

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2008

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. J. Meischke
Mrs. C. Dinnin Mr. D. Filer
Mr. I. Knight Mrs. M. McCash
The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark, Mr. Harris, Mr. Smith and Mr. Stock.

2 Public Participation

None.

3 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Poulton declared a personal interest in 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - MPPA Floodlighting. Mr. Poulton is Vice-President of the Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire.

4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

- **E-mail from PC Andy Woodward**

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail from PC Andy Woodward dated 15th November, updating us on the vandalism that occurred at the Community Hall during the summer holidays.

'I just wanted to give you both an update about the first damage to the window of the community hall. We traced the owner of the vehicle which Dave Boddy saw pick up several youths from around the hall to an address in Datchworth, and spoke to this ladies son, another 12 year old, who stated that he had seen the youth who had damaged the window. On 29th September 2008 we arrested a 12 year old youth from outside the village. He admitted during interview that he was at the hall on the day in question but denied throwing the stone which caused the damage to the window. Based on what he said, four other youths were questioned in front of their parents but all stated that they did not see the person who caused the damage to the window. The youth was subsequently bailed to attend the police station today.

This job went to the CPS who decided that at the end of the day we were left with one 12 year olds word against another and didn't feel that we had a realistic chance of proving the case beyond all reasonable doubt at court and so our youth has been released without charge.

This was a bit frustrating really as I was hoping that the CPS would tell us to charge the youth and see who the magistrates believed at court but alas it wasn't to be.

At the very least I think the youth has been scared out of his wits by the whole process of being arrested etc so hopefully he won't be coming back to the village in the near future.

It was also a shame that the window had already been damaged when Dave BODDY arrived at the hall that day as if he had seen it we would have had no problem in getting the job home.

Also just to let you know that our next locality policing meeting will now be held in January 09 as we couldn't find a suitable date this year with holidays/Halloween/Christmas and my wife is expecting our first child on 20th November so at some point soon I am going to be dropping work for three weeks to go through the joys of fatherhood!'

- **November Parish Council meeting**

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Filer gave their apologies for the November Parish Council meeting.

Mr. Meischke will chair the November meeting.

5 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2008**

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

b) Review of actions

- **Give Watton Primary School the contact details for Raj Goutam, Hertfordshire Highways: completed.**
Refer to item 7 b, Specific items - Overgrown hedges adjacent to Watton Primary School.
- **Draft contract re land adjacent to Beane Cottage, Walkern Road**
Refer to item 7 d, Specific items - Licence re land adjacent to Beane Cottage.
- **Purchase 10 litre Swan catering urn: completed.**
- **Accept Sunstopper Blinds and Awnings' quotation for the repair of the pavilion blinds: completed.**
- **Arrange for the repair of the window-winder Mechanism in the Main Hall**
Mr. Meischke said that RKA services (UK) Limited, who did the original repair work to the high level window winder system, will be inspecting the current problem on Thursday 30th October.
- **Seek grants towards replacing the three damaged floodlighting units**
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - MPPA – Floodlighting.
- **Contact the secretary of the Diocesan Committee (Nigel Bengel) re additional land for sporting facilities**
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - Additional Football facilities.
- **Contact Raj Goutam, Hertfordshire Highways, re trees in Hazeldell**
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Trees in Hazeldell.
- **Liaise re Hertfordshire Highways repair works in Perrywood Lane**
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Filer have liaised over outstanding Highways repair works in Perrywood Lane and Raj Goutam Hertfordshire Highways) has been contacted about the outstanding work.
Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail dated 9th October from Raj Goutam.
'I have this morning received an update with respect to the works carried-out by the water company along Perrywood Lane and I quote:
"Sorry this has taken so long but I have only just received the notice No. as attached for the reinstatement opposite No 2, to be done 9th October. The hawthorn bushes are to be replaced at the Brambles 15th Oct."
I hope this is of some help and in the meantime I have asked my colleague responsible in the NRSWA Team to monitor the works. If there is any other outstanding concern, please let me know.'
Mr. Filer said that the hawthorn bushes outside the Brambles have still not been replaced. Raj Goutam has been e-mailed today to ask why this work is outstanding.
This item to remain on the agenda. **Agenda: 11/08**
- **Write to the Rural Housing Trust re presentation: completed.**

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

None.

6 Planning**a) Applications****i) 6 Lammas Road (3/08/1657/FP/AT)**

Rear extension - part single-storey, part two-storey

In line with the Parish Council planning application protocol, Mr. Knight contacted the neighbouring residents to discuss the application. Following consultation with Mrs. Dinnin and Mr. Harris, he then instructed the Clerk to write to the Planning Department stating that the Parish Council had no comment on this application.

Parish Councillors agreed with the decision

ii) 2 Perrywood Lane (3/08/1561/FP/SD)

Replacement dwelling (retrospective) following demolition of original bungalow in the green belt.

Parish Councillors agreed that the dwelling at 2 Perrywood Lane blends in with other buildings in the surrounding area. Mr. Poulton said that a new design statement has been submitted with the application and some of the content referring to the village facilities is grossly over exaggerated.

Mr. Filer has met with the applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Morrissey to discuss the retrospective application. While the house was being built, the builder discovered that the foundations for the building were inadequate and a large part of the existing building needed to be pulled down. Following a visit by East

Herts Building Control Officer, the applicant was informed that a further planning application was required. This information was not passed to the East Herts planners who granted the original permission for alterations and the extension to the building.

The retrospective planning application has an identical footprint to the original application granted by East Herts Council.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to the planning department as follows.

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council have viewed these plans and would make the following comments.

Parish Councillors do not want to object to these plans, but are concerned that this is not an extension to an existing property but a complete rebuild.

The Parish Council would not want this to set a precedent for future developments in and around the village.

We would wish to see that all future permitted rights be removed for this property.

In light of the fact that the footprint for the above application remains the same as the original plans approved by East Herts planners, Watton at Stone Parish Council would wish to support this application.

They believe there has been a genuine misunderstanding and lack of communication displayed between the building control officer, the planners and the applicant when it was found that the foundations for the existing property were not suitable which resulted in the building being demolished.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Decisions

i) 103, High Street (3/08/1355/FP/SD) – Listed building consent

Demolition of existing corrugated plastic lean to and erection of single storey rear extension
 -East Herts Council Permission granted

ii) 103, High Street (3/08/1476/LB)

Demolition of existing corrugated plastic lean to and erection of single storey rear extension
 -East Herts Council Permission granted

iii) 3, Newmans Court (3/08/1377/FP/SD)

Single storey rear extension
 -East Herts Council Permission granted

iv) 42 High Street (planning permission not required)

Fitting of solar water heating panels to rear roof
 -East Herts Council Full Permission

7 Specific items

a) Major Incident Emergency Plan

At the September Parish Council meeting, Mr. Poulton asked PC Andy Woodward when we could expect to have the police comments on the Emergency Plan, which Mrs. McCash gave to the police in April. PC Andy Woodward said that he had looked at the report and had nothing to add and it would be returned to Mrs. McCash as soon as possible.

Mrs. McCash said that she has now been informed that the Emergency Plan needs to go to Stevenage for an appropriate ‘proper officer’ to rubber stamp it. Also, that a map of Woodhall Estate will need to be included in the plan, as the Abel Smith Estate have agreed to the use of their barns in an Emergency situation.

b) Overgrown hedges adjacent to Watton Primary School

Mr. Poulton has been informed by Raj Goutam (Hertfordshire Highways) that the cutting of this overgrown hedge is the responsibility of the Rights of Way at HCC. However, no progress has been made on this matter because the Rights of Way Officer, Tom Goldsmith, is currently off work due to illness.

Mr. Poulton to chase this matter up. **Action: N. Poulton**

c) Cutting of Sportsfield Hedge

Mr. Whitehead has cut both sides of the sportsfield hedge.

Mrs. Dinnin has instructed Adam Welch to cut back the nettles etc along Church Walk tightly back to the newly cut hedge.

d) Licence re land adjacent to Beane Cottage

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter, dated 14th September from Mr. and Mrs Taylor of Beane Cottage.

Many thanks for your recent visit to view the above with its present condition.

Frances and I would agree to rent the above subject to an agreement with the Parish Council.

We would have the bank stripped of brambles, bindweed and nettles so as to establish the bank and lower level to a continuation of the theme we have achieved with our own rivers edge.

We would need to erect a 1.7 meter high close boarded wooden fence along the top of the bank nearest the bridge parapet at right angles to the road to meet the existing fence between our property and the Parish Council land.

Due to the condition of the bank we suggest the position of the new fence be agreed between us once we have cleared the bank.

We look forward to the reply from the council once this has been submitted to the next available and convenient Parish Council meeting.

Many thanks.'

Mr. Poulton then read out the following e-mail (dated 9th October) from Mr. Harris.

'I am attaching what must be viewed as a first preliminary draft. This is because I have not seen the correspondence on the matter and the only note I have is that there was to be an agreement recording a 5 year non assignable letting at £15 per annum.

What I have in fact prepared is a Licence. I have done this because a Lease brings with it certain legal rights, not least of which is one to renew. One of the distinctions between a Lease and licence is that the former carries an exclusive right of occupation whilst the later does not.

A court may rule that a document which purports to be a licence is in fact a lease, because it carries an exclusive right of occupation.

As the PC was anxious not to dispose of the land and agreed only a 5 year non assignable but renewable term I have included a recital that there is non exclusive use of the land making it a licence. Further to strengthen the PC position should there be a dispute, I have not included any "rent" (if it was included it would be expressed as a licence fee) even though this was proposed. At £15 per annum it is probably more trouble than it is worth.

I would not want anyone to think that this is a guarantee should a dispute arise but I hope that the relationships are such that this is adequate.

The document needs to have some plans attached and some details (names start date) inserted. The planting works to be carried out could also be included.

Let me know what further I can do.'

The Parish Council at its September meeting had suggested a rent of £16, which is equal to a full allotment rent and not £15 per annum.

Parish Councillors discussed Mr. Harris' e-mail and attached preliminary draft licence and agreed that no annual rental should be payable. Also, should the land be blocked off from use by Mr. and Mrs. Taylor for one day each year, as is the case of the Licence for Temporary Access across the Land known as the "Old Cottage Site", at Watton Green.

It was agreed that Mr. Poulton should meet with Mr. Harris to discuss the licence and then meet with Mr. and Mrs Taylor.

Action: N. Poulton

8 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

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

- **Monthly accounts**

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nina Burrows – allotment rent | 12.00 |
| Bob & Linda Thurlow – allotment rent | 32.00 |
| 1 video and 1 village guide | <u>6.00</u> |
| | <u>50.00</u> |

Payments

None.

Cheques issued

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| J. Allsop | September salary | 644.94 |
| Ted Brown | 32 hours litterpick | 232.00 |
| Ted Brown | Strimming around sportsfield | 70.00 |
| Frank Cooper & Son | September grass cutting | 91.65 |
| St. Albans Diocesan Board | MPPA land rent | 90.00 |
| J. Allsop | October salary | 594.94 |
| BSWW Parish News | Annual grant | 300.00 |
| N. J. Whitehead | Sportsfield hedge cutting | <u>376.00</u> |

Cheques received

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Richard Aston | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| John Love | Allotment 2008/09 | 40.00 |
| Phil Moore | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Mick Inman | Allotment 2008/09 | 48.00 |
| Mr. J. Knight | Allotment 2008/09 | 32.00 |
| Jackie Reed | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Mr. John Bunyan | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Carla Stewart | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Alan Tucker | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Lois & David Milman | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| John Hodges | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Cheryl Gibbings | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Mr. Roger Green | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Nicki Smith | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs Phillips | Allotment 2008/09 | 24.00 |
| Matthew Wood | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Leslie Scott & Hannah Brownlow | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Mr. Jim Hall | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Steve Gilbey | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Muriel Haig-Smith | Allotment 2008/09 | 16.00 |
| Gavin Dixon | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| David Wilkinson | Allotment 2008/09 | 8.00 |
| Michael Freeman | Allotment 2008/09 | 40.00 |
| Sports and Social Club | ¼ Annual rent | <u>300.00</u> |
| | | <u>700.00</u> |

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Floodlighting to 16/09/08 | 136.00 |
| Floodlighting to 21/10/08 | 231.00 |
| Circle Anglia – Pavilion hire | 16.00 |
| Watton Dots & Tots – Pavilion hire | 42.00 |
| Catherine Wilson | 39.00 |
| Debbie Dellow | 16.00 |
| Westwell Football training | <u>40.00</u> |
| | <u>520.00</u> |

Payments

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Ingersoll Rand – 3 Community Hall keys | 48.26 |
| 2 x VAT | <u>9.98</u> |
| | <u>58.24</u> |

Cheques issued

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| J. Allsop | Hot water urn | 61.66 |
| Stevenage Glass | Replace 3 broken high-level windows with polycarbonate | 408.90 |
| R. Brown | 24 hours cleaning | 168.00 |
| Customs and Excise | VAT return 08/08 | 178.49 |
| Herts Fire Protection | Refill one fire extinguisher and replace one fire extinguisher | 181.83 |
| G. Smith | Window cleaning | 57.00 |
| Sunstopper Blinds & Awnings | Repair to blinds in the pavilion | 351.33 |
| Prism Displays | Supply and installation of acoustic panels | 2972.75 |
| J. Allsop | Keys for Community Hall | 64.34 |

Cheques received

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs. Gould | Main Hall and Pavilion | 32.50 |
| Badminton Club | Main Hall | 148.50 |
| Samantha Bond | Main Hall | 112.00 |
| Sports and Social Club | Re filling of fire extinguishers | 80.00 |
| Sports and Social Club | ¼ annual rent | <u>300.00</u> |
| | | <u>673.00</u> |

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

Mrs. McCash explained the difference in the Clerk's salary in September and October. The Government have increased all personal allowances, backdated to the beginning of the financial year. This is to compensate for abolishing the 10% tax band at the beginning of this financial year. The Clerk's salary was therefore adjusted in September to allow for the rebate in personal allowance due.

- **Six monthly statement of accounts**

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 2008.

Mr. Filer went through the expenditure and income items for both the Parish Council and Community Hall accounts. He explained the variations in the statements.

The Community Hall income on hirings is looking healthy. Grant money is due for half the net cost of the supply and installation of the acoustic panels. Also, Zurich Municipal has agreed our claim for replacing the broken high level windows (a £100 excess will apply).

It was agreed that we should look at the Gas and Electricity contacts. The Clerk to give the current contracts to Mr. Poulton.

Action: J. Allsop

The Clerk to check the bank account to see if the Parish Paths Partnership Grant has been paid yet and if not chase CMS for payment.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Knight said that it is unlikely that we will need to use any of the MPPA maintenance budget for 2008/09 because the moss kill and pressure wash will not be required in this financial year. However, it will need including in the 2009/10 budget.

- **Request for Budget items for following year**

Mr. Filer asked all Parish Councillors to inform him of any items they would like included in the 2009/10 budget as soon as possible via e-mail.

Action: Parish Councillors

- **Obtain quotations for the following work**

- Strimming and mowing work
- Grass cutting for the sportsfield
- Grass cutting for the Lammas and Watton Green
- Sportsfield hedge cutting
- High street flowerbed maintenance, including the Memorial garden
- Leaf clearance

It was agreed to obtain quotations for the above works.

Action: J. Allsop

Contractors to be asked to supply quotations for the flowerbed maintenance, leaf clearance and strimming and mowing work based on a one year contract and a three year contract.

Action: J. Allsop

Nick Whitehead to be asked if he would be interested in quoting to cut the Lammas and Watton Green.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Watton Green grass cutting**

Mr. Filer said that additional strimming is required around Watton Green. This extra work should be included in the grass cutting schedule that goes out for tender.

Action: C. Dinnin/N. Poulton/J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Minutes and report on meeting held on 7th October 2008**

Mr. Knight proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and Mr. Poulton was in favour. Mr. Poulton signed the minutes.

- **Pavilion exit doors**

It was agreed that the cost of replacing the pavilion exit doors should be taken out of the contingency budget. Mr. Poulton has submitted a grant application to the Hertfordshire Mercury and Barclays Bank for replacing the doors.

- **Letter to hirers re the need to lock all doors for security reasons**

The Parish Council approved the Community Hall Trustees recommendation to write to all regular hirers re the need to lock all doors for security reasons.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton said that Community Hall Trustees have been reimbursed the net cost of refilling the two fire extinguishers from the organisation that left the external doors unlocked. Vandals removed and extinguished the two fire-extinguishes, which then needed to be refilled.

Recreation & Amenities

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

- **MPPA – Floodlighting**

A Grant application is being prepared for submission to the Grass Roots fund run by the Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire for the replacement of the eight floodlighting units, three of which are broken and not repairable. Mr. Knight is optimistic of receiving 100% of the replacement cost. If successful, the work will be completed in the next few months.

Mr. Filer said that the Community Hall Trustees should not replace these units while they are still working unless they receive a grant towards the work. Mr. Knight confirmed this was the intention.

Mr. Knight said that Ted Brown have done an excellent job keeping the weeds at bay around the MPPA. However, the gravel drainage ditch is collecting debris and needs clearing.

The Clerk to ask Ted Brown if he would be willing to do the work.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Additional Football facilities**

During the September Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that Mr. Knight contact the secretary of the Diocesan Committee (Nigel Bengier) to see whether Mr. Poulton, in his capacity as District Councillor, could speed up the contact being made by the Diocesan Surveyor with the East Herts planners. Mr. Knight did so and the answer was no.

- **Sportsfield grass cutting**

The Sports and Social Club has requested that no further grass cutting should take place this year, unless requested.

The Clerk to notify Frank Cooper and Son accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Environment

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

- **Grass cutting – Watton Green and the Lammas**

The grass cutting work is complete and both areas are looking good.

- **The Lammas – riverside tree maintenance**

Mrs. Dinnin has met with Adam Welsh to show him the two areas of trees maintenance she identified along the Lammas riverbank, so he can provide quotations. There are also a couple of tree clumps that need cutting back on the Lammas bank.

- **Trees in Hazeldell**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the Clerk wrote today to Hertfordshire Highways re the trees in Hazeldell.

b) Routine reports

i) Fire-alarm test

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

ii) Monthly village-report

Mr. Smith completed this report on the 20th October 2008, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Condition of grass | Good. |
| Litter | Good. |
| Dog fouling | Good. |
| General | Good. |

- **Children’s Play Area:**

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Condition of surface | Good. |
| Litter/Litterbin | Good. |
| Large swings | Good. |
| Small swings | Good. |
| See-Saw | Good. |
| Rainbow multi-play and slide | Good. |
| Two spring sit-on | Good. |
| Teen shelter | Good. |
| General | Good. |

- **Bike ramps area:**

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Junior Jump | Good. |
| Double Ramp | Good. |
| Fun Box | Good. |

- **Community Hall:**

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| General Condition (Exterior) | Good. |
| Litterbin | Good. |
| Car Park | Good. |
| General | Bottle in down pipe. |

- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Surface | Good. |
| Boundary Fencing | Good. |
| Tennis nets | Good. |
| Litter | Good. |

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| General | Good. |
| • Great Innings Play Area: | |
| Equipment | Good. |
| Surfaces | Good. |
| Litter | Good. |
| Dog fouling | Good. |
| Trees | Good. |
| Comments | Good. |
| • Allotments Area: | |
| Access | Good. |
| Condition of paths between Allotments | Good. |
| Condition of Allotments under cultivation | Good. |
| Condition of Allotments not under cultivation | Good. |
| Litter | Good. |
| Comments | Good. |
| • Culverts on Mill Lane | |
| Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts | Good. |
| Dog-fouling | Good. |
| Comments | Dying back. |
| • Salt bins | |
| Perrywood Lane | Good. |
| Entrance to Great Innings | Good. |
| Great Innings South – outside number 93 | Good. |
| Station Road | Good. |
| Moorymead Close (2) | Good. |
| Hazeldell | Good. |
| Footpath 17 | Good. |
| Beane Road | Good. |
| -comment | All full, some need topping up. |
| • Dog-waste bins | |
| Footpath 17 | Good. |
| Sportsfield | Dodgy swing lid. |
| Church Walk | Good. |
| Walkern Road | Good. |
| Station Road | Good. |
| High Street (by Memorial) | Good. |
| Great Innings | Good. |
| Mill Lane | Good. |
| Opposite 5 School Lane | Good. |
| • War Memorial | |
| Comments | Good. |
| • Ornate Village Sign | |
| Comments | Good. |
| Post | Good. |
| • Bottle in high level down pipe | |
| There is a bottle wedged in the high level down pipe at the Community Hall. Because scaffolding would be required to get the bottle out, it was agreed that no action should be taken. | |
| • New dog bin at station | |
| Mrs. McCash said that the location of the new dog-waste bin at the station was excellent. | |
| Mr. Poulton said he had been responsible for getting East Herts Council to install the new bin. | |
| The new dog-waste bin to be added to the Monthly village-report. Action: J. Allsop | |
| • | |
| iii) Weekly sportsfield-report and action | |
| Nothing to report apart from the loss of Mr. Brown's strimmer. | |
| iv) 6-monthly check of MPPA, Play Area on sportsfield and Community Hall equipment | |
| Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke will arrange a date to complete the 6-monthly check. | |
| Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke | |

9 Correspondence received

a) East Herts Council –Completed annual playground inspections reports

East Herts Council wrote on 23rd September enclosing the completed annual playground inspection reports for the 10 pieces of play equipment on the sportsfield. Mr. Poulton was pleased to report that all ten items came out as a low risk.

This item to be placed on circulation.

Action: J. Allsop

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

10 Village organisations

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** meeting as we speak.
- **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee**
Mr. Filer reported that the following items concerning the Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee.
 - Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee's AGM is imminent.
 - Mr. Abel Smith has called a meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Trustees.
 - Two new fan assisted heaters are to be installed and two of the existing heaters removed.
- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup:**
Mrs. Dinnin reported that Jessica Tatlow was re-elected as chairperson at the AGM held on the 7th October 2008
The Pre-School Playgroup had a very good year compared to the worries of 2007 and have managed to turn a £5,000 loss into a £4,500 profit due to the following.
 - An increase in the number of children attending (there is now have a waiting list).
 - Funding increased for 3-year olds.
 - Two grants received.
 - Fundraising of £3,000.
- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club:** Nothing to report.
- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.
- **River Beane Restoration Association:**
The River Beane Restoration Association (RBRA) has written to Barbara Follett (MP for Stevenage) in her capacity as the person responsible for overseeing implementation of the East of England Plan. A copy of the letter was sent to the Parish Council for their information but has still to be discussed.

11 Items for Parish News

No items were identified for inclusion in the November 2008 issue of the Parish News.

Because the third Tuesday in the month tends to come after the monthly deadline date for entries in the Parish News, it was agreed to consider changing the week (and or day) of the Parish Council meetings in the Civic Year 2009/10.

This item to be discussed by Parish Councillors in January 2009.

Agenda: 01/2009

- **The meeting closed at 2037.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 18th November 2008.**