

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 10th July 2002 at 7.15 pm

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. C. Clark
Mrs. C. Dinnin Mr. .D. Filer
Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

Members of Public: None

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Stock, Mrs Davies and Mrs. McCash.

2 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

- **Summer Play Scheme 2002**

Mr. Poulton handed out leaflets produced by EHDC for the 2002 Summer Play Scheme. Parish Councillors not present at the meeting to be given a copy of the leaflet. **Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Poulton then confirmed that EHDC have appointed senior staff to run the Summer Play Scheme at the Community Hall.

- **HCC – Planning now for Hertfordshire's future**

Mr. Poulton said that HCC had today sent us their consultation document on the structure plan for Hertfordshire. He said that he would summarise the main points of the document and place it on circulation. **Action: N. Poulton**

He then handed out leaflets summarising the review. Parish Councillors not present at the meeting to be given a copy of the leaflet. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Act**

This item will be discussed under 4 b, Specific Items – Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Act (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Plans for 2 houses at the Yard, Perrywood Lane**

Mr. Poulton said that he had received, from Beechwood Homes, plans for two houses at the Yard in Perrywood Lane, which have been submitted to the planning department at EHDC for a decision. These will be viewed and discussed by Parish Councillors at the end of the meeting.

He reminded Parish Councillors that they had met with representatives of Beechwood Homes before the start of the April 2002 meeting.

- **Golden Jubilee edition of the Village Guide**

Mr. Poulton said that he had been approached by Barbara Knight (Secretary, Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society) asking him for a couple of paragraphs on the Community Hall which will be included in the Golden Jubilee edition of the village guide. This was circularised to all Parish Councillors for comment. **Action: All Parish Councillors**

3 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2002**

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

b) Review of actions

- **Update Norton Antivirus on a weekly basis**

The Clerk said that she had been on the web to look at Norton Antivirus updates. However, she was unsure of our requirements.

Mr. Clark agreed to visit the Clerk's home to update the Norton Antivirus on the Parish Council computer.

Action: C. Clark

- **Give Mr. Clark the telephone number of the EHDC's dog-warden (Mike Abbey)**

This action point is outstanding.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Take photographs of the Churches, War Memorial etc and arrange visit to sign maker Mr. Mould**

This item to be discussed under 4 a, Specific Items - Ornate Village sign (on page 7 of these minutes).

- **Increase Community Hall insurance cover**
This action point has been completed.
- **Obtain cost of additional cover for loss of income and subsidence/landslip**
Mr. Filer said that Cornhill Insurance's annual premium for subsidence/landslip for the Community Hall building is £160.07. Loss of income for 12 months (based on last year's income) is £12.07.
Mr Filer proposed that we insure for subsidence/landslip and loss of income on the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Trustees policy. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour.
Action: J. Allsop
- **Obtain values for items on Parish Council's insurance and up-date if necessary**
This action point has been completed.
Mr. Filer said that currently the MPPA, Children's Playarea and bike ramps are covered under the Parish Council insurance policy although the Community Hall is responsible for them.
Mr. Poulton proposed that these items be transferred to the Community Hall Trustees insurance policy.
Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.
The Clerk to act accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Inspect the MPPA surface and report back to the Parish Council**
Mr. Knight said that he had inspected the MPPA surface and was under the impression that all the holes in the surface have been filled. He said that Doe Sport has agreed to monitor the condition of the surface and make repairs as and when necessary.
- **If no charge is made for repair to MPPA surface send letter of thanks to Doe Sport**
Doe Sport has made no charges, to-date, for filling in the holes on the surface of the MPPA. However, because the surface is still being monitored, this action point will not be carried-out for the present.
- **Obtain pots of light and dark green paint to conceal the repair work from Doe Sport**
Mr. Knight said that there was no need for the paint as Doe Sport is looking after the MPPA surface.
- **Give all Parish Councillors a copy of the six-monthly check list**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to 5 a, Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee - Six-monthly checklist (on page 6 of these minutes).
- **Write to Sports & Social Club re condition of Community Hall**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to 7 e, Correspondence Received - Sports & Social Club re condition of Community Hall and bike ramps (on page 10 of these minutes).
Mr. Meischke said that since the last Parish Council meeting he has inspected the Community Hall's kitchen and pavilion facilities after use by the Cricket Club on a Sunday afternoon.
He said that during his first inspection he had found the facilities left in a poor condition. However, the following week there was a distinct improvement. Last Sunday the facilities were left in a good condition and only one internal door had not been locked.
- **Write to Sports & Social Club re bike ramps**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to 7 e, Correspondence Received - Sports & Social Club re condition of Community Hall and bike ramps (on page 10 of these minutes).
- **Accept Mr. Stanley's quotation for strimming and grass cutting work at Watton Green and the Lammas**
This action point has been completed.
Mr. Stanley is expecting to carrying-out the work within the next week.
- **Inform the Clerk of any dead trees in the Parish**
The Clerk has not been contacted by any Parish Councillors about this item.
- **Meet on-site at Watton Green to examine dead trees**
Mr. Filer said that he and Mr. Stock had met on-site at Watton Green and agreed that the Countryside Management Service should be asked to look at the problem.
This item to be placed on the agenda, under Environment Sub-Committee, for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 11th September 2002. **Agenda: 9/02**
- **Look at deeds re Bull footpath**
Mr. Meischke said that the deeds to his property state that the local authority would be adopting the footpath that runs from the back of the Bull Public House garden to Rivershill.

He said that he had asked the Clerk to contact Ron Jack to find out if the footpath had been adopted by HCC. The Clerk said that she had not yet contacted Ron Jack.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Write to Mr. Abel Smith re rabbit problem on the Lammas**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to 7 d, Correspondence Received - Mr. Abel Smith – rabbits on Lammas (on page 10 of these minutes).
- **Write to Trevor Waldock (EHDC) asking that he inspects and repairs the matting**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for Tinkers Corner, Whempstead**
This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re planning application for 119 High Street – Amended plans**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for Bulls Green Water Tower, off Bramfield road Bulls Green**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for Heath Mount School, Pre-prep Department, Woodhall Park**
This action point has been completed.
- **Contact Datchworth Parish Council re planning application for 35 Bramfield Road**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for 35 Bramfield Road, Datchworth**
This action point has been completed.
- **Chase EHDC for LEAF grant cheque of £500**
This action point has been completed.
A cheque for £500 has now been received.
- **Collect key to Whempstead notice board from Mr. Clark**
Mrs. Dinnin said that the Clerk gave her a key to the Whempstead notice board. However, the key does not open the lock because the shaft was damaged when a second copy was made.
Mr. Clark said that he may wish to continue with the job of putting notices on the Whempstead notice board and therefore has not yet given his key to Mrs. Dinnin.
Mr. Clark to notify the Parish Council of his decision. **Action: C. Clark**
- **Write to EHDC re letters from HeT Town Planning and Development**
This action point has been completed.
Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail received today from Paul Rossington in response to our letter about HeT Town Planning and Developments.
'Jane, I read the copy letter that you provided with interest, particularly as it is not the first or the most original of such attempts to stimulate interest in "hope" values around the country. The planning process is too easy a target for those who use this technique and unfortunately more often than not the result is confusion and worry.
No initiatives or changes to our local planning processes are being "encouraged" such that previously unsuitable development sites are now being considered for approval. Our local plan still provides an agreed basis for the consideration of any development proposals and this letter should, in my opinion, be consigned to the re-cycling bin! I know of no other action that can be taken as, for example, the partners offer no professional membership details as a potential route for complaints against their actions.
Regards, Paul Rossington.'
It was agreed that no further action be taken.
- **Write to Carole Moore (Scout and Guide Group) re grant of £100 for Jubilee badges**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to the appropriate authority responsible for the footpath at the rear of Watton Primary School**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Mr. and Mrs Pannell and Mrs Ansell re footpath at the rear of Watton Primary School**

This action point has been completed.

- **Ask Jeff Skidmore to clear the two rubbish sites and remove the pallets from the allotments**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to all allotment holders re waste management**

This item to be placed on the agenda, under Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee, for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 11th September 2002.

Agenda: 9/02

- **Return the completed form to DEFRA**

This action point has been completed.

- **Ask Mr. Skidmore to remove Youth Club items from the Memorial Hall**

This action point has been completed.

- **Help Mr. Skidmore with the removal of the items from the Memorial Hall**

This action point has been completed.

- **Place Chairman's/Clerk's report on the agenda after apologies for absence**

This action point has been completed.

- **Giving articles for inclusion in the Parish News to the editor**

This action point has been completed.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

- **Meet on-site with the Countryside Management Service to discuss need for any tree surgery on the Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill said that he still had to arrange a meeting with the Countryside Management Service.

Action: V. Dunhill

Mr. Poulton asked Mr. Dunhill if he could complete this action point before the September meeting. Mr. Dunhill said that he would.

- **Try and obtain funding for work to riverside footpath from our Stewardship Agreement**

Mr. Dunhill said that this action point couldn't be completed until he had met with the Countryside Management Service.

Action: V. Dunhill

- **Send Community Hall accounts to McCash and Hay for audit**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to 5 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee - Approval of the Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2002 (on page 5 of these minutes).

4 Specific Items

a) Ornate Village sign

Mrs. Dinnin said that Mr. Stock had agreed to take photographs of the Churches, War Memorial etc.

However, this action is still to be completed and therefore no further progress had been made on this item.

Agenda: 09/02

b) Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Act

Mr. Poulton said that he had asked Mr. Filer to read a booklet on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and report back to the Parish Council. All Parish Councillors present at the meeting were given a copy of Mr. Filer's report as listed below.

1. Parish Councils have a duty under section 17 of the above act to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area and must review how they will comply with section 17.
2. Parish Councils must become actively involved in the identification of local problems and be part of the solution. They must work in partnership with local authorities and police to reduce crime and disorder and to seek local solutions to local problems.
3. Non-compliance could lead to a challenge from the courts and we have to be able to prove that we are complying - i.e. an audit trail.
4. All reports to members or committees should include an impact statement regarding crime and disorder.
5. Expert advice can be sought from our local 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership'.
6. There is a suggestion that some of our precept should be used for this purpose although grants are available (up to 75% of cost).

Comments:

- a) We need to understand more of what is required and should discuss this with the 'Crime and Disorder Partnership' (whoever they are!).

- b) We need member(s) of the Parish Council to undergo some training - presumably again through the 'Crime and Disorder Partnership'.
- c) I suspect that with our normal contacts with the police we are well on the way to conforming
- d)
 - e.g. PC Ivens
 - Drug symposium
 - Herts Constabulary - Members meetings.'

After discussion, it was agreed to write to Pauline Entecott (EHDC) informing her that we have received a booklet on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and would like more information and training (if necessary) on the subject. Also, requesting to know who the Crime and Disorder Partnership are and how they can be contacted.

Action: J. Allsop

5 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

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

- **Approval of the Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2002**

McCash and Hay have completed their audit of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2002. All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of the accounts.

The deficit figure on the accounts refers to the date 31/03/00 not 31/3/01.

Mr. Filer proposed that Mr. Poulton sign the audited accounts for the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall provided that McCash and Hay alter the deficit figure to read 31/03/01. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to contact McCash and Hay accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

When the accounts have been signed by Mr. Poulton a copy to be sent to McCash and Hay.

Action: J. Allsop

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

Parish Councillors present at the meeting were given a copy of the 3-monthly statement of accounts for the period ending the 30th June 2002.

Mr. Filer went through the expenditure and income.

The Clerk said that work to the post-and-rail fence on the sportsfield and the grant received had gone through the Community Hall accounts.

After discussion it was agreed that the Community Hall and Parish Council ownership and responsibilities are:

Community Hall:

- the Community Hall building
- the Children's Playground
- the MPPA
- the bike ramps.

Parish Council:

- the Sportsfield (including the rented land the MPPA stands on), all boundary fences, brick walls and the gate onto the sportsfield.

It was agreed that the Parish Council reimburse the Community Hall Trustees for all expenses incurred on the refurbishment of the post-and-rail fence (i.e. cost of the fence minus the grant received).

Action: J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Boiler**

David Bunyan has looked at the boiler on a couple of occasions to try and find out why it is overflowing. To-date he has been unable to identify the problem. Mr. Poulton said that the boiler overflow pipe had been originally fitted internally, which has caused a problem of wet walls etc. Mr. Bunyan has now re-routed the overflow pipe to the outside of the building.

- **Guttering**

The repair of the Community Hall guttering has been an on-going expenditure because it gets damaged when stones and balls etc. are thrown up onto the roof. Mr. Meischke said that he is in the process of obtaining quotations for galvanised or cast iron guttering to replace the plastic ones.

Comment [C1]:

Mr. Meischke will report on this item under Community Hall Trustees at the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 11th September 2002.

Agenda 9/02

- **Wall brackets for hirer of the Main Hall**

Mr. Meischke said that Ivan Baker, a new hirer of the Community Hall, has asked if he could install wall brackets in the Main Hall to enable him to hang up punch bags used in his fitness classes held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The revenue on this hiring is £36 per week. Mr. Meischke said that the brackets will need to be inspected and safety issues looked into. For instance badminton players could accidentally hit the brackets with their rackets and therefore a twist-off style of bracket maybe more suitable.

Mr. Poulton proposed that Mr. Meischke and Mr. Stock be given the authority to decide what is appropriate for the Main Hall. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Stock to arrange a site meeting with Mr. Baker. **Action: J. Meischke/D. Stock**

Recreation & Amenities

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

- **Approval of minutes of meeting held on 10th June 2002**

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. Meischke signed the minutes.

- **Six-monthly checklist**

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the six-monthly checklist, which now includes the Children's Playground.

Parish Councillors gave their approval of the six-monthly checklist.

The next six-monthly check is due in September 2002 and will be carried-out by Mr. Poulton, Mr.

Meischke and Mr. Stock.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke/D. Stock

Environment

In the absence of Mr. Stock, Mr. Poulton reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Byelaws - Watton Green and the Lammas**

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Stock's report on this item.

'I was telephoned by someone from the Deputy PM's office on 26th June and asked a number of questions about our application for the byelaws for Watton Green and the Lammas. The main questions concerned the Lammas and our involvement with DEFRA. I explained that we owned the Lammas, how we managed it, and our relationship with DEFRA. Things seemed to be OK by the end of the conversation, but let us wait for a written response to see if they are happy to continue.'

- **Footpaths (Hazeldell and Motts Close/High Street)**

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Stock's report on this item.

'I am not happy with the response from EH Highways Partnership and have spoken to Helen and Sarah about it.

I feel that if we do not respond to Ron Jack's letter, it could be seen that we accept that there is no real problem with the footpaths and we are therefore happy to wait for action at some undefined time in the future.

The problems that we have reported are serious, in particular during the winter when it is safer for people (young and old) to walk in the road; which they do. Surely this cannot be an acceptable situation.

I propose that we ask EHDC to give us an estimated date/period when we can expect some action to correct the problems.

- If we consider that the date/period given is acceptable, then at least we have something to monitor.
- If we consider that the date/period given is not acceptable, then we must pursue the matter further to achieve our objective, i.e. a higher priority is assigned to the subject footpaths and the work is done.'

It was agreed that we write to Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership) to say that the Parish Council are concerned that there are no funds available for work to be carried-out to this footpath in the near future and that we are concerned that the uneven state of both the footpaths identified could cause injury or at worst a fatality.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Dead Trees**

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Stock's report on this item.

'I am happy to report that the dead tree outside No. 2 Hazeldell was replaced on 26th June. This was a good and speedy response to our request and I suggest that we write and thank Ron Jack accordingly.'

It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership). **Action J. Allsop**

• **Rabbit fencing on Allotments and the Lammas**

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of Mr. Abel Smith's letter dated 19th June 2002 prior to this meeting.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to Mr. Abel Smith assuring him that the Parish Council does take the rabbit problem on the Lammas bank seriously and are currently seeking professional advice to discover what other options are open to them. And, that it would be most helpful if Mr. Abel Smith would share with us what action he is taking to combat the rabbit problem, so that the Parish Council can consider if these are appropriate for them.

The Clerk to act accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

• **PPP**

Mr. Dunhill said that he had applied for PPP funding for next year. This includes mainly hedge cutting and strimming work, and additional funding for signposting the Conservation Society's Golden Jubilee walk.

b) Sportsfield

i) Report

Mrs. Davies carried-out the sportsfield report on the 9th July 2002, the result of which is as follows.

• **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Very wet.
Litter	Some.
Dog fouling	OK.
Netball posts	?
General	Moles!

• **Children's Playground:**

Condition of surface	Coming away at edge of see-saw.
Litter/Litter bin	OK.
Large swings	OK.
Small swings	Rubber looking very 'tired' on right-hand swing.
See-Saw	OK – graffiti.
Multi-play and slide	OK.
Two spring sit-on	OK.
Teen shelter	OK.
Comments	New shows up old!

• **Bike ramps area:**

. Junior Jump	OK + no litter.
. Double Ramp	OK + no litter.
. Fun Box	OK + no litter.

• **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	OK.
Litter bin	OK.
Car Park	OK.
General	-

• **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	Tree debris.
Boundary Fencing	OK – far gate open.
Tennis nets	OK.
Litter	None.
General	Brushes on boot scraper worn.

• **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	OK.
Surfaces	OK.
Litter	OK.
Dog fouling	OK.
Comments	Grass has been cut.

• **Allotments Area:**

Access Public footpath sign down.
 Condition of paths between Allotments OK.
 Condition of Allotments under cultivation OK.
 Condition of Allotments not under cultivation OK.
 Litter OK.
 Comments Overgrown again.

• **Culverts on Mill Lane**

Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts A lot.
 Dog-fouling Some.
 Comments Nettles around benches.

• **Salt bins**

Perrywood Lane OK.
 Great Innings OK.
 Station Road OK.
 Moorymead Close OK.
 Hazeldell OK.
 Garages between Glebe Close & Rectory OK.

• **Dog-waste bins**

Footpath 17 OK.
 Sportsfield OK.
 Church Walk No lid.
 Walkern Road In use + lid!
 Station Road OK.
 High Street (by Memorial) OK.
 Great Innings OK.
 Mill Lane OK.

• **General**

General increase in dog fouling on pavements.
 Flowerbed –Longmeadow.

• **Brushes on boot scraper**

It was agreed that the brushes were still usable and no action is required.

• **Public footpath sign on Allotments**

Mr. Poulton said that the sign had been removed whilst building work took place at Glebe Court and that he had spoken to Stort Valley Housing Association and asked them to re-erect the sign.

The Clerk to write to Stort Valley Housing Association asking them to re-erect the sign.

Action: J. Allsop

• **Flowerbed outside Longmeadow**

Mr. Monk has not yet tidied and weeded the flowerbed outside Longmeadow, although he has done the other flowerbeds in the High Street. If work to this flowerbed is not carried-out within the next 10 days, a letter to be sent to him asking him to do so.

Action: J. Allsop

ii) **Weekly report and action**

Mr. Poulton said that during the weekly inspections the Clerk had identified various problems. These are listed below, together with the action that has been taken.

Playarea	Multi-play –on the car park side of the edge of the safety-surface there is a drop where the earth bank has eroded – potential trip hazard.	Mr. Meischke has asked Mr. Bunyan to inspect and rectify. This has now been completed.
	Small swings – safety surface braking-up under second swing (quite large hole) and recent repair work also breaking up.	Wicksteed have agreed to inspect and rectify.
	Multi-play – two small holes in the safety-surfacing on sportsfield side of the end of slide.	Wicksteed have agreed to inspect and rectify.
	2-bay swings - Corner of 1 st seat has edge broken off.	No action required.
	Seesaw – handle loose on sportsfield side, bolts need tightening.	Wicksteed have agreed to inspect and rectify.

	See-saw spring equipment – wood is splitting, unacceptable for age of equipment.	Wicksteed have agreed to order a new part, which may be supplied in metal instead of wood.
	Multi-play – the edge of the platform by the red pole has nicks out of it. Also, the wood logs are splitting badly.	Wicksteed have agreed to inspect and report back.
MPPA	Small hole identified in surface	Mr. Knight to continue to monitor the surface of the MPPA.
	Kick-board at horses field side (between two courts) has come loose from its support	Mr. Meischke has repaired.
Community Hall	Pavilion door – very difficult to remove master key from lock.	Mr. Meischke has put WD40 on this lock.
	Pavilion door to sportsfield – glass needs cleaning on one door.	The window has been cleaned.
	Also uneven paving slap, as I was inspecting the outside of the building I twisted my ankle.	Mr Meischke has asked Mr. Bunyan to rectify the problem and the work has now been completed.
	Main Hall – Yellow Netball tape on corner by users equipment cupboard lifting – possible trip hazard needs trimming back.	Mr. Poulton has stuck down the loose tape.
	Main Hall hirers cannot use away-team referee changing room, because it is full of football equipment. Large plastic sheeting still in away team changing room now on a table.	Sports & Social Club have been asked to rectify this.
	Left-hand window frame at Main entrance – sealant at bottom coming away and showing foam infill.	This has now been repaired.
	Pavilion – left hand door blind is dirty at bottom and coming away from plastic weight trim.	No action required.
	Pavilion – sealant, approx. 2 feet above plug socket coming away on right-hand wall.	This has now been repaired.

All the outstanding work has now been completed with the exception of the work to be carried-out by Wicksteed Leisure.

6 Planning

a) Applications

i) Beane House

Window in gable end of loft, overlooking back garden

Mr. Poulton said that he had visited the residents of the neighbouring properties. Because no objections were raised to the application, Mr. Poulton had instructed the Clerk to write to the Planning Department stating that the Parish Council had no comment on this application.

Parish Councillors studied the plans and agreed with the decision.

b) Decisions

i) Lane Croft, Perrywood Lane

Erection of feed barn

-EHDC permission granted

7 Correspondence received

a) A P T – proposed telecommunications development at Moorymead Close

Mr. Poulton read out a letter sent to the Parish Council by A P T (a Marconi company) dated 14th June 2002 who are proposing to install telecommunications equipment at Moorymead Close.

Mr. Poulton said that this letter had also been sent to him as a District Councillor and that he had written in that capacity to all residents of Moorymead Close and Great Innings informing them of the situation. A large

number of residents have written and phoned in their objections to Mr. Poulton. He has responded to APT listing resident's objections.

After discussion, it was agreed that although the dead-line date for response ran out on 28th June, the Parish Council write to stating that they found the application totally unacceptable as its location is too close to dense residential housing, children's play areas and school. Also, there are already a number of telecommunications masts in the area of Watton-at-Stone and suggesting that these sites, which are at Broom Hall Farm, Bardolphs Farm or Gregory's Farm, be used for their equipment.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Footpaths in Watton-at-Stone

This item was discussed under item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Footpaths (Hazeldell and Motts Close/High Street) on page 6 of these minutes.

c) Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society re Watton-at-Stone railway station

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 17th June) sent to WAGN by the Conservation Society and copied to the Parish Council.

'We, as a Conservation Society are very concerned about the amount of vandalism that occurs at our Station. It is thought that the installation of CCTV cameras would alleviate the problem.

Whilst we appreciate that there is a capital cost involved; in the long term, savings should be made in regard to replacements/repairs.

We would be pleased to have your views/action on this subject.'

Mr. Poulton then read out Mr. Stock's report on this item.

'I propose that we write to WAGN in support of this letter because the general condition of our station continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. I also propose that we ask WAGN to tell us what they plan to do to restore the station and its facilities to a satisfactory standard. Currently, the station is in a disgraceful state.'

It was agreed to write to WAGN accordingly and copy the Conservation Society.

Action: J. Allsop

d) Mr. Abel Smith – rabbits on Lammas

This item was discussed under item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Rabbit fencing on Allotments and the Lammas (on page 7 of these minutes).

e) Sports & Social Club re condition of Community Hall and bike ramps

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 21st June 2002) from the Colin Straker, Sports and Social Club.

'We acknowledge receipt of your two letters dated 14th June relating to:

Condition of pavilion after matches

Cycle Ramps

Our concern on both matters has been communicated to the Cricket Club.

We share the Parish Council concern about the current lack of use of the cycle ramps and will endeavour to attract the youngsters back.

Could you make sure that any further instance of problems with the Pavilion use are communicated to us with dates so there can be a more focused follow-up.'

f) EHDC – Chairman's Garden Party – Saturday 27th July

Mr. and Mrs. Filer have agreed to present the Parish Council at the Chairman's Garden Party.

g) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – consultation paper on Local Investigation & Determination of Misconduct Allegations

Mr. Filer had made comments on this item when it was passed to him on circulation. Mr. Poulton had then sent the Parish Council response to the consultation paper on Local Investigation & Determination of Misconduct Allegations based on Mr. Filer's comments.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister wrote on 25th June to acknowledge receipt of our comments and express their appreciation of the time and effort taken by the Parish Council in responding to the consultation.

h) E.H.C.P.A. Community Playbus Association

Mr. Poulton read out a letter dated 4th July from the E.H.C.P.A. Community Playbus Association outlining their plans for a mobile toy library service for rural areas. The service would be run like a library, with parent being able to take out toys for a two-week period for a small charge.

The Parish Council wholeheartedly endorsed the proposals for a mobile toy library service and agreed to write to E.H.C.P.A. Community Playbus Association accordingly. **Action: N. Poulton**

i) HCC – Prohibition of waiting restriction order in the High Street and Great Innings

HCC have written (letter dated 2nd July) to state that the double yellow lines installed along the curbside frontage of Longmeadow in the High Street and Great Innings comes in force on 5th July 2002.

8 Reports from other Organisations

• **Watton-at-Stone PreSchool Playgroup**

Mr. Poulton said that Mrs. Davies had copied him with a letter from Watton-at-Stone PreSchool Playgroup asking for a donation towards the cost of a new self-closing entrance gate to replace the broken one. The gate, which exits onto School Lane, is estimated to cost £200.

After discussion, Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council donate £75 towards a replacement gate. Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

• **Watton-at-Stone Youth Club**

Mrs. Dinnin said that an appointment has now been made to replace Roger Ingles at the HCC’s Youth and Community Service.

It was agreed that Mrs. Dinnin should arrange to meet with HCC’s Youth and Community Service in autumn to see if we can get funding for a youth leader in the next financial year. **Action: C. Dinnin**

• **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall**

Mr. Filer said that the refurbishment work to the Memorial Hall toilets has now been completed.

• **Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club**

Mr. Meischke said that the Sports and Social Club are seeking to improve the sportsfield grass and drainage. They have asked if the Parish Council would be willing to assist financially. Their suggestion is that the Cricket Club, Football Club and Parish Council split the cost three ways.

It was agreed that the Parish Council agrees in principle to helping towards improving the sportsfield grass and drainage. However, they are unwilling to commit themselves to any percentages of the cost until firm quotations have been obtained.

Mr. Meischke to notify the Sports and Social Club accordingly. **Action: J. Meischke**

Mr. Meischke said that there are continuing complaints about the water pressure in the showers when maximum usage is required.

It was agreed that Mr. Bunyan is asked to test the showers and confirm that they are working correctly. If however the showers are running at low pressure when they are all in use, Mr. Bunyan be asked if a pump could be installed to improve the situation and what would be the cost. **Action: J. Meischke**

Mr. Meischke said that the bike ramps problem is not totally the fault of the Cricket Club. The youngsters are upset that the Parish Council had removed the mud ramps that they made.

9 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

None

Payments

None

Cheques required

Watton Scout and Guides	Donation from Golden Jubilee Fund	100.00
Glasdon	2 litterbin liners (net of VAT)	41.64
J. Allsop	July salary	491.82
Ted Brown	12 hours litterpicking	63.00
Glasdon UK	VAT element on 2 litterbin liners	7.28
J. Allsop	Phone calls and line rental to 4 th June 25.17 and 4 th July	52.39
Boardmans Photocopying	Photocopying charges to 30 th June 2002	<u>4.30</u>
		<u>760.43</u>

Cheques received

None

Watton-at-Stone Community

Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr. Keen – Main Hall
Barry Moor – Main Hall

	Payments	
80.00	County Supplies–cleaning materials	89.48
18.00	Three Valleys Water	59.36

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

PC-07/02

Tracy Jenkins – Pavilion hire	21.00	VAT return 5.02	<u>31.02</u>
Ivan Baker – Main Hall	<u>42.00</u>		<u>179.86</u>
	<u>161.00</u>		

Cheques required

Business Gas			343.33
Christine Bewley	43.5 hours work		228.38
McCash & Hay	2001/2002 Audit fee		89.30
Cornhill Insurance	Additional premium		<u>12.20</u>
			<u>673.21</u>

Cheques received

Mrs. Hargood	Pavilion and Main Hall hire		52.00
EHDC	Grant towards post and rail fencing		500.00
Parish Council	Reimburse Community Hall for Don Chandler's wages		167.25
Denise Martin Harker	Pavilion hire		38.50
Sports & Social Club	Half year payment of Community Hall facilities		459.00
Sports & Social Club	Donation for keys to outside toilets		23.00
Sports & Social Club	Donation for line-marking of football pitch in Autumn 2001		65.00
EHDC	Pavilion hire		63.00
EHDC	Deposit for Summer Play Scheme		<u>100.00</u>
			<u>1467.75</u>

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

Mr. Poulton said that he was very pleased with the litterpicking work that Ted Brown had been doing for the Parish Council.

10 Articles for inclusion in the Parish News

Articles on the following items discussed by the Parish Council to be sent to the editor of the Parish news for inclusion in next issue.

- Grant of £75 given to the Watton-at-Stone PreSchool Playgroup towards the cost of a new self-closing entrance gate to replace the broken one.
- Endorsement of the E.H.C.P.A. Community Playbus Association proposals for the provision of a mobile toy library service.
- Request for more information and training (if necessary) from EHDC on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act
- Support of the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society's request for CCTV cameras at the station.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

11 Plans for two houses, Perrywood Lane

Parish Councillors inspected the plans submitted to the EHDC and although we had not received the official notification it was agreed, that as the Parish Council does not meet in August, that on receipt of the official notification, the Clerk submit a "no comment" to this application.

Action: J. Allsop

- The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.
- The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 11th September 2002.