.**

**Cllr. Begg asked if item 13 could be taken next as he was going to have to leave the meeting early. Agreed.**

#### **1491-10 BUDGET REVIEW 2010 & BUDGET 2011-2012**

##### **a) Budget Review 2010-2011**

Members reviewed the 2010/2011 budget.

##### **b) Budget 2011-2012**

Members Reviewed the proposed draft budget for 2011/2012.

Cllr. Begg proposed trimming £500 from the Christmas Lighting figure, seconded Cllr. Brewster. Vote 4 For 2 abstentions. Carried.

Members agreed the Budget for 2011-2012 be £19,800 + £3,700 bus shelter project a total of £23,500. See attached sheet.

**Recommendation: The Highways and Public Transport Budget for 2011-2012 be £23,500.**

***Cllr. Begg left the meeting 9.15pm.***

#### **1492-10 'TOWARDS BETTER TRANSPORT' CONSULTATION**

A Consultation Document was circulated to all members.

Comments to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Members agreed Cllr. Clements will draft a response, which will be circulated to committee members for comment

**Recommendation: WPC response to the 'Towards Better Transport' Consultation will be drafted by Cllr. Clements, circulated and agreed by committee members and submitted to HCC by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Action Cllr. Clements.**

#### **1493-10 'HARPENDEN TRANSPORT PLAN' CONSULTATION**

Cllr. Clements had read the Harpenden Urban Transport Plan and prepared a draft response which was circulated for member's approval.

Members were pleased that the Plan includes:

Scheme S10 - a proposed footway between Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead and Long Buftlers, Harpenden.

Scheme NCN – Improvement of the cycle route from Wheathampstead to Harpenden.

Cllr. Reason proposed; "we support these proposals as both would be beneficial to parishioners and cyclists", seconded Cllr. Brewster. Vote For 3 Against 2. Agreed.

Cllrs. Brewster proposed the deletion of wording in paragraph 2 after the word cyclists, seconded Cllr. Reason. Vote For 4. Agreed.

**Lorry Ban Zone – scheme 5**

The draft response included :

*The so called "lorry ban zone" was ineffective and any remaining vestiges of the zonal scheme should be removed. The replacement of the zone must be effective in protecting both Harpenden and Wheathampstead from heavy vehicles (except for access) and we would support reinstatement of the 7.5 ton weight limits that previously ringed this community (e.g. on Pipers Lane, Leasey Bridge Lane, Brewhouse hill, Butterfield Road etc and new limits to complete the defensive ring on Hilldike Road, Dyke Lane etc.*

After further discussion of this item the document, with agreed amendments, was approved.

Members then agreed unanimously that the response be submitted.

Cllr. Reason thanked Cllr. Clements for reading the Plan and preparing the draft response.

**Recommendation:                   The approved response to the 'Harpenden Transport Plan' Consultation be submitted. Action Cllr. Clements.**

**1494-10   CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Members finalised the arrangements for the Christmas lighting.

The majority of the Christmas lighting is controlled by timer switches which have to be manually set. It is not cost effective to have the lights on at a different time on the switch on night as they would then have to be re-set.

Cllr. Stammers proposed, "the lights controlled by timer switches go on from 4pm – midnight", seconded Cllr. Reason. Agreed unanimously.

The Mill Quay lights are switched on in the Butchers shop Cllr. Reason proposed, "that we write to WEB and ask what time they would like these lights to be switched on on 25 November, thereafter to be 4pm – midnight", seconded Cllr. Brewster. Agreed.

It was agreed that, as time was short, the timing of the pea lights switch on would be agreed with and implemented by the Clerk.

Members were informed that the contractor who installs our Christmas Trees had reported that he could not install a tree by the river bank this year, the new village sign and the height of existing trees in the area prohibited the installation of the tree.

The tree in the churchyard to go ahead as planned.

Cllr. Stammers proposed, "we go for one tree and make it the best tree ever" seconded Cllr. Hills.

Cllr. Reason proposed, "we put a tree in the flower bed outside the Post Office, seconded Cllr. Brewster.

After discussion members agreed an amendment to Cllr. Stammers original proposal – "Investigate installing a tree at the Memorial Hall and if possible install one there, otherwise go for one tree and make it the best one ever", seconded Cllr. Brewster. Vote 3 For - Against None. Agreed.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. Christmas lights to be on from 4pm – midnight.**
- 2. Opinion of WEB to be sought re the lighting timing of pea lights at Mill Quay on 25 November. Action Clerk.**
- 3. Clerk to agree and implement timing of the pea lights.**
- 4. Clerk and contractor to investigate installing a Christmas Tree at the Memorial Hall - if not viable, to have one tree in the churchyard well decorated.**

**1495-10 FLORAL MATTERS**

A letter had been received from Wheathampstead Horticultural Society – they are no longer able to look after the flower beds at the end of Marford Road. Members agreed a letter of thanks to go to the Society.

The Horticultural Society had asked if a new flower bed could be installed in ground near the toilets on East Lane. If a flower bed is installed the Society would look after it.

Cllr. Clark proposed, “we research this item and don’t rush into a decision tonight”, seconded Cllr. Brewster. Agreed.

***Cllr. Hills left during this item 10.05pm.***

Members of the WDPS had offered to plant up for winter the flower bed round the new village sign.

The bed had been planted up by WPC contractors and members were very disappointed with the result.

Cllr. Reason proposed, “we accept the kind offer from the WDPS and write to our contractor expressing disappointment at the initial planting and more disappointment that the plants have since died”, seconded Cllr Brewster. Vote nem com.

Cllr. Clements will see the planting plan before the flowers are put in.

All members agreed to having summer hanging baskets as usual.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. Letter of thanks to go to Wheathampstead Horticultural Society. Action Clerk.**
  - 2. Members to look at the site of the proposed flower bed in East Lane before the next meeting.**
  - 3. Offer of winter planting of the flower bed around the new village sign by the WDPS to be accepted. Action Clerk.**
  - 4. Letter to go to contractor expressing disappointment with the planting of the village sign flower bed.**
  - 5. Summer hanging baskets to be as usual.**

**1496-10 BUS SHELTERS**

Members discussed amending the ‘bus shelter policy’ – design, colour etc. As time was getting on this matter to be on the agenda at the next meeting.

**Recommendation: ‘Bus Shelters’ to be on the next agenda.**

**1497-10 SIGNAGE DESIGN STATEMENT - WDPS**

Julie Bell circulated copies of the 'Signage Design Statement' to all members.

Members were very grateful for this and thanked Julie for supplying the copies.

This item to be on the next agenda.

**Recommendation: 'Signage Design Statement' to be on the next agenda.**

**1498-10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.28hr**

**Dated this                      day of    2010**

**Chairman**