

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 11th February 2004

Present: Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman) Mrs C. Dinnin
 Mr. V. Dunhill Mr. D. Filer
 Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke
 Mr. M. Smith

Public: Mr. E. Riddle

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Stock took the chair.

1 Apologies for absence

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

2 Public Participation

None.

3 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Smith declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a, Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee - Railway sleepers around car park (on page 5 of these minutes).

4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

None.

5 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

• Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2004

Mr. Stock said that, upon reflection, he was concerned about the minute for item 8 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee - Regulations on self-employment status - clause 5.

‘You are free to determine the hours during which you will work, how you do the work, and to delegate to others at your discretion.’

He was unhappy about the words ‘delegate to others at your discretion’ and felt they should not be included in the final version of the text. This was agreed by all.

Mr. Stock to contact Mrs. McCash to see if we are free to make the deletions (e.g. just have the words ‘you are free to determine your hours of work’). **Action: D. Stock**

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

b) Review of actions

• Chase Mimram Electrical re supply of an estimate to install a trip board on each floodlighting column

Mr. Meischke said that Malcolm Oakman (Mimram Electrical) had inspected the floodlighting electrical-supply and noted that all four lighting columns were separately fused. He has therefore advised the Parish Council that there would be little advantage in installing a trip board on each floodlighting column.

It was agreed not to proceed further with this action point.

• Discuss trees that need replacing in Hazeldell with Conservation Society

Mr. Stock said that the Conservation Society is happy, in principle, to fund replacement trees for Hazeldell. However, they are still waiting a response from Hertfordshire Highways regarding trees that have been damaged or removed.

• Contact Mr. Stock re location of trees that need replacing in Hazeldell

This action point is still outstanding. **Action: H. McCash**

• Write to Mr. Mould re ornate village sign

This action point has been completed.

• Meet with Mr. Mould to discuss ornate village sign

Mr. Stock said that a meeting had been arranged for 12th February, however it had to be cancelled.

A new date is to be agreed as soon as possible. **Action: C. Dinnin/D. Stock/J. Meischke**

• Open separate account for Youth Club funds

This item is in progress. **Action: H. McCash**

• Contact Christine Bewley and Ted Brown

This action point is delayed due to the comments made by Mr. Stock under item 5 a, Minutes of the last meeting (on page 1 of these minutes). **Action: J. Meischke/J. Allsop**

- **Accept Herts Tree Care’s quotation**

This action point has been completed.

Mrs. Dinnin said that the work on the Poplar tree on the Lammas was scheduled for Friday 6th February, but was postponed because of very wet weather.

This item to remain on the agenda under Environment Sub-Committee until the work has been done.

- **Put copies of Hertfordshire Highways and EHDC letters to the Traffic Commissioners on circulation**

This action point has been completed.

- **Check to see if the station car-park sign has been revised and contact Norma Unwin if necessary**

Mr. Stock said that the Clerk e-mailed Norma Unwin to ask when the revised sign will be installed. Although Norma was due to meet with the car park contractor yesterday, she has yet to inform the Clerk of the outcome.

The Clerk to chase.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Contact Sarah O’Reilly re Rural Youth Homelessness**

This action point has been completed. No further action is required.

- **E-mail to Nick Collingridge (co-ordinator for BT broadband) the information he requested**

This action point has been completed.

- **If necessary, contact Cornhill Insurance re burglary at Community Hall**

This item to be discussed under 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Insurance Claim (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Write to the Sports and Social Club and all regular hirers re the burglary in the Community Hall**

This action point has been completed.

- **Arrange for a metal plate to be fitted to inside of the new external door at the Community Hall**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Security of door (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Write to Mr. and Mrs. Papa and the Watton-at-Stone Parochial Church Council re ferreting on their land**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 8a, Environment Sub-Committee - Ferreting (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Ask Michael Stanley to submit his quotation for grass cutting on the Lammas & Watton Green**

Mr. Stock read out Mr. Stanley’s quotation (dated 10th February) as follows.

1 Price for cutting and clearing grass at Watton Green and Lammas field

First Cut in July	£430
Second cut in September	£430

Total £860

2 To strim out ditch at Watton Green

Total £70

Total cost £930

Mr. Stock said that the Clerk had told him that for the previous three years Mr. Stanley had charged £400 per cut. However, the cost of strimming out the ditch at Watton Green remains unchanged.

Mr. Stock proposed that we accept Mr. Stanley’s quotation. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Inspect small-swing seat and take any action necessary**

Mr. Meischke said that he and Mr. Poulton had inspected the small-swing seats and agreed that they are in a poor condition. However, their replacement is not urgent.

Notwithstanding this, it was agreed that we obtain a quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for the supply and installation of two small-swing seats.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Attend 2004 Inter-Parish Conference**

The Clerk has informed Bengeo Rural Parish Council that Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock and Mr. Meischke will be attending the 2004 Inter-Parish Conference on 18th February.

Action: N. Poulton/D. Stock

- **Write article for Parish News**

This action point has been completed.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

- **Chase Hertfordshire Highways re damage to tree in Hazeldell**

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk does not pursue this item further.

Trees in Hazeldell to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 14th April 2004.

Agenda: 04/04

6 Planning**a) Applications**

None.

b) Decisions

None.

7 Specific Items**a) Meeting dates for the Civic Year 2004/2005**

The following dates were agreed by Parish Councillors.

- 5th May 2004
- 9th June 2004
- 14th July 2004
- 8th September 2004
- 13th October 2004
- 10th November 2004
- 8th December 2004
- 12th January 2005
- 9th February 2005
- 9th March 2005
- 14th April 2005

The Parish Council meeting on the 5th May will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting (starting at 1900) and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

b) Ornate village sign

This item was discussed under 5 b, Meet with Mr. Mould to discuss ornate village sign (on page 1 of these minutes).

c) Footpath adjacent to Bull public house

The Clerk confirmed that we have had no further communications from Valerie Weaver (Hertfordshire Highways) re this item.

Because it is now two months since copies of HM Land Registry documentation relating to the right-of-way footpath linking Rivershill and the High Street were sent to Valerie Weaver, it was agreed to chase her for progress.

Action: J. Meischke/J. Allsop

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

Agenda: 03/04

d) Parish Council Web Site

Prior to this meeting, Mr. Dunhill had given (via e-mail) all Parish Councillors information about changing our web site to one that would easily enable the Parish Council to post notices and information such as monthly agendas and minutes of meetings. The existing web site could remain intact but would have links to a new site and visa versa.

After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Dunhill produce a brief summary/assessment of the benefits and cost of having a new web site.

Action: V. Dunhill

This item to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 14th April 2004.

Agenda: 40/04

8 Reports**a) Sub-Committees****Budget & Finance**

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

- **Parish Council contribution to the Parish News**

Mr. Filer said that he had been concerned that the Parish Council's donation to the Parish News was too high (i.e. £300 plus £90 for the Community Hall advert in the Parish News). Mr. Knight had informed

him, as a matter of interest, that Stapleford and Waterford parishes currently donate a combined figure of £435 and Bramfield £100.

The numbers of copies of the Parish News distributed monthly to each parish are as follows.

Watton at Stone	1063 (including the 11 issues that are posted)
Bramfield	133
Stapleford	120
Waterford	265

Mr. Filer said that, based on these figures, he felt that the Parish Council should consider increasing its donation from £300 to £400.

It was agreed that Mr. Filer give all Parish Councillors a copy of his proposal which will be discussed by Parish Councillors during their meeting to be held on 10th March 2004.

Action: D. Filer

Agenda: 03/04

- **Insurance cover for regular hirers equipment stored in the Community Hall**

Mr. Filer said that following the break-in at the Community Hall and a comment from a regular hirer, the Clerk was asked to find out if Cornhill Insurance can provide cover for specified items belonging to regular hires/the Sports and Social Club.

Cornhill Insurance can provide cover, which would cost approximately £26.67 for £2000 of cover and £40 for £3,000 of cover. They would require details of the items to be covered and the hirers name.

Mr. Filer said that he was concerned that if insurance claims were made, they could affect our level of excess.

After discussion, it was agreed not to offer insurance cover to regular hires/the Sports and Social Club.

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Acceptance of minutes of meeting held on 13th January 2004**

Mr. Stock proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion.

- **External lighting**

Mr. Meischke said that he had met with Malcolm Oakman (Mimram Electrical) who told him that the disconnected floodlights on the sportsfield side of the Community Hall are too brittle and would be easily vandalised if they were re-connected.

- **Floodlighting**

Mr. Knight said that one of the floodlights was not working again.

Mr. Meischke to investigate.

Action: J. Meischke

- **Self-employment status**

Refer to item 5 b, Review of Actions - Contact Christine Bewley and Ted Brown (on page 1 of these minutes).

- **Security of door**

Mr. Meischke said that Mr. Bunyan has fitted a metal plate to the inside of the new external door at the Community Hall. The total cost of the work is £95.41, including VAT.

The following letter (dated 2nd February) has been received from the Schemes Team at Cornhill Insurance.

‘You have recently notified our claims department of an attempted break-in at the hall premises.

This claim is being dealt with under separate correspondence claim reference, wg 2 86544.

Following this incident we would enquire what improvement to security have been made to prevent this type of incident from happening again.

The policy falls due for renewal on the 1st April 2004 and we shall be unable to consider renewal terms for the policy without this information.

We await your response by 3rd March 2004.’

It was agreed to inform Cornhill Insurance that a large metal plate has been fitted to the inside of the new external door to increase security.

Action: J. Meischke/J. Allsop

- **Insurance Claim**

Mr. Meischke said that he had completed an insurance claim for the replacement door and the stolen fire extinguisher. This will be returned to Cornhill Insurance when County Supplies have submitted an invoice for the new fire extinguisher.

Action: J. Meischke/J. Allsop

- **Fire extinguisher**

A fire extinguisher has been purchased to replace the one stolen during the burglary.

- **Words for sign**

Mr. Meischke said that we need to display disclaimer notices in the Community Hall to state that all personal belongings are left at the owner's risk. Mr. Poulton is investigating what wording EHDC use in their facilities. **Action: N. Poulton**

It was agreed that when the wording is agreed, the signs shall be ordered and erected as soon as possible. **Action: J. Meischke/J. Allsop**

- **Roof**

The Clerk had sent the following e-mail to all Parish Councillors prior to this meeting.

'Nigel has asked me to e-mail you about this urgent item.

The mortar is coming out on the high roof, on the sportsfield side of the Community Hall causing the roof to 'flap'. In view of the high winds we have been having recently it is imperative that this work is done as soon as possible to avoid additional tiles being broken.

P. J. Roofing can carry-out this work within the next 4-5 days (or possibly over the weekend). The cost will be £325 labour = 1 working day x two men.

If you do not approve of the work being carried-out could you please e-mail me within the next 24 hours.'

Because no objections were received, the Clerk instructed P. J. Roofing to do the work as soon as possible.

Mr. Meischke confirmed that the work had been completed.

Recreation & Amenities

- **Repair work to rainbow multi-play and slide piece of equipment**

Wicksteed Leisure has completed the repair work to the rainbow multi-play and slide piece of equipment.

- **Swing seat**

This item was discussed under 5a, Review of actions - Inspect small-swing seat and take any action necessary (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Railway sleepers around car park**

Mr. Smith has installed the Railway sleepers around the car park at the Community Hall. Mr. Filer said that Mr. Smith (Blue Bury Farm Contractors) had submitted an invoice for £613, including VAT (this includes the installation of a gatepost as previously agreed, at £90 plus VAT). Mrs. Dinnin proposed that the invoice be paid, Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Action: J. Allsop

Environment

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

- **Lammas land-management**

- **Quotations for clearance work on the Lammas**

Mrs. Dinnin said that we had received quotations for the strimming work on the Lammas and the removal of a large limb from an Oak tree as follows.

- Ted Brown £150
- Adam Welch £180
- Derek Monk £195

Mr. Stock proposed that we accept Ted Brown's quotation. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

This work needs to be done in early spring when grass has grown and there is something to trim.

The Clerk to notify all contractors accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Report from the Countryside Management Service**

Mrs. Dinnin said that Sue Clarkson from the Countryside Management Service (CMS) has been given the responsibility of preparing a 5-year management plan for the Lammas. She has suggested that some of the work could be done by the CMS Wednesday-volunteer groups next winter.

In addition to the strimming work we have agreed, Sue Clarkson has suggested that, if we have any funds left in this year's budget, we could arrange to clear some of the scrub area. This area was formed during the last CMS project to protect the young trees from deer etc. She said this barrier served no purpose now, except as a haven for rabbits.

Sue Clarkson showed concern about our bonfires on the Lammas and hoped we would not get a visit from DEFRA regarding our recent work. Our agreement with DEFRA does not permit us to have bonfires on the Lammas. Mr. Stock also reminded Parish Councillors that we now also have a byelaw relating to fires on the Lammas. Any bonfires we have on the Lammas shall now be contained in the ditch adjacent to the concrete bridge at the Mill Lane end of the Lammas.

Mrs. Dinnin said that the CMS had told her that we would need a tree specialist to look at the trees on the Lammas to ascertain which ones needed attention. CMS suggested that we contact Malcolm Amis (EHDC Arboriculturist) and ask him to inspect the trees. Mrs. Dinnin agreed to do this.

Action: C. Dinnin

Mr. Filer said that we have £1200 in this year's budget for Land Management, which needs spending before 31st March 2004. We have already agreed to pay £480 (plus VAT) for work to the Poplar tree on the Lammas and £150 for Ted Brown to do some strimming work. This leaves £570 of funds yet to be spent.

Mrs. Dinnin said that the strimming work should be done at the end of this financial year to allow as much growth as possible (i.e. to make the area worth strimming).

Discussions then took place about when the strimming work should be done and whether or not it should be left to early in the next financial year thus allowing more funds for other clearance work on the Lammas and at Watton Green.

It was agreed that Mrs. Dinnin, Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock and Mr. Filer have a site meeting on the Lammas and Watton Green to decide how best the remainder of our budget for Land Management should be spent.

Action: C. Dinnin/N. Poulton/D. Stock/D. Filer

- Mr. Stock said that Mr. Peter Knight was looking for a local project for the Scouts to become involved with. He has asked Mr. Knight to contact Mrs. Dinnin, which he had not yet done. Mr. Stock to remind Mr. Knight to contact Mrs. Dinnin as soon as possible because there could be an early opportunity for the Scouts to help with some land management tasks on the Lammas.

Action: D. Stock

- **Work to Poplar tree on Lammas**

This item was discussed under 5 b, Review of actions - Accept Herts Tree Care's quotation (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Quotation for 2004 Strimming and mowing work**

Adam Welch has submitted a quotation of £1350 (i.e. 9 cuts at £150) for the 2004 strimming and mowing work in the village.

Mr. Filer said that there is a provision of £1450 in next year's budget for items covered by the 'Parish Paths Partnership and Parish Council Land'.

Mr. Smith proposed that we accept Adam Welch's quotation. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Ferretting**

Mr. Knight confirmed that the Watton-at-Stone Parochial Church Council agree to the churchyard being ferretted by Bob Adams.

The Clerk to notify Mr. Adams accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

To date, Mr. and Mrs. Papa have not responded to our letter of 4th February.

This item to remain on the agenda.

Agenda: 03/04

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

This item was discussed under 5 b, Review of actions - Ask Michael Stanley to submit his quotation for grass cutting on the Lammas & Watton Green (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **Gully on the Walkern Road**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the gully on the Walkern Road needs clearing. An e-mail was sent to Val Weaver (Hertfordshire Highways) on 1st February asking her to arrange for the gully to be cleared. No response has been received to date.

It was agreed to write to Val Weaver asking her when we can expect the gully to be cleared and for a progress report on the installation of a larger grill.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Sportsfield

i) Report

Mr. Smith carried-out the sportsfield report on the 8th February 2004, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Pitch muddy, otherwise good.
Litter	None.
Dog fouling	None seen.
Netball posts	OK.
General	No bag in top litterbin. Wire netting in disrepair. Roller and debris near wall?

- **Children’s Play Area:**

Condition of surface	Good.
Litter/Litterbin	Good.
Large swings	OK.
Small swings	Worn rubber.
See-Saw	Good.
Rainbow multi-play and slide	Good.
Two spring sit-on	Good.
Teen shelter	Draughty.
General	Overall good.

- **Bike ramps area:**

Junior Jump	OK.
Double Ramp	OK.
Fun Box	OK.

- **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	Window in door cracked (foot ball).
Litterbin	OK.
Car Park	OK.
General	Mud on path.

- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	Good.
Boundary Fencing	Good.
Tennis nets	One bottom tape detached.
Litter	Good.
General	-

- **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	Good.
Surfaces	Good.
Litter	None.
Dog fouling	None.
Comments	Very clean.

- **Allotments Area:**

Access	Good.
Condition of paths between Allotments	Good.
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	Good.
Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	Winter condition.
Litter	OK.
Comments	Generally good.

- **Culverts on Mill Lane**

Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	Nil.
Dog-fouling	Nil.
Comments	Same old bushes – no water.

- **Salt bins**

Perrywood Lane	OK.
Entrance to Great Innings	OK.
Great Innings South – outside number 93	OK.
Station Road	OK.
Moorymead Close	OK.

Hazeldell	OK.
Comments	None used.
• Dog-waste bins	
Footpath 17	OK – black bag (other brown) are collectors aware?
Sportsfield	OK.
Church Walk	OK.
Walkern Road	OK.
Station Road	OK.
High Street (by Memorial)	OK. Litter bin full.
Great Innings	OK.
Mill Lane	OK.

• General Comment

• Roller and debris near wall?

Mr. Meischke said that the roller could not be moved because of the wet weather.

Mr. Knight suggested that because the roller is never used, we should suggest that the Cricket Club dispose of it. Mr. Smith offered to arrange for its disposal.

Mr. Knight to contact Wilf Emsley (Cricket Club), who, if interested in disposing of the roller, can contact Mr. Smith directly.

Action: I. Knight

• Wire netting in disrepair

For the benefit of Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight explained that the loose wire-netting fence in the hedge belonged to the Cricket Club and was there to stop cricket balls going through the hedge and onto the surrounding areas. He said that the Cricket Club normally tighten the fencing before the start of each cricket season.

• Tennis nets

Mr. Knight said that the Tennis Club is aware that the bottom tape on one of the nets is detached and would arrange for its repair.

Action: I. Knight

• Dog waste bin – Footpath 17

The Clerk to contact EHDC re the emptying of the dog-waste bin on footpath 17.

Action: J. Allsop

ii) Weekly report and action

Mr. Meischke said there was nothing to report from Ted Brown’s weekly inspections.

9 Correspondence received

a) John Love – Allotment clearance work

Mr. Stock read out a letter (dated 21st January) from John Love (Chairman, Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association), asking for financial assistance towards clearance work on the disused allotment land. The total cost of the work done is £100.

Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council donate the full £100. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Action: J. Allsop

b) John Love – Allotment Tenancy agreement

Mr. Stock said that Mr. Love had returned his Tenancy Agreement unsigned, and with the following comments on it.

‘Whilst I am fully supportive of the need for a Tenancy Agreement I cannot sign this Agreement in its present form. Amendments/corrections have been submitted to the Parish Council in my letter of 10th January 2004.

I am also unwilling to sign an agreement which is not binding on all allotment holders. It would be impossible for the Parish Council to enforce the terms of the agreement unless all allotment holders are required to sign.’

Mr. Stock then said that he remains confused as to why Mr. Love continues to think that not all of the allotment holders are required to sign the Tenancy Agreement.

To date, 14 of the 26 allotment holders had signed their agreements.

Mr. Stock read out the following two letters that he had prepared.

i) To Mr. Love:

‘I have been asked to tell you that the Parish Council is very disappointed that you, as Chairman of the Allotment and Garden Association, feel that you cannot sign the current Tenancy Agreement.

This seems to defeat the joint objectives of both the Parish Council and the Allotment and Garden Association, and also means that allotment holders have been divided into two groups, i.e. those that have

Tenancy Agreements and those that do not. (To date, we have signed agreements from a majority of the allotment holders, which is part way towards what we are all trying to achieve. Sadly, it would appear that most of these individuals are not members of the Allotment and Garden Association.)

Obviously, we now find ourselves in a situation that is not desirable or manageable and the Parish Council is very concerned about it. We therefore ask that you reconsider your position with a view to enabling us to move forward in partnership for the good of all parties involved.'

ii) To allotment holders who had not yet signed the agreement:

'Further to my letter of 5th January 2004, I would like to remind you that to be fair to all concerned, it is very important that every allotment holder signs their Tenancy Agreement with the Parish Council.

Although I have received signed agreements from a majority of the allotment holders, I note that I have not yet received yours. I would therefore appreciate it if you could sign and return your agreement to me at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any problems/questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me or any of the Parish Councillors.'

After discussion, Mr. Dunhill proposed that the two letters be sent. Mr. Meischke seconded the proposal and all present were in favour.

Mr. Poulton and Mrs. Dinnin to be given a copy of both letters.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

Although it was again agreed that the final agreement was the responsibility of the Parish Council, Mr. Stock said that he felt that a courtesy copy of the Tenancy Agreement should have been sent to Mr. Love so that he was aware of what we had agreed to send to all allotment holders to sign. This sentiment was agreed by all present.

c) Conservation Society - Watton-at-Stone Railway Station

Mr. Stock read out the following letter (dated 3rd February) from the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society.

'Watton-at-Stone Railway Station

The Society has received a request from Norma Unwin, Group Station Manager, Hertford Loop, to remove the advanced ticket machine from the station, due to its constant attacks of vandalism. If it is removed, Watton-at-Stone will be taken out of the penalty fare system.

The Conservation Society has no objection, but the views of the Parish Council are sought in this matter, before a reply is sent.'

Mr. Stock had asked for this letter to be sent to us because it is the Parish Council that must respond to such a request (the Conservation Society agreed that this was the correct course of action).

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed that although the ticket machine is persistently vandalised, we must object to its removal. It was also agreed that the present location hides the machine from view and thus encourages repeated attacks.

It was agreed to write to WAGN stating our objection and asking them to consider an alternative site for the machine; one which is more open and visible to the public. A copy of this letter to be sent to the Conservation Society.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

d) Mr. Phesay – re footway works in Hazeldell

Mr. Stock read out the following letter (dated 3rd February) from Mr. Phesay of 107 Hazeldell.

Re: Footway Work – Hazeldell, Environment Sub-Committee

'I write in respect of the above works to ask if the Parish Council will be before the final resurfacing phase is completed in March 2004 requesting Hertfordshire Highways to resolve and rectify the problem which is occurring at the bottom end of the Hazeldell alleyway walk through to Great Innings.

The alleys way at the bottom end doe not have its own constructed footway entrance/exit across the adjacent green area like the top end and the reason for this is the entrance/exit is via and over the vehicle cross over serving properties number 103 and 105 but unfortunately due to constant cars being barked on the cross over the alleyway access is regularly locked off leaving no alternative route available to pedestrians other than across the green area.

I enclose herewith photographs of the above mentioned situation for your perusal and comments.

If at your convenience you should like to meet at the location to view and discuss the problem please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind attention in the matter and please accept my apologies should you already be addressing the problem.'

Mr. Stock explained the problem in full and handed out Mr. Phesay's photographs to illustrate the damage to the area involved. He then read out the following extract from the minutes of the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society dated 21st January.

'A letter has been received from Mr. G Phesay of 107, Hazeldell re the path outside his property. The Society was sympathetic to his views, but did not think that alteration of the path would solve the problem, as people take the shortest route. The Society was hoping to plant trees in the area, and that might help solve the problem.'

After discussion, Mr. Stock proposed that we write to Hertfordshire Highways in support of Mr. Phesay's letter (to be enclosed, together with the photographs) and asking them to suggest ways to resolve this problem, e.g. the installation of a narrow curved-footpath which follows the natural line made by those walking over the grass. A copy of the letter to be sent to Mr. Phesay. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**

Mr. Stock to write to Mr. Phesay to explain the Parish Council's position on this matter. **Action: D. Stock**

e) Cornhill Insurance – burglary at Community Hall

This item was discussed under 8 a Community Hall - Security of door (on page 4 of these minutes).

f) EHDC – Invite to Chairman's Civic Service on 25th April 2004

Councillor Copping has invited Parish Councillors to attend the EHDC Chairman's Civic Service on 25th April 2004 at Haileybury Hertford.

Mr. Filer said that he would try to attend the service. **Action: D. Filer/04/04**

10 Reports from other Organisations

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

Mr. Stock said that the Conservation Society's AGM will take place soon. He is concerned about the future of the Conservation Society because Barbara Knight (secretary) will be standing down at the AGM and the society does not have many members left.

• **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee had been asked to provide spaces in their car park for disabled persons.

Parish Councillors discussed whether or not we should have disabled-parking spaces in the Community Hall car park.

It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 10th April 2004.

Agenda: 04/04

The Memorial Hall Management Committee has agreed to a request from the Allotment and Garden Association for the use of the shed at the rear of the Memorial Hall car park for the storage of some of their machinery.

• **River Beane Restoration Association**

Mr. Knight said that the River Beane Restoration Association has been dormant for the past few years but has now been resurrected. It is due to meet on 11th March 2004. One of the main concerns is that the Environment Agency does not appear to be planning to close down the pumping station at Whitehall (as promised) and moved it the Goldings.

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

Mr. Meischke reported on the following items concerning the Sports and Social Club.

- Now that the Sports and Social Club has obtained charitable status, it is trying to obtain appropriate charitable insurance.
- The Abel Smith Estate is in the process of drawing up an agreement between themselves and the Sports and Social Club for the lease of the land known as the 'rifle range' in Mill Lane.
- Mr. Meischke has told the Sports and Social Club that the Parish Council would not be keen on spending more money on the sportsfield until we see the result of what was done last year. However, money will need to be spent on fertiliser and grass seed.

Mr. Filer confirmed that the Parish Council has set aside £500 in the 2004/05 budget for Sports and Social Club maintenance work, which could include work to the sportsfield.

11 Items for Parish News

An article on the following items discussed by the Parish Council to be sent to the editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the next issue.

- Dates of Parish Council meetings set for the Civic Year 2004/05
- New railway sleepers around the Community Hall car park
- Improvement work to the Lammas

Mr. Filer to write the article accordingly.

Action: D. Filer

12 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

None

Payments

None

Cheques required

Glyn Mould	Ornate village sign - 50% of invoice for £3500	1750.00
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI	156.27
J. Allsop	February salary	505.25
HCC	Lighting charges 1.10.03 – 31.12.03	189.74
D. R. Monk	Spring leaf pick	100.00
D. R. Monk	War Memorial maintenance	31.25
J. Allsop	Phone calls to 3/1/04	<u>25.50</u>
		<u>2758.01</u>

Cheques received

EHDC	Litterpicking 2003/04	994.24
		<u>994.24</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr. Keen – Main Hall
Floodlighting - 6.01.03
Watton Ramblers
Ms. Hunter
N. Stichbury – Main Hall

60.00
200.00
7.00
24.50
30.00

321.50

Payments

J. Phillips
D. Bunyan – repairs
D. Bunyan – fit metal plate to door

28.00
70.50
95.41

193.91

Cheques required

D. Bunyan	Repair and replace door	544.03
Watton Service Station	Supply shelving unit for Community Hall	163.21
C. Bewley	48 Hours	264.00
Wicksteed Leisure	Repair work to rainbow multi-play and slide equipment	<u>82.25</u>
		<u>1053.49</u>

Cheques received

Dave Boddy	Pavilion and Main Hall hire	363.00
Dr. Pratt	Parish Council room hire	17.50
Mrs. Gilbey	Main Hall hire	<u>75.00</u>
		<u>455.50</u>

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

- **The meeting closed at 2055.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 10th March 2004.**