

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
26 May 2011, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	I Begg A Brewster J Burgess G Clark N Clements D Davies D Hills D Johnston T Reason J Shardlow P Woodhams	Chairman
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

Councillor Brewster, Vice chairman, in the initial absence of the Chairman, took the chair

1932 -11 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor M Fletcher (personal reasons), for Councillors Begg and Shardlow (late arrival – transport problems) and Councillor Brewster (early departure – personal reasons).

Members wished Councillor Fletcher a speedy recovery

1933-11 Public Speaking

None

1934-11 Specific Declarations of Interest

Councillors Brewster and Clark, being District Councillor members of the Plans North Committee of the District Council Planning Authority and Councillor Clark also a member of the Licensing Committee, each declared an interest in Minute 1944-11. The way they vote at Parish Council will not necessarily be the way they vote at District Council.

1935-11 Heritage Trail Presentation

Councillor Johnston gave a comprehensive presentation on the Heritage Trail, how the concept had evolved, the funding obtained and how the community was engaged with the project.

He outlined a plethora of reasons why Wheathampstead is so special – with particular reference to its history both in terms of its people and buildings. Evidence has been found establishing Wheathampstead's

occupation from the Mid Stone Age, 4000BC. It was the 'Capital of Britain' under the rule of the Catuvellauni, the boundary between Saxon and Danes (Vikings), meeting place of the Barons in 1312 against Edward II and home of the first steeplechase in England in 1830. The local economy has supported agriculture and manufacturing, this enhanced by the arrival of the railway in 1860. Important local sites include Devil's Dyke (Julius Caesar vs The Catuvellauni), Turner's Hall Farm (Roman villa), Nomansland Common (cock fighting, Battle of St Albans, infamous highwaywoman The Wicked Lady, steeplechases and boxing – marked death of Simon Byre after 99 rounds).

Wheathampstead Parish Council working with WEB (Wheathampstead for Enterprising Businesses) – traders' association, WDPS (Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society) had secured £50,000 funding for the Heritage Trail project. A website was being developed which would include video and audio interviews to capture memories, a virtual museum (working in conjunction with St Albans Verulamium Museum), pictures, information and maps. The initial trail would capture approximately 20 featured sites marked out by customised plaques including some of the 117 Grade Listed structures within 1 km of the Village.

The first public open meeting would be held on 2 June. All residents and interested parties invited to participate in the project. A similar presentation was envisaged with a fun 'talent show' of former local characters. To bring the event to life the project team would dress up as, for example, Abbot John of Wheathampstead, Cassivellaunus, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, Julius Caesar, Sarah Churchill, Lady Katherine Ferrers, opera singer Dame Nellie Melba, Shakespearian actress Ellen Terry, Saxon queen and military official. Councillors were invited to join the project team.

The meeting would inform progress and plans, but crucially it would seek involvement, ideas and engagement with the community. People would be invited to offer expertise, join working groups, become volunteer guides and support events - a number of which were already in the planning phase, including enactments at Devil's Dyke building on those the local schools currently undertook, a tug-of-war between Saxons and Danes across their boundary (the River Lea) and possibly a Victorian garden party in the crinkle crinkle walled garden.

Cllr Johnston proposed, seconded by Cllr Brewster and agreed, that light refreshments be obtained for the event.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to purchase refreshments for the public meeting on 2 June**

1936-11 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May be approved.

- Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2011 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

1937-11 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the following draft committee minutes were received and adopted:

Memorial Hall Committee	24 May 2011
Heritage Trail Working Group	2 & 19 May 2011

- Resolved:**
- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of Memorial Hall Committee | 24 May 2011 |
| Heritage Trail Working Group | 2 & 19 May 2011 |

1938-11 Memorial Hall Committee Recommendations

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the recommendations of the Memorial Hall Committee were approved. This included the removal of ivy on the walls of the Memorial Hall and around certain trees which Cllr Burgess agreed to undertake as small projects, and acceptance of the quotation to render the walls of the north side ramp and by the library amounting to £1,270. The walls would then be painted white to match the building as recommended in Minute 1924-11 once a volunteer had been found

- Resolved To approve the recommendations of the Memorial Hall Committee of 24 May including: Removal of ivy Rendering of walls at £1,270 and subsequent painting by a volunteer**

1939-11 Sage Update

It was reported that Sage software had been installed and configured. A large amount of data initial inputting was necessary including of both customer and supplier details. Councillor Reason, seconded by Cllr Brewster and it was agreed that up to £300 from the administration budget be spent on assistance with data inputting.

- Resolved 1 To note and approve the report**
2 That a budget of £300 be allowed for assistance with data inputting

1940-11 Budget Review

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to note the budget report which had been previously circulated

Resolved To note the report

1941-11 Consultations, training and meetings

Cllr Shardlow arrived.

The Chairman proposed and members agreed the request for the Clerk to attend SLCC summer symposium & ILCM AGM July 7-8 'Localism and the Big Society' (£ 155 + hotel early bird) & CIPFA SE Summer conference 15-17 Sept 'radical thinking for radical times'- innovative efficiency savings(£250); and for Councillor Shardlow to attend HAPTC chairmanship training (£30).

Members were invited to inform the Clerk should they wish to attend the Parish Conference in Redbourn on 4 July and /or Code of Conduct training at the District Council on 8 June (no charge)

The consultation information as circulated was considered:

- **Best Value statutory guidance consultation**

DCLG had launched a consultation on Best Value guidance to Councils. This affected larger councils such as St Albans District Council. Wheathampstead Parish Council had been invited to input to SADC's response including

1. Is the guidance clear, specific and proportionate?
2. Is there anything else that we should cover in order to provide more clarity to councils, contractors and the voluntary and community sector?
3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise?

A positive response was agreed, the Clerk would incorporate councillors further comments if received within the week

- **CCTV & ANPR Consultation**

Members noted that following late notification of this consultation and consideration at Minute 1930-11 the Clerk had responded:

Wheathampstead Parish Council is pleased to respond to the consultation on a code of practice relating to surveillance cameras.

Having considered the consultation documentation the Parish Council is in favour of Option 2 – Development & Publication of a self –regulating Code of Practice to be monitored by a Surveillance Camera Commissioner

It supports the idea that to do nothing would be irresponsible; cost – neutral (or very minimal) alternatives should be considered to improve public confidence in surveillance systems. The reporting function must be simple.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To approve the Clerk’s attendance at SLCC summer symposium & ILCM AGM July 7-8 (£ 155 + hotel early bird), CIPFA SE Summer conference 15-17 Sept (£250); and for Councillor Shardlow to attend HAPTC chairmanship training (£30).**
- 3 To approve attendance at Code of Conduct Training (8 June) and Parish Conference (4 July) for all who sought to attend**
- 4 To respond favourably to SADC in respect of the Best Value Statutory Guidance consultation**
- 5 To note the Clerk’s response to the CCTV & ANPR consultation**

1942-11 Community Group request – internet cafe

Council discussed the request by the Community Group to move the internet café from Hillydyke to the Memorial Hall (Min 1753-11). There was little availability to use the Memorial hall rooms however the Library may be available on Tuesday mornings. A donation of 10 laptops from Reuters along with a grant of £700 through County Councillor Maxine Crawley from the locality budget for software has made the move a possibility. The biggest stumbling block was the lack of storage space for the laptops in the library. The Community Group had received another donation of a metal lockable cabinet approximately 150cm wide x 80cm height x 45cm depth and asked the Parish Council to consider allowing them to keep the cabinet in the hallway near to the library. This would enable them to store all the laptops, keyboards and mice securely and near to the library.

Members sympathised with the request but concerns were raised regarding storage in the entrance foyer. Councillor Reason, seconded by Councillor Johnston proposed, and it was agreed, that Members of the Memorial Hall Committee and Clerk meet with representatives from the Community Group and Library to consider options

Resolved **Members of the Memorial Hall Committee and Clerk meet with representatives from the Community Group and Library to consider options**

1943-11 **Wedding request**

Cllr Begg arrived

Members considered a request to conduct a wedding ceremony by the River Lea (Melissa Field) on 10 July from 7am to about 9am in the morning. As Mandaeans (old Christianity) the bride and the groom have to be baptized in a river as part of the religious wedding ceremony. The ceremony would be for 1-2 hours. The Environment Agency had confirmed that they had no concerns providing no structures or substances are put in the River (it had been confirmed that this will not be the case). Councillors noted that there was no public parking adjacent to Melissa Field. Subject to clarification of numbers (*post meeting note: approximately 20*) the request was approved. The Clerk would contact them to draw attention to the parking limitations, and that the event was held at their own risk in a public area so risk assessments done and insurance should be taken out and the area left clean and tidy. She would also notify key local residents to avoid potential concerns.

Resolved **To approve the request.**

Cllr Clark took the chair for planning matters. Councillor Brewster tended her apologies and left the meeting

1944-11 **Planning Matters**

The following plans were considered

5/11/0956	10 Waddling Lane, Wheathampstead	Single storey rear extension, alteration to openings, and some conversion of garage into a habitable room
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Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Begg that the Parish Council's response to SADC be no objection.

Recommendation **No objection**

5/11/0796	14 & 14a High Street, Wheathampstead	Replacement first floor window. (retrospective)
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1947-11 Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended

Prior to her departure Cllr Brewster had reported her attendance earlier in the week at a Redbourn Parish Council meeting. She had been invited to talk about the Wheathampstead Village Plan which Redbourn PC admired. She had noted that in contrast to Wheathampstead Redbourn had a Village Design Statement and had suggested the parishes share expertise.

Resolved To note the report

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.00h.

Dated this day of 2011

Chairman