

**A meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at 7.15 p.m.**

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mr. C. Clark	Mrs. S. Davies
	Mr. V. Dunhill	Mrs. C. Dinnin
	Mr. D. Filer	Mrs. H. McCash
	Mr. I. Knight	Mr. J. Meischke

## 1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

## 2 Minutes of the last meeting

### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Mr. Stock proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

### b) Review of actions

- **Contact village correspondent re article advertising for a Special Police Constable**

Mrs. Davies said that she had contacted Hertford Police station again re the police article asking for a volunteer for the position of Special Constable. However, the person she wished to speak to had not been available and she has not yet received a response to the message left for them.

This item to remain an action point.

**Action: S. Davies**

- **Invoice the Football Club for permanent line-marking on the sportsfield**

The Parish Council has still not been invoiced for the permanent line-markings. The Clerk will invoice the Football Club when an invoice has been received. It was agreed that this item is no longer an action point.

- **Try to remove graffiti on Community Hall brick work**

Mr. Meischke said that he had tried to remove the graffiti with a chemical solvent, without success. However, he is obtaining different chemicals, which he hoped would do the job.

**Action: J. Meischke**

- **Monitor progress re closing of gaps in Great Innings Play Area fence**

Mr. Stock reported that the work has been carried-out.

- **Ask HCC Rights of Way Department to reinstate the Church Walk barrier**

Mr. Dunhill said that he had spoken to the Rights of Way Officer who is to identify the type of barrier to be installed. The old barrier is currently being stored in the external cupboard at the Community Hall.

This item to remain an action point.

**Action: V. Dunhill**

- **Install plant in gap in sportsfield hedge in School Lane**

Mr. Dunhill said that this action point is still outstanding and shall be completed at the earliest opportunity.

This item to be placed on the agenda for March 2001 under Specific Items.

**Agenda 03/01**

- **Write letter of thanks to Jono Meischke for his outstanding work on producing the Parish Map**

This action point has been completed.

- **Take the Time Capsule to, and represent the Parish Council at, the Church service on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 3 a (on page 3 of these minutes).

- **Make posters to advertise exhibition on 30<sup>th</sup> December and put up around the village**

This action point has been completed.

- **Inspect Hazeldell to determine whether or not the Three Valleys Water repairs have been completed**

Mr. Stock said that Three Valleys Water had completed the work that they had promised to do.

He noted that some of the problem areas identified originally (but not agreed by Three Valleys Water) were starting to deteriorate further. However, he felt that now was not a good time to pursue the issue and suggested that we wait for another year and then do another inspection and report to Three Valleys Water accordingly.

This was agreed by all present and the item to be placed on the agenda for January 2002. **Agenda: 2002**

- **Inform Clerk of new contact name for Mercury correspondent**

Mrs. Davies informed the Clerk that her friend had decided not to put her name forward as the village correspondent. Laura Mannering of the Hertfordshire Mercury has been identified in the village directory as the person to contact.

- **Photocopy the amended village directory and copy it to all Parish Councillors for distribution**

This action point has been completed.

- **Distribute the village directory**

Mr. Poulton asked Parish Councillors to try and distribute the village directory as soon as possible. Many had already done so.

- **Inform Mrs Dix (Chairman of Board of School Governors) of new Parish Council representative**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re date for planning liaison meeting**

This action point has been completed.

- **Attend planning liaison meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

Mr. Poulton said that Mrs. McCash and Mr. Clark had been unable to attend the planning liaison meeting but Mrs. Dinnin and Mr. Filer had attended with him in their place.

Mr. Poulton asked Mr. Filer to report on the meeting.

Mr. Filer said that David Beales (Director of Planning) and Harvey Fairbrass (Chief Planner) of EHDC had been present at the meeting. A planning strategy is being developed for Watton-at-Stone and various sites were identified. Mr. Filer said that they (i.e. Mr. Filer, Mr. Poulton and Mrs. Dinnin) had indicated that they would show a preference to the HCC land between the railway line and Glebe Close, and the HCC depot land between Hazeldell and Moorymead Close. However, they made it clear that they opposed any further development in the village, but if one had to go ahead, either of these could be the preferred site.

Mrs. Dinnin said that there was a possible encroachment of the pavement into the road at Longmeadow (former Watton garage site). Also, the recently-built garage at Perrywood Lane had been made of wood, and not brick, with a tiled roof.

There is no further progress on proposals to develop the yard at Perrywood Lane.

Mr. Filer said that the meeting had been very open. It was agreed that another would take place in the future.

Mr. Stock felt very concerned that the village continues to expand in terms of housing but not in terms of facilities available to its inhabitants. He said that this must be addressed before any further development is agreed.

Mrs. McCash said that facilities at the doctors' surgery and the school may need to be increased. Mr. Knight said that the Parish Council ought to formulate a strategy for the village before increased housing be proposed. It was agreed that the Parish Council must discuss this at a special meeting i.e. development would be the only item on the agenda. The outcome of this meeting shall be communicated to the planners at EHDC. A date for the meeting will be arranged as soon as the District Plan goes out for public consultation.

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Knight had produced a copy of the Ashwell Village Statement. Mr. Knight suggested that Watton-at-Stone could produce something similar to this for the village. This item to be placed on circulation.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Arrange payment of Xmas bonus**

This action point has been completed.

- **Inspect guttering at Community Hall when the weather is dry**

This action point will be carried-out when the weather is dry and warm.

This item to be placed on the agenda for March 2001 under Community Hall Trustees. **Agenda: 03/2001**

- **Report on RoSPA annual playground inspection**

Mr. Meischke said that he is in the process of reviewing the RoSPA annual playground inspection report and will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action: J. Meischke**

- **Find out the price of a foot-scraper for MPPA**

Mr. Meischke said that this action point is outstanding.

**Action: J. Meischke**

- **Obtain detailed and accurate maps of Watton Green**

This action point has been completed.

- **Contact CMS re wildlife and plant illustrations for Watton Green information board**

Mr. Stock said that he had been in contact with CMS to establish what wildlife and plants we could/should not illustrate. However, they have not yet given him the information requested.

Mr. Stock to chase CMS.

**Action: D. Stock**

- **Put up notices when spraying on Lammas is due to take place around the relevant areas**

Notices will be put up when the spraying is due to take place.

- **Contact MAFF re Lammas tree planting**

Mr. Dunhill said that this action point is outstanding.

**Action: V. Dunhill**

- **Order three signs for the re-routed footpath between Watton House and Mill Lane**

Mr. Dunhill said that this action point is outstanding.

- **Obtain cost of a new litterbin for the Lammas and ask Jeff Skidmore to supply a quotation for its installation**

Mr. Skidmore has provided a quotation for £30 to install a litterbin on the Lammas adjacent to the bench seat at the Mill Lane end. After discussion, it was agreed that a bin should not be installed at this site because of the potential threat of vandalism.

The Clerk to notify Mr. Skidmore accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Write to the Environment Agency re concrete fixture on Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

This item to be placed under Specific Items until the matter has been resolved. **Agenda: Specific Items**

- **Send donation of £25.00 to EHCPA Community Playbus Association**

This action point has been completed.

- **Collect Parish Council strimmer from Conservation Society**

This action point has been completed.

### 3 Specific Items

#### a) Report on exhibition held on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2000

Mr. Poulton said that the exhibition had gone well, but attendance had been low.

He thanked Mr. Stock and Mr. Dunhill for their work associated with the Time Capsule and its contents.

A brief overview of the contents of the Time Capsule is as follows.

1. Electoral Role
2. Watton school - Register of Pupils
3. Village Directory
4. Parish Magazine for January and December
5. Village Guide
6. Map of the Village and Parish
7. Picture of the Wall Hanging
8. Order of Services from Churches
9. List of births, deaths, weddings and christenings during the year 2000
10. History of the two Churches
11. Group Photograph of Parish Councillors and Clerk
12. Faculty for Time Capsule
13. Powell's Funeral - acknowledgment of inscription on stone
14. Full set of current coins
15. Photographs of the village, past and present
16. Various booklets recording significant events in the village during the 1900's and the year 2000.

A copy of this list will be placed on permanent record and displayed on the Community Hall notice board.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Special thanks are also due to Allan Rattue and the Watton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre & Truck Pull

Committee for their contributions to the exhibition. Clerk to write accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Parish Map**

Mr. Poulton said that 32 copies of the Parish Map had been sold. Parish Councillors then discussed how best to advertise the sale of the Parish Map. After discussion, it was agreed that an advertisement be placed in the Parish Magazine and the map displayed at various locations within the village. The names and telephone numbers of Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock, Mr. Meischke and Mrs. Dinnin would be included as a source for obtaining copies of the map.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop**

**c) BT Phone box near Bull Public House**

Mr. Poulton said that 4 panes of glass are broken in the red listed phone-box in the High Street. This has been reported to British Telecom.

Mrs. McCash said that the door to the telephone box at the Station Road/Glebe Close junction had been removed. It is currently being stored in the garage at 2 Glebe Close. British Telecom to be contacted accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**d) Three Valley Water trenches**

Mr. Stock had verified that repair work had been done in Hazeldell as promised. Refer to item 2b, Review of Actions - Inspect Hazeldell to determine whether or not the Three Valleys Water repairs have been completed (on page 1 of these minutes).

Mr. Filer said that he had spoken to Three Valleys Water informing them that not all the trench work problems had been rectified. JBS, the contractors who carried-out the original work for Three Valleys Water, agreed to inspect and carry-out the work required. Mr. Filer said that all the work required had now been carried-out satisfactorily.

**e) Fir trees at Great Innings Play area**

Mr. Poulton reported that EHDC had cut back the lower branches of the fir trees to a height of 1 metre above ground level, as requested by the Parish Council.

**f) Salt bins**

Due to the recent snow and frosty weather, all the salt bins in the village are empty (except for a small amount remaining in the Moorymead Close bin).

Due to problems arising from this, Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock and Mr. Meischke had already discussed this subject prior to the meeting.

Mr. Poulton then reminded the meeting of the Parish Council's responsibility for the salt bins in the village. At the end of 1997 the Parish Council was informed that, due to severe pressure on its budget, HCC had agreed to the removal of all salt bins. However, they were willing for the Parish Council to take over the responsibility of the salt bins. Although the bins would be given free of charge, their maintenance and the provision of salt would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council provide a public service by making the salt bins and salt available for use by the general public only. Because of legal implications, no Parish Councillor or Parish Council employees are allowed to spread salt on the highways or footpaths within the village.

The legal implications of the Parish Council continuing to maintain the salt bins and provide salt were discussed in detail. Mr. Poulton said that the Clerk had extracted the Parish Council minutes relating to salt bins from September 1997 to September 1999. The Clerk to copy all Parish Councillors with the minute extracts.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Poulton then read out the following, which was sent by the National Association of Local Councils to the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils (on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1997).

1. That if the Parish Council only provides bins and salt there is no legal liability.
2. If, in addition, they employ workers to spread the salt, they could be liable if either they were negligent in the way they carried out the work or, within the confines of the arrangements, failed to spread salt when necessary.

A lengthy debate took place and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should continue this service to the village, with best endeavour, and fill and maintain the salt bins.

The Clerk to order rock salt and then ask Jeff Skidmore to fill all the salt bins in the village. **Action: J. Allsop**

**g) Wooden footbridge over River Beane at southern-end of village (adjacent to Watton Nursery)**

Mr. Poulton said that the wooden footbridge is still dangerously slippery.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership) to identify the HCC department responsible for the footbridge and then contact them accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

This item to remain on the agenda until it is resolved.

**h) Dog-fouling on footpaths**

Mrs. Davies said that she had been approached by parents at the Watton-at-Stone Primary School re dog-fouling on the section of footpath 17 that runs between Rectory Lane and Glebe Close. One or two dogs are regularly fouling this footpath, which is resulting in children stepping in the deposits and transporting them into school and to their homes. Mrs. Davies had asked the parents to report the owners of the offending dogs to the Dog Warden at EHDC.

Mrs. McCash said that she had the name and address of an owner whose dog was repeatedly fouling. It was agreed that these details be given, in writing, to Mike Abbey (Dog Warden at EHDC).

**Action: H. McCash/J. Allsop**

It was agreed to write to Chris Cantes (Headteacher at Watton-at-Stone Primary School) stating the Parish Council's concerns about dog-fouling and asking if the name and address of the Dog Warden can be advertised in the next school newsletter and asking parents who see dogs offending to 'name and shame' the owners into stopping the habit. Also asking the school if they would agree to the Dog Warden making another visit.

**Action: C. Clark**

**i) Meeting dates in 2001/2002**

It was agreed that, starting from May 2001, the monthly Parish Council meetings shall take place on the last Wednesday of each month, with the exception of December (which will be held on the third Wednesday of that month).

Mr. Poulton therefore proposed that the following dates be set for Parish Council meetings to be held in the new civic year.

- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2001
- 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001
- 25<sup>th</sup> July 2001
- 26<sup>th</sup> September 2001
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2001
- 28<sup>th</sup> November 2001
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2001
- 30<sup>th</sup> January 2002
- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2002
- 27<sup>th</sup> March 2002
- 24<sup>th</sup> April 2002

Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The above dates to be advertised on the Parish Council notice boards and in the Parish magazine.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**j) Donation towards Rev. Brian Gwinn's retirement present**

Mr. Poulton said that the Rev Brian Gwinn would be holding his last service as Parish Priest in Watton-at-Stone on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2001. The Parish Council does not normally give donations towards retirement presents. However, because of his successful work within the community Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock agreed to seek permission of half of the Parish Councillors for a donation of £25. This permission was received and the donation was given accordingly.

This action was agreed by the Parish Council.

**k) Ornate Village Sign**

The Watton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre committee has had difficulty in finding a project on which to spend the proceeds of the Millennium May Fayre. Mr. Poulton's suggestion of an ornate village sign (similar to the one installed at Datchworth Green) met with their approval. The plan is to install the sign at the southern-end of the High Street on the grass verge adjacent to the bench seat.

Mr. Poulton read a letter from Mrs. Beavan, Secretary to the Millennium Mayfayre & Truck Pull committee, (dated 16<sup>th</sup> January) as follows.

'The Millennium Mayfayre committee are planning to purchase a village sign which will be similar to the village sign in Datchworth. We hope that the sign will be erected on the grass area opposite the War Memorial on the right hand side of the road as you enter the village.

We therefore would like to ask the Parish Council if you would apply for permission to erect the sign on our behalf. Also would the Parish Council be willing to maintain the sign once it has been erected?

I look forward to your reply concerning this matter.'

Mr. Poulton said that a letter had already been sent to EH Highways Partnership asking for permission to erect the sign. He then read out their reply (dated 16<sup>th</sup> January).

'Thank you for your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2001 concerning the above.

The Highways Authority has no objection to your proposals.'

All Parish Councillors agreed to the erection of the proposed sign. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council maintains and insures the sign once it has been erected. A letter to be sent to the EHDC Planning Department asking if the Parish Council requires planning permission for the proposed sign.

Letters to be sent to EHDC and to the Watton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre committee accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

#### 1) Report on outcome of OFSTED report at Watton Primary School

Mr. Clark said that the OFSTED report had been received. The report shows that Watton Primary School has done reasonably well on the teaching side, although the management and organizational side of the school are well below standard. All parents have been copied with the report. A meeting has been arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> January for parents to discuss the report with members of the teaching staff, Board of Governors and a representative of OFSTED. The school has 40 days to develop an action plan for approval by OFSTED.

Mr. Clark to provide a copy of the OFSTED report for circulation.

**Action: C. Clark**

Mr. Clark to inform the Parish Council of the parent's comments on the OFSTED report and outline the proposed action plan.

**Action: C. Clark**

This item to remain on the agenda under Specific Items.

## 4 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

Mrs. McCash reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

- **9 - monthly statement of accounts**

All Parish Councillors had been copied with the 9-monthly statement of accounts for the period ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000.

Mrs. McCash said that whilst taking into account the additional spending agreed in the year, the 9-monthly statement shows that Parish Council spending is in-line with the budgeted figures.

#### Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items concerning the Community Hall Trustees.

- **Leaking guttering**

Mr. Meischke said that he would inspect the guttering when the weather is dry.

- **Floodlighting meter**

Mr. Meischke reported that the floodlighting coin-meter is faulty. He has had to visit the Community Hall on numerous evenings over the last few weeks to enable users of the MPPA to use the floodlighting facilities.

Mr. Meischke said that because the meter would need to be returned to the manufacturers for repair (leaving the floodlighting system inoperable) he had instructed the Clerk to establish the cost of a replacement meter (which is £148.64, including VAT and carriage). Because the manufacturer, Muller Control Systems, would not accept an order without prior payment, and the expected delivery time given was 4 weeks, permission to purchase a replacement meter was obtained from five members of the Parish Council. The meter has now been ordered.

Mr. Meischke to fit the meter when it has been received and return the faulty meter for repair. The repaired meter will be retained as a spare.

**Action: J. Meischke**

#### Recreation & Amenities

- **RoSPA – Annual playground inspection**

Refer to item 2b, Review of actions - Report on RoSPA annual playground inspection (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Progress on MPPA**

There is nothing further to report on this item.

Comment [C1]:

- **Foot scrapper**

Refer to item 2b, Review of actions - Find out the price of a foot-scraper for MPPA (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Broken notice board**

Mr. Meischke will arrange for a replacement notice board to be made.

**Action: J. Meischke**

Mrs. Davies requested that playground equipment be placed on the agenda for our meeting in February.

**Agenda: 02/01**

## Environment

Mr. Stock reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Watton Green**

In response to a question by Mr. Filer, Mr. Stock outlined the progress on the information board. As Mr. Stock explained when he presented his draft illustration of the information board during the December Parish Council meeting, further information was awaited from CMS (refer to item 2 b Review of Actions - Contact CMS re wildlife and plant illustrations for Watton Green information board, on page 3 of these minutes).

Mr. Stock to arrange a site meeting with Jono Meischke to discuss and agree the content and presentation for the first formal draft of the information board artwork.

**Action: D. Stock**

All Parish Councillors to be informed of the date and time of the meeting so that they can attend if they wish to do so.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **TPO on the Oak tree at Great Innings**

EHDC has sent a copy of the notice of confirmation of Tree Preservation Order (no 7) 2000 which relates to the Oak tree adjacent to 99 Great Innings South. The Clerk has copied this to Mrs. Goodacre, who brought the matter to the Parish Council in the first instance.

- **Footpath over railway bridge at Station Road**

Mr. Stock was pleased to report that work to the footpath is currently in progress.

- **Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill said that MAFF had returned the claim form for the year 1999/2000 (ending 30th September 2000), because of an error in the details. He has now rectified this error and returned the form to MAFF. MAFF pointed out that the Parish Council had not claimed for the hedging plants planted in 1998/1999. This has now been included in the claim for 1999/2000.

The derogation order requested from the FRCA (to permit the chemical spraying to be carried-out in late spring 2001) has still not been received. Mr. Dunhill to chase.

**Action: V. Dunhill**

- **PPP**

Mr. Dunhill said that he will be ordering the three signs needed for the re-routed footpath between Watton House and Mill Lane, plus any signs needed to replace those that have been broken within the parish.

**Action: V. Dunhill**

### i) Report

Mr. Filer carried-out the sportsfield report on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Good – apart from football pitch.
Litter	OK – bin needs emptying.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	OK.
Netball posts	OK.
General	OK.

- **Children's Playground:**

Condition of surface	OK.
Litter/Litter bin	OK.
Large swings	Seats are damaged.
Small swings	OK.
See-Saw	OK.
Slide	OK.

- **Community Hall:**

General Condition	OK.
Litter bin	OK.
Car Park	Some litter.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| General  | A little graffiti (but not much).                        |
| <b>• Multi-Purpose Play Area:</b>  |  |
| Surface  | Good surface area.                                       |
| Boundary Fencing   | OK.  |
| OK. Tennis nets  | OK.  |
| Litter   | OK.  |
| General  | Handle available on one net only.                        |
| <b>• Great Innings Play Area:</b>  |  |
| Equipment  | OK.  |
| Surfaces   | OK.  |
| Litter   | OK.  |
| Dog-waste bin and fouling  | OK.  |
| Comments   | Rubber matting round slide has lifted on left-hand side. |
| <b>• Allotments Area:</b>  |  |
| Access   | OK.  |
| Condition of paths between Allotments  | OK.  |
| Condition of Allotments  | OK.  |
| Cultivation  |  |
| Condition of Allotments not under cultivation  | Not bad.   |
| Litter   | Some litter about.                                       |
| <b>• Culverts on Mill Lane</b>   |  |
| Litter and rubbish in and Culverts   | None.  |
| Dog-fouling  | OK.  |
| Comments   | Clean and tidy.  |
| <b>• Salt bins</b>   |  |
| Perrywood Lane   | No salt.   |
| Great Innings  | No salt.   |
| Station Road   | No salt.   |
| Moorymead Close  | Very little salt.  |
| Hazeldell  | No salt.   |
| <b>• Dog-waste bins</b>  |  |
| Footpath 17  | OK.  |
| Sportsfield  | OK.  |
| Church Walk  | OK.  |
| Walkern Road   | OK.  |
| Station Road   | OK.  |
| High Street (by Memorial)  | OK, but lid damaged.                                     |
| Great Innings  | OK.  |
| <b>General Comments:</b>   |  |
| <b>• Great Innings Playarea</b>  |  |
| It was agreed to write to Andrew Mills (at EHDC) asking him to inspect and repair the lifted section of rubber matting on the left-hand side of the slide. |  |
| <b>Action: J. Allsop</b>   |  |

## 5 Planning

### a) Applications

None.

### b) Decisions

None.

## 6 Correspondence received

### a) EHDC - Conifer trees at Willowdene along Mill Lane

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 2000) from Liz Greenwood, Landscape Officer at EHDC.

**\*Conifer trees at Willowdene along Mill Lane, Watton-at-Stone**

I refer to your correspondence of 31<sup>st</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> December. I gather that the trees are obstructing the footpath to the Scout Hut. I confirm that there is no objection to trimming these trees, on the edge of

the Conservation Area to facilitate footpath use. If however further tree surgery is advocated I would be grateful for a written application specifying details for MR Kitchen of GBS Estates.'

A copy of this letter has been sent to GBS Estates asking them to arrange for their contractor to carry out the work required as soon as possible.

**b) SLCC - Annual renewal of membership**

It was agreed that the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) provides the Parish Council with useful information on changes in legislation, e.g. changes in accounting practices.

Mrs. McCash proposed that the SLCC annual membership of £48 be paid. Mrs. Davies seconded the motion and all present were in favour. The Clerk to act accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

**c) EHDC – Arts Forum – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2001**

The Parish Council will not be sending a representative to the Arts Forum.

**d) Sian Freer – CMS**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Sian Freer (dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2000). Mrs. Freer left CMS at the end of the year to move with her family to Peru. In her letter she said she had gained a great deal during her time as a CMS Project Officer and enjoyed working with so many committed people, from volunteers, members of organizations, Officers and Parish and District Councillors as well as other CMS staff.

Peter Garrett at CMS will be able to help the Parish Council until a replacement Project Officer is appointed.

**e) Tree Preservation Order (No 7) 200 – Adjacent to 99 Great Innings South**

EHDC has sent a copy of the notice of confirmation of Tree Preservation Order (no 7) 2000 which relates to the Oak tree adjacent to 99 Great Innings South.

This notice to be filed for permanent record.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**f) Hertfordshire Constabulary – e-mailer personal communication centre**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Jill Dockley of Hertfordshire Constabulary (dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2001). She introduced herself as the Community Safety Co-ordinator for East Herts Division, a new and exciting post created to improve two-way communications between East Herts Police, the Parish and Town Councils and the various Watch Schemes across the Division. It is her job to ensure relevant information is passed to us in a timely and concise manner, and as a new member of the team she will need our support. East Herts Safety Partnership has provided funding for the provision of an e-mailer personal communication centre to those Parish and Town Councils who do not have access to an e-mail facility, and ask us to state whether or not we require this facility.

The Clerk to inform the Police that we do not require the facility, and give them our e-mail address.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**g) Ian Robey – Meditation and Remembrance Garden**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Ian Robey (dated 8<sup>th</sup> January) stating that the Meditation and Remembrance Garden project has now been awarded grants of £5,500 and a working party is being set up to transform the ideas and plans into reality. He asked if the Parish Council would send a representative to serve on the working party.

Mrs. Davies volunteered to be on the working party committee.

The Clerk to write to Mr. Robey accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**h) Jackie Dix - Parish Council representative on the Board of School Governors**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Jacky Dix (dated 9<sup>th</sup> January) thanking the Parish Council for allowing Mr. Clark to be the Parish Council representative on the Board of Governors at Watton-at-Stone Primary School. She said that it would make life a lot easier for her because the Local Education Authority School Governor vacancy can now be filled with someone with a financial background, which is essential to the school.

**i) EHCPA Community Playbus Association**

The EHCPA Community Playbus Association has sent a letter of thanks to the Parish Council for their donation of £25 towards the operating cost of play schemes in the Watton-at-Stone area.

**j) Chauffeur Line – Re Rural Transport Initiative**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Chauffeur Line, based at the Warrenwood Industrial Estate in Stapleford (dated 10<sup>th</sup> January). They inform us that, under the government's Rural Transport Initiative, we will soon receive limited funding for a rural transport system. They offer their coach and taxi/chauffeur services to enable us to set up our own rural transport link to enable villagers increased access to larger towns, services, leisure facilities and national transport links.

It as agreed by all Parish Councillors that we should wait until the Parish Council has been informed about what funding is available for a Rural Transport Initiative before the matter is discussed further. Also, there are other long-established local taxi services (e.g. John Booker) that could facilitate the needs of the village.

It was agreed to write to Chauffeur Line thanking them for writing to us and stating that, before they take this matter further, the Parish Council waits to hear about the funding that may be available to the Parish Council for a Rural Transport Initiative.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 7 Reports from other Organisations

- **Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society**

Mr. Stock said that during its recent meeting, the Conservation Society had expressed great concern about the removal of the re-cycling facility from Watton Primary School. Mr. Stock explained the history of the site to them and the sequence of events that led to the current situation. He also told them that EHDC had rejected the idea of the facility being relocated to the Great Innings Estate and that Major Shepherd had shown an interest in the facility being located at Watton Nursery (provided he can obtain the consent of the Abel Smith Estate).

The Conservation Society wish to pursue this matter further, with a view to retaining the current recycling facility at the school. Mr. Stock informed them that the efforts of the Parish Council and our District Councillor had failed to achieve this and suggested that, sadly, their representations would fall on deaf ears.

- **Sport & Social Club**

Mr. Poulton told Mr. Knight that Mrs. Bewley, who cleans the Community Hall building, is having constant problems with the dirty state of the away-team changing rooms. He asked Mr. Knight to instruct the Football Club to address this problem.

**Action: I. Knight**

## 8 Accounts/Correspondence

### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Sale of 24 Parish Maps	36.00	Donation towards Rev. B. Gwinn's retirement present	25.00
Sale of 6 Peep into the Past videos	<u>30.00</u>	Altra Image – Picture frame	7.99
	<u>66.00</u>	Phone calls to 4/1/01	<u>19.08</u>
			<u>52.07</u>

##### Cheques required

C. Bewley	Xmas bonus	45.00
D. Chandler	Xmas bonus	20.00
J. Allsop	Xmas bonus	55.00
EHCPA Playbus Association	Donation	25.00
J. Allsop	January salary	447.80
Inland Revenue	Tax & NI contributions	115.14
D R Monk	Leaf pick	100.00
Jeff Skidmore	Cut back branches on Lammas & remove tree from river	94.00
Don Chandler	8 hours litterpick	<u>33.92</u>
		<u>935.86</u>

##### Cheques received

Don Chandler	8 copies of Parish Map	12.00
Sports & Social Club	Hire of sportsfield 1/9/00 – 31/12/00	432.50
Sports & Social Club	Hire of sportsfield 1/1/01 – 31/03/01	<u>432.50</u>
		<u>877.00</u>

### Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Jane Allsop – Main Hall hire	8.00	Three Valleys Water	<u>67.04</u>
C. Straker – Main Hall	40.00		<u>67.04</u>
Floodlighting to 29/11/00	<u>40.00</u>		
	<u>88.00</u>		

##### Cheques required

Muller Control Systems	Timer for floodlighting system	148.64
Mrs. C. Bewley	32 hours work	160.00

**Watton-at-Stone Parish Council**

PC-01/01

Don Chandler	4 hours litterpick	<u>16.96</u>
		<u>325.60</u>

**Cheques received**

Mrs. Paskell	Pavilion hire	21.00
Football Club	Main Hall hire	30.00
Mrs. D. Flack	Pavilion hire	14.00
G. Pay	Main Hall hire – January, February and March 2001	226.80
Badminton Club	Main Hall hire – January, February and March 2001	<u>162.00</u>
		<u>453.80</u>

Mrs. McCash proposed that the accounts be paid, Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**9 Chairman's / Clerk's Report**

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

**• EHDC – Election**

EHDC has requested the use of the Pavilion facilities at the Community Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2001 for elections purposes.

It was agreed that EHDC be sent confirmation that this facility will be made available to them.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**• EHDC – vacancies at polling station**

EHDC need to recruit polling-station staff to run over 100 polling station facilities throughout the District for local and parliamentary elections and have provided posters advertising these vacancies. It was agreed that the posters be put up on the Parish Council notice boards and in the Community Hall.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**• Rural Enterprise**

The CDA Rural Enterprise Project is looking to relocate its offices. Mr. Poulton said that they might be interested in occupying the Parish Council room at the Community Hall.

Parish Councillors discussed this proposal and its pros and cons, and agreed that they would like to peruse this matter.

A letter to be sent to the CDA Rural Enterprise Project accordingly.

**Action: N. Poulton**

**• The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.****• The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2001.**