

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. Mike Smith (Chairman)	Cllr. John Meischke (Vice-Chairman)
	Cllr. Christine Dinnin	Cllr. Catherine Hammon (after 1928)
	Cllr. Helen McCash	Cllr. David Stock
	Cllr. Emma Waltham	
	Clerk: Jane Allsop	
<b>Police:</b>	Sergeant Duncan Wallace (from 1918 and left at 1932)	

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Stephen Block, Cllr. Kay Jancey and Cllr. Ian Knight.

**2. Public Participation**

None.

**3. Chairman’s/Clerk’s Report**

None.

**4. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Dinnin declared a personal interest in item 6 a, planning applications – Land adjacent to BT exchange, High Street (Cllr. Dinnin lives opposite the application site).

**• Police Report**

Cllr. Smith welcomed Sergeant Duncan Wallace to the meeting.

A conversation ensued concerning cardboard images of policemen and their occasional deployment.

Cllr. Meischke observed that he had seen them deployed to good effect reducing speeding in Scotland and are available for £60 to £70.

Sergeant Wallace agreed to contact the Highways department to ask for their opinion on the use of cardboard cut-out policeman. The Clerk to e-mail Sergeant Wallace the details. **Action: J. Allsop**

Sergeant Wallace went through a list of crimes that have been reported since the beginning of November.

He then highlighted the need for residents and shopkeepers to be vigilant about theft over the Christmas holidays. So often homeowners will leave empty package for expensive electronic devises out on show beside their dustbins, which is an advertisement to thieves that there is new equipment in the property.

Cllr. Hammon arrived at the meeting.

Cllr. McCash said that she had asked PCSO Sally Brooks to visit the Lunch Club to talk to the elderly about security in the home.

Sergeant Wallace said that he would be retiring from the Police Force with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December. 2019, and went on to say that, although not fully qualified as a PC, Nicola Hunt will be taking over from Nic Musto, who is still on sick leave, covering the Watton-at-Stone area. PC Chapman has been covering our area in the interim.

Cllr. Smith thanked Sergeant Wallace, on behalf of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council, for all his help and support over the years and wished him a happy retirement.

Sergeant Wallace left at 1932.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting**

**a) Acceptance**

**• Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Parish Councillors agreed that the minutes be approved.

**b) Review of actions****1. The legalities of deploying 'Pop-up' Policemen**

Refer to item 4, Declaration of Interests - Police report.

**2. Contact Kompan to arrange a site visit re safety surface issues**

Cllr. Meischke said that Kompan have been contacted again about the sunken areas of safety surface around the Junior climbing frame and e-mailed photographs of the damaged areas. Kerry Bowers (Team Leader, Aftersales, Kompan) e-mailed on 6<sup>th</sup> December as follows.

“Thank you for your message, we have since looked into this and the install was in July 2014, this is out of any install warranty.

I would say you could make patch repairs if you feel necessary, the dips I would just monitor and save spending money cutting up the surface.”

Cllr. Meischke agreed to contact Kompan by phone asking them to inspect the site. **Action: J. Meischke**

**3. Chase Highways re possibility of a village gateway**

Cllr. Meischke said that Helen McCormick (Major Projects, HCC) e-mailed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A copy of this e-mail has been forwarded to all Parish Councillors.

Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr. Meischke should reply to Helen McCormick stating that the Parish Council would prefer a rustic look, preferably in plastic wood effect to minimise future maintenance.

**Action: J. Meischke**

**4. Discuss work carried out by David Payne at the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting**

This item was not discussed at the recent meeting of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee. Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Garden maintenance work on the sportsfield.

**c) Action points resolved**

1. Contact Nick Fox (Head of Wildlife, Environment and Forestry at Woodhall Estate) re fallen branch

2. Seek confirmation from Watton Place Clinic that Professor Haslam has retired before sending card

3. Contact High Street and Beane Road residents re planning application adjacent to BT exchange

4. Arrange an ad hoc meeting to discuss High Street issues

5. ‘Dig out’ as much past-information as possible re High Street traffic

6. Order a replacement toilet-roll holder and soap dispenser

7. **Ask D. P. Electrics to fit LED egress light:** outstanding

This item to be put on the January 2020 agenda.

**Agenda: 01/2020**

8. **Instruct Mark Blacktin to clear and clean the Community Hall gutters and elbows:** outstanding.

**Action: J. Meischke**

9. Chase Tree Smiths’ to find out when the work to the Oak tree on the sportsfield will be done

10. On receipt, copy quote for Lammas ecological survey to all Parish Councillors

11. Find out when the Church Walk grass verge was last cut back

12. **Speak to the Practise Manager at Watton Place Clinic re overhanging branches**

Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Church Walk grass verges.

13. Carry-out emergency lighting test and manual alarm call test

14. Chase Mark Blacktin re junior climbing frame & concrete base to ornate village sign

15. **Ask Mark Blacktin to reset Mill Lane dog bin:** Outstanding.

**Action: J. Meischke**

16. Arrange for pallet to be removed from behind the Walkern Road bench

17. Ask Mark Blacktin to quote for painting 6 benches in Spring

18. Fit new chain to Pavilion door blind

19. Obtain dog fouling notices from EHDC to replace missing ones around the village

20. Collect old Horticultural Society documentation from Debra Freeman

21. Arrange for dog fouling fliers to be included in the next issue of the Parish News

District Councillor Sophie Bell had agreed to provide some more dog fouling notices to replace those that have gone missing around the village but has not done this yet. The Clerk to chase. **Action: J. Allsop**

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

None.

**6. Planning**

Cllr. McCash reported on the following planning applications.

All applications are dealt with in line with the Parish Council’s planning protocol.

**a) Applications****i) Land adjacent to BT exchange, High Street (3/19/2222/FUL)**

Erection of 1, 3 bedroomed dwelling with garage and parking

Cllr. McCash said that Cllr. Block visited the residents affected by this application along the High Street and put letters through their doors when he found they were not home. The Clerk e-mailed all the residents of Beane Road that back onto the River Beane.

The Clerk said that she had not received any comments from residents.

There is already outline planning permission granted for a three bedroomed house on this site.

Parish Councillors agreed a no comment response. The Clerk to notify the EHDC planning department accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**ii) Land off Perrywood Lane (3/19/2369/TEL)**

Installation of 1 x 15 metre dynamic DC385 monopole, 2 Huawei antennas, 2 x 0.6 metres DIA dishes, 2 equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto with an 8-metre x 8-metre x 2.3-metre timber fenced enclosure

Cllr. McCash said that the only people affected by this application are Denis and Pam Filer (Brambles, Watton Green) and they are very happy with the prospect of having a better mobile phone signal.

Parish Councillors agreed a no comment response. The Clerk to notify the EHDC planning department accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**iii) Land to the rear of 35, 37 & 37a Station Road (3/19/2417/FUL)**

Erection of 2 dwellings to include, 4 car parking spaces, 2 garden/cycle stores and associated accesses

Planning permission was granted through the appeal process for a single dwelling on this site. The applicant has now applied to build two semi-detached dwelling on this site.

Cllr. Meischke said that John Stanley, who lives at 33 Station Road, is seeking legal advice re a covenant that applies to the Station Road terrace of houses that includes 35, 37, & 37a Station Road. This covenant prevents the gardens being developed.

After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it accepts that on appeal a single dwelling was granted permission. However, they cannot agree to the expansion of that consent to two dwellings considering the concerns expressed by neighbours, over parking and car movements on this congested street.

The Clerk to notify the EHDC planning department accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decisions**

The following decision notice was received after the December agenda was published

- **82 High Street (3/19/1575/LBC)**

Internal refurbishment of bar servery, new flooring to dining and trade areas. Replacing existing hearth in dining area, replace door to toilet lobby and removal of all fixed seating.

**-East Herts Council – granted**

**7. Specific items****a) Report from District Councillor Sophie Bell**

All Parish Councillors have been e-mailed a copy of the following report from District Cllr. Sophie Bell.

- “Climate Change Forum has been postponed to January because of Purdah.
- Working on setting up an investigation into setting up an On-Demand transport service. This will run as an alternative to traditional buses and provides an adaptable solution to transport needs. It would work slightly similarly to UBER – people can request transport and the On-Demand transport service will run the route. It has been trialled successfully in other areas, and for Watton it could provide a good alternative for people using the station from surrounding villages, for example, as this could run later into the evening than the current bus services. It could also be useful for our elderly residents, as bus stops would be more frequent (within 100m of someone’s front door) and would be able to do more unconventional routes if required, such as a couple of runs direct to supermarkets/hospitals a few times a week.
- Parking Task and Finish Group is now over, and the report is being submitted to relevant council bodies for approval this week.
- Speeding in the village  
We’re still having problems with speeding in the village. I know there has been repeated suggestions of setting up the speed watch again, but evidence suggests that this is ineffective and only generally works when people are stood out there – furthermore, as these groups can’t issue fines, even when volunteers are present some drivers may not slow down. On the basis of this, I would like to suggest we investigate all possible ways of reducing speeding in the village.  
For this, I would suggest we start with a survey, to go out as a page in the Parish News. The survey would explore all options to provide a comprehensive view of what the village wants. This could include:

- Reducing speed to 20mph
- Reducing speed down residential roads to 20mph
- More speedbumps and other traffic calming methods
- More traffic lights/crossings (several people have asked about one outside the post office)
- Speed cameras in the village
- The flashing speeding signs (like the ones we used to have)

Not all of the options we explore in the survey may be possible/some may be very unpopular, but it's a good idea to cover all bases now, and we can use this to influence next steps.

We would ask people to identify which road they live down as part of this survey to get an idea of opinions in different areas of the village, so that we can target possible solutions to different areas if necessary (for example, some people in Great Innings have asked whether it is possible for the speed limit there to be reduced to 20mph, and one person asked me if we could make the estate one way).

I wonder if we could also ask peoples' opinions about parking for this – IE suspension of parking outside shop, introduction of bolt holes, RPZs, possible increased parking at the Station/at the Community Hall etc.

I would suggest we have an online survey that people can fill in, as well as a physical version in the Parish News that people could fill in and leave in a box in the Londis or somewhere similar, to ensure as much participation as possible.

Following on from this, I hope we can work together as Parish, District and County Councils to come up with a long term, effective solution for tackling the problem of speeding in Watton.

If this is approved by the Parish Council, I would suggest we aim to get the survey in either the February or March editions of the Parish News.”

Cllr. Smith went through the salient point of District Cllr. Sophie Bell's report, which is speeding in the village. Parish Councillors agreed that they supported her idea of a village wide survey. They also agreed that District Cllr. Bell needed to be made aware that the Parish Council has tried, on numerous occasions, to address each one of the concerns she raised, which were then dismissed by HCC.

Cllr. Smith agreed to e-mail District Cllr. Bell's and invite her to discuss this matter with the Parish Council at its January meeting. **Action: M. Smith**

It was agreed that the Parish Council should try and get some funding for an additional flashing speeding signs for the War Memorial end of the High Street.

Cllr. Smith said that he had recently attempted to clear traffic parked in the Bull pub stretch of the High Street telling the drivers that they were parking in a time restricted area. Two of them said they were blue badge holders which they produced on demand and another refused to move as she was talking on her mobile phone.

#### **b) Neighbourhood plan and benefits Committee – progress report**

Cllr. Waltham said the Steering Group will hold the Neighbourhood Plan's public exhibition on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January in the Community Hall.

The Steering Group have met with Woodhall Estate, Fairview New Homes and JB Planning Associates. The latter own land at the old Perrywood yard site and had their planning application for two houses turned down earlier this year. JB Planning Associates want support to help move this land from Green belt land to a Brownfield site. The Parish Council agreed they were in favour of this proposal and would give it their full support.

Fairview New Homes and JB Planning Associates have agreed to produce exhibition boards, however the Woodhall estate are unable to attend on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

The Steering Group have also advised the Woodhall Estate about the results of the green spaces review. The St. Albans Diocesan Board and the Ryan family are yet to be informed about the plots of land in their ownership that will be afforded extra Greenbelt protection.

Cllr. Meischke said that Alan Rattue is in the process of producing a list of buildings in the village that are not listed but require extra protection because of their architectural quality and he will detail the reasons why.

Cllr. Waltham said that with reference to additional football facilities, it needs to be established if the Mill Lane site is suitable or not. Cllr. Smith is in the process of finding out from Highways, if Mill Lane is suitable for the extra car and people movement football would bring to this area, especially as there is no footpath on the bridge and the added dangers to pedestrians in the area, which include young children and their parents accessing the Scout and Guide facilities.

From the neighbourhood plan point of view, they need to look at the benefits of moving the football from its current location on the sportsfield, to another location. At the previous neighbourhood plan exhibition, villagers expressed an interest in additional youth football facilities and there was no mention of moving adult football from its current location. Villagers opinion need to be sought on this issue.

Cllr. Smith said he had been speaking to EHDC planner, Susie Defoe, who said that we do not need a transport plan and it would be a very expensive process to undertake. Bob Meadow, who heads up Highways, has agreed give Cllr. Smith the name of someone he can talk to re highways issues in Mill Lane. The Environment Agency also need to be involved if the plans progress.

If Mill Lane turns out to be an unsuitable site for highways or environmental purposes, then Woodhall Estate need to be approached again for another site.

The Steering Group will be meeting again on 6<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the final details of the exhibition.

**c) Traffic in the High Street**

Cllr. Smith said that Cllr. Jancey will arrange a meeting to discuss the High Street issues early in the New Year when she will have more time to focus on this important issue.

**d) Montage of Allan Rattue’s photographs**

This item to be deferred to February 2020 Parish Council meeting.

**Agenda: 02/2020**

**8. Reports**

**a) Sub-Committees**

**Budget & Finance**

In the absence of Cllr. Block, Cllr. Smith reported on the following items.

• **Monthly accounts**

<b>Petty Cash – Receipts</b>		<b>Petty cash - Payments</b>	
None		None	
<b>Cheques issued</b>			
Frank Cooper	Line marking		126.00
Wages and Salaries	November 2019		1303.5
Adam Welch	½ season maintenance work and leaf clearance		1,545.00
Affinity Water	Water supply for allotments		387.46
David Payne	Strimming and mowing		45.00
BSWW	Parish News for dog fouling flier inserts		27.50
			<b>3,434.46</b>
<b>Cheques received</b>			
Sports and Social Club	Line marking donation		105.00
Sports and Social Club	Quarter 3 - sportsfield use		386.25
			<b>491.25</b>

**Watton-at-Stone Community Hall**

<b>Petty Cash – Receipts</b>		<b>Petty Cash -Payments</b>	
Scouts- Main Hall hire	10.00	Philip Smith – Travel expenses -	40.50
Active East Herts - November	485.00	Tony Silvestri – Yoga instruction -	90.00
Claire Lale – Main Hall and Pavilion	63.00	JSM Archery	40.00
Sophie Hussain – Main Hall	20.00		<b>170.50</b>
Tony Silverstri – Pavilion	24.00		
Mark Smith – Main Hall and Pavilion	60.00		
Begonia Garcia – toy use donation	5.00		
Felicitas Dixon – Main Hall &	22.00		
Felicitas Dixon – toy use donation	5.00		
	<b>694.00</b>		
<b>Cheques issued</b>			
Wages	November 2019		386.48
E-service (Europe) Ltd	Floodlighting coin timing machine		174.00
			<b>560.48</b>
<b>Cheques received</b>			
Karen Richardson	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		90.00
Paula Sutton	Main Hall		205.20
Peter Khera (Shotokan Karate)	Main Hall		177.65
C. Paton	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		75.00
Rachel Marshall	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		45.00
Youth Club	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		178.50
John McLellen	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		72.00
Sports and Social Club	Quarter 3 – hall usage		386.25
Kelly Rothberg	Main Hall and Pavilion hire		52.50
Ben Talbott	Toilet and changing room facilities		60.00
			<b>1342.10</b>

Parish Councillors approved the payments.

- **Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Cllr. Smith said that Cllr. Block will present the 2020/21 budgets at the January 2020 Parish Council meeting.

### Community Hall Trustees

Cllr. Meischke reported on the following items.

- **Roof**

Cllr. Meischke said that Cllr. Smith had obtained a quotation of £5,520 (plus VAT) from P. J. Andrews Services Limited, who installed a one-piece roof over the existing pavilion roof in 2016. This roof had started to lift when the wind was in a certain direction. This latest quotation is £180 cheaper than in 2016 and is to supply and fit the same style of plastic-coated galvanised steel roof over the changing room low-level roof.

The Budget and Finance Sub-Committee discussed at length the need to reroof the low-level roof on the car park side of the hall, at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November, and decided that the full Parish Council should ultimately make this decision. Cllr. Smith said that P. J. Andrews do not intend to carry on doing this type of roofing for much longer as they moved on to a different type of business. In 2016 another quotation to re-roof the pavilion roof came in at over £25,000.

After lengthy discussions, Parish Councillors agreed that it would make financial sense to accept this latest quotation to reroof the changing room side. It was agreed that the roof could develop the same flapping problem the pavilion roof suffered from and if this occurred after P. J. Andrews Services Limited have stopped doing this type of roof, it would be very costly. Also, the current roof tiles are very difficult to fit as they were not installed in the conventional manner, meaning that rows of tiles must be removed to replace a broken tile. The Clerk confirmed that the Community Hall has enough funds in reserves to pay for the new roof.

Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr. Smith should ask P. J. Andrews Services Limited if they would be willing to submit a quotation to reroof the high-level roof. If accepted, the work could either be done at the same time as the low-level roof, or at a later state. Funding of the high-level roof would be agreed at a later stage but could be paid for from New Homes Bonus funds.

Cllr. Smith to contact P. J. Andrews Services Limited accordingly.

**Action: M. Smith**

- **Deep Clean**

The cleaners are expected to finish deep cleaning the Community Hall within the next week.

- **Outside toilet**

Mark Blacktin has completed the repair work to the outside toilets following vandalism that occurred in early November.

- **Flood light Meters and Egress lights**

Cllr. Meischke said he sourced a replacement floodlighting coin meter, which has now been fitted and is working correctly. He said it was not an exact replacement and he had to modify the metal plate fitted on the outside of the Community Hall, which stops the meter box being vandalised.

He suggested that a spare coin meter box be purchased as the other meter box is now over 20 years old.

The cost of the box is £145.00 plus VAT. This was agreed by all Parish Councillors present at the meeting.

Cllr. Meischke to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Meischke**

Parish Councillors thanked Cllr. Meischke for resolving the floodlighting coin meter problem.

- **Trustee meeting Date**

Cllr. Meischke will arrange a date for the Trustees to meeting in January 2020.

**Action: J. Meischke**

### Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee

In the absence of Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Smith read out the following report.

- **Tennis Court**

The two old courts are very slippery with moss due to the wet weather, there have been two incidents of near injury in recent matches with visiting teams

I would like approval to go ahead and moss kill the two courts. The cost from Sports Courts would be £385. They would need to wait for a couple of dry days but at least it would be planned.

Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr. Knight should instruct Sports Courts to moss kill the double courts.

**Action: I. Knight**

## Environment Sub-Committee

Cllr. Dinnin reported on the following item.

- **Oak Tree on the Sportsfield**

Cllr. Dinnin said that Tree Smiths carried-oud work to the Oak tree by the tennis courts yesterday (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December). Cllr. Smith said he had inspected the tree and presumably it was done as specified by EHDC.

- **Garden maintenance work on the sportsfield**

Cllr. Dinnin said that she had updated the sportsfield work schedule and three contractors were asked if they were interested in quoting to do the work.

Adam Welch is still considering giving a quotation for this work. Ryan Chisholm was not interested on this occasion.

Cllr. Dinnin said she and Cllr. Meischke are arranging to meet with Adrian Thompson on site to discuss the work required. **Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Lammas information boards**

Cllr. Dinnin said that she requested a firm quotation for the ecological survey of the Lammas from Tim Hall Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trusts, which he e-mailed her on 13<sup>th</sup> November. She then forwarded it to all Parish Councillors, who agreed that at £785 plus VAT, it was too expensive. Cllr. Dinnin e-mailed Tim Hall back to say that the Parish Council will wait until the Neighbourhood Plan is completed and then will reappraise the green spaces within our control.

Cllr. Meischke said that his son-in-law works for Edinburgh University and could perform a survey of the site during his next visit and again in the Spring/Summer months to see what wildlife there is on the Lammas so that these wildlife depictions can be included on the information map.

Cllr. Meischke said that he had given the Lammas information map to Bob Thornton, who was going to speak to Tim Hill to clarify the wildlife depictions to be included on the map, however this is no longer appropriate. Cllr. Meischke said that he could liaise with his son-in-law in due course.

Cllr. Dinnin to ask Mark Blacktin to put up the new byelaw sign, which was made in March 2019, and not wait to install it at the same time as the information board. **Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Footpath on Station Road by the side of the doctors**

The footpath near the car park entrance to Watton Place Clinic has been cleared by Hertfordshire Highways. However, Watton Place Clinic have not cut back the overhanging branches on the footpath from the corner of the High Street and Station Road up to the entrance of the car park.

Cllr. Dinnin to ask the Practice Manager at Watton Place Clinic when the work will be done.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Church Walk grass verges**

Cllr. Dinnin said that the last time the Church Walk grass verges were cut back, Mark Blacktin did the work. Cllr. Meischke said that Mark Blacktin is not keen on doing the work all in one go but might be willing to do it can be done over a period of a couple of months. It was agreed to ask him to quote for the work provided he completes the work before Spring.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Cottage site**

Cllr. Dinnin said that Tony Bradford has done some more clearance and tree planting on the Cottage Site.

## b) Routine Reports

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

Cllr. Meischke and Cllr. Stock did the above tests prior to the meeting.

- ii) **Gas and electricity meter readings**

Cllr. Meischke gives the Clerk gas and electricity meter readings at the end of each month and she uploads these readings to the providers websites.

- iii) **Weekly reports - Fire Inspection and shower tests**

Done.

- iv) **Monthly village-report**

Cllr. McCash completed the report on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. She said that she had been unable to do the sportsfield part of the report due to wet weather.

**Note:** Cllr. McCash inspected the sportsfield area on 12<sup>th</sup> December and noted that the Tennis courts surfaces were slippery and there was mud around some of the children's play equipment areas and in the Community Hall car park.

- v) **Weekly sportsfield**

None.

vi) **Weekly defibrillator inspection**

Cllr. Hammon said that she has checked the defibrillator weekly and recorded her inspections in the diary provided for this purpose.

vii) **Website/Facebook.**

None.

viii) **Highway and Lighting faults**

No repair work has been done to the Mill Lane bridge over the River Beane. Cllr. Smith to send photos of the damaged areas of the bridge to the Clerk so she can forward them to County Cllr. Ken Crofton for urgent attention. **Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop**

ix) **Dog fouling reports**

Refer to item below.

x) **Police reports**

Refer to item 4 – Declaration of Interests – Police report.

Cllr. McCash said that she attended a recent police rural working party meeting with some local farmers also in attendance. Included in the discussions were hare coursing and the problem of off-road motor bikes especially in the Perrywood lane area.

Another item raised was dog fouling in the Woodhall Estate’s Jubilee Park. This is the area of trees planted by the estate on their land between Walkern Road, Mill Lane and the bypass. Cllr. McCash said that this area is so full of dog excrement that they are now unable to cut the grass.

The Woodhall estate would like to pay for the installation and emptying of a dog waste bin by the entrance to Watton House. The Clerk said that they would need to contact EHDC direct re the installation of a dog waste bin. Cllr. McCash to notify the Woodhall Estate accordingly. **Action: H. McCash**

Cllr. Smith said that the footpaths referred to above were largely 'Permissive' and may not have the same legal status as public footpaths as far as defecation was concerned.

Cllr. McCash handed round Echo leaflets, which contain the contact details to encourage members of the public to have their say on policing in the rural community.

**9. Correspondence received**

**E-mail from Little Munden Parish Council**

Cllr. Smith said that the Clerk to Little Munden Parish Council e-mailed on 8<sup>th</sup> December asking if the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council would support them in objecting to the following application.

**Land at Home Farm, Munden Road, Dane End, Ware**

**Proposal:** Part conversion and part demolition of existing buildings. Provision of mixed-use development for B1 use (business) and D1 use (non-residential institutions). Erection of 38 dwellings, 15 to be affordable housing. Works to include access, landscaping, engineering and associated works. Provision of 101 car parking spaces and 40 cycle spaces.

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed to support Little Munden Parish Council in objecting to the application and write to the planning department stating that it is not what the District Council had in mind for Group 2 villages particularly where sustainability is an issue as it is in Dane End. **Action: M. Smith**

**10. Village organisations**

• **War Memorial Hall Management Committee**

Cllr. Stock attended the AGM of the War Memorial Hall Management Committee on 13th November, followed by the regular committee meeting.

The finances remain in a healthy state and bookings are high and stable.

The War Memorial Hall Trustees thanked the committee for their work and another successful year.

- Mrs. Helen McCash was re-elected as Chairman
- Mrs. Pam Filer as Treasurer
- Mr. Peter Doolan as Secretary
- Mrs. Christine Grant as the Bookings Secretary.

**11. Items for Parish News**

None.

**The meeting closed 2107.**

**The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**