

Memorial Hall Committee

23 July 2009, 20.00h

Present Councillors:	J Turner	Chairman
	A Brewster	
	D Hills	
	K Stammers	
	J Pike	
	R Suggitt	
	Julia Warren	Parish Clerk
	Press	
	Public	0
		0

436-09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Clark (personal reasons) and from Councillor Stammers (for his late arrival), and from David Singleton. Councillor Hills substituted for Councillor Clark.

437-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

438-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009 were approved

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

439-09 REFURBISHMENT OF MEMORIAL HALL - CLEANING

Cleaning and refurbishment of the Memorial Hall has traditionally occurred during August when hiring opportunities are reduced as many local residents and groups on holiday.

It was agreed that the quotation from Scott and Sons (to power scrub clean vinyl floors, removing ingrained polish, neutralising and re-polishing as appropriate, and descaling and power cleaning toilets) to an amount of £325 be accepted and that the work be carried out on 17 August.

Resolved: To accept the quotation from Scott and Sons Ltd to clean specified areas of the Memorial hall on 17 August at a cost of £325 net

440-09 REFURBISHMENT OF MEMORIAL HALL – WINDOWS

Quotations to remove and replace the high level south facing windows in the main hall, the frames of which are rotten and which no longer closed properly, had been sought. Two of three remained outstanding. It was agreed that a Council decision would be sought on 30 July.

Resolved: To refer the quotations for window replacement to Council for approval

441-09 REFURBISHMENT OF MEMORIAL HALL – PROPOSAL FOR WHEATHAMPSTEAD RURAL POLICE OFFICE

Sergeant Duckett's proposal for a Wheathampstead Police Rural Office had been previously circulated to members of the committee. He spoke of the Hertfordshire Constabulary's Public Access and Visibility Strategy and desire for the Safer Neighbourhood Team to provide greater access to policing in Wheathampstead. Currently the SNT is based in Harpenden removing the officers from Wheathampstead daily for briefing and all paperwork completion. Better integration was sought to improve police visibility and accessibility. Ideally this would be in a central location with easy accessibility

A location of a police office within the Memorial hall would bring benefits to the community and council. The possibility of utilising the cloakroom area of the Memorial Hall was considered as this could be separately accessed without interruption to staff or hirers. All costs of implementing the project including changes to alarm system and locks, alterations to the cloakroom and relocating coat hooks would be borne by the police. It would be the first collaboration between police and a parish council in Hertfordshire.

Potential benefits cited included:

- Greater time spent visibly in Wheathampstead by police
- Easier access to the local police team
- Increased security for Memorial Hall, its staff and visitors
- Increased security out of office hours, when hall is hired
- Improved response times to incidents and crimes within Wheathampstead
- Increased reassurance for local community
- A drop-in facility to the community to report crimes and incidents of concern
- Improved accessibility to information about local policing and the Policing Pledge priorities

The aim would be for Wheathampstead officers to have a base in the Village and negate the need to visit Harpenden daily. It would provide a drop-in for the elderly and vulnerable members of the community but would not be used as a full-time police station; nor would anyone arrested be taken to the premises.

