

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Playing Fields & Youth Committee
19 July 2011, 19.45h**

Present	Councillors	A Brewster I Begg D Hills T Reason J Shardlow P Woodhams	Chairman
		D Boynton K Buckler A Ellis C Nolan K Martin	Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club
		Julia Warren	Wheathampstead Cricket Club Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

2052-11 Apologies and substitutions

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Reason for early departure (personal reasons)

2053-11 Questions from the Public

None.

2054-11 Specific Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shardlow declared a personal interest in Minute 2061-11 as her children participate in the Top Hat Stage School

2055-11 Election of Vice chairman

Cllr Reason proposed, seconded by Cllr Shardlow and it was agreed, that Cllr Woodhams be elected Vice Chairman.

Resolved **That Councillor Woodhams be elected
Vice Chairman of Playing Fields & Youth
Committee**

2056-11 Minutes

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

Resolved **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

2057-11 Update on Cricket

Mr Martin reported that the Club had approximately 50 subscribing adult members and a similar number of colts aged 8-10 years. The aim was to grow the young members and further involve parental support. It was hoped that the Pump would carry an article to promote interest in the Club and to inform about developments. Over the last 2-3 years the Club had spent approximately £25,000 on relaying the square, and had just reinstated the cricket nets and purchased a bowling machine. Over the next few years they hoped to improve the facilities including outfield. St Albans District Council, via a request made through the Nomansland Joint Committee, was looking into legalities concerning work on the outfield for this Common Land and also with regard to temporary advertising.

A request to have the dog bin relocated to nearer the entrance gate was made, it was anticipated this would encourage dog walkers to clear up better. The chairman proposed and it was agreed that this be undertaken, subject to a charge below £75

Recommended

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To recommend inclusion of an article in the Pump informing readers of the Club and its facilities**
- 3 To relocate the dog bin closer to the entrance to the field and nearer the gate**

**2058-11 Update on Football
Butterfield Road**

It was noted that the former Education Centre site at Butterfield Road was now well developed into a housing estate. Consideration was given to the anticipated new pavilion; the football club agreed to provide more detailed specification and estimated costings including a clad structure for visual amenity. They reported that some 1,000 people were associated with the club including 300 young people.

Representatives from the Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club spoke about the need for water and power to the pavilion to be reinstated – it having been cut off when the former Development Centre building became derelict in 2008. This was the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council who leased the land to Wheathampstead Parish Council. The Clerk would obtain an updated position from their agents. The works would need to be in place prior to completion of buildings work and car park re-surfacing.

The developer had requested temporary use of 10 parking spaces for 4 months whilst building works are completed. It was anticipated that this could be accommodated to mutual benefit.

Following completion of the works it would be necessary to ensure carpark entrance and pedestrian exits were correctly positioned and the car park resurfaced.

The Wheathampstead Wanderers requested that a road sign be installed to locate the playing fields such as the example circulated identifying Harpenden Town FC to assist visiting teams. The Playing Fields and Wheathampstead Wanderers Chairmen had met with a Hertfordshire Highways representative and understood that this could be positioned on a lamppost

Post meeting note the sign, once checked by Herts Highways for adherence to the Traffic signs regulations & general directions 2002 could be installed but at requester's expense (not HH)

Marford Pavilion

Mr Buckler on behalf of Wheathampstead Wanderers thanked Wheathampstead Parish Council for the works to improve the Marford pavilion. The new showers and hot water worked efficiently and the Club was delighted. Subsequent to Minute 1625-11 he had obtained quotations to fix the ceiling so badly water damaged prior to its being made secure and weather proof. These would be forwarded to the clerk for consideration by council (*post meeting – 2 estimates provided £2,500 - £3,375, light fittings throughout £700*).

Cllrs Hills and Reason left the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the football leases were being re-drafted by the Council's solicitor prior to the new season.

The request for new goals, corner flags and cleaning products was considered. New goals were required because of Football Association changes to pitch sizes. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that these be purchased.

Ms Nolan and Messrs Boynton, Buckler and Martin left the meeting.

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| Recommended | 1 To note the reports |
| | 2 Clerk to contact HCC regarding services provision to Butterfield Road site |
| | 3 Clerk to contact HCC regarding a road sign for the playing fields |
| | 4 Wheathampstead Wanderers to provide details regarding proposed new pavilion at Butterfield Road and quotations to renew water damaged Marford Pavilion ceiling |
| | 5 to purchase 4 new goals at £128 each |
| | 6 to purchase cleaning products and corner flags at £173.25 |

2059-11 Tennis Update

The Tennis Club had held a Pimm's Stall at Village Day which had appeared most successful and would probably be repeated. It was reported that the Tennis Club's rental was due for update and that this must be reasonable and proportional.

Use and publicity of the public tennis court was discussed, the Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Clerk speak to the Tennis Club and a suitable laminated sign be fixed to the fence in line with the nets.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to contact the Tennis Club and fix a laminated sign to the fence advertising the booking process for use of the public tennis court**

2060-11 Play Areas**Butterfield Road**

It was reported that St Albans District Council were as yet not prepared to sign off the play area at Butterfield Road as fit for purpose. A meeting with the installer is being arranged.

Multi Use Games Area /Sports Area

The chairman proposed, and it was agreed that a working group comprising representatives from Wheathampstead Tennis Club, Watford FC and Wheathampstead Wanderers FC meet to identify and cost local needs.

Marford Play Area

It was reported that the see saw handle had been removed, Clerk to investigate and cost.

Caesars Road

The Playbuilder grant aided play area was now in use. A 'hard' opening date of 20 August had been agreed.

RoSPA Safety Inspection Report

The recently received report had been circulated and was satisfactory.

Play Areas safety training

Harpenden town Council were facilitating a consultancy run one day play areas safety training course and had invited Wheathampstead Parish Council to participate, cost up to £100. Subject to timing Councillor Woodhams agreed to participate.

(post meeting note: examination and RPII certificate £60(Register of Play Inspectors))

- Recommended**
- 1 To note the reports**
 - 2 To form a working group comprising representatives from Wheathampstead Tennis Club, Watford FC and Wheathampstead Wanderers FC to identify and cost local needs for a multi use sports area/games area**
 - 3 Clerk to investigate cost of seesaw**

handle

- 4 To approve councillor attendance at a play area inspection course £100 + £60 for RPII exam**

2061-11 Young People , Youth Connexions – Wheathampstead Youth Project

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. Despite concerns raised at Minute 1628-11 play in the park continues Wednesday mornings on Marford Playing Fields in the summer holidays and Youth Connexions would run the Ignition project on 12 August in the Memorial Hall. It was hoped that grant funding for Onside would continue.

The Talent Show, held on the Saturday of Village Weekend, had been most successful with many participants. Top Hat were thanked for their sponsorship of the event.

Members wished to support youth provision in the Village, including the use of Hilldyke Centre. Consideration was given to more active marketing of the youth Project through such as connexions staff, poster campaigns (perhaps young person led), police schools liaison.

The chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the Memorial hall should be made available to Youth Connexions on Thursday evenings without regular bookings as this may encourage greater interest in the Youth Project being a more central venue.

Recommended

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To offer the Memorial hall to the Youth Project on available Thursday evenings**

2062-11 Nomansland Nature Quest

It was reported that some sessions of the Nomansland Nature Quest would be repeated in the autumn term. Wheathampstead schools had been contacted and encouraged to participate in this free of charge Big Lottery grant funded project jointly applied for by Sandridge and Wheathampstead Parish Councils, and Woodland Trust. Participants to date had thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the healthy, educational and fun events. Sandridge Parish Council in their evaluation post this meeting had indicated that they were keen to continue the partnership.

Recommended**To note the report****2063-11 Bins**

The Council's contractor had reported that a number of the litter bins were in a poor state of repair and should be considered for

replacement. The chairman proposed and it was agreed that a bin report be brought to Council – bins being located on various area of council owned land including playing fields

Recommended**To refer to Council****2064-11 Budget Review 2011-12**

The expenditure report had been circulated and was noted.

Recommended**To note the report****2065-11 Progress Against Village Plan Targets**

Progress was discussed

Section 8. Page 29	Cinema requested	Work with Youth Project to further films
L2	Youth Connexions	Agreement to use Memorial Hall
L6	Caesars Rd play area	Play area complete, date set for 'Hard opening' 20 August 2011
L9	Improve sign posting	Heritage Trail routes around Village
L12	Tennis /golf	Signage to be improved re booking courts for public sessions
L13	Lack of leisure facilities for adults	Over 50s weekly dance classes in Memorial Hall ongoing
L16	Inadequate football changing facilities	Working with Wheathampstead Wanderers FC
L19	Heartwood Forest	Working with Sandridge Parish Council & Woodland Trust on successful Nomansland Nature Quest project funded by the Big Lottery

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.45h.

Dated this day of 2011

Chairman