

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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

Public: None

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Filer.

### 2 Public Participation

None.

### 3 Declaration of Interests

Mrs. McCash declared a personal interest in item 6 a iv, Planning Application – 138 Hazeldell (Mrs. McCash is a friend of the applicant).

Mr. Poulton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6a ii. Planning applications - 2 Old School Orchard (Mr. Poulton has been helping with the application papers).

### 4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

None.

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

#### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Mrs. McCash 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

- **Write to Chief Inspector Jon Speed re PCSO for Watton-at-Stone: completed.**

All Parish Councillors were sent a copy of the following e-mail from PCSO Paul Weston dated 6<sup>th</sup> December.

'It was good to see you at the Parish Council meeting last month.

This e-mail is to let you know that PCSO Sally Brooks 6161 will be moving from her current area in Hertford to cover my area working alongside Andy as her Ward Constable.

The Parish Council will be sent official notification from our Inspector in due course.

On a personal note could you pass onto the council my thanks for the opportunity of serving the community in my role as PCSO it has been good to work in the village over the last five years in a very different role than I had before.'

- **Copy letter re PCSO's to Chief Constable Frank Whiteley: completed.**

Refer to item 9 f, Correspondence received - Frank Whitely –Hertfordshire Constabulary.

- **Write to Chief Inspector Jon Speed re Neighbourhood watch e-mails sent out by Mrs. McCash**

Mrs. McCash said that the emailing problems between herself and Jill Dockley highlighted during the November Parish Council meeting, when the police were present, has now been resolved. This action point has therefore been cancelled.

- **Chase signed copies of the self-employment status letters: completed.**

- **Ask St. Albans Diocesan Board to refund us for repairing the kissing gate: completed.**

- **Submit written estimate for allotment hedge cutting works: outstanding.**

- **Tighten lose MPPA kicker boards: completed.**

- **Repair armrest on the Walkern Road bench: completed.**

- **Write to planning department re 31 Station Road, Watton-at-Stone (3/09/1485/FP/SD): completed.**

- **Draft a letter to Stop Benington Wind Farm committee: completed.**

- **Ask East Herts Council to confirm if the K6 kiosk outside 105 High Street is grade II listed**

East Herts Council has verbal confirmed that the K6 kiosk is grade II listed.

Refer to item 7 c, Specific items - British Telecom payphones.

- **Sign a condolence card in memory of Frank Salmon: completed.**

- **Carry-out 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly inspection of accounts**  
Refer to item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly inspection of accounts.
- **Purchase a new computer keyboard: completed.**
- **Liaise over the purchasing and numbering of stakes for the allotments**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Allotments.
- **Write to Malcolm Amey East Herts Council) re Oak tree opposite 10 School Lane: completed.**
- **Sent Dr. Norden a copy of Adam Welch’s quotation and our letter to Malcolm Amey: completed.**
- **Establish from Hertfordshire Highways the current cost to replace the tree on Hazeldell**  
Mr. Stock cancelled this action point because Mr. Poulton had already managed to obtain the information from Hertfordshire Highways beforehand.
- **Submit grant application form to Hertfordshire County Council under Bryan Hammond’s locality budget: completed.**
- **Ask Ted Brown to clear car park drain: completed.**  
Mr. Meischke said that the drain was cleared, however because of the recent wet weather it now needs doing again. Ted Brown to be asked to clear the drain again. **Action: J. Meischke/ N. Poulton**
- **Complete and return East Herts Council Strategy and Sports outdoor audit: completed.**
- **Ask Ted Brown to clear the leaves on the MPPA periodically over the next few weeks: completed.**
- **Write articles for Parish News: completed.**

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

- **Pass website entry for Watton School to Mr. Stock: outstanding.**  
Mr. Clark said he is still waiting for the school to return the website entry. **Action: C. Clark**
- **Complete Whempstead section for the new website: outstanding.**  
This item to be removed from the agenda until Mr. Clark is in a position to report back to the Parish Council.
- **Review changes made by the police to Neighbourhood Watch section for the new website**  
Mrs. McCash said that she passed the Neighbourhood Watch section to Mr. Stock today. Mr. Stock has now edited the text and passed it to Peter Allsop for uploading onto the website.

**6 Planning**

Mr. Stock reported on the following items.

**a) Applications**

**i) 103 Great Innings South (3/09/1819/FP/MC)**

Removal of back door and replacement garage door with window

Mr. Stock said that the description for this application does not indicate the obvious change of use from a garage to a kitchen, although the drawings do. The original text in the description states this change of use clearly but has been crossed out and replaced by text concerning the removal of the back door and the replacement of the garage door with a window. All present agreed and were concerned that this application is ambiguous.

After discussion, and because it is the Parish Council’s policy to oppose garages being converted into accommodation, it was agreed that we object to this application and express our concern with regard to its ambiguity. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**

**ii) 2 Old School Orchard, Watton At Stone, Hertford, Herts, SG14 3SS (3/09/1841/LC/JS)**

Demolition of existing dwelling

Mr. Stock reminded councillors that a similar application for the demolition of 2 Old School Orchard and a replacement dwelling was discussed by the Parish Council during its meeting in November 2008 . The Parish Council endorsed both the proposals, however both applications were later withdrawn.

This new application states that 2 Old School Orchard is in poor state of repair and at the end of its useful life. The building has single skinned walls and therefore has a high carbon footprint, is damp and cold. It has a double-valley roof which means there is little roof space for insulation and storage. The existing house has no particular architectural interest. It is a Victorian building that used to be the headmaster’s home when the old school was on the site and was cheaply renovated during the 1980s. Although the property lies within the conservation area, it is not a listed building.

Two members of the Moncur-Byrne family have developed asthma since living in the property and their doctor had written a letter to the planners stating that this condition is most likely to have been caused by the dampness of the property.

East Herts Council have received letters supporting the application from local neighbours.

Parish Councillors showed concern that if 2 Old School Orchard is demolished then a new property might not be built in its place. Mr. Stock said that the paperwork for the above application makes reference to a new dwelling.

Mr. Poulton said the plans for the new dwelling have just been submitted to East Herts Council and we should receive them over the Christmas period.

After discussion, Mr. Stock proposed that the Parish Council endorse this application. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**iii) Watton Methodist Church (3/09/1537/FP/JS)**

New side entrance with ramp, single storey side and rear extension and vestry extension and hard surfacing of existing grass parking area to rear of church (revised description)

Mr. Stock reminded councillors that we discussed this application during our meeting in November, and that it was on the agenda again as a formality only so as to record the revised wording of the application, i.e. the addition of the wording '.....and hard surfacing of existing grass parking area to rear of church (revised description)'

It was agreed by all present that no response is required by the Parish Council.

**iv) 138 Hazeldell (3/09/1894/FP/AK)**

Single storey front and rear extensions

Mr. Stock had contacted the residents of the adjoining property and they did not object to the application.

After a review of the plans it was decided that we write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council have no comment on the application.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decision**

**i) Woodhall Park**

Alterations to existing door to service corridor on east wing of Woodhall Park. Existing door leaf to be replaced with new door leaf. Existing door frame, fanlight and fixed sash in casement to be retained

- East Herts Council - Permission granted

**7 Specific items**

**a) Report on meeting of the Website Working-Group held on 2nd December 2009**

Mr. Stock called for this meeting of the Website Working-Group because he felt that his work on the project had come to an end and a way forward had to be discussed and agreed.

The outcome of the meeting between himself, Mr. Meischke and Mr. Harris (an apology for absence was received from Mr. Knight) is as follows.

Currently, the sections outstanding are:

- Whempstead, which is assigned to Mr. Clark
- History, which is currently unassigned
- Public footpaths, which is in-hand with Mr. Vernon Dunhill
- Neighbourhood Watch, received today from Mrs. McCash, edited by Mr. Stock and passed to Peter Allsop for input to the website.
- Education, which is still awaited from Mr. Clark
- Peacemakers, for which no information has been forthcoming
- Gallery, which, although Mr. Stock has given some photographs to Peter Allsop (just to get the section going), is yet to be populated.

**Recommendations**

- History: Establish if anyone in the parish is interested in writing this section. Before placing an item in the Parish News, Mr. Meischke to contact Alan Rattue to see if he is interested.
- Peacemakers: see next set of recommendations below.
- Gallery: Put the existing photographs provided by Mr. Stock into this section and also put an item in the Parish News asking if anyone has any photographs that would be suitable for inclusion in this section of the website.

The subject of keeping the website up-to-date was discussed at length, as were the quality-control aspects.

It was decided that although it is important that the editorial quality of the website is maintained at its current level (because it represents the image of the Parish Council itself) in the absence of a Parish Councillor being prepared to take on overall responsibility, the following recommendations were considered to be the best mechanism for maintaining quality.

**Recommendations**

- Those organizations and clubs etc who already have an entry in the website be asked to ensure that any updates/changes to their sections are forwarded to the Clerk so that the information presented is accurate and up-to-date.

- The Clerk shall be responsible for ensuring that all sections directly related to the Parish Council are kept up-to-date, e.g. hire charges, details of Parish Councillors, County Councillor, District Councillor and MP, Minutes sections, etc.)
- The Clerk to determine if an update to one section has an effect on any other section.
- Requests for additions to/inclusions in the website (including links), shall be brought to the attention of the Parish Council for its approval prior to any action being taken.

It was also agreed that the task of the Website Working-Group has been completed and it should therefore be disbanded.

Both sets of recommendations were agreed by all Parish Councillors present and the Website Working Group was disbanded accordingly.

- Mr. Meischke to contact Alan Rattue to see if he is interested in writing a History entry for the website. **Action: J. Meischke**
- If required, an entry to be put in the Parish News asking if anyone interested in writing the History section. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**
- An entry to be placed in the Parish News asking if anyone has photographs suitable for inclusion in the website gallery. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**
- Write to all parties with an entry in the website. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**
- Ask Peter Allsop to put the photographs Mr. Stock gave him into the website Gallery. **Action: J. Allsop**

#### b) Website diary

No items were identified to be added onto the website diary.

#### c) British Telecom payphones

Mr. Meischke said that British Telecom have not replied to our letter asking them to confirm what will happen to the Grade II listed K6 kiosk in the High Street, should the Parish Council chose not to adopt it. He said that the letter did not include the telephone number of the box, which is probably why no answer has been received, however the exact location and postcode were given.

After discussion, Parish Councillors all agreed to adopt the K6 Kiosk outside 105 High Street.

Mr. Meischke to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Meischke**

#### d) Ornate village sign

Brian Bunyan has not varnished the Ornate village sign. He will do the work when the weather conditions are suitable.

## 8 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

In the absence of Mr. Filer, Mr. Meischke reported on the following items.

- **Monthly accounts**

All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of the monthly accounts.

Mr. Poulton said that the Clerk had omitted to include the Hertfordshire County Council payment of £480 for the tree on Hazeldell (£400 of this will be reimbursed by County Councillor Bryan Hammond, refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Grant from Bryan Hammond for replacing tree on Hazeldell).

The Clerk to send all Parish Councillors a set of amended accounts.

Mrs. McCash proposed that the Parish Council approves the payments, as amended. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

E-mail amended copies of the accounts to all Parish Councillors.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly inspection of accounts**

Mrs. McCash said that she carried-out the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly inspection of the Parish Council and Community Hall accounts today and the accounts were in good order.

The only problem she identified is that there is no proper audit trail for the floodlighting money. She suggested that we keep the floodlighting income book at the Community Hall and either Mr. Poulton or Mr. Meischke sign the book with the amount handed over to the Clerk and she in turn gives them a receipt for the money. This would protect the Clerk.

Mr. Poulton said he collected £260 in floodlighting donations that evening.

- **CDA annual subscription**

The annual subscription for CDA for Herts is £30. As Vice-President of CDA for Herts, Mr. Poulton abstained from voting.

Mr. Knight proposed that the Parish Council renew their annual subscription with CDA. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Society of Local Council Clerk's (SLCC) annual subscription**

The SLCC membership renewal is £117. The membership provides the Parish Council with legal advice and useful information about changes in legislation, e.g. changes in accounting practises. Although this information is also available from the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils, the annual membership fee would be in the region of a thousand pounds.

Mrs. McCash proposed we renew the SLCC membership. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Servicing of boiler**

James A. Turner Limited has done the annual gas-inspection and servicing of the boiler.

- **New thermostat for main hall**

The thermostat in the Main Hall was found to be faulty when the heating needed to be turned up due to the colder weather. James A. Turner Limited was instructed to fit a new thermostat while they were onsite carrying-out the annual boiler inspection.

- **New notice board**

Bryan Hammond has given us a grant to cover the cost of a very substantial new notice board which has been sited on the Community Hall wall facing School Lane (near the existing Beane Valley Children's Centre notice board).

It was agreed that the Beane Valley Children's Centre notice board will now be used for their sole use. The Clerk to continue to put up any notices for the Beane Valley Children's Centre.

- **Whempstead notice board**

Mr. Clark said that the Whempstead notice board is leaking. Mr. Meischke and Mr. Clark to meet on site to decide how best to repair it.

**Action: J. Meischke/C. Clark**

- **Water leaking in outside ladies toilet**

During the recent very wet weather, a water leak developed in the ladies toilet. Three of the roof tiles immediately above the ladies toilet are cracked and Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke are presuming that this is the cause of the leak. City Roofing have been instructed to replace the broken tiles and will inspected the felting to ensure that it is in tact.

- **Installation of new bin and disabled car-parking sign in car park**

Mr. Poulton reported that due to a problem with the litterbin in the car park, a new bin has been fitted and the new metal disabled car-parking sign has been installed at the base of a litterbin post.

However, some non-disabled drivers are using the disabled parking bay. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

- **Repairs to internal door**

The main Pavilion doors had the doorstep fitted in the wrong place causing stress to the hinges which were springing off and causing the door to have a split in it. Mr. Meischke has repositioned the doorstep to resolve the problem, however the door may need replacing if the split gets any bigger.

### Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **Sportsfield maintenance**

Frank Cooper and Son, who submitted a quotation (dated 12<sup>th</sup> October) for sportsfield maintenance, have been asked to submit a revised quotation to include the following.

- Slitting
- Verti-draining
- Herbicide spraying
- Fertilizer application
- Grass seed application

### Environment

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Allotments**

- **Hedges and trees**

East Herts Council have given the Parish Council written permission to raise the height of the branches from the Lime trees at the rear of the Chestnuts, where they overhang into the allotments and the footpath area to a height of approximately 8 to 9 feet (back to the height they were last year).

Blue Bury contractors have cut back the Lime trees. However, the Parish Council had accepted Adam Welch's quotation to do the work. Mrs. Dinnin to notify Adam Welch accordingly.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

Peter Evernden, who lives at Kimberley (146 High Street), which backs onto the rear of the Allotments plot, telephoned the Clerk to apologise for not replying to the Parish Council's letter of 4<sup>th</sup> August concerning his hedge that overhangs the allotments. He explained that his tree surgeon likes to wait for the leaves to fall before doing any tree and hedge cutting work. The Parish Council to monitor the situation as the hedge needs to be cut before spring. **Agenda: 01/10**

Mr. Evernden also said that a dead tree on his property, that has ivy growing on it, has had its roots dislodged in the wind and is partially fallen over towards the horse field. He said that the fence is not breached so this should not affect the safety of the horses/ponies. He wanted to make us aware that he is arranging for the tree to be removed.

- **Plots**

Mrs. Dinnin said that only one person did not renew their allotment. Some of the other vacant plots have been re-let and one large half plot has now been divided into two.

- **Plot numbering**

Mrs. Dinnin said she was still working out which plots should have numbered marker posts.

- **Trees**

- **The Lammas**

Mrs. Dinnin and Mr. Meischke have inspected the trees identified in Adam Welch's inspection and no items were identified for immediate attention. However, it was decided that some lower branches on the Horse Chestnut tree needed attention. The Willow tree with branches on the ground was according to Adam Welch quite acceptable. The Oak trees on the bank are all right at present. Adam Welch has agreed to submit a quotation for the work needed on the Horse Chestnut tree.

The way-marker post needs replacing at the Walkern Road end of the Lammas

- **Watton Green**

Watton Green also had trees identified in Adam Welch's inspection, but they are a low risk and can be budgeted for next year.

- **Sportsfield**

The Oak tree near the MPPA on the sportsfield is in good condition. However, three trees in the horses field needs attention. It was agreed to write to the Diocesan Board accordingly.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

There are a number of charred logs on Watton green. Mrs. Dinnin to ask someone she knows to remove them and they can then cut them up and sell them for logs.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Grant from Bryan Hammond for replacing tree on Hazeldell**

Bryan Hammond has agreed a grant of £400 towards the £480 cost of replacing the tree on Hazeldell.

The Parish Council is required to make the full payment of £480 to Hertfordshire County Council and Bryan Hammond will send us his grant payment of £400.

The Clerk to send a cheque to Hertfordshire County Council as soon as possible.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## b) **Routine reports**

### i) **Fire-alarm test**

The fire-alarm was tested on 8<sup>th</sup> December by Mr. Poulton.

### ii) **Monthly village-report**

Mr. Knight completed the report on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

- **The Lammas**

Mr. Knight said that more wood chippings are needed on the footpath at the Mill Lane end of the Lammas. Mrs. Dinnin to ask Adam Welch to supply this.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Great Innings play area**

At the October Parish Council meeting, Mr. Stock reported that some of the rubber mats were disconnected at the top of the slide in the Great Innings Play area. As this was a potential trip hazard a letter was sent to East Herts accordingly.

Mr. Stock asked Mr. Knight if he had noticed if the problem had been rectified. Mr. Knight said he had not. Mrs. McCash agreed to inspect the slide and notify the Clerk if there was still a problem.

The Clerk to write again to East Herts Council if required.

**Action: H. McCash/J. Allsop**

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

None.

## 9 **Correspondence received**

### a) **River Beane Association re Ministerial visit to discuss River Beane**

This item is currently on circulation.

Refer to item 10 Report from other organisations - River Beane Restoration Association.

**b) E-mail from Hertfordshire Constabulary re draft policing plan for 2010**

All Parish Councillors were sent a copy of the Hertfordshire Constabulary draft policing plan.

Mr. Filer e-mailed all Parish Councillors his comments on the draft plan as follows.

'I am very much in favour of Anti-social behaviour being given a priority by Hertfordshire police but not at the expense of a 15% increase in the cost of policing. They should still give a priority to policing anti-social behaviour but keep within say a 5% increase in budget. The inference is that we should pay 15% more for the police budget or else we won't get adequate policing in this important area which is a ridiculous inference.'

It was agreed to input Mr. Filer's comments in the Parish Council's response, together with concerns about the reduction of PCSO's for this area.

**Action: J. Meischke /J. Allsop**

**c) East Herts Council re work to trees at Chestnuts, High Street**

This item was discussed under 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Allotments.

**d) East Herts Council re work to tree in sportsfield hedge opposite 10 School Lane**

East Herts Council have written to inform us that they will be making a site visit to inspect the Oak tree and will write to us in due course. If however we do not hear from them by 31<sup>st</sup> December, we can proceed with the tree surgery work requested.

**e) East Herts Council re Rural Parish conference feedback**

All Parish Councillors were e-mailed correspondence concerning the Rural Parish Conference feedback.

Mr. Poulton (in his capacity as a Distinct Councillor) will be attending the Local Strategic Partnership Forums on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> June at 1400. Mr. Meischke will also try to attend both these meetings.

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

Mr. Poulton said that the Clerk should attend the following events and complete and return the registration of interest form stating.

- An interest in the District Council's PC Renewal Programme.
- Training on how to make the best use of the East Herts Council website.
- Details of the Parish Council included on the EHC website.
- Interest in attending a Parish and Town Council Planning Information session due to take place in 2010.
- Annual Customer Service Briefing in Spring 2010.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**f) East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust questionnaire**

Mrs. McCash said that this item should not have been sent to the Parish Council as it is for completion by individuals and not organisations like the Parish Council.

**g) Community Voice meetings in January/February 2010 - Changing the Way We Work - Community Safety**

The following Community Hall voice meetings will be held in January/February 2010 and will commence at 19.30 hours.

- **Ware Community Voice – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010**  
Venue: Priory Hall, The Priory, High Street Ware
- **Buntingford Community Voice – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010**  
Venue: United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road, Buntingford
- **Sawbridgeworth Community Voice – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010**  
Venue: Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth
- **Bishop's Stortford Community Voice – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010**  
Venue: Rhodes Arts Complex, 1-3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
- **Hertford Community Voice – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010**  
Venue: Council Chamber, Wallfields, Peg's Lane, Hertford

**h) Frank Whitely –Hertfordshire Constabulary**

Frank Whitely has acknowledged receipt of our letter concerning a replacement PCSO for Watton-at-Stone. Refer to item 5 b, Review of actions - Copy letter re PCSO's to Chief Constable Frank Whitely.

**10 Village organisations****• Watton Youth Drop Inn**

Mr. Poulton said that the Watton Youth Drop Inn is holding its last session before the Christmas break on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Between 20 to 30 children are attending each week and three adult volunteers need to cover each session. However, there is still a shortage of volunteers and Mr. Poulton has to attend nearly every weekly session.

**• Watton-at-Stone School Governors**

Mr. Clark reported that approximately half of the school roof is currently having extensive repair work. The problems were made worse by thieves stealing lead from the roof earlier in the year.

The Beane Valley Children's Centre is a tremendous success.

- **Whempstead**  
Mr. Clark said that the Whempstead roads have been very bad over the last month because of very heavy rain. Hertfordshire Highways have still not replaced road signs that are missing.
- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch**  
Mrs. McCash reported that the Hertfordshire Police are putting together a scrapbook for PCSO Paul Weston to be presented before he takes his five-year career break. Both Mr. Poulton and Mrs. McCash have submitted pieces for the scrapbook.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee**  
Mr. Stock reported that the War Memorial Hall Management Committee AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
Despite significant expenditure during the year, on internal decorating and the fitting of some new lighting in the main hall, finances are in a good shape and bookings remain at a high level.  
As a result of the extensive re-decorating, the inside of the War Memorial Hall looks very good throughout. New chairs are to be purchased in the very near future to replace some of the existing furniture.  
The following officers were elected.  

Chairman:	Helen. McCash
Secretary:	Carole Moore
Bookings Secretary:	Mary Phillips
Treasurer:	Pam Filer.

  
Mary Phillips was thanked for her many years of service as Secretary and the committee was pleased that she has taken on the new position of Bookings Secretary.  
Although the War Memorial Hall is a well used facility, it was sad to see that so few people attended the AGM and again demonstrated that local organisations tend to be run by the same small groups of villagers.  
Mr. Meischke said that the large silver kettle in the Memorial Hall is causing the electricity to trip out and he has had to re-set them on several occasions. Mrs. McCash said that, as chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee, she would authorise the disposal of the faulty kettle.
- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup**  
Mrs. Dinnin said that the Pre-School Playgroup's recent Winter Warmer raised £700.  
Grant funding is allowing them to put down artificial turf outside the playschool unit at the school.
- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group**  
Mr. Harris reported that the Scouts and Guides are distributing Christmas cards over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club**  
Mr. Knight said that the tennis court is suffering from the usual seasonal problems of leaf litter.
- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.
- **River Beane Restoration Association**  
Mr. Knight reported that there is good activity from the River Beane Association. Oliver Heald is continuing to support their cause and arranged a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November between representatives of the River Beane Restoration Association (RBRA), Friends of Mimram, and WWF and the Environment Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies MP, to discuss the plight of the Rivers Beane and Mimram. Points from the RBRA presentation made at the meeting is currently on circulation.

## 11 Items for Parish News

The following items were identified for inclusion in the February 2010 issue of the Parish News.

Grants provided by Bryan Hammond for the following:

- a new notice board
- a replacement tree for Hazeldell
- a new external hardwood door for the Community Hall. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **The meeting closed at 2042 hours.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**