

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Playing Fields & Youth Committee  
17 January 2011, 20.00h**

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

**1621-11 Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Waterfield (personal reasons). The chairman welcomed members of the Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club to the meeting

**1622-11 Questions from the Public**

None.

**1623-11 Specific Declarations of Interest**

None

**1624-11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 September 2010 were approved.

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2010 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**1625-11 Update on Football Pavilions**

**Marford Pavilion**

It was reported that following replacement of roof and doors the building was now secure and weatherproof; however long term damage had been caused to walls and ceiling by water leakage. Serious problems remained in respect of interior plumbing with burst pipes, broken toilets and showers. A plumber had attended twice recently to mend burst pipes and had been called again prior to the meeting. The plumber was to be asked to test the showers for functionality. Toilet facilities were necessary for all matches and

showers required for adult games.

Members agreed that the immediate priority was to fix the water pipes, showers and toilets and that the problems be assessed by a plumber. A quotation was to be sought for potential approval at Council.

A quotation was also to be sought to replace the water damaged ceilings and light fittings.

Members recommended to Council that the remaining current year budgets for sports equipment, facilities repair and maintenance, additional maintenance and pavilion refurbishment (approximately £4000) be utilised for plumbing works and urgent ceiling-lighting repairs.

Consideration was also given to encouraging users to respect the facilities. The possibility of requiring a deposit from home teams was discussed. It was recommended that the Clerk be asked to investigate the possibility of amending the lease so that the building was leased to one Club who then sub-let to others. This was suggested with a view to improving accountability.

*Post meeting note – The plumber reported that a pressure reduction valve would alleviate the regular problem of burst pipes.*

### **Butterfield Road Pavilion**

Council had agreed to work with the Wheathampstead Wanderers to submit a planning application for a permanent facility at Butterfield Road, the temporary permission would expire in 2014. (Min 1150-10, 1174-10) The application had now been completed. Members recommended that this was ready for submission by Wheathampstead Parish Council. If appropriately constructed the new centre may be a focus for those living in the new development site adjacent, or further afield.

The chairman reported that she had been in contact with the Commercial Director of Persimmon regarding the development and specifically play facilities at the site. A meeting was to be arranged. Concerns were raised about the now open access from the building site onto the field and use of the parking area by contractors' vehicles. The Clerk would notify the police and this would be raised at the site meeting with Persimmon. The Clerk would again chase HCC regarding the provision of water to the site.

### **Recommended**

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To consider plumbing quotations and as a priority fix problems at Marford Pavilion**
- 3 To consider quotations for urgent ceiling /lighting repairs**
- 4 To utilise remaining budgets for sports equipment, facilities repair and maintenance, additional**

**maintenance and pavilion refurbishment (approximately £4000) be utilised for plumbing works and urgent ceiling-lighting repairs.**

- 5 Clerk to investigate amending football leases to permit subletting and report to next meeting**
- 6 To submit a planning application for a new replacement pavilion at Butterfield Road**
- 7 To contact Persimmon regarding facilities at Butterfield Road**
- 8 To contact HCC regarding provision of water to the site**

### **1626-11 Other Matters Relating to Football, Cricket and Tennis**

It was reported that the Wheathampstead Cricket Club had requested permission to refurbish their practice nets. The matter had also been discussed at the Nomansland Joint Committee on 13 January, which benefited from SADC's legal department's advice. Members recommended that subject to this refurbishment being compliant with s38 Commons Act 2006, as it would appear to be, the Parish Council would have no objection to the works – these being for the repair of existing surface already made of one of the specified materials.

The relaying of the cricket square had taken well.

Members were asked to note that the lease for the Tennis Club was due for review autumn 2011.

Complaints had been received regarding litter left besides football pitches, particular notice being given regarding orange peel. It was recommended that the Clerk write to the football clubs.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 To agreed permission for cricket net refurbishment subject to its compliance with s38 Commons Act 2006**
  - 3 Clerk to write to football clubs regarding littering**

### **1627-11 Play Areas**

It was reported that the Playbuilder grant for Caesars Road Play Area was secure, tenders had been returned and work was expected to be on target for Spring 2011.

The play area at Butterfield Road as the original specification was being installed, and it was anticipated that s106 monies would contribute to Maltings Drive Play area refurbishment. The Big

Spend grant which Youth Connexions had hoped to access for Marford Play Area had been withdrawn.

Consideration was given to a sports court similar to the once seen at Totnes, this was of sympathetic design to the Tennis Courts.

**Recommended**                      **To note the report**

### **1628-11 YOUTH PROVISION**

The growing success of the Parish Council sponsored youth provision was reported including Artskool and Top Hat's stage school. Where hall availability existed Artskool met twice monthly. Wednesday stage school classes were one and a half hours. Watford Football club events continued as usual. However concern was raised that grant funding for District Council projects such as play and sports in the park and Onside run out in May 2011.

**Recommended**                      **To note the report**

### **1629-11 BUDGET REVIEW 2010 - 11**

The expenditure report had been circulated and was noted. It was recommended that the remaining provision within Ignition and regular youth projects, youth venue and new equipment be used for new equipment in the existing play area at Marford (approximately £9000). Budget provision had been made but because of staff cut backs at HCC projects had not occurred and venue costs not expended. The play area contribution of £5000 would go towards a new sports court as discussed at Minute 1627-11.

**Recommended**                      **1 To note the report**  
**2 To utilise remaining budget sums for new play equipment at Marford Play area (up to £9000)**  
**3 That the £5000 play area contribution be added to the MUGA reserve towards a sports court.**

### **1630-11 SMALL PROJECTS**

Councillor Burgess to be asked to cost his project to re-edge the teenage play area at Marford

**Recommended**                      **To ask Councillor Burgess to cost out his suggested project to use wooden poles to edge the Marford teen play area**

**1631-11 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/hour for 9-17 year olds now increased to 1.5 hours
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 (inclement weather)
L6	Caesars Rd play area	Working with SADC and Playbuilder grant fund – grant approved and tenders received
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 ongoing

