

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Rights of Way & Commons Committee  
16 November 2010, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	T Reason A Brewster N Page K Stammers S Walford	Chairman
		Mark Carter	CMS
		Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

**1506-10 Apologies & Substitutions**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hills (HCC meeting) and Cllr Waterfield (personal reasons).

**1507-10 Questions from the Public**

None

**1508-10 Specific Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Walford declared a personal interest in Minute 1516-10 as she lives close by to the Old Station Yard

**1509-10 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010 were approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010 as a true and accurate account of the meeting and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**1510-10 CMS Matters – Devil’s Dyke Grant application**

Mr Carter of the Countryside Management Service, at Minute 671-09 had been authorised to progress the Lottery grant application to Awards for All. The relevant permissions had been sought and obtained from English Heritage and the draft application was discussed for submission. It included requests to fund the removal of dead trees, hedge planting and a short board walk along the muddiest stretch along the bottom of the Dyke. The aim was to upgrade the rural environment and attract more visitors to this ancient monument. Discussion over the location of the definitive path, be it along the top of or base of the Dyke. Mr Carter agreed to confirm its position prior to submission of the grant application.

- Recommended**
- 1 Mr Carter to confirm the position of the definitive footpath along Devil's Dyke**
  - 2 Mr Carter to submit Lottery grant application to Awards for All**

**1511-10 CMS Matters – P3 grants**

As agreed at Minute 1424-10 quotations had been received for printing an updated version of the walking map to include amending errors in the original and signposting Devil's Dyke and Heartwood Forest. Mr Carter confirmed that the P3 grant was designed to encourage public rights of way network access to the countryside. He also confirmed that a suitable project could be funded over two years with P3 money. It was agreed that the main route from the Village to Sheepcote Lane was already surfaced and accessible (Minute 1425-10). The chairman proposed and it was agreed that 10,000 maps be printed funded from 2011 and 2012 P3 grants giving better access to all areas of the Village. Maps would be delivered to all households in the Village.

**Recommended P3 grants for 2011 and 2012 be used to fund 10,000 printed copies of the walking map**

**1512-10 Survey and Management Plan for Parish common land spaces**

The Chairman thanked Mr Carter for his offer to join interested councillors on 4 December at Melissa Field to tour the Parish and thence produce a prioritised site management plan for necessary works. This would be undertaken in his own time as cutbacks at HCC limited the official time given to parishes for such matters

**Recommended To meet at 10.00h with Mr Carter on 4 December to visit Parish owned common land and produce a prioritised management plan for future works.**

*Mr Carter left the meeting*

**1513-10 Station Platform Working Group**

The notes of the Station Working party of 4 November had been circulated. It was noted and agreed that a number of broken paving slabs, which been left near the yew trees, should be moved 3' away from them. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that planting of a hedging screen, as discussed with residents of Abbott John Mews, on the northern bank along the Cory Wright Way should be authorised up to £240.

**Recommendation to Council**

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To plant a hedging screen up to a value of £240**

**1514-10 Review of Expenditure 2010-11**

A detailed expenditure report including contractual and other committed expenditure shown against budget headings had been circulated and was discussed. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the report.

**Recommendation To note the report  
to Council**

**1515-10 Budget proposals 2011-12**

A draft budget for 2011-12 had been circulated. Following discussion the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that a budget proposal of £14,701 be submitted; this being a £1,000 reduction on 2010-11

**Recommendation to That a budget of £14,701 be  
Council submitted for consideration by the  
Finance Committee**

**1516-10 Treework and maintenance****Old Station Yard**

This item had been referred from Minute 1427-10. Councillor Walford declared a personal interest in discussions of this location as it was close to her home. A quotation to clear the brambles had been received. Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Walford, proposed, and it was agreed, that up to £485 be spent on bramble clearance.

**Rectory Glebe & Meads**

At Minute 1459-10 it had been agreed that the Chairmen of Playing Fields and Youth Committee and Rights of Way and Commons Committee would agree the positioning and planting of trees on Rectory Glebe. Following their visit to the site the Chairman expressed concern regarding the planting of a small leafed lime (susceptible to aphid attack and subsequently exudation of a sticky substance) adjacent to the play area as marked up by the former chairman. In the second location a replacement red oak had died. Cllr Reason had sought species advice from the arboriculturist Mr Girling for the location marked and the American/Biltmore Ash and silver leafed lime (for play area) had been suggested as an alternative. It was agreed that the chairmen and Cllr Page meet on site where repositioning would be

discussed. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the order placed (minute 1427-10) for both the *Tilia cordata* and willows (for the Meads and awaiting planning consent from the Environment Agency under their byelaws for works within 8m of the river) be put on hold with delivery delayed until agreement had been reached. Councillor Page would mark up the map of the Meads to identify the proposed location of the willows for submission to the Environment Agency.

Councillor Walford had offered to purchase and pay to plant a memorial willow (*Salix Abies*). Cllr Page confirmed that the memorial bench and this tree (Minute 1459-10) were beyond the 8m zone requiring permission under the Thames Region Land Drainage Byelaws 1981 4 & 14 .

### **Melissa Field and Marshalls Heath**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that work here would be discussed following the site visit on 4 December (Minute 1512-10)

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| <b>Recommendation<br/>to Council</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>To note the report</b>  |
|                                      | <b>2</b> | <b>To approve up to £485 expenditure upon bramble clearance at Old Station Yard</b>                                  |
|                                      | <b>3</b> | <b>To place the order for 2 willows and a small leafed lime on hold pending agreement upon their future location</b> |
|                                      | <b>4</b> | <b>Councillors Reason, Brewster and Page to meet at Rectory Meadows to agreed tree siting.</b>                       |
|                                      | <b>5</b> | <b>Councillor Page to mark up proposed location of willow trees on the Meads</b>                                     |
|                                      | <b>6</b> | <b>To accept Councillor Walford's offer for a memorial willow</b>  |
|                                      | <b>7</b> | <b>To defer consideration of work at Melissa Field and Marshalls Heath until after the site visit on 4 December</b>  |

### **1517-10 Definitive bridle path Bower Heath**

The potential dedication of a path in Bowers Heath ridden by horses as a Definitive Bridleway, referred from Minute 1427-10 was discussed. Councillor Page circulated maps showing this potential new bridlepath which he had discussed with the HCC Footpaths officer, plus a suggested new footpath which he has subsequently considered.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the path should be recommended as a Definitive Bridleway. It was further agreed that the Footpaths officer be separately asked to consider the dedication of the marked footpath which linked FP 53 and FP31/60

- Recommendation to Council**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 To recommend dedication of a path in Bower Heath as a Definitive Bridleway**
  - 3 To recommend dedication of the marked footpath linking FP53 to FP31/60**

**1518-10 Nomansland**

It was reported that the officer concerned was on leave and no formal response had been received from SADC following Minute 1384-10. It was understood the request had been progressed

**Recommendation to Council**                      **To note the report**

**1519-10 Progress against Village Plan targets**

It was noted that the following targets were in hand.  
E7 Improve existing Improvements at Min1517-10  
footpaths & provide all- Bower Heath  
weather paths

**Recommendation to Council**                      **To note the report**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.00h.**

**Dated this                      day of                      2010**

**Chairman**