

Wheathampstead Parish Council
Highways & Public Transport
14th July 2009, 20.00h

Present	Councillors:	N D Clements	(Chairman)
		D Hills	(Vice Chairman)
		I Begg	
		A Brewster	
		S Walford	sub for Clark
		J Burgess	
		J Bell	WDPS
		R Brett	WDPS
		Irene Casper	Assistant Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

409-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor G. Clark.
Councillor S Walford substituted for Councillor Clark.

410-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

411-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 were approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

412-09 FLOODING – ASH GROVE

The Chairman reported that after the recent torrential rain two homes at the bottom of Ash Grove experienced flooding problems. The two homes have use of a septic tank.

A resident has asked if the Parish Council can help put pressure on Hertfordshire Highways to alleviate the problem.

The current soakaway is insufficient to deal with heavy rain, another one is needed in this area. Soakaways are prone to silting up; this also needs to be investigated.

Resolved The Clerk to contact Hertfordshire Highways and ask them to inspect the current soakaway. and advise/implement installing an extra one.

413-09 MILL WALK – UPDATE ON OVERHANGING TREES AND BRIDGE

Trees at Mill Walk are overgrown and blocking out light to the shops. The Chairman reported that an officer from the Environment Agency had contacted him and offered to cut back these trees with no cost to the Parish Council. Environment Agency personnel are being impeded by the overgrown trees when they work on the bridge.

Cllr. Burgess reminded members that Cllr. Page, the Parish Council tree expert, has an action on him to arrange for this work to be done. The Christmas lights were going to stay in the trees while they were cut back.

Cllr. Brewster questioned if the offer was to cut back trees on the full length of Mill Walk.

Cllr. Walford proposed that we go ahead with the offer to cut back the trees, seconded Cllr. Hills.

An amendment was added to the proposal, that a site meeting is held between Cllrs. Clements and Page and the officer from the Environment Agency to confirm:

- a) the free offer is to cut back the trees on the full length of Mill Walk
- b) confirmation that the Christmas lights can remain in place while the trees are cut back.

If confirmation of these points is given the Environment Agency can go ahead with the cutting back.

Vote 4 FOR. SO RESOLVED.

Cllr. Brewster questioned why the Christmas Lights were not on every evening as agreed by the Council.

Cllr. Walford informed members that there was flooding at the Baxendale Allotments.

The Parish Council has 24 filled sandbags, which are stored at the Fire Station. Clerk to confirm the combination number to access the sandbags.

- Resolved**
- 1 That Cllr Clements arranges a site meeting with Cllr. Page and the officer from the Environment Agency to confirm**
 - a) the free offer is to cut the trees back on the full length of Mill Walk**
 - b) confirmation that the Christmas Lights can remain in place while the trees are cut back**
 - 2 The Clerk to arrange for the Christmas Lights to be lit during the winter months.**
 - 3 Flooding at Baxendale Allotment to be on the agenda at the next meeting of this committee**
 - 4 The Clerk to confirm the combination number to access the sandbags stored at the Fire Station.**

414-09 LITTER BINS – MILL QUAY & FOLLY FIELDS – INSTALLATION AND UPDATE**Folly Fields**

Contractors for St. Albans District Council had reported to the District Council that this bin was not very well used; the bin was then removed in January 2009.

Members were concerned that St. Albans District Council had not informed the Parish Council about the removal of this bin.

Cllr. Begg proposed; that we consult the Folly Field Residents Association for their views on the removal of this bin. If the residents wish to have a bin reinstalled the Parish Council will write to St. Albans District Council and request a new bin. If no objections are received we take no further action, seconded Cllr. Brewster. SO RESOLVED.

Mill Quay

A quotation of £25 – £40 has been received for the installation of a litter bin at the Mill Quay. SO RESOLVED to accept the quotation.

A quotation has been received to empty the litter bin twice weekly = £4 per week SO RESOLVED to accept the quotation.

The replacement bin is in the Forge.

The bin on the pavement near the top of the steps is causing an obstruction. Members agreed this bin should be moved and placed where a yellow mark has been made at the top of the steps.

Members discussed the differences between green and black bins. Green bins are not as robust as black ones. Clerk to ascertain what the options are on new bins.

- Resolved**
- 1 Clerk to contact Folly Fields Residents Association for their views on the removal/re-installation of the litter bin.**
 - 2 Clerk to accept quotation for installation of the litter bin at the Mill Quay. - £25 – £40.**
 - 3 Clerk to accept the quotation for emptying the bin at the Mill Quay – twice a week = £4 weekly.**
 - 4 Clerk to contact St. Albans District Council and request that the litter bin near the top of the steps at the Mill Quay be moved to the yellow mark.**
 - 5 Clerk to write to St. Albans District Council and ascertain options on new bins. i.e. green or black.**

415-09 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Awaiting quotations from three lighting companies.

Cllrs. Burgess, Clements and the Clerk had met at the Forge and inspected the Christmas lights.

Cllr. Burgess has erected a rack with uprights in the Forge and the Christmas lights can now be stacked carefully.

Cllr. Burgess reported that three of the lighting structures are damaged. Two of the 'W's have no cable connectors on the end. Another fitting is bent backwards; one small structure is also damaged.

Cllr. Brewster proposed that Cllrs. Clements and Burgess and a representative from the Christmas Lighting Company have a site meeting to review the damage, seconded Cllr. Begg. SO RESOLVED.

Resolved: 1 Cllr. Clements to arrange a site meeting with himself. Cllr. Burgess and a representative from the Christmas Lighting Company responsible for the removal and storage to assess the damage to the lighting structures.

416-09 BUS SHELTER CLEANING CONTRACT

Cllr. Clements circulated a list of bus shelters – location and condition. Two shelters are covered by overhanging trees. RESOLVED that our tree officer inspects these trees to assess cutting back.

A quotation of £100 per month had been received for the cleaning of the bus shelters.

Cllr. Brewster proposed, the company cleans the bus shelters for one month, before the bill is paid the Chairman checks the shelters have been cleaned properly, seconded Cllr. Walford. SO RESOLVED.

Cllr. Brewster informed members that a company 'Little John' have an offer of a 50% discount on purchases of new bus shelters. There is a bench on the Kimpton border and asked the committee to consider if we should contact Kimpton Parish Clerk with a view to sharing the costs of a new shelter on this site.

Cllr. Clements reminded members that there is no money in the committee budget for new shelters.

Resolved: 1 The Clerk to submit a request to the Rights of Way committee meeting on 28th July that the tree officer inspects the trees overhanging bus shelters.
2 The Clerk accepts the bus shelter cleaning contract for a one month trial / Chairman to check the shelters before the invoice is paid.

417-09 HIGH SCHOOL AND OTHER SIGNS

Cllr. Clements had recently attended a meeting at the High School to determine the placement of a new school sign.

After the proper planning permissions have been granted a sign will be erected inside the school wall, on the corner of Lamer Lane/Codicote Road. The sign will be high enough to be seen from the road, but will not touch the listed wall.

Clerk to write a welcoming letter to the new Headmistress and inform her of the meetings that take place between the school and the Chairman of this committee – one per term.

A request from residents of Abbott John Mews regarding white lining will be taken up at the next meeting with Highways Officers.

A new 'dead end' road sign to be erected at the Codicote Road end of Abbott John Mews.

Other Signs

Cllr. Brewster presented this item and circulated different designs of entrance signs that are to be erected on the approaches to the village. Members considered the materials to be used (fibre glass or cast aluminium). RESOLVED that the signs are made from cast aluminium with the posts the same colour as the signs.

Members then debated wording/fonts/colours of the signs.

Cllr. Walford proposed, the sign to have a plain dark green background with gold edging and lettering, with the wording Wheathampstead and the strap line Pre – Roman Riverside Village, seconded Cllr. Begg. SO RESOLVED.

Note: Same font to be used as on the new 'Village Signs'.

Cllr. Brewster will provide a colour swatch at the Parish Council meeting to determine which 'green' to use and consult with WDPS before the meeting.

Note: Three different colours of green have been used in the High Street.

A councillor to measure the length of an existing sign to determine the length of the new signs i.e. either 1300 or 1500.

Fingerpost

Cllr. Brewster showed members the proposed wording for the fingerpost. At the moment the suggested direction arrows fall into pairs. Members discussed the direction of the 'fingers' and wording for walks and matters of interest.

Amendments to be added: Library; Marford Playing Fields, Village Surgery; East Meads; Riverside Walk. Final wording to be agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 30th July 09.

The post will have a wheat sheaf finial on the top. Wording to be in gold on green.

The post to be the same colour as existing lampposts.

- Resolved:**
- 1 Clerk to write to High School to welcome new Headmistress and bring to her attention the meetings with the Chairman of this committee once a term.**
 - 2 Cllr. Clements to discuss white lining at Lamer Lane/Codicote Road/Abbott John Mews with HCC Officers.**
 - 3 Cllr. Brewster to present design /colour/wording of approach signs and fingerpost to the Parish Council on 30th July.**

418-09 HIGH STREET TRO - UPDATE

Cllr. Clements reported that the Highways Joint Members Panel will consider a complaint that has been received regarding the Road Traffic Order. If they have no objections the work will go ahead.

419-09 SALT GRIT BINS – UPDATE

A list of the location of salt/grit bins was circulated. Most are in good condition, three need attention.

Two more bins are required - one at the steep footpath which crosses the churchyard (at the access to the north side of the church) and one on Down Green Lane – (on the grass triangle).

The bins at Leasey Bridge and opposite West End Farm need repositioning.

- Resolved:**
- 1 Clerk to write to HCC to request two new salt/grit bins and to bring their attention to the damaged ones.**

420-09 VERGE PARKING - UPDATE

Cllr. Clements reported that three sites have been chosen for the pilot scheme in Colney Heath, Harpenden, St. Albans

421-09 PROGRESS AGAINST VILLAGE PLAN TARGETS

Moved to next meeting

422-09 LETTER FROM MR. ADAMS

Noted

423-09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24TH August 8pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.00h.

Dated this day of 2009

Chairman