

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 19th March 2013

Present: Mr. Michael Smith (Chairman) Mr. John Meischke (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. Christine Dinnin Mr. Ian Knight
Mrs. Helen McCash Mr. David Stock
Ms. Emma Waltham The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)

Members of public: Charlie Bell (until 1936)

1 Apologies for absence

Leave of absence: Mr. Nigel Poulton.

Apologies for absence: Mr. Denis Filer and Mr. Iain Harris.

2 Meeting with Charlie Bell, Living Rivers Officer to discuss the Lammas and Lammas Road stretch of the River Beane

Mr. Smith welcomed Charlie Bell to the meeting and invited her to talk to the Parish Council about the proposed improvements Lammas stretch of the River Beane.

Charlie Bell said that she had been working closely with the River Beane Restoration Association to find ways of improving the River Beane, which is one of only two hundred chalk streams in the world and is currently in a poor state. Although the major problem to the river is low flow, this river has suffered from being straightened in years gone by which has made it unhealthy. Chalk streams by nature are not straight but meander and have fast flowing eddies as well as slower moving areas.

The weir near the Mill Pond requires attention as it does cause water to backup the river and is reducing the speed of flow and causes some silting. In general overhanging trees will be attended to where appropriate.

Flood risks have been carried out with modelling and the report concludes that there will be no increased risk of flooding by lowering the weir and installing baffles. This work could actually cause a decrease in the risk of flooding.

Charlie Bell confirmed that if this project goes ahead it would be fully funded by the Environment Agency and she would be the project manager. She said that the next stage is to meet with the residents of the properties that back onto the Lammas stretch of the River Beane, so that the proposals can be outlined and hopefully encourage residents to get involved in the project by improving their side of the riverbank. A site meeting would be held on the Lammas, followed by a meeting at the Community Hall. The latter would be a public meeting open to all parishioners to attend.

Charlie Bell to produce a leaflet to be delivered to the residents of the properties that back onto the Lammas stretch of the River Beane. Mrs. Dinnin volunteered to deliver the leaflets. **Action: C. Bell/C. Dinnin**

Charlie Bell to contact the Clerk to book the Pavilion at the Community Hall and write a notice to be included in the April edition of the Parish News advertising the public meeting. **Action: C. Bell**

Mr. Knight to forward the notice to the editor of the Parish News. **Action: I. Knight**

Mrs. McCash said that there are Kingfishers nesting in some of the trees along the Lammas stretch of the river. Charlie Bell said that no work would be done until after the nesting season was over, she showed Parish Councillors a plan of the proposed work.

Charlie Bell left the meeting.

3 Public Participation

None.

4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Mr. Smith read out a note of thanks from Mr. Filer in which he thanks all Parish Council members for their good wishes following his accident in breaking his leg rather badly.

5 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Stock said that he would be dealing with the very recently received planning application for 86 Hazeldell (refer to item 7 a ii) and wanted to make it clear that he did not know the applicants on a personal level nor did the application have any affect on him in any way and therefore confirmed that he felt no need to declare an interest in this item. He had discussed this with Mr. Harris and said that he was happy to visit the adjacent neighbours to get their views on the application before it was discussed by the Parish Council today (Mr. Harris did not have a problem with this). The Parish Councillors present were happy for Mr. Stock to take this item accordingly.

6 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th February 2013**
Parish Councillors approved the minutes.

b) Review of actions

1. **Contact residents of Glebe House re sportsfield hedge: outstanding**
This item to be deferred to the September Parish Council meeting.
2. **Attend East Herts Council Local Planning Policy Meeting on 8th March**
Refer to item 7 a, Specific items.
3. **Obtain two quotations for sportsfield play area sign**
Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Playground sign.
4. **Accept Sports Courts Limited quotation for work to the surface of the MPPA**
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - MPPA - Surface maintenance.
5. **Arrange for broken floodlighting lamp and protective screen to be replaced**
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee -MPPA -Floodlighting bulbs.
6. **See if the rubbish at the entrance of the Parish Council land at Rivershill has been removed**
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Parish Council land at Rivershill.
7. **Complete on-line policing contacts form**
Mrs. McCash reported that she had completed this action point.

Agenda: 09/13

c) Action points resolved

1. Contact residents of Glebe House re sportsfield hedge
2. Give Diamond Jubilee photographic booklet to Alan Rattue for inspection
3. Inform East Herts Council of Mr. Poulton's extended leave of absence
4. Return completed Precept forms to East Herts Council
5. Obtain quotations for the installation of a lighting column and wiring for CCTV camera
6. Issue new external door keys as required
7. Turn on water supply to allotments on 1st March
8. Pay C-Trees invoice for £1400 including VAT
9. Ask for clearance work on Parish Council land at Rivershill to be completed by May 2013
10. Ask D. P. Electrics to replace broken emergency light
11. Inspect play area safety surface
12. Request that all the salt bins are filled
13. Upload the Child Protection Policy to the Community Hall's section of the Watton-at-Stone website
14. Report Highways faults
15. E-mail Jill Andreanoff to ask if she will be attending the next Oliver Heald surgery
16. E-mail Adam Welch a copy of Professor Haslam's letter

7 Planning

a) Applications

i) **Heath Mount School, Woodhall Park, Watton-at-Stone (3/13/0254/FP)**

Erection of an extension to the pre-prep building with associated play area, storage and car parking. Felling and works to TPO trees

Mr. Stock said that in-line with the Parish Council's Planning Protocol, Mr. Harris had reviewed this application and e-mailed his comments to all Parish Councillors. Mr. Harris felt this is not a matter upon which the Parish Council could, or would wish to, comment as the land is private and cannot be seen other than from within the site. Parish Councillors agreed with the comments made by Mr. Harris and the Clerk was asked to e-mail a 'No-comment' response to East Herts Council.

Action: J. Allsop

i) **86 Hazeldell (3/13/0396/FP)**

Upgrade to existing single storey extension by replacing conservatory with traditional-built extension and pitched roof. Overall rear aspect rationalised.

Mr. Stock presented the plans and explained that the intention is to remove the existing old conservatory and replace it with a conventional brick-built extension. It was agreed that this appeared to be an improvement. He said that the residents of 84 and 88 were happy with the application and told him that they had already been visited by the applicant who explained the plans in full. He therefore recommended that the Parish Council sends a 'No comment' response to East Herts Council. This was agreed by all present.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Decisions**i) 51c High Street, Watton-at-Stone (3/13/0028/FP)**

Single storey front and two storey side extension - East Herts Council – permission refused

Mr. Stock read out the East Herts Council letter giving the reasons for the refusal of this application.

‘The proposed two storey side extension, by reason of its size, siting and design, would be unsympathetic and detrimental to the character and appearance of the dwelling and adjoining dwellings and would cause harm to the setting of the Watton at Stone Conservation Area. The proposal is thereby contrary to Policies ENV1, ENV5, ENV6 and BH6 of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review April 2007 and the National Planning Policy Framework.’

It had been noted that although planning permission had been refused for 51c High Street, a large sign remains in the front garden advertising the services of Room-by-Room (Design services) and K D Solutions (Builders).

Because of being sited within the Conservation Area, it was agreed to contact the East Herts Council enforcement officer to ask for a view on the presence of the sign and on the new bright-yellow sign at the Chinese takeaway in the High Street.

Action: J. Allsop

8 Specific items**a) Report on East Herts Council Local Planning Policy meeting held on 8th March**

Mr. Smith read out his notes on the East Herts Council Local Planning Policy meeting he attended on 8th March.

‘Demographic study of the district showed a requirement going forward of 10 to 17 thousand houses in the period 2011 – 2031. This study was made by outside consultants and at the high end was thought to be unsustainable by the DC. A back up study is being commissioned to test these findings.

The Plan is being jeopardised by lack of input from HCC as to future transport policy and educational facilities.

Hertfordshire County Council is struggling to identify funds for long-term highways development and unless there is funding from central government, HCC is looking for development funding. The only way this could happen would be at the expense of social housing. The lack of highway funding is impacting on rural roads, which are more and more being used to avoid congestion on main roads, hence their parlous state.

As for education, with more schools opting out of local authority control, detailed analysis is becoming more difficult yet they are being held responsible for providing this data.

Because of these delays the original planning framework is still being used but has been tested against the new national planning policy framework and with a ‘few tweaks’ sits well with it, but this does nothing for the longer term strategy.

East Herts is confident its planning policy remains fit for purpose and can deal with situations as they arrive. They are confident that it will not end up with planning policy decided by appeal procedures. EH emphasises that it is pursuing a joined up approach by consulting adjoining authorities, in particular Essex, but also larger conurbations adjoining EH parishes.

We should soon see a statement of community involvement. This somewhat leads us to neighbourhood plans again. There was a more relaxed view about village development in that not all villages would be expected to provide a 10% house build commitment. By the same token, the Gatekeeper development would be considered to be within the requirements of the emerging plan so we would have a strong argument against further development should we so desire.

The District Council is still saying that it will not be to our disadvantage to wait and see what their proposals are before rushing into neighbourhood plans. BUT they say they would be more than pleased to consider our thoughts on the ‘Way for Watton’. So perhaps in the new civic year we might like to think about what we as a Parish Council would wish for Watton. I see no reason why we as elected representatives should not put the case. Think about it.’

b) Review of all salt bins in the village as agreed in the October minutes

Ms. Waltham agreed to inspect the bins whilst carrying-out the April monthly village report. Mr. Meischke offered to assist her.

Action: E. Waltham/J. Meischke

9 Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

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

An error was noticed in the description for the Social Club payments. The Clerk to amend and e-mail the revised accounts to all Parish Councillors.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Monthly accounts**

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council			
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty cash – Payments	
Mark Adkin – Allotment rent	<u>13.25</u>	Fasthost – Domain name for website	5.39
	<u>13.25</u>	Glasdon UK – litterbin	<u>49.80</u>
			<u>55.19</u>
Cheques issued			
C-Trees	Work to oak tree on sportsfield		1,400.00
Salaries and Wages	March 2013		1025.09
St. Albans Diocesan Board	sportsfield extension rent		90.00
J. Allsop	Phone charges to 03/2013		21.90
Post Office Limited	Tax and NI		218.34
			<u>2,755.33</u>
Cheques received			
Watton Ramblers	Donation towards seat for the Lammas		340.00
Sports and Social Club	4 th quarterly payment		337.50
			<u>677.50</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall			
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty Cash -Payments	
Floodlighting to 16.03.13	368.00	HCC – cleaning materials	<u>29.76</u>
Sharon Ling – Pavilion	36.00		<u>29.76</u>
Jim Keen – Main Hall	60.00		
Laura Holt – Main Hall	16.00		
Tina Flack – Main Hall and Pavilion	<u>52.00</u>		
	<u>532.00</u>		
Cheques issued			
James Turner			57.70
A. P. Access	2 New locks and 26 keys		314.00
Sports Courts	Deposit re surface bonding work to MPPA		1,200.00
Salaries and Wages	March 2013		351.9
			<u>1,923.60</u>
Cheques received			
Ansvar	Insurance claim for wall		629.00
Sports and Social Club	4 th quarterly payment		337.50
Dave Boddy	Main Hall and Pavilion		336.60
Watton School	Main Hall and Pavilion		635.85
Watton School (for Dots and Tots)	Pavilion		168.00
Mrs. Peters	Main Hall and Pavilion		52.00
David Griffin (Watton House)	Meeting room		10.00
			<u>2168.95</u>

Parish Councillors approved the above payments.

- **Community Hall insurance renewal**

Mr. Filer’s report reads as follows. “We had a long term undertaking (LTU) for 3 years on this at a cost last year of £1165.17. Unknown to us, it appears that if a claim is made on the policy then the LTU lapses. Accordingly, we are now being quoted £1297 for an LTU which would last until 2015. Although this is slightly higher than we allowed in the budget for 2013/14 I recommend that we accept this figure.”

Parish Council approved that the Community Hall’s insurance cover should remain with Ansvar Insurance. The Clerk to renew the policy accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Internal Audit of Parish Council accounts for the year ended 2012/13**

Mr. Filer’s report reads as follows. “The audit will be carried out by BDO and will again be the brief type of audit. I recommend that again we use Jim Morrissey to help prepare the papers for BDO.”

It was agreed to re-appoint Mr. Jim Morrissey to carry-out the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts.

The Clerk to arrange for the Parish Council accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2013, to be submitted to Jim Morrissey for auditing.

Action: J. Allsop

The Clerk reported that BDO LLP wrote on 14th March informing us of the details for the annual audit for the year ending 31st March 2013. The public inspection period starts on 29th April and ends on 28th May (a notice advertising the inspection period will be displayed on the Parish Council notice boards from 15th April to 28th April), the completed Annual Return and all relevant documentation needs to be sent to BDO Stoy Hayward LLP by 29th May.

- **External audit of Community Hall accounts for the year ended 2012/13**

Mr. Filer's report reads as follows. "I recommend that we again use McCash and Hay."

It was agreed to re-appoint McCash and Hay to carry-out the audit of the Community Hall accounts.

The Clerk will arrange for the Community Hall accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2013, to be submitted to McCash and Hay for auditing.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Renewal of annual licence for live music and recorded music**

Mr. Filer's report reads as follows. "I recommend that we agree to renew this licence - we do not know the amount yet but it should not be much more than last year."

Parish Councillors agreed to renew the music licence with PRS for Music.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Asset Registers**

Mr. Filer's report reads as follows. "This is really an annual re-assessment which in the past has been done substantially by Nigel Poulton. I have asked the Clerk to circulate the current Asset Register to Parish Council members and ask them for their comments at the Parish Council Meeting tomorrow night."

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of the draft Parish Council and Community Hall Asset Registers for 2013/14. The draft Parish Council register differs from the previous year, in that it shows two additional rubbish bins, one seat for the Lammis and the fence around the Oak tree on the sportsfield.

The Community Hall Asset Register remains the same as the 2012/13 version.

Mrs. McCash said that the headings on all the Asset Registers need changing to remove the words 'for insurance purposes'. Both registers include valuations for audit purposes, which show (where known) the actual amount items were purchased at as well as the insurance valuations, which are their replacement value.

The Clerk to amend the Asset Registers accordingly and issue copies to all Parish Councillors.

Action: J. Allsop

The Asset Registers will be formally approved at the April Parish Council meeting.

Agenda: 04/13

- **Community Hall rate demand 2013/14**

Mr. Filer's report reads as follows. "We have received the annual demand for rates at £1224.60 paid as usual in 10 monthly payments. I recommend that we agree these payments either as 10 monthly payments or as a lump sum."

The rate demand for 2013/14 is up from £1190.80 to £1224.60. The Community Hall benefits from an 80% rate relief. Parish Council agreed the payment, which will be paid by direct debit in ten instalments.

- **BDO audit briefing**

Mr. Filer's report reads as follows. "We have also received an 'Audit Briefing 2013' from BDO which raises some interesting points. I recommend that this is discussed at the April PC meeting."

Mr. Smith asked the Clerk to e-mail the 'Audit briefing 2013' to all Parish Councillors. **Action: J. Allsop**

Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Meischke reported on the following items.

- **Playground sign**

Mr. Meischke e-mailed a copy of the first-proof of the playground sign to all Parish Councillors on 12th March. Mr. Stock noticed two errors (and another by Mr. Meischke). 1stCall Signs has been informed and we await a second-proof, which upon receipt will be e-mailed to all Parish Councillors for approval.

Action: J. Meischke

- **CRB checks/Child Protection Policy**

Mr. Meischke said that Mr. Poulton was the appointed Child Protection Officer for the Community Hall Trustees and had been CRB-checked because of his involvement with the Watton Youth Drop Inn.

Mr. Meischke had asked the Clerk to find out if the Community Hall Trustees or the Parish Council are required to have a Child Protection Officer. The Clerk contacted CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts Council East Herts, who originally advised Mr. Poulton on the subject. She was informed that the Community Hall Trustees do not have to have a Child Protection Officer because they are not directly involved with children or young people. However, the Trustees could appoint one if they so wished.

CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts can organise CRB checking to members at a cost of £25 each for Parish Councillors and £50 for the Clerk. Currently the Community Hall Trustees are not members of CVS.

If the Clerk was CRB-checked (which also involves a check on her financial background), the Community Hall Trustees could consider appointing the Clerk as their Child Protection Officer.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Community Hall Trustees should become members of CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts. Mr. Stock to complete the application form for the Clerk to forward to CVS.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

- **Repairs Damaged brick wall at the entrance of the car park**

Mr. Meischke said that the repair work to the brick wall has not progressed because of the bad weather.

He also said that Mr. Smith has found a purpose built-barrier (costing £72 plus VAT) for the end of the wall. This will save us the cost and trouble of building our own barrier.

Action: M. Smith

- **Lighting**

Mr. Meischke said that the initial intention was to obtain quotations for the installation of a lamppost adjacent to the brick wall by the Community Hall. However, having sort further advice from the police, it has been agreed that the best location would be half way between the play area and the Community Hall, adjacent to the railway sleepers on the sportsfield side.

The lamppost would be connected to the Community Hall's outside lighting clock switch and D P Electrics has estimated that the cost of wiring would be in the region of £285 plus VAT. Mr. Smith said that the cost of a 5-meter high lamppost would be in the region of £150 plus an additional £50 to £60 for the lighting head. Mr. Meischke said that the total cost, including the digging of a trench from the lighting column to the Community Hall, should be in the region of £600 plus VAT. Parish Councillors agreed to the purchase of the lighting column subject to approval from Mr. Filer.

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Smith to talk to Mr. Filer accordingly.

Action: M. Smith/J. Meischke

- **Contact Adrian Thompson re lifting paint on external toilet floor**

Mr. Meischke said that this item cannot progress until the weather improves.

Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight had reported on the following items.

- **MPPA**

- **Surface maintenance**

Mr. Knight said that he had accepted Sports Courts quotation and a 25% deposit of £1200 has now been paid. The work is expected to start at the end of March. Water required to clean the MPPA surface will come from the stopcock on the sportsfield.

- **Floodlighting bulbs**

Mr. Knight said that in March 2009 Floodlighting Limited refurbished our floodlights, installing two floodlight units, with new fittings and bulbs together with protective polycarbonate shields, on each of the four columns. As previously reported, one of the bulbs has failed and the associated polycarbonate shield is badly discoloured.

Floodlighting Limited have agreed to replace the failed lamp for £60 (plus VAT), which is 50% of the normal cost, plus £160 (plus VAT) labour/travel costs. If the damage to the polycarbonate shield was caused by incorrect installation, Floodlighting Limited will replace it free of charge, otherwise there will be an additional charge of £76 (plus VAT).

They have also provided a quotation to replace all the floodlighting bulbs as follows.

Labour/Travel	£356
7 no lamps at £110	£770
1 no lamp at £60	<u>£60</u>
	<u>£1186</u> plus VAT

Mr. Meischke said that it could be quite a long time before another bulb fails and the Parish Council can then take the decision to replace all of the bulbs at the same time.

After discussion, it was agreed to ask Floodlighting Limited to quote for replacing two bulbs (the failed bulb and the working bulb) on the same lighting column.

Action: I. Knight

Mr. Knight to e-mail all Parish Councillors the revised quotation for their approval. **Action: I. Knight**

- **Sportsfield maintenance**

Mr. Knight and Mr. Smith to inspect the sportsfield to see what maintenance is required.

Action: M. Smith/I. Knight

Environment Sub-Committee

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Allotments general**

Mrs Dinnin said that two allotments holders had given up their plots and these have now been reallocated to new tenants. There are now three people remaining on the allotment waiting list.

Mrs. Dinnin said that she has not reallocated the plots at the far end of the allotments because they are overcast with trees. However, because they are not cultivated, weeds are growing on them and causing problems for the adjoining allotment plots.

It was agreed to ask Adam Welch to weed kill a strip, approximately one meter wide, along the boundary between the disused and cultivated allotments. **Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Environment Agency – River Beane Lammas Project**

Refer to item 2 - Meeting with Charlie Bell, Living Rivers Officer to discuss the Lammas and Lammas Road stretch of the River Beane.

- **Parish Council land at Rivershill**

Mr. Meischke said that, as reported at the February Parish Council meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson did not accept Adam Welch's quotation because they could get the work done cheaper elsewhere.

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Smith to arrange another site meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson

Mr. Wilkinson has promised to cut back his hedge that is overhanging the footpath in Rivershill.

Action: M. Smith/J. Meischke

- **Renewal of Ferreting licenses**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the ferreting licenses are up for renewal on 30th April. Parish Councillors agreed that the following ferreting licences be renewed. .

- Renew the ferreting licenses for Mr. R. Adams of 4 Glebe Close to ferret Watton Green, the Allotments, the Lammas and the paddock at the far end of the Lammas. **Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop**

It was agreed to issue ferreting licenses to Mr. Peter Phillips (of Lammas Road), after consultation with Mr. R. Adams, to ferret designated areas of the Lammas. **Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop**

- **Renewal of license across Cottage site**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the licence for Temporary Access across the Land known as the "Old Cottage Site", at Watton Green, issued to Mr. Denis E. Filer (of Brambles, Watton Green) is up for renewal on 30th April. Parish Councillors agreed that this license should be renewed. **Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop**

- **War Memorial garden**

Mr. Stock said that it appears that the Holly planted in the War Memorial garden in the autumn of last year may have died. Mrs. Dinnin agreed to inspect the new-planting and contact Adam Welch (who did the supply and planting) accordingly. **Action: C. Dinnin**

b) Routine reports

i) Emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Smith carried-out the emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests prior to the meeting.

ii) Monthly village-report

Mr. Meischke completed the report on 7th March.

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

- **Safety surface** – some lifting but not that bad, Parish Councillors to continue to monitor.
- **See-saw** - squeaking. Wicksteed Leisure serviced the see-saw in November 2012 and it was hoped that it would resolve the squeaking problem. No action required at this time.
- **Car park wall** - refer to item 9 a, Community Hall Trustees - Repairs Damaged brick wall at the entrance of the car park.
- **MPPA fencing** - the north upright support is broken. Mr. Meischke and Mr. Knight to arrange for the fence to be repaired. **Action: J. Meischke /I. Knight**
- **Mill Lane** - there is lots of rubbish in and around the Mill Pond area. Mr. Knight said that, as previously reported, the Environment Agency hope to clear the Mill Pond (which is owned by the Abel Smith estate) as part of the river improvement works to the River Beane.
One of the wooden rails, on the post and rail bridge adjacent to the Mill Pond, is missing. The Clerk to notify Hertfordshire Highways accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Ornate village sign** - the sign is in need of brightening and lightening to restore it to its original beauty . It was agreed to contact the woodcarver, Glyn Mould who originally made the sign. The Clerk to give Mrs. Dinnin the contact details for Glyn Mould. **Action: C. Dinnin/J. Allsop**

iii) **Weekly sportsfield**

None.

iv) **Website**

Matthew Boyle e-mailed as follows on 10th March

‘My name is Matthew and I am trying to start a community for Watton on Stone. I came across your website (<http://www.watton-pc.org.uk/>)

I was just wondering if it would be possible to get a link pointing towards my site? This would be really appreciated.

<http://www.tocacity.com/location/united-kingdom/england/watton-at-stone>’

There appeared to be no enthusiasm about this matter. Item put on hold.

v) **Website diary**

None.

vi) **Highway and Lighting faults**

Mr. Stock said that in mid-January he reported the details of numerous pothole/road surface problems in Hazeldell to the Clerk who in turn reported them on-line to Hertfordshire Highways. However, none of them have been repaired and most of them have got worse since they were reported. It was also noted by a number of Parish Councillors that many of the repairs carried out on potholes appear to be of poor quality and do not last more than a matter of a few weeks.

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed that we must send a strong letter of complaint to Hertfordshire Highways. Mr. Smith and Mr. Stock to prepare a letter accordingly. **Action: M. Smith/D. Stock**

10 Correspondence received

Mr. Smith said that the Parish Council is in receipt of an e-mail (dated 18th March) from Gary Turness. A copy of this e-mail had been forwarded to all Parish Councillors. In his e-mail, Mr. Turness complains about the decision to paint yellow lines in Moorymead Close and the fiasco that has since ensued because only part of the job has been implemented due to parked cars making it impossible for all the lines to be painted.

The e-mail was not a direct complaint at the Parish Council and no action is required by the Parish Council.

11 Village organisations

- **Watton-at-Stone War Memorial Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn**

Mr. Meischke said that the Watton Youth Drop Inn committee met a couple of weeks ago.

Attendance continues to be low, however, there are still quite a few volunteers running the club. An advertising campaign is being put in place and activities such as nail and face painting will be organised. Improving links with Watton-at-Stone school and any projects they may have, could also improve membership numbers.

Parish Councillors agreed not to charge the Watton Youth Drop Inn for the use of the Community Hall for the next six months, namely 1st April to 30th September to enable them to get the club up and running again.

- **River Beane Restoration Association**

Mr. Knight said that the River Beane Restoration Association is currently very active and as reported under item 2, Meeting with Charlie Bell, Living Rivers Officer to discuss the Lammas and Lammas Road stretch of the River Beane, is working in collaboration with the Herts and Essex Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency regarding improvements in the flow of the River Beane. Oliver Heald MP continues to support the improvements to the River Beane and the core focus remains reducing output from the Whitehall pumping station.

- **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 Pre-School Playgroup.**

Mrs. Dinnin said that it would appear from having read the March Playgroup minutes, that there is a fall in numbers attending the playgroup and therefore funds are restricted. She said she would arrange to attend their next meeting to see if the Parish Council can be of any assistance.

- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club**

Ms. Waltham reported that the Sports and Social Club met last week. Rob Willis stood down as Chairman and the position is now vacant.

The Cricket Club has appointed a new committee and the future for this club looks good. Bob Spinks has been appointed Chairman, Wilf Emsley is fixtures secretary and Cled Fursland is back as Life President. Only the 1st-team will be playing this year on Saturdays afternoons and some Sunday friendlies are also being arranged.

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

- **Oliver Heald MP surgery**

Mr. Meischke said that he assisted Oliver Heald with his surgery held at the Community Hall on Saturday 16th March.

Mr. Meischke said he was ashamed to find that most of the fabric seats in the Pavilion are dirty. They are splattered in paint, glue and food and he had difficulty finding any clean ones for people to sit on. He said that the Community Hall Trustees need to consider purchasing plastic covered chairs that would be easy to keep clean and that the current fabric covered seating is not suitable for the uses it is subjected to.

Pavilion seating to be placed on the next Community Hall Trustees agenda. **Agenda: Trustees 04/2013**

12 Items for Parish News

No items were identified for inclusion in the March 2013 issue of the Parish News.

- Parish Council meeting dates for the Civic year 2013/14

Action: J. Allsop

- **The meeting closed at 2125.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 16th April 2013.**