

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Present:	Mr. John Meischke (Chairman)	Mr. Michael Smith (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. Christine Dinnin	Mr. Denis Filer
	Mr. Ian Knight	Mrs. Helen McCash
	Mr. Nigel Poulton	The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)
Members of public	Mr. Chris Fowler and Mr. Harry Slater	
Press:	Catherine Lofthouse, Hertfordshire Mercury (after 1935)	

### 1 Apologies for absence and leave of absence

Apologies for absence: Mr. Charles Clark and Mr. Iain Harris.

Leave of absence: Mr. David Stock.

### 2 Public Participation

Mr. Chris Fowler lives at the Old Club House in School Lane, located opposite the Community Hall car park. He said there is a persistent problem of loud music coming from cars parked in the Community Hall car park late at night sometimes until 0300 in the morning. He said that although he had called the police on three occasions they have only visited the site once. He suggested that the Parish Council install a gate across the car park entrance and close and lock it each night.

Parish Councillors agreed to discuss this issue at their December meeting.

This item to be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

**Agenda: 12/10**

Mr. Harry Slater said he had written to Hertfordshire Highways concerning the traffic congestion problems in School Lane and the potential dangers to pedestrians in that area.

A copy of Mr. Slater's letter to Hertfordshire Highways to be e-mailed to all Parish Councillors.

**Action: N. Poulton**

This item to be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

**Agenda: 12/10**

### 3 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Mr. Meischke had two additional items for this meeting.

- **Letter to local residents re Proposed Waiting Restrictions: Moorymead Close, Watton at Stone – Informal Consultation.**  
This item to be discussed under 9 e, correspondence received.
- **Watton Youth Football Club**  
This item to be discussed under 9 f, correspondence received.

### 4 Declaration of Interests

None.

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

#### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
Mr. Smith proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.  
Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

#### b) Review of actions

- **Send reminder to Eralp Yucelt re filling the salt bins in the village: completed.**
- **Meet on-site with Adam Welch to discuss replacement tree for sportsfield**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Quotation for planting tree on sportsfield.
- **Send Dr. Norden a copy of Adam Welch's quotation re tree replacement**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Quotation for planting tree on sportsfield.
- **Arrange to have 'Peep in the Past' video copied to DVD: completed.**  
Mr. Poulton has had the 'Peep in the Past' video copied onto a DVD. Mr. Meischke said he had watched the DVD and it was of reasonable quality.  
It was agreed that the DVD be placed on circulation for Parish Councillors to watch, before any decision is made on having additional copies made. **Action: J. Meischke**
- **Write a letter of thanks to GSK team volunteers: completed.**
- **Contact Mr. Filer re first meeting of the Housing and Transport Sub-Committee**  
Unfortunately, Mr. Filer did not receive the notifications sent to him via e-mail.

- **E-mail last housing survey to members of the Housing and Transport Sub-Committee: completed.**
  - **Amend the circulation list: completed.**
  - **Amend the 6-monthly statement of accounts and email to all Parish Councillors: completed.**
  - **Send Mr. Filer items to be included in the 2011/12 budget**  
Mr. Filer said he has received some items to be included in the 2011/12 budget. He asked Parish Councillors to ensure they contact him before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, when he will be meeting with the Clerk to draw up a draft budget. **Action: Parish Councillors**
  - **Obtain quotations for grass and hedge cutting in 2011/12**  
The Clerk said she still needed to contact Nick Whitehead for a hedge cutting quotation. **Action: J. Allsop**
  - **Write to contractors who supplied quotations to replace the Pavilion blinds**  
The Clerk has written to the two contractors whose quotations were not accepted. Ashley ABC Contractors, King Langley quotation will be accepted when funding for the blinds has been agreed.
  - **Write to all the painting contractors who supplied quotation to paint the Pavilion: completed.**
  - **E-mail all Parish Councillors a copy of the Fire Risk Assessment: completed.**
  - **Remove the cricket wire fencing from the sportsfield hedge**  
Refer to item 7 a, Specific items - Volunteer work by GSK teams.
  - **Accept the quotation from James Turner to install new hot water system in the showers: completed.**
  - **Accept the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for remedial work at the play area: completed.**
  - **Instruct Ted Brown to clear the leaves on the MPPA as and when necessary: completed.**
  - **Instruct Halycon Courts to do a one-day pressure washing on the MPPA**  
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - MPPA - pressure wash & Moss Kill.
  - **Contact Mike Freeman re Flower Festival: completed.**
  - **Alter allotment tenancy agreement: completed.**
  - **Speak to Adam Welch re 6-month check of trees on Parish Council land within the village**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - 6-monthly tree inspection.
  - **Ask Adam Welch to quote for cutting back the Oak tree branches overhanging the MPPA**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Sportsfield trees.
  - **Remove seat at the Great Innings Play area from the 6-month check: completed.**
  - **Ask GSK volunteer workers if they could paint any seats that need attention**  
Refer to item 7 a, Specific items - Volunteer work by GSK teams.
  - **Ask Mark Lee to repair the Freeman Memorial seat on the sportsfield: completed.**  
Mr. Meischke said that the work has been done and the invoice paid by Mr. and Mrs. Freeman.
  - **Give the Clerk details of items to be on village events section of website: outstanding**  
**Action: H. McCash**
  - **Add items to Village Events section of the website: outstanding, refer to above item.**  
**Action: J. Allsop**
  - **Write an article for the Parish News asking for Watton Youth Drop Inn volunteers: completed.**
  - **Write Parish News insert: outstanding**  
Unfortunately, the articles did not appear in the November issue, but will appear in the December issue of the Parish News.
- c) Action points outstanding for more than two months**
- **Draft letter to Inspector Jon Speed re policing problems in the village**  
Due to personal reasons, Mrs. McCash was unable to complete this action point. **Action: H. McCash**
  - **Include in draft letter to Inspector Jon Speed request for police presence at football matches**  
**Outstanding** **Action: H. McCash**
  - **Comment on the draft letter to Inspector Jon Speed: outstanding, refer to above items.**  
**Action: N. Poulton**

## 6 Planning

Mr. Meischke reported on the following items.

### a) Applications

None.

### b) Decisions

#### i) 2 Old School Orchard (3/10/1360/FP/JS)

Replacement detached single garage

- East Herts Council – permission granted

## 7 Specific items

### a) Volunteer work by GSK (Glaxo Smith Klein) teams

Mr. Meischke said he had e-mailed both the GSK and Tesco volunteer teams about additional work in the village. However, to date no response has been received. Mrs. McCash suggested that the volunteer budgets for 2010/11 have probably been used and we should contact them again next spring.

This item to be placed on the March 2011 Parish Council agenda.

**Agenda: 03/11**

### b) 2011 Inter-parish conference

Mr. Poulton said that the Inter Parish Conference has historically been very successful event because it brings together the local Parish Council's in East Herts so they can air their views and discuss similar problems. However, the 2010 Inter Parish Conference never took place. Mr. Poulton asked the Clerk to contact Aston Parish Council, who hosted the 2009 Inter Parish Conference. Mr. Falder, Clerk to Aston Parish Council, said that from his notes it would appear that that the hosting of the 2010 was never agreed.

The Parish Council is up for re-election in May 2011 and therefore it was agreed to discuss this item again in July 2011, when all the East Herts Parish Councils will have elected their new Parish Councillors. **Agenda: 07/11**

Catherine Lofthouse, a reporter from the Mercury Newspaper, arrived at the meeting 7.35.

### c) Police Locality Meeting

Mr. Poulton attended the Police Locality meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, which he said was a very interesting meeting. The main topics were concerning the villages of Watton at Stone and Datchworth.

#### • Incidents in Watton at Stone

- Two incidents at Summan – a 27-year-old man from Aston caught shop lifting and assaulting a member of staff and a 15-year-old boy from Datchworth damaged the canopy outside Summan.
- 24th August – a robbery at Great Innings. A group of lads ordered a pizza and when the deliveryman arrived, threatened him with a hammer and refused to pay. They beat up the delivery driver who left without being paid. Three lads from Watton at Stone and one from Datchworth will be charged with robbery.
- A boy-racer from Hazeldell, in a mini-cooper car with a loud exhaust, has been causing a nuisance.
- Late September/early October, during a drugs raid in Moorymead Close, a small amount of cannabis was found.

- Mr. Poulton said that he mentioned the language at football matches and the need for Parish Councils to write to the police over our concerns about the possible loss of PCSO's due to the recent cut backs.

#### • Reducing burglary over the Christmas

Concern was raised at the Police Locality meeting over the possible increase in burglary over the Christmas period. The Police are producing an advert to go in the Parish News and posters to go on the village notice boards advising how to reduce the possibility of being burgled over the Christmas period.

#### • Mobile speed cameras

The mobile speed cameras have been a great success. Eight car drivers have been warned over their speeding in Station Road.

Talks took place about Parish Councils "clubbing" together to buy a mobile speed camera. The likely cost is £3000. PC Andy Woodward agreed to explore further the costs involved.

This item could possible be discussed at the 2011 Inter Parish Conference.

- **Date for the next Police Locality meeting - Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 1930.**

### d) Housing Needs Survey

Mr. Poulton said that with the need for East Herts to identify areas to build 8,500 houses by the year 2031, the Parish Council needs to know what Watton-at-Stone's housing requirements are. With this in mind, he suggested that a housing survey be carried-out, based on the survey completed in 2001. Mr. Poulton said he had slightly re-vamped the 2001 survey. He read out a letter he had drafted which would be sent out with the housing survey.

It was agreed that the survey and covering letter be sent to all households in Watton-at-Stone as removable section in the February issue of the Parish News. After completion, forms should be returned to any Parish Councillor, the Post Office or Reg Newman (Butchers) by the end of March 2011.

Peter Allsop has offered to make a web housing survey form, which he would upload to the Watton-at-Stone website. Parishioners could complete the form on-line and e-mail it to the Parish Council. Mr. Poulton said he presumed that Peter Allsop would not be charging to do the work and the Clerk said she would ensure that he did not.

It was agreed that the survey should be included in the February issue of the Parish News with responses by the end of March 2011.

**Action: J. Allsop/I. Knight**

**e) Outcome of Working Party on the Local Development Framework including e-mail from Stop Harlow North**

Mr. Meischke, Mr. Smith, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Clark, members of the Working Party Sub-Committee, met on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October to discuss and agree the responses to the 43 questions in East Herts Core Strategy Consultation questionnaire. All Parish Councillors have been e-mailed a copy of the responses, which Mr. Clark submitted on the East Herts Council on-line consultation portal.

Subsequently, Nigel Clark (Stop Harlow North) emailed on 26<sup>th</sup> October concerning our response to questionnaire 43, which is tabled below.

	Parish Council's response
Do you agree with the consultants' suggested approach in respect of growth to the north of Harlow?	Agree
If development to the north of Harlow is no longer required by the East of England Plan, should we consider north of Harlow as a broad location to meet some of the East Herts district wide housing requirement?	Yes
Please write any comments here:	
Provided the area remains within East Hertfordshire and thereby reduces the number of additional houses required in the rest of the district	

The original proposals for North of Harlow had been to build 22,000 properties but this has now been reduced to 4,000. Mr. Smith said that if 4,000 properties were built North of Harlow in the East Herts area, then that would be almost half of the 8,500-housing requirement met and this justified our response to question 43.

Parish Councillors agreed that it was important to retain the separate entities of the villages and towns in East Herts and building in North Harlow could allow this. If allowed, large amounts of additional housing in Stevenage could easily engulf the villages of Aston, Benington and Watton-at-Stone.

Parish Councillors thanked the working committee for all the work done.

**f) Outcome of working party on Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan**

Mr. Meischke, Mr. Smith, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Clark, members of the Working Party Sub-Committee, met on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October to discuss and respond to the Local Transport Plan 2010 consultation draft. Mr. Smith said the plan is for a vision of a safe and resilient transport system. The emphasis is less on building new roads but on making better use of the existing network.

Mr. Smith to give the Clerk a hard copy of the responses to the transport plan, for the Parish Council records.

**Action: M. Smith**

**8 Reports**

**a) Sub-Committees**

**Budget & Finance**

Mr. Filer reported on the following items.

- **Monthly accounts**

Mr. Filer said that most of the Allotment rent has now been received. One Allotment holder is not being charged any rent for 2010/11 because she was accidentally allocated the wrong plot in 2009/10 and had already done a significant amount of work before the error was discovered.

Emergency work was required in the Main Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, due to one of the suspended light fittings coming away from its fixing. Mr. Smith managed to rent some scaffolding and he and Malcolm Oakman (Mimram Electrical Services) spent the day re-fitting the light and replacing the fixing screws to all of the suspended light fittings with longer screws. Blue Bury Contractors charged £160 plus VAT to supply the scaffolding and thermostat and for time and travel. Mimram Electrical charged £182 (no VAT applicable) for five hours labour, six lighting tubes and six starters. Not all of the tubes and starters were required and will be stored for future use.

Mr. Poulton thanked Mr. Smith for all the work he had done. This was potentially a very dangerous situation. For safety reasons, Dave Boddy's Jujutsu class was cancelled.

Mr. Knight proposed that the Parish Council approves the payments. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **Six-monthly inspection of accounts**

Mrs. McCash agreed to do the six-monthly inspection later this week.

**Action: H. McCash**

- **Date for Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting**  
Mr. Filer said he did not have his diary with him but would e-mail Parish Councillors to agree a Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the 2011/12 budgets. **Action: D. Filer**
- **Community Hall Insurance**  
Ansvar Insurance has written to advise us that they are being taken over by Ecclesiastical Insurance.  
Mr. Filer reminded Parish Councillors that the Community Hall has a three-year undertaking with Ansvar Insurance, which they arranged through brokers Norris and Fisher earlier this year.  
Mrs. McCash said that in her dealings with Ecclesiastical Insurance, she has found them to be very helpful with claims.

### Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Lights in Sports Hall and Thermostat**  
This item was reported on under 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee – Monthly accounts.
- **Decorating the Pavilion**  
Mr. Poulton said that when he asked Adrian Thompson to quote for the interior decoration work in the Pavilion, he had forgotten to ask him to include the painting of the radiators. The cost is an extra £75 on his original £650 quotation. This is still £165 cheaper than the nearest quotation received for decoration the Pavilion. This item will be included in the 2011/12 budget.
- **Tiles on the Community Hall Roof**  
Mr. Poulton said that he noticed that 4 or 5 of the Community Hall tiles are broken due to young persons throwing stones up onto the roof. Mr. Poulton has instructed City Roofing Contractors to repair the roof, rather than asking them to provide a quotation first, because this will incur an additional call out charge.
- **Work on the windows in the Community Hall**  
Trevor Blacktin's son has now completed the repair work to the damaged window lock and the easing of 12 other window locks. The work was less than the £200 verbal estimate and cost £163.20 (plus VAT).
- **Grant application for the blinds for the Pavilion**  
Mr. Poulton has been in contact with East Herts Council re funding for the blinds, which could be available from their Community Grant Scheme.  
Parish Councillors agreed that Mr. Poulton should complete the necessary application forms. If unsuccessful, the blinds could be funded from the Community Hall reserves.  
Mr. Poulton suggested that when the work goes ahead the Pavilion decoration work is done first. Adrian Thompson will remove the old blinds and then carry-out the decoration work. Ashley ABC Contractors can then fit the new blinds when the decoration work is complete. This was agreed.
- **Cars parking in the car park**  
There have been problems with parking at the Community Hall. This has arisen when both hirers and users of the sportsfield or MPPA facilities have blocked each other in. Arguments have arisen when one party was not been willing to move their vehicle(s) to allow others to exit the car park.  
Mr. Poulton proposed that the following notice be made and put up on the Community Hall wall facing the car park.  
‘This is a Public Car Park.  
Please avoid blocking-in other users and be prepared to move your vehicle in the event that other vehicles cannot exit the car park’.  
Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.  
Mr. Meischke to arrange for a sign to be made. **Action: J. Meischke**

### Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **MPPA - pressure wash & Moss Kill**  
Mr. Knight said that at the October Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that Halycon Court be instructed to do a one-day pressure wash to the parts of the MPPA that have become slippery. The Tennis Club subsequently agreed to donate £290 towards the cost of a 2<sup>nd</sup> day of pressure washing, to allow the entire MPPA surface to be cleaned.  
Halycon Court has now pressure washed all of the MPPA and the Tennis Club had sent the Community Hall a donation of £290 towards the cost of the work.

Mr. Knight e-mailed Mr. Meischke on 26<sup>th</sup> October as follows.

‘The pressure wash went well and there is a dramatic improvement to the condition of the surface. I would like to propose we apply some moss kill treatment now it has been cleaned. The pressure wash has removed the surface moss but the moss will still be alive in the cracks and it will grow again in the damp winter conditions and cause expansion problems when there are hard frosts.

I propose we do only one court equivalent - focussing on the far side of the tennis courts (church end) where the moss occurrence is normally worst because that area does not see much sun in the winter. The cost quoted was £90 + vat per court - I would recommend we go ahead with this treatment and would like your approval.

The £500 budget (2010/2011) for the MPPA is fully spent - £138 paint, £75 fence repair and £290 pressure wash - Total £503

I will copy this to Denis.’

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Filer both e-mailed their agreement to Mr. Knight’s request and cc the Clerk for her records.

Mr. Knight has instructed Halycon Court to proceed with the agreed Moss-killing work.

### Environment Sub-Committee

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **PP3 grant application**

Mrs Dinnin met with Fiona Underhill C.M.S. and Tom Goldsmith H.C.C. footpath officer to discuss the Parish Council's 2010/11 grant and to complete the necessary paperwork.

This PP3 grant will include some grass and hedge cutting as well as a new gate to replace the stile on the allotments adjacent to the property 'Kimberely'. The stile needs to be replaced with a rabbit proof gate as it does not conform to the current regulations. An additional £400 will need to be included in the Parish Council 2011/2012 budget to cover the cost of the grass cutting not now included in the PP3 grant.

Fiona Underhill will arrange to get a £1000 cheque to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

CMS need to make 25% cuts in their budget and therefore will only be cutting back the footpaths they are responsible for twice a year rather than three times a year.

Mrs. Tricia Brewster has asked Mrs. Dinnin if anything can be done about the footpath at the rear of Watton House. Steps need to be created to make this route easier for walkers. It was agreed that this item could be included in the 2011/12 P3 grant application.

- **Cottage Site, Watton Green**

Tony Bradford has cut down a dead tree on the Cottage site and cleared the debris from the site.

- **Sportsfield trees**

Adam Welch has submitted a quotation of £140 as follows

‘Remove two overhanging oak branches from tennis court	£80
Prune branches blocking floodlight on tennis court	£60

Mrs. McCash proposed that Adam Welch’s quotation be accepted. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Quotation for planting tree on sportsfield**

Adam Welch has submitted a quotation of £140 for supplying and planting an eight-foot field maple on the sportsfield. Dr Norden has confirmed that he will pay for the work.

The Clerk to accept Adam Welch’s quotation and ask him to invoice Dr Norden direct. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **6-monthly tree inspection**

Mrs. Dinnin said that she mentioned the 6-monthly tree inspection to Adam Welch and he suggested that there was no necessity to carry-out an inspection every six months.

After discussion, it was agreed that the inspection should take place annually. Mr. Smith said that the best time of year would be in late autumn.

The Clerk to instruct Adam Welch accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

### b) Routine reports

- i) **Emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests**

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke did the emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests on 8<sup>th</sup> November (yesterday).

Beane Valleys’ Baby Massage class have completed an Emergency Evacuation Procedure and Mr. Poulton said he was happy with the way it was carried-out.

ii) **Monthly village-report**

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

Only the adverse items highlighted in the monthly village-report are minuted.

- **Play area** – small patch of safety surface near the slide needs attention. This is due to be repaired by Wicksteed Leisure Limited later this year.
- **MPPA** – The surface looks very good after the pressure wash last month. In approximately one year to 18 months, the MPPA surface will need painting to protect it from general wear. Mr. Knight has given Mr. Filer the estimated price to complete the work **Action: I. Knight.**
- **Allotments** – some of the plots need attention.
- **Salt bins** – The Beane Road salt bin remains empty and therefore Mr. Knight presumed that the other bins that need filling also remain empty.
- **War memorial** – Mrs. Dinnin confirmed that Adam Welch would be weeding and clearing leaves from the War Memorial Garden later this week in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.

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

None.

v) **Website**

- Flower Festival and other events to be held at the Parish Church to be uploaded to the Village events section of the website when Mrs. McCash has passed the information to the Clerk **Action: J. Allsop**

v) **Website diary**

Add Adam Welch's annual inspection of trees to the website diary.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 9 Correspondence received

### a) **Letter from Ansvar Insurance Company regarding take over by Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc**

This item was discussed under 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - Community Hall insurance.

### b) **Hertfordshire Library Services**

Hertfordshire County Council is running a seven-week consultation, from 26<sup>th</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2010, on the proposals for the future of the library and archive service in Hertfordshire.

Mr. Poulton outlined the cost cutting proposals, which include reduction in opening times of the Hertfordshire libraries and the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.

For example, the Hertford library opening times will reduce from 54 hours a week to 37 hours. Stevenage library from 65 hours to 51, with the library at the Old Town in Stevenage hours changing from 24 to 20 hours a week.

There are no proposals to reduce the mobile library service that visit the rural areas but there will be some changes in the times they visit the village.

After discussion, Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council respond to the consultation stating that the reduction in library opening times is totally acceptable taking into account the financial cuts that need to be implemented. The Parish Council also note that there will be no change in the mobile library service to the rural areas although there are some time change to the scheduled visits. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### c) **Hertfordshire County Council - Waste Development Framework – Core strategy consultation**

Mr. Poulton said that he had read the consultation papers and the proposals do not directly affect Watton-at-Stone because the nearest waste site is in Hitchin.

Parish Councillors agreed not to respond to the consultation.

### d) **East and the East of England LGA - Be a Councillor Campaign for the East of England**

All Parish Councillors were forwarded an e-mail, dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, from Rick Hans (Campaign Manager, East of England Local Government Association) who is promoting the 'Be a Councillor Campaign' for East Herts. No response is required.

### e) **Letter to local residents re Proposed Waiting Restrictions: Moorymead Close, Watton at Stone – Informal Consultation**

Mr. Poulton said he had been working closely with residents of Moorymead Close and East Herts Council over the past twelve months regarding the parking problems caused by commuters using the station. The problem is particularly severe at the entrance of Moorymead Close.

East Herts Council have been able to obtain funding for car parking restrictions to be installed at the entrance of Moorymead Close and other sections of the cul-de-sac. Letters have been sent to all the residents in Moorymead Close and to the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council to advise them of the proposals and asking for responses to this consultation by 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Parish Councillors expressed their concern that if parking restrictions are put in place at Moorymead Close the computer car-parking problem will move to other areas in the village.

After lengthy discussion, it was agreed to support the application.

**Action: J. Allsop**

#### **f) Watton Youth Football Club**

Mr. Knight said that over the years the Watton-at-Stone Football Club had tried without success to obtain suitable sites for additional football facilities within the confines of the village.

Additional facilities are desperately needed for the Youth section of the Football Club and the only option now available to them is to pursue the possibility of sharing facilities in Datchworth in partnership with the Datchworth Cricket, Rugby and Tennis Club.

Mr. Knight proposed that the Parish Council write a letter to Datchworth Parish Council supporting the Watton-at-Stone Youth Football Club's application to use the facilities at Datchworth and confirming that the Football Club have genuinely exhausted every avenue to obtain suitable sites for additional football facilities in Watton-at-Stone.

Mr. Knight agreed to draft a letter and e-mail it to Mr. Meischke, Mr. Smith and Mr. Poulton for their approval.

**Action: I. Knight**

### **10 Village organisations**

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** Nothing to report.

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

The War Memorial Management Committee will hold its AGM on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

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

Mrs. Dinnin said she had been in contact with the Pre-School Playgroup. They are holding their Christmas fund raising event on Sunday afternoon the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group**

The Chairman of the Scout and Guide Group, Frank Taylor, has resigned and the post is currently vacant. The next meeting of the Scout and Guide Group will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club:** Nothing to report.

- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.

- **River Beane Restoration Association**

Mr. Knight said that Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) held a River Quality Scrutiny Topic Group on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Various official bodies attended the meeting, including Oliver Heald MP and the River Beane Restoration Association.

Mr. Knight said that he was unable to attend the meeting but highlighted the main topics discussed. He agreed to forward a copy of the minutes of the River Quality Scrutiny Topic Group meeting to all Parish Councillors.

**Action: I. Knight**

### **11 Items for Parish News**

There were no items identified for inclusion in the December 2010 issue of the Parish News.

- **The meeting closed at 8.45.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**