

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman)	Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. C. Dinnin	Mr. D. Filer
	Mr. I. Harris	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. M. Smith
	The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)	

Public 4 members of public

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark and Mr. Stock.

**2 Public Participation**

Item 6 a ii, Planning Application - 117-119 High Street, discussed directly following item 3, Declaration of Interests under item 3 a.

**3 Declaration of Interests**

Mr. Smith declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a ii, Environment Sub-Committee – Poplar trees on the Lammas.

**a) Public Participation**

Members of the public were invited to speak about the proposed development at 117-119 High Street. Their main concerns were over-development, additional parking in the area and the removal of a mature tree.

- **Item 6 a ii, Planning Application - 117-119 High Street (3/07/1230/FP/HS)**  
Conversion/reconstruction of garage block into 2 residential units  
Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council strongly objects to the above application for the following reasons.
  - It is an over-development of the site.
  - The Parish Council is concerned about traffic movement in this area especially with ingress and egress onto the High Street.
  - The courtyard area is already a hazardous pedestrian thoroughfare. Additional traffic and parking in this area will only increase the dangers.
  - The Parish Council objects to the change of use from garages to residential units. **Action: J. Allsop**

**4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report**

None.

**5 Minutes of the last meeting**

**a) Acceptance**

- **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007**  
Mrs. Dinnin 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.
- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007**  
Mrs. Dinnin 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**

- **Install dog-waste bin on Watton Green:** completed.
- **Investigate possible locations for the new notice board**  
Following investigation, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke identified the best location for the new notice board is between the existing Parish Council and Church notice boards near Summans Stores. This was agreed.  
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to install the notice board accordingly. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**
- **Give key to the Lammas gate to Mrs. Dinnin:** completed.
- **Liaise with Conservation Society re possible transfer of funds**  
Refer to item 7 c, Specific items - Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society
- **Ask Sports and Social Club to re-seed part of the goal mouths again**  
The original re-seeding of the goal mouth areas has now grown due to the wet weather and no further action is required.
- **Write to planning department re 23 High Street:** completed.

- **Write to planning department re Land adjacent to 14 Beane Road:** completed.
- **Copy the Clerk with the details of the Chairman of Governors for the Village Directory:** completed.
- **Copy village directory as an insert in the July edition of the Parish News**  
Refer to item 7 d, Specific items - Village Directory.
- **Attend meeting with Hertfordshire Highways 20th June**  
Refer to item 7 e, Specific items - Report on meeting held on 20th June with Hertfordshire Highways
- **E-mail Mr. Poulton with details of Highways issues in Whempstead:**  
Mr. Clark did not give Mr. Poulton the details and therefore no Whempstead issues were raised at the meeting with Hertfordshire Highways on 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Notify Scout & Guide Group of appointment of Parish Council Representative:** completed.
- **Arrange for trophies to be engraved and purchase two keep-sake trophies:** completed.
- **Present Parish Council trophies during the Community Service on 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
Refer to item 7 f, Specific items-Awarding of the Good Citizenship trophy and the Cup for Outstanding Effort.
- **Write to Jim Morrissey re audit of Parish Council accounts:** completed.
- **Send Annual Return to Lubbock Fine:** completed.
- **Send signed copy of Community Hall accounts to McCash and Hay:** completed.
- **Contact Allianz Cornhill re damage to safety surface:** completed.
- **Write to contractors re external decoration at the Community Hall:** completed.  
Mr. Adams hopes to do the work next week if the weather remains dry. He has been asked not to do the work during the school holidays.
- **Put up 'No Smoking signs' in the Community Hall:** completed.
- **Instruct Rosemary Brown to put toilet paper in outside toilets:** completed.
- **Cut Watton Green and the Lammas grass**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Grass cutting on Watton Green and the Lammas. – cut today nearly all cleared
- **Contact Adam Welch re removal of the Poplar trees**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Poplar trees on the Lammas.
- **Obtain additional quotation for the removal of the Poplar trees**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Poplar trees on the Lammas.
- **Ask Phil Moore to identify which allotments are not being cultivated by tenants:** completed.
- **Write to Allotments holders who are not cultivating their plots:** completed.  
The following letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June has been sent to the seven allotment holders who have not been cultivating their plots.  

‘The Parish Council has noted that your allotment is currently not being cultivated. Accordingly to your hire agreement you must "keep the plot clear from weeds and maintain it in a good order".

Could you please clear and maintain your plot or notify me as soon as possible if you wish to terminate your allotment tenancy agreement so we can allocate it to someone else.

If your allotment remains uncultivated in three months from receipt of this letter, the Parish Council will have no alternative but to terminate your Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

If you are cultivating your allotment and this letter has been sent to you in error, please notify us as soon as possible and we sincerely apologise for the error and any distress it may have caused you.’

Responses have been received from two allotment holders. One wishes to continue with their allotment and the other wishes to give it up.
- **Attend Garden Party hosted by Chairman of East Herts Council on 1<sup>st</sup> July:** completed.
- **Attend site meeting to discuss planning application at Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School:** completed.
- **Copy Hertfordshire Highways with letter from Monk-Hartley Builders:** completed.
- **Write to Monk-Hartley Builders:** completed.
- **Write Parish News report:** completed.
- **Produce a table of dates re review of day in the month that the Parish Council meet:** completed.  
Refer to item 7 b, Specific items - Parish Council meeting dates.
- **Complete table with most suitable dates for Parish Council meeting:** completed.  
Refer to item 7 b, Specific items - Parish Council meeting dates.

**c) Action points outstanding for more than two months**

- Chase Allianz Cornhill and AON Limited re insurance policies: Now all completed.

**6 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 6 Lammas Road (3/07/1181/FP/HS)**

Single storey front extension

This application appears to be identical to the adjacent property. Mrs. Dinnin visited the neighbours on either side of 6 Lammas Road. One was happy with the application and the other made no comment as they are about to move from the village.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that they have no comment on the application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**ii) 117-119 High Street (3/07/1230/FP/HS)**

Conversion/reconstruction of garage block into 2 residential units

This item was discussed at item 3 a, Public Participation.

**iii) 66 Hazeldell (3/07/1251/FP/HS)**

Conservatory to rear

Mrs. McCash said that the proposed conservatory fills in gap to the fence from the existing extension.

She visited one of the neighbours and the residents at the rear of 66 Hazeldell. There were no objections to the application.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that they have no comment on the application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decisions**

**i) 27 High Street (3/07/0623/FP/H S)**

Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of a 5 bed detached residential dwelling

- East Herts Council permission granted

**ii) 23 High Street (3/07/0930/FP/SD)**

Garage conversion, loft conversion, new front porch, raised rear roof height and rear dormer window

- East Herts Council permission refused

**7 Specific items**

**a) Adopting the Code of Conduct**

Mr. Poulton has asked East Herts Council to provide training on the Code of Conduct. He suggested that Watton-at-Stone, Aston and Benington Parish Council could attend a training programme using the Community Hall facilities.

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of the draft Model Code of Conduct for Town and Parish Councils prior to this meeting.

After discussion, Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council adopt the local authorities Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 Number 1159 with the addition of paragraph 12 (2).

‘Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.’

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

The Clerk to notify the Standards Board for England accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

With the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, the Personal and Prejudicial Interest notes in the Parish Council Information Pack are now out of date. Parish Councillors were asked to remove this item from their pack and refer to the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Poulton proposed that the following amendment be made to page 11 of Standing Orders and Chairmanship.

‘Watton-at-Stone Parish Council will allow public participation at its monthly meetings and this request will appear on the agenda papers as item number 2 – Public Participations.

Members of the public will be permitted to put question (s) to the Parish Council on any matters appertaining to the Parish Council and will be able to speak on each item for up to three minutes.

Prior notice of the question (s) would be desirable but not essential.’

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

Parish Councillors were asked to amend their standing orders accordingly.

**Action: Parish Councillors**

**b) Parish Council meeting dates**

Because some Parish Councillors expressed a difficulty in concentrating during the June Parish Council meeting due to the excessive amount of noise created by the Watton Youth Drop Inn, it was agreed to look at the possibility of changing the meeting day to a Tuesday evening.

Parish Councillors preferred date is the third Tuesday of the month, the one draw back to this date is that it will always be after the deadline date for the Parish News. Mr. Knight said that it is likely that on most occasions the editor of the Parish News would be flexible on the deadline date.

Mr. Meischke proposed that the meetings should be changed to the third Tuesday in the month. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008

The Clerk to place an entry in the next issue of the Parish News (September).

**Action: J. Allsop**

**c) Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society**

The Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society has been officially disbanded and has presented a cheque for £592.13 to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has sent a receipt (dated 20<sup>th</sup> June) signed by Mr. Poulton to the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society, which reads as follows.

‘The Parish Council hereby acknowledges the receipt of a cheque for £592.13p from the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society and agrees to use the money in accordance with the following strict condition specified by the Society.

The Watton-at-Stone Parish Council shall spend the money transferred to them by the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society on activities designed to secure the promotion, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest within the Parish of Watton-at-Stone. Examples of such could include:

- tree planting
- environmental work on Watton Green, the ‘Cottage Site’, the Lammas
- the War Memorial
- environmental-education projects.’

The Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society will be presenting copies of the Village Guides to the Parish Council. Any funds generated from the sale of the guides to be spent on environmental projects.

**d) Village Directory**

The printing of the Village Directory was delayed so that the Parish Council could include the changes in its meeting dates. The directory will now be printed ready for distribution with the September issue of the Parish News.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were copied with the revised draft version of the Village Directory. Further alterations have been made to the directory.

Mr. Knight to give the Clerk the changes to the Football entry.

**Action: I. Knight**

If any Parish Councillor is aware of any further changes could they please give them to the Clerk before mid-August.

**Action: Parish Councillors**

**e) Report on meeting held on 20th June with Hertfordshire Highways**

Mr. Poulton reported on the meeting between Parish Councillors and Hertfordshire Highways

- **Blocked drains in the High Street, Church Lane and School Lane**  
The blocked drains in the High Street and Church Lane have been cleared. However they have not yet managed to unblock the one in School Lane.
- **White-lining in School Lane**  
The white-lining in School Lane is scheduled for the end of July. Mr. Poulton suggested to Hertfordshire Highways that this should be delayed until after the resurfacing work is done in School Lane.
- **Resurfacing of School Lane**  
The resurfacing work is scheduled to be done during the school summer holidays to minimise inconvenience to the local community.
- **Overgrown shrubbery on the left hand side verge of Walkern Road as you leave the village**  
The overgrown shrubbery has been trimmed back

- **Hedge trimming by the Waggon and Horses Public House**

This work has not been done.

Admiral Taverns (who own the Waggon and Horses Public House) have been asked again to trim back the hedge/tree growth which is overhanging the highway in Walkern Road.

- **Position of the Walkern Road sign posts entering the village**

The position of the Walkern Road sign posts entering the village are correct and no additional signage is needed.

- **Tree planting in Hazeldell**

This item is outstanding. Mr. Keith Jones of Hertfordshire Highways has the matter in hand to complete these works.

- **H-bar marking opposite the Memorial Hall**

Hertfordshire Highways have agreed to look at the possibility of installing H-bar markings opposite the Memorial Hall.

- **Site of salt bin on Walkern Road/Beane Road**

A new salt bin will be located on the small section of grass verge at the entrance to Beane Road (adjacent to 15 Walkern Road).

**f) Awarding of the Good Citizenship trophy and the Cup for Outstanding Effort**

Mr. Poulton reported that only one of these trophies was awarded during the Community Hall service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, as follows.

- The Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Outstanding Effort Award was presented to Emily Wilson. This award is to a member of the Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide Beaver or Rainbow group (ages 5 to 8 years).

Unfortunately, Ryan Evans, the recipient of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Good Citizenship trophy was not present at the Community Hall service. This trophy is awarded to a Year 6 child (aged 11 years) who, in the opinion of the staff, has been the best citizen during their whole time at the School.

Keep-sake trophies were presented with the awards.

**g) Benington Wind Farm Information Day**

The Bott family held an information day in the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall earlier tonight. They also held a larger event in Benington.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on the proposals for the Benington Wind Farm until an official planning application is received.

In his capacity as a District Councillor, Mr. Poulton has already received a large amount of objections from the public.

It was agreed that when the planning application is received, the Parish Council would call a public meeting to enable residents of Watton-at-Stone to debate the issue.

## 8 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

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

- **COIF account**  
The new Community Hall COIF account has now been opened and £12,500 deposited in the account.
- **Signatories on all bank accounts**  
It was agreed that the signatures on both the Parish Council and Community Hall accounts be changed to include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, all Sub-Committee Chairman and the Clerk. Namely:
  - Mr. Poulton (Chairman of the Parish Council and Community Hall Board of Trustees)
  - Mr. Meischke (Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council)
  - Mr. Filer (Chairman, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee)
  - Mr. Knight (Chairman of Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee)
  - Mrs. Dinnin (Chairman of Environment Sub-Committee)
  - Mrs. Allsop (Clerk)

The Clerk to obtain the relevant forms from the Alliance and Leicester and COIF.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Quarterly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall**

Mr. Filer went through the expenditure and income items for both the Parish Council and Community Hall accounts. He explained that the first-quarter accounts are not a good reflection of 25% of the year's income and expenditure. For example, the Precept is paid twice a year, representing 50% of the total income and seasonal expenditure items such as grass cutting do not occur during the winter months. Because the bank statements for this period have not been received, these accounts are draft statements only.

### Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Report and minutes on meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007**

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of the minutes of the Trustees meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 prior to this meeting.

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

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items arising from those minutes.

- **Cricket Club storing items in the changing rooms**

Martin Tipper (Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club) has agreed to remove the Cricket Club items stored in the changing rooms, with the exception of the umpire coats which will remain.

- **Safety surface under the multi-play equipment**

There are two new areas of damage to the safety-surface under the multi-play equipment. Around the red fireman's pole and the red steps. T. C. Sports & Leisure Limited, the contactor who did the previous repair work on behalf of Wicksteed Leisure Limited, have submitted a quotation of £750 to repair the damage. Mr. Filer proposed that we accept the quotation. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Acoustics for Sports Hall**

Mrs. McCash agreed to speak to her acoustics contact to arrange a site meeting in the autumn to discuss his proposals to install acoustic paneling in the Main Hall.

**Action: H. McCash**

- **Donation of a seat on the Sportsfield**

Mr. and Mrs. Milman (37 Rivershill) would like to donate a seat in memory of their son who died. They would like the seat to be located on the sportsfield.

Parish Councillors agreed to the proposal. Mr. Poulton to write to Mr. & Mrs. Milman accordingly.

**Action: N. Poulton**

### Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items concerning the Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee.

- **Tennis court**

Alison Tinniswood (County Archaeologist) has now supplied the archaeological comment concerning the archaeological survey and the implications regarding changing the orientation of the court by 90%.

Mr. Knight to complete the planning application forms for a new Tennis Court for Mr. Poulton to sign. They will then be submitted to the planning department at East Herts Council.

- **Playing field addition**

No response has been received from the St. Albans Diocesan Board re our informal application for additional Glebe Land.

Mr. Poulton suggested that we should now write formally to the St. Albans Diocesan Board requesting additional Glebe Land for sporting facilities. This was agreed by all Parish Councillors present.

**Action: I. Knight**

Members of the public left meeting.

- **MPPA – Pressure wash and moss kill**

In March 2007 Doe Sport quoted £285 to supply and spray moss killer on the MPPA and £790 to clean the surface by means of high-pressure jet-washing. However, after inspection of the MPPA surface, it was agreed that the work did not need doing and should be looked at again in September.

Mr. Knight said that the work now needed to be done and proposed that we instruct Doe Sport accordingly. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: I. Knight**

Mr. Filer reminded Mr. Knight that there was only £800 in this year's MPPA budget. Mr. Knight said that the work was originally scheduled for the previous financial year (which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007).

- **External storage room**

Mr. Knight said that this item was reported on at the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Football Club would like to install a mezzanine floor on the rear half of the external cupboard at a height of approximately six feet. Safety issues were discussed by the Trustees and the possible need for a fixed ladder to allow access to the mezzanine floor.

The Sports and Social Club are drawing up a plan for Trevor Blackin (who was involved in the original design of the Community Hall) to look at for approval at our meeting in September.

This item to remain on the agenda.

**Agenda: 09/07**

**Environment**

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

• **Grass cutting on the Watton Green and the Lammas**

The grass cutting work has now been completed. However, the bails still need to be removed from Watton Green.

The nettles on the Lammas need strimming. The main areas are at the bottom of the Lammas bank and along the river bank and a small section where the stairs go up at the bottom of the bank. Blue Bury Contractors have verbally quoted £100 to do the work. Mr. Poulton proposed that this verbal quotation be accepted. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

• **Footpaths**

The footpath at the top of Church Walk is badly overgrown. Mr. Knight said that he would arrange for this to be cleared.

The school hedge that runs along footpath 17 is badly overgrown. It was agreed to write to the school asking them to cut back the hedge.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Smith left the meeting while the following item was discussed.

• **Poplar trees on the Lammas**

East Herts Council have verbally confirmed that we do not require permission to remove the three dead Poplar trees because they are not in conservation area or covered by tree preservation orders.

Mrs. Dinnin said that she spoke to Tony Bradford (Countryside Management Service) and he has no problems with the trees being taken down and the wood placed where the grass cuttings are stored.

The following quotations have been received.

• Greenwood Tree Care (Adam Welch)

‘Remove three dead Poplar trees and stack at requested spot on the Lammas - £930

I am also happy to include the trimming back of the willow tree and other trees interfering with the footpath at no extra cost.’

• Blue Bury Contractors (Mike Smith)

‘To cut down three dead/dying Poplar trees, cord to convenient length and remove to far end (behind seat) - £900 plus VAT.’

Parish Councillors agreed that the trimming back of the willow tree and other trees interfering with the footpath needed to be done. Mr. Harris said that because the quotations are not based on the same work, Blue Bury Contractors should be asked to submit a new quotation to include the additional work. This was agreed.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

On receipt of the revised quotation, Mrs. Dinnin, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to decide which quotation is to be accepted and ask for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

**Action: C. Dinnin/N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

Mr. Smith returned to the meeting.

**b) Routine reports**

**i) Fire-alarm test**

The fire-alarm was tested before the start of the meeting.

**ii) Monthly village-report**

Mrs. McCash completed this report on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007, the result of which is as follows.

• **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	OK (goal moth scruffy).
Litter	A little.
Dog fouling	None.
General	OK.

• **Children’s Play Area:**

Condition of surface	OK (some more damage).
Litter/Litterbin	Some litter.
Large swings	OK.

Small swings	OK.
See-Saw	OK.
Rainbow multi-play and slide	OK.
Two spring sit-on	OK.
Teen shelter	OK.
General	OK.
<b>• Bike ramps area:</b>	
Junior Jump	OK.
Double Ramp	OK.
Fun Box	OK.
<b>• Community Hall:</b>	
General Condition (Exterior)	OK.
Litterbin	Full.
Car Park	Some litter.
General	OK (gutter).
<b>• Multi-Purpose Play Area:</b>	
Surface	OK (some moss).
Boundary Fencing	OK.
Tennis nets	OK.
Litter	None.
General	Good.
<b>• Great Innings Play Area:</b>	
Equipment	OK.
Surfaces	OK.
Litter	OK (couple of cans).
Dog fouling	None.
Trees	Good.
Comments	-
<b>• Allotments Area:</b>	
Access	Good.
Condition of paths between Allotments	Good.
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	Good.
Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	Many overgrown and untidy.
Litter	None.
Comments	-
<b>• Culverts on Mill Lane</b>	
Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	Some litter and weeds.
Dog-fouling	A little.
Comments	OK.
<b>• Salt bins</b>	
Perrywood Lane	OK – full.
Entrance to Great Innings	OK – full.
Great Innings South – outside number 93	OK – full.
Station Road	OK – full.
Moorymead Close (2)	OK – full.
Hazeldell	OK – ¾ full.
Footpath 17	OK – full.
<b>• Dog-waste bins</b>	
Footpath 17	OK.
Sportsfield	OK.
Church Walk	No lid.
Walkern Road	OK.
Station Road	No lid.
High Street (by Memorial)	OK.
Great Innings	OK.
Mill Lane	OK.
Opposite 5 School Lane	OK.
<b>• War Memorial</b>	
Comments	Few weeds.
<b>• Ornate Village Sign</b>	

Comments OK.  
Post OK.

- **Dog-waste bins without lids**

Parish Councillors expressed their concern about the environmental health issues of the bins without lids. The smell from the open bins is appalling.

It was agreed to write to East Herts Council asking them to repair or replace the damaged bins as soon as possible. **Action: J. Allsop**

- iii) **Weekly sportsfield-report and action**

There was nothing to report from Ted Brown's weekly inspections.

Mr. Poulton reported that he had today repaired a broken toilet roll holder in the gent's toilet.

The water pressure in the ladies toilet needed adjusting and Alan Bunyan did the work free of charge.

## 9 Correspondence received

### a) **Police Authority – Nomination for Safer Neighbourhoods Awards**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Hertfordshire Police Authority. Due to the high level of entries received, our nomination of PCSO Paul Weston was unsuccessful in proceeding through the borough/district heats to the final shortlist.

### b) **East Herts Council –Standards Committee – Parish representative**

No Parish Councillors present expressed an interest in putting their name forward for the East Herts Council Standards Committee. Mr. Poulton said that, in his capacity as a District Councillor, he was already a member of the Standards Committee.

The Clerk to inform East Herts Council accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### c) **East Herts Council – Annual Playground inspection**

Mr. Poulton said that East Herts Council wrote to us on 13<sup>th</sup> June re that annual playground inspection. They have teamed up with five other authorities to obtain a discounted rate of £45 (excluding VAT) which includes a risk assessment for each play area, regardless of the size of site or number of pieces of equipment.

Because there was a very short response time, the Clerk instructed East Herts Council to proceed with the inspection.

### d) **East Herts Council – Litterpick payment 2007/08**

East Herts Council have written to inform us that our annual litterpick payment for 2007/08 is £1123.75 which is based on 4 hours per week at £5.40. This work is done by Ted Brown at a rate of £7 per hour.

### e) **Sue and Martin Taylor, 48 Rivershill**

Mr. Meischke read out a letter from Sue and Martin Taylor who have offered to purchase the Parish Council land at Rivershill, which is adjacent to their property. They are concerned about the security of their property and have offered the Parish Council £5000 for the freehold.

The land, which was donated to the Parish Council by the Gubbins family, does not appear to have any restrictive covenants on it.

After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Meischke speak with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor to ask if they would be willing to pay to have the land valued as follows.

1. As a freehold non-building plot.
2. As a freehold building plot.
3. Level of rental in its current condition.

Mr. Meischke to visit the Land Register to look at the registration of the Parish Council land at Rivershill re any restrictions and discuss the issue with Mr. & Mrs. Taylor. **Action J. Meischke**

### f) **Letters from residents of Beane Road and Walkern Road concerning planning application on land at 14 Beane Road**

Mr. Poulton summarised the contents of the six letters of objection received from residents of Beane Road and Walkern Road. The main objections were an overdevelopment of the site and the potential increase in traffic along the access road from 14 Beane Road onto Beane Road.

### g) **Mr. and Mrs. Crane 55 Rivershill re development at 117-119 High Street**

Item 6 a ii, Planning Application – 117-119 High Street, discussed directly after item 3, Declaration of Interests.

### h) **Letter from Dominic Long**

Mr. Poulton read out a note from Dominic Long. The new Children's Centre and Extended School Manager will not be starting her appointment until the end of September 2007. He therefore requested that she be invited to give her presentation at either the October or November Parish Council meeting.

This was agreed. The Clerk to give Dominic Long the dates of the October or November Parish Council meetings.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 10 Reports from other Organisations

- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association**

Mr. Meischke attended the Allotment and Garden Association meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The main topic of discussion was the non-cultivation of some of the allotments.

- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch**

Mrs. McCash has been invited to the next Police locality meeting.

- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the 'Fun on the Field' fundraising day was a great success.

- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club**

Mr. Knight said that the Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club would like to put a bracket on the wall of the external cupboard so the Ladies Football Club can chain their equipment to it. This was agreed. Mr. Knight to notify the Ladies Football Club accordingly.

**Action: I. Knight**

- **River Beane Restoration Association**

Mr. Knight said that the condition of the River Beane continues to worsen. Oliver Heald MP has agreed to arrange a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss this issue.

- **NHS - Delivering quality health care for Hertfordshire – Public Consultation**

This document needs to be completed and returned before 27<sup>th</sup> July, it was agreed therefore that Mr. Poulton and Mrs. McCash will meet on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk to e-mail the NHS consultation questionnaire to all Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors to send any comments they would like included to Mrs. McCash before Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**Action: Parish Councillors.**

## 11 Items for Parish News

The following items to be sent to the Editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the next issue (September 2007).

- Change to Parish Council meetings dates
- Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Awards

The Clerk to write the entry accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 12 Accounts

### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

None

##### Payments

None

#### Cheques required

Watton Service Station	Parts for Notice board	6.96
Blue Bury Contractors	Repair to Lammas field bridge and installation of seat	82.25
Tim Clark	Clearance work on Parish Council land at Rivershill	75.00
HCC	10 Ring binders	6.93
A.G. & R.P. Stanley	To remove rubbish from Lammas bank	35.00
BSWW Parish News	Photocopying of Annual Reports and delivery charge	58.69
Grassroots	Flowerbed maintenance	293.75
Wybone Limited	Dog-waste bin	159.73
St. Albans Diocesan Board	Allotment ½ year rent	300.00
Concord Trophies	Purchase and engraving of 2 keep-sake trophies	39.10
Concord Trophies	Engraving of 2 perpetual trophies	11.75
Ted Brown	32 hours litterpick	224.00
Frank Cooper & Son	Sportsfield grass cut	217.37
J. Allsop	July salary	579.63
J. Allsop	Phone calls to 3/07/07	25.00
Ted Brown	Strim perimeter of sportsfield	70.00
		<u>2185.16</u>
<b>Cheques received</b>		
East Herts Council	Litterpick payment	1123.75
Conservation Society	Funds	592.13
		<u>1715.88</u>

### Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

##### Payments

Floodlighting to 9.05.07	40.00	J. Phillips-toilet unlocking 20.05.07- 22.06.07	34.00
Jim Keen – Main hall hire	80.00	VAT return 05/07	<u>23.92</u>
Watton Dots & Tots – Pavilion hire	<u>56.00</u>		<u>57.92</u>
	<u>176.00</u>		

**Cheques required**

Herts Fire Protection	Annual Fire Equipment inspection	67.03
COIF	Opening of new high interest account	12500.00
G. Smith	Window cleaning	56.00
Rosemary Brown	24 hours cleaning	<u>156.00</u>
		<u>12779.03</u>

**Cheques received**

Nigel Poulton	Pavilion hire	21.00
Badminton Club	Main Hall hire	139.50
Dave Boddy	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	335.25
Gill King	Pavilion hire	14.00
Martin Bunce	Pavilion hire	21.00
Andrew Bott	Meeting room hire	<u>16.00</u>
		<u>546.75</u>

Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council approve the above payments. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **The meeting closed at 2115.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007.**