

Wheathampstead Parish Council Village Plan Committee 7 March 2011, 19.00h

Present	Councillors	I Begg A Brewster	Chairman
		J Bell R Brett D Johnston	WEB/ WDPS WEB WEB
		Julia Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	2

1775-11 Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor A Waterfield.

1776-11 Questions from the Public

Mr Holden spoke about flooding of the weir and the on-going work of the Wheathampstead River Residents' Association with the Environment Agency. He asked for support of the Parish Council to investigate the possibility of a siphon and reduce the concrete weir to a bypass. Ms Bell confirmed the interest of the WDPS in this and also the ongoing consideration to alter the use of the Hammersmatch owned land adjacent. Agreed that the Clerk facilitate an exploratory meeting with the Environment Agency. (Village Plan ref E28).

Mr Holden was also concerned about the effect of water and flooding on the listed buildings in the locality of the weir. Problems included both flood damage and more general deterioration. His concerns about regular gully and street sign cleaning were noted. Councillor Brewster advised that this service had fallen foul of the budget cuts, but specific requests would be considered by Herts Highways. Agreed that this should be referred to Highways Committee/Highways officer meeting.

Mr Holden indicated his support for T22 – improving traffic flow in East Lane and asked that this be considered high priority in a revised Village Plan. It was noted that the results of the recent carpark survey facilitated by WEB may inform any changes to this target.

Mr Holden also asked that consideration be given re-prioritising T21 – safety of the junction of King Edward Place with the High Street. Again the car park survey results once analysed may inform any decision here.

Post meeting note – Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue have serious

concerns regarding this junction and access in case of emergency.

Mr Johnston asked that 'owners' of actions shown in the Village Plan be more clearly accountable. It was agreed that this initially be shown in tabular form as an annex to the Plan

1777-11 Specific Declarations of Interest

None

1778-11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 were approved.

Resolved To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman

1779-11 Heritage Trail

It was reported that the application to the National Lottery Fund would be considered on 18 March. The grant received from Luton Airport had been held pending its outcome and the Luton Airport grant would be utilised as soon as possible.

Mr Johnston had given a detailed presentation to the WDPS on the Heritage Trail. This had been very well received and would be the basis of his report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 March.

In July 2010 (Minute 1247-10) Council resolved in principal to take ownership of specified land within the Old Rectory's crinkle crankle wall which would be used as public open space. Following planning consideration a draft s106 agreement was being prepared for approval by all parties. The final draft would be brought to Council for approval. The use of both the walled area and the 'parking' area would have significant effect on the Heritage Trail

Recommendation To note the report to Council

1780-11 Visible Street Scene including along Mill Walk

It was agreed that the application for a Visible Street Scene Grant, as agreed at Minute 1617-11 should be finalised. Councillor Donald had asked for a selection of potential projects from which he would allocate funding. These were agreed as additional finger post signage, enhanced and improved lighting to the Village Sign, parking and heritage trail signs, phone box contribution (this would have annual maintenance charges) and a notice board.

Recommendation to Council

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To work with St Albans District Council in securing a Visible Street**

