

A meeting of the Wotton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 7th November 2001 at 7.15 p.m.

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. S. Davies	Mrs. C. Dinnin
	Mr. V. Dunhill (after 7.17 pm)	Mr. D. Filer
	Mr. I. Knight	Mr. J. Meischke

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark and Mrs. McCash.

Mr. Poulton said that Mrs. McCash sent her deepest apologies for not attending the meeting, because it is the third consecutive one that she had missed. Mr. Poulton said that if a member does not attend six meetings in a row, they could be eliminated from the Council. However, it was agreed that Mrs. McCash was experiencing exceptional circumstances due to the current health-problems in her family and therefore her absence was understandable.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd October 2001**

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

b) Review of actions

- **Write to Camstead Homes asking for a response to our letter re the flower bed outside Longmeadow**

This item to be discussed under 6 c, Correspondence received - Camstead Homes – re flower beds and name plates (on page 9 of these minutes).

- **Attend site meeting with Wicksteed Leisure to discuss installation of new play equipment**

This item to be discussed under 3 a, Specific Items - Playground equipment (on page 3 of these minutes).

- **Write a letter of thanks to EHDC for awarding grant**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to WAGN re reinstatement of platform announcements**

This item to be discussed under 3 c, Specific Items - Watton-at-Stone Railway Station (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Present 6-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall**

This item to be discussed under 3 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee - 6-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall (on pages 4 and 5 of these minutes).

- **Present budget figures for the year 2002/2003**

This item to be discussed under 3 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee - Budget 2002/2003 (on page 5 of these minutes).

- **Write to Enerco Security Solutions re Crime Gard Barriers**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton said that he had been unsuccessful in contacting Enerco Security Solutions to arrange for them to pick up their product sample.

- **Meet with the parent who owns bike ramp**

This item to be discussed under 3 f, Specific Items - Skate board ramps (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Put the small green wheelie-bin in the kitchen**

Mr. Poulton said that he had instructed Don Chandler to put the green wheelie-bin in the kitchen. However, Mr. Chandler felt that it was better to have a bin in each of the main changing rooms, where they are now being well used. Mrs. Bewley has confirmed that the large swing-bin in the kitchen is more than adequate. It was agreed by all that the green wheelie bin remain in one of the changing rooms.

- **Speak to Mr. Hutson re manhole covers on sportsfield**

Mr. Meischke said that he had met with Steve Hutson who informed him that the manhole covers are not his responsibility and he believes they are now disused.

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Poulton to inspect the manhole covers and decide what action should be taken.

Action: J. Meischke/N. Poulton

- **Instruct Michael Stanley to cut the grass and strim the ditch at Watton Green before the end of October**

This action point has been completed and Mr. Stanley has now completed the work.

- **Place model byelaws on circulation**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Dunhill said that, not knowing that Mr. Clark was away on holiday, he had recently posted this item through his door. The Clerk to try and get this item from Mr. Clark's son and pass it to Mr. Stock.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Write to Abel Smith re rabbit problem on Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 4 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Lammas -Rabbit problem (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Write to Thames Water re concrete bollard if no further response has been received by 17th October**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter from Thames Water (dated 5th November).

'Thank you for your letter of 19th October 2001.

I have looked into the matter with our local sewerage office and have been advised that our investigations have established that the bollard is not the responsibility of Thames Water but we have been unable to ascertain who it belongs to or its purpose. Therefore, no further action is to be taken on our part.

I am sorry I can be of no further assistance in this matter but trust this explains the situation.'

In spite of extensive investigations, the Parish Council has been unable to ascertain to whom the concrete bollard belongs. Therefore, Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that the bollard be buried during the volunteer-labour day on 21st November with the Countryside Management Service.

Mr. Dunhill to act accordingly.

Action: V. Dunhill

- **Confirm date of volunteer-labour day on 21st November with the Countryside Management Service**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton said that he and Mrs. Davies had been speaking earlier today about the fact that the school had shown an interest in being involved in an environmental project within the village. He said that the tree-planting day on the 21st could be an ideal project for the students. Mr. Dunhill to contact Watton Primary School to find out if they would be interested.

Action: V. Dunhill

- **Place an order for the plants, stakes and tree guards required for the Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

- **Ask the Countryside Management Service to repair the broken stile on the Church meadow**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Dunhill said that the work had not been carried-out to-date. This item to remain on the agenda until the work has been complete.

Agenda: Env.

- **Purchase a no-cycling sign for the MPPA**

This action point has been completed.

The sign has been received and fixed to the MPPA fence.

- **Write to EHDC re plan for Broom Hall Farm**

This action point has been completed.

- **Return the two signed copies of the Deed of Waiver to Claytons together with a cheque for £392.50**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re safety-surface at Great Innings Play Area**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 6 d, Correspondence received - EHDC – re safety-surfacing at Great Innings Play Area (on page 9 of these minutes).

- **Write to Mr. Gordon of Heath Mount School re twinning**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to Mrs. Day re seat on Hockerill**

This action point has been completed.

- **Attend EHDC Cultural Strategy Consultation Session on 12th October**

Mr. Poulton said that he had attended the meeting but had nothing of interest to report.

- **Notify EHDC that Mr. Poulton will be attending Cultural Strategy Consultation Session on 12th October**
This action point has been completed.
- **Attend SQ Environmental Trust's Annual Public Meeting and Review on 17th October**
Mr. Poulton attended the meeting and said that the £6,000 grant to us for the resurfacing of the MPPA project was mentioned.
- **Notify SQ Environmental Trust that Mr. Poulton will be attending meeting on 17th October**
This action point has been completed.
- **Check when the Oak Tree in the sportsfield hedge, opposite 10 School Lane, is due for tree surgery**
The Clerk confirmed that the Oak Tree is due for tree surgery.
It was agreed to write to Dr. Norden to ask him if he would be prepared to pay for the tree surgery as before. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**
- **Contact the Co-operative Bank re bank charges for the audit certificate**
This action point has been completed.
No response has yet been received.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

- **Erect new footpath and bridleway signs**
This action point has been completed.
- **Install post at MPPA when the path is being re-laid**
Mr. Knight said that he has not had enough time to carry-out this action point.
This item to be placed on the agenda for January 2002 under Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee.
Agenda: R & A/2002
- **Purchase cushions for the existing seats**
The Clerk obtained three different styles of cushions from John Lewis (Welwyn Garden City). Prior to the start of the meeting, Parish Councillors tried each of the cushions. It was then agreed that we should purchase 12 of the seat cushions priced at £5.95. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Read Audit Commission document on a new approach to local council audit and report back to the Parish Council**
Having read the document, Mr. Filer said that it notes the very high cost Town and Parish Councils are charged for their annual audits and that the auditors find that the amount of work involved for them makes it financially unattractive. The Audit Commission is considering a system of spot-check auditing for councils with an annual income of less £100,000 (which is the category into which Watton-at-Stone Parish Council falls). However, for the time being Town and Parish Councillors should continue with the present system until notified otherwise.

3 Specific Items

a) Playground equipment

Mrs. Davies reported that Mr. Poulton, Mr. Meischke and she had a site meeting with Wicksteed Leisure today. Wicksteed Leisure are concerned about the safety of their mini-digger whilst left on site. Mr. Poulton said that it might be possible for it to be housed at Glebe Court, which is currently having refurbishments carried-out.

Wicksteed Leisure said that the work will take approximately three weeks to complete and have given the 19th November as a possible start date.

Mr. Poulton said that in February this year we ordered four swing-seats from Wicksteed Leisure and requested that they inspect the see-saw and fit a longer shaft to rectify the clearance problem caused by the uneven safety-surface. Wicksteed Leisure never acknowledged this order. Mr. Poulton said that we should write to them again asking for them to supply the seats and carry-out the work on the see-saw whilst installing the new play equipment. This was agreed.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Policing issues

Mr. Poulton said that five children had been arrested recently in the village. Three of these have had written warnings sent to their parents. The other two are being formally charged for their offences.

One male youth who caused damage on the allotments had been made to do community work, which entailed digging on the allotments. Another male youth had been made to repaint the cable box (on the Hockerill slope) that he defaced with graffiti.

Mr. Poulton said that he met with Police on Friday 2nd November to discuss the current policing issues in the village and will be meeting them again on Friday 9th November.

The Police have asked to attend the Parish Council meeting to be held on 5th December at 7.00 pm.

Agenda: 12/01

Mr. Stock said that he had been approached by four residents who complained about various problems of vandalism and noise. Because of the upset experienced by these residents, Mr. Stock asked Mr. Poulton to make the problem known to the police (when he meets with them on the 9th November) and ask them to focus on it.

Action: N. Poulton

Mrs. Dinnin said that the police had stopped visiting the Youth Club on Monday evenings. It was agreed to ask the Police to restart their visits.

Action: N. Poulton

c) Watton-at-Stone Railway Station

Mr. Stock read out a letter (dated 1st November) from a resident of Moorymead Close who expressed his strong support for our attempt to reinstate the platform announcement at Watton-at-Stone.

Mr. Stock also said that the person who had complained about the speakers appeared to be experiencing a number of problems with the service offered by WAGN.

Mr. Stock said that we had still not received a response from WAGN to our letter of 8th October requesting the name and contact address of our new Group Station Manager and expressing our concerns about the platform-speakers at Watton-at-Stone Station.

It was agreed to chase WAGN on this subject.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

d) Hosting of 2002 Inter Parish Conference

Mr. Poulton asked Parish Councillors to put forward ideas for agenda items for the 2002 Inter Parish Conference. Items suggested were.

- Youth
- Policing
- Planning

Parish Councillors to agree the agenda and a date for the conference during its meeting on 5th December.

Agenda: 12/01

e) Rural Transport Guides

Mr. Poulton said that we had just received the latest version of the rural transport guide (i.e. bus and train timetables) for Watton-at-Stone and Whempstead. These need to be distributed to all households in the village.

There are two possible options available to the Parish Council. We either deliver them ourselves or ask the PCC to deliver the guides together with the Watton-at-Stone Parish News.

It was agreed to ask the PCC if they would be willing to carry-out the delivery for a fee.

Mr. Knight to act accordingly.

Action: I. Knight

f) Skate board ramps

Mr. Poulton said that one of the problems in the village is a lack of things to occupy our youth. He spoke to PC Ivens on the subject and also to children and parents. It was suggested that a large amount of soil be dumped at the top corner of the sportsfield (on the side nearest to the old Rectory) and then shaped into skate board ramps by the parents and children.

Parish Councillors agreed to this suggestion. Also, if problems occur the soil could be removed from the site. Mr. Colin Straker (Chairman, Sports & Social Club) has agreed to help. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke said that they would be present whilst the skate ramps were constructed. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

When the ramps have been built a sign will be erected stating that the Parish Council is not responsible for the construction or any injuries that may occur on the site. **Action: J. Meischke**

4 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Mr. Filer reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

• Approval of minutes of meeting held on 2nd October

Mr. Knight proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by Mr. Filer as a true record. Mr. Stock seconded the motion and Mr. Filer was in favour. Mr. Filer signed the minutes.

• 6-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the 6-monthly statement of accounts for

the period ending the 30th September 2001.

Mr. Filer said that the 6-monthly statement shows the individual six-month figures on one side and the total six-month figures plus explanatory notes on the other. No queries were raised about the statements.

- **Budget 2002/2003**

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the draft budget figures for 2002/2003.

Mr. Filer said that he went through each item with the Clerk and compared the figures to those already spent in this year. The process was then repeated at the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on the 2nd October and alterations made where necessary.

Mr. Filer said that he had built in a £500 contingency figure in the Parish Council budget statement.

Hire charges for the Community were discussed and it was agreed to leave charges as they are for next year, but to offer a reduction if the Main Hall and Pavilion are hired at the same time. The £15 hourly charge to be made for local evening-weekday users.

- **Quotation for strimming and mowing work in 2002**

Mr. Filer read out a quotation (dated 8th October) from Jeff Skidmore. Mr. Skidmore however does not refer to frequency of cuttings for certain items.

It was agreed to write to Mr. Skidmore asking him to submit his quotation again clarify and the frequency of the work. **Action: D. Filer**

- **Queens jubilee**

Mr. Poulton reminded Parish Councillors that it was the Queen's Golden Jubilee next year. It was agreed that the Parish Council draw on reserves if they wish to contribute towards the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

A notice to be placed in the Parish News asking if any organisations are putting on any events for the Golden Jubilee and if so to contact the Parish Council who may be able to contribute funds towards their project. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Staff remuneration and Christmas bonuses**

The Clerk left the meeting while this item was discussed.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

The following Christmas bonuses were agreed.

- Don Chandler £25
- Christine Bewley £50
- Jane Allsop £100

The Clerk to be informed of her 3.1% salary increase from the 1st April 2002 in writing. **Action: D. Filer**

Mr. Filer proposed that the draft budget statement be accepted. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Hand dryer**

The hand dryer in the men's outside toilet has been vandalised beyond repair.

Mr. Meischke said that there are three options available.

- Remove the hand dryer completely and make safe the electrics.
- Purchase a new hand dryer at an approximate cost of £350.
- Enter into a five-year contract (including maintenance and vandalism insurance) for the hire of a hand dryer at a cost of £1.35p per week.

After discussion, Mr. Filer proposed that we adopt option iii. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Meischke**

- **Repair of broken windows**

All of the broken windows have now been replaced.

- **Floodlighting machine**

Mr. Meischke said that he had to remove food from the floodlighting mechanism. At the same time he also removed £220 in £1 coins.

Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Meischke reported on the following item concerning the Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee.

- **Allotment hedge**

The hedge has now been cut back.

Comment [C1]:

- **Manhole cover in sportsfield**

This item was discussed under 2 b, Review of Actions - Speak to Mr. Hutson re manhole covers on sportsfield (on page 1 of these minutes).

This item to remain on the agenda.

Agenda: R & A

Environment

- **Watton Green**

Mr. Stock said that Watton Green is looking very good now that the grass has been cut and the ditch trimmed.

- **Grant aid**

Mr. Stock said that Emma Norrington of HELP had written to us (on 9th October) asking why some grant-aid was still outstanding. He subsequently contacted her and explained that this was due to ongoing delays in the production of the artwork for the information board and which were beyond our control.

We have now received the full-size artwork and Mr. Stock has made the appropriate claim to HELP, which they have accepted.

Mr. Stock has completed the Final Financial Report and sent it to HELP, and similar to HCC Environment. He has also completed and sent the Final Project Report to HELP (the package included 'before' and 'after' photographs of Watton Green and a quarter-size copy of the information board artwork).

Mr. Stock is to meet with Emma Norrington at Watton Green on Wednesday 14th November at 1400 hours.

Action: D. Stock

- **Information board**

Mr. Stock reported that to date there had been an overspend of £80 on this project. The price of the Perspex to protect the artwork will be added to this overspend.

Mr. Stock, Mr. Filer and Mr. Meischke to meet on-site on 8th November to decide how best to mount and protect the artwork on the information board.

Action: D. Stock/D. Filer/J. Meischke

- **Byelaws**

Mr. Stock said that he had been unable to make progress on this subject because the related item on circulation had not yet been returned to him

Mr. Dunhill said that, because of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreement, we would need to seek the approval of DEFRA before applying any byelaws to the Lammas.

This item to remain on the agenda under Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Lammas**

- **Rabbit problem**

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 26th October) from Mr. Abel Smith.

'Thank you for your letter dated the 11th October concerning rabbits on the Lammas. I had recalled that the Parish Council had appointed Mr. Adams of 4 Glebe Close to undertake the rabbit control in the vicinity of the Lammas. However, I have to say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating and there is an excess of rabbits in that area and thus I ask that the efforts be stepped up to control them. I put the Parish Council on warning that any loss of corps arising from the failure to control rabbits will result in my making a claim.

You allege that there are rabbits on other areas of land e.g. the land off Mill Lane behind the Scout Hut. For me, rabbit control is an ongoing programme which we undertake with regularity and I would be grateful if the Parish Council could follow this route in this respect.'

It was agreed to write to Mr. Abel Smith thanking him for his letter and informing him that we have asked Mr. Adams to increase the rabbit control in this area. A letter to be sent to Mr. Adams accordingly.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

- **Concrete fixture/cables on the Lammas**

This item was discussed under 2 b, Review of Actions – Write to Thames Water re concrete bollard if no further response has been received by 17th October (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Tree planting on Lammas**

This item was discussed under 2 b, Review of Actions – Confirm date of volunteer-labour day on 21st November with the Countryside Management Service and place an order for the plants, stakes and tree guards required for the Lammas (on page 2 of these minutes).

b) Sportsfield

i) Report

Mr. Knight carried-out the sportsfield report on the 6th November, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**
 - Condition of grass 4
 - Litter 4
 - Dog-waste bin and fouling 4
 - Netball posts 4
 - General Generally OK. No litter, fence needs repair at horses field.
- **Children’s Playground:**
 - Condition of surface 4
 - Litter/Litter bin 4
 - Large swings 4
 - Small swings 4
 - See-Saw 4
 - Slide 4
 - Comments 4
- **Community Hall:**
 - General Condition 4
 - Litter bin 4
 - Car Park -
 - General -
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**
 - Surface 4
 - Boundary Fencing 4
 - Tennis nets 4
 - Litter 4
 - General 4 Good, no leaves!
- **Great Innings Play Area:**
 - Equipment 4
 - Surfaces 4
 - Litter 4
 - Dog-waste bin and fouling 4
 - Comments Good condition.
- **Allotments Area:**
 - Access
 - Condition of paths between Allotments
 - Condition of Allotments
 - Cultivation
 - Condition of Allotments not under cultivation
 - Litter
 - Comments
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**
 - Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts Not visited.
 - Dog-fouling
 - Comments
- **Salt bins**
 - Perrywood Lane
 - Great Innings
 - Station Road
 - Moorymead Close
 - Hazeldell
 - Garages between Glebe Closer & Rectory Lane
- **Dog-waste bins**
 - Footpath 17 4
 - Sportsfield 4

Church Walk	4
Walkern Road	4
Station Road	4
High Street (by Memorial)	4
Great Innings	4
Mill Lane	4

• **Street light**

Mr. Knight said that the street lamp near Glebe Court is not working. Mr. Poulton to report this to the lighting department at the EH Highways Partnership. **Action: N. Poulton**

5 Planning

a) Applications

i) 2 The Beanside

Single Storey rear conservatory

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application.

It was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop

ii) Datchworth Manor Spring North

Proposed agricultural machinery store

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council objects to the application for the following reasons.

1. The need for an additional agricultural machinery store is unnecessary if no agricultural work is carried out on the site.
2. The existing barn is of sufficient size to store any agricultural equipment or products necessary to work an area with such a small acreage.
3. The visual impact of a second barn will have a detrimental affect on the rural location.

A copy of the letter to be sent to Datchworth Parish Council.

Action: J. Allsop

iii) 36 High Street

Replace existing mobile home with detached bungalow

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no objections to this application. However, they would not wish to see any amendment to the application, such as a house being built instead of the proposed bungalow.

Action: J. Allsop

iv) 62 Rivershill

Front porch extension and garage conversion

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application.

It was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton said the following planning application was received on the 6th November.

v) The Stables and early C19 building, Home Farm, Woodhall Park

Change of use from estate office to private residential and from residential to estate office alterations

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application.

It was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop.

b) Decisions

i) 24 Rivershill

Single storey and double storey extension to rear with one and a half side extension

-EHDC permission refused

ii) Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall, 118 High Street

Minor infill to produce new storeroom

-EHDC permission granted

iii) **Moorymead Close**

6 ft wooden extension along boundary line
 -EHDC permission refused

Mr. Poulton said the following planning decision was received on the 6th November.

iv) **11 Glebe Close**

Two storey rear extension
 -EHDC permission granted

6 Correspondence received

a) Countryside Stewardship – Annual return forms

Mr. Dunhill said that he had completed the annual return forms, which now required signing by Mr. Poulton. Mr. Poulton signed the forms.

The Clerk to return the completed forms to DEFRA.

Action: J. Allsop

b) HELP – Watton Green

This item was discussed under 4 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Watton Green (on page 6 of these minutes).

c) Camstead Homes – re flower beds and name plates

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Camstead Homes (dated 25th October) confirming that they will re-plant and clean up the flower bed outside Long Meadow. They anticipate that the work will be done within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

This item to be placed on the agenda under Specific Items until the work has been completed. **Agenda: 12.01**

Camstead Homes also wrote (letter dated 29th October) concerning their delay in erecting the street name plates at Long Meadow. These have now been erected.

Mr. Poulton read out a letter dated 5th November from David Williams (Engineering Assistant, EH Highways Partnership) concerning the proposed waiting restrictions (i.e. double yellow-lines) along the High Street and Great Innings. The yellow lines will run along the front of Long Meadow up to number 24 High Street and on both sides of the road from the roundabout at Great Innings up to the entrance to the flats car-park. It was agreed to write a letter of support to EH Highways Department on these proposed waiting restriction.

Action: J. Allsop

d) EHDC – re safety-surfacing at Great Innings Play Area

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter dated 18th October from Andrew Mills (Grounds Manager, EHDC).

‘Re. Safety Surfacing at Great Innings Play Area

Thank you for your recent letter dated 10th October 01 received by this department on the 12th October regarding the above.

We have recently had the play ground inspected by RoSPA as part of our annual inspection program. At the time of the inspection our Officer, Mr. Waldock, specifically highlighted your concerns regarding the surfacing. The RoSPA inspector stated that he did not consider that there was an issue regarding the surfacing and is comfortable with the situation he saw.

As the Inspector from RoSPA did not make any recommendations I therefore do not propose to undertake any action at the present time.

If you have any further queries regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.’

The Parish Council accept the findings of RoSPA but will continue to monitor the safety surface whilst carry-out their monthly inspections.

e) EHDC – Standards Committee

EHDC has asked us to complete and return a ballot paper for the election of a representative for the Standards Committee. The Parish Council agreed the following (note that the numbers 1 to 4 indicated the order of preference).

Furneux Pelham Parish Council	Councillor Chris Cantes	4
Stanstead Abbots Parish Council	Councillor David Griffiths	3
Standon Parish Council	Councillor Brian Taylor	2
Thundridge Parish Council	Councillor Brian Taylor	1

The Clerk to return the completed ballot paper to EHDC.

Action: J. Allsop

f) Watton Cricket Club – cheque to cover legal costs for alterations in sportsfield covenant

A cheque for £350 has now been received from the Watton Cricket Club to cover the legal costs for the deed of Waiver for the sportsfield.

Martin Tipper has written to advise us that he is now in charge of the project to build the new tractor shed. Also, that John Taylor has taken over from Cled Fursland as Treasurer of Cricket Club.

The Clerk to chase Claytons for a signed copy of the lease and a response to our letter asking when work on the tractor shed can start. **Action: J. Allsop**

g) Hertfordshire Association for Local History – Recorders Group invitation to book launch on 17th November 2001

No Parish Councillors were available to attend this book launch.

h) Mr. Abel Smith – re rabbits on Lammas

This item was discussed under 4 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Lammas - Rabbit problem (on page 6 of these minutes).

i) EHDC – Development Control

Mr. Poulton said that a lot of Town and Parish Councils object to planning applications for reasons other than those on planning grounds. This results in a large number of applications being heard at committee.

EHDC has written (letter dated 1st November) to advise us that the following had been agreed at a recent meeting.

- (A) The Council’s constitutional in future all such objections received on non-planning grounds will be approved under the officer delegation procedure unless those objections are of appropriate and significant weight.
- (B) The amendment referred to in (A) above be implemented in respect of those applications registered from 1st November 2001 onwards.
- (C) The existing protocol that Members may ask the Chairman of the Development Control Committee for a planning application to be sent to that Committee for determination be continued.

• EHDC – Area Forum West

Mr. Poulton said that he would be attending the first meeting of the Area Forums on 8th November.

Action: N. Poulton

7 Reports from other Organisations

• Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society

Mr. Stock said that a date had still not been set for the Extraordinary General Meeting of the society.

• Risk Assessment

Mr. Filer said that he had read the information received on risk assessment courses and felt that at present it was not relevant to the Parish Council or Community Hall.

• Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club

Mr. Knight said that Morris Gordon had arranged for a meeting of ramblers and cyclists to take place tonight.

The second edition of the Sports & Social Club newsletter was distributed throughout the village as an insert in the Parish Magazine.

• Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee

Mrs. Dinnin said that the Memorial Hall Management Committee will be holding its AGM tomorrow (8th November).

8 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr. & Mrs Thurlow – Allotment hire

7.00

7.00

Payments

Photocopy paper

9.99

9.99

Cheques required

Jeff Skidmore		1287.80
Boardmans	Photocopying charges	8.88
Clayton	Legal fees for deed of waiver on sportsfield	392.50
J. Meischke	Artwork for information board	680.00
PKF	Audit fees	412.43
Don Chandler	36 hours work	180.00
J. Allsop	November salary	473.20
J. Allsop	Stamps 100 x 27 p + 1 x .96	27.96
J. Allsop	Phone calls	<u>31.05</u>
		<u>3493.82</u>

Cheques received

Mr. Green	Allotment hire 2001/2002	14.00
Mr & Mrs Philips	Allotment hire 2001/2002	24.50
Mr. Freeman	Allotment hire 2001/2002	17.50
Mr. Hall	Allotment hire 2001/2002	7.00
Mr. Cobb	Allotment hire 2001/2002	7.00
Mr. Hodges	Allotment hire 2001/2002	7.00
Cricket Club	Legal fees for deed of waiver on sportsfield	<u>350.00</u>
		<u>427.00</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Floodlighting to 6/11/01	220
Colin Straker – Main Hall hire	56.00
Mr. Keen	60.00
Mrs Paxman	6.00
Mr. Murphy	12.00
Nikki Roberts	10.00
	364.00
	<u>168.05</u>

Payments

Cleaning materials	136.46
VAT return for 9/01	<u>31.32</u>
	<u>167.78</u>

Cheques required

Three Valleys Water		69.08
TXU Energi		114.53
Watton PCC	Parish news Advert	90.00
Don Chandler	9 hours work	45.00
Mrs. C. Bewley	41¼ hours cleaning work	<u>216.56</u>
		<u>535.17</u>

Cheques received

Badminton Club	Hire of Main Hall in Oct. Nov and Dec	158.50
Mrs Proctor	Pavilion hire	21.00
Mrs. Heald	Pavilion hire	21.00
Mr. Grey	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	45.00
Cornhill Insurance	Claim	431.92
Conservative Association	Pavilion hire	16.00
Mrs East	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	<u>39.00</u>
		<u>732.42</u>

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

9 Chairman's / Clerk's Report

• **Remembrance Sunday**

Mr. Poulton said he looked forward to seeing Parish Councillors at the Remembrance Sunday service on 11th November, and afterwards for the laying of the poppy wreaths at the War Memorial.

• **The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.**

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• **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 5th December 2001.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING WILL START AT 7.00 PM.