

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2022

Present:	Cllr. Michael Smith (Chair)	Cllr. John Meischke (Vice-Chair)
	Cllr. Stephen Block	Cllr. Christine Dinnin
	Cllr. Catherine Hammon	Cllr. Ian Knight
	Cllr. Helen McCash	Cllr. David Stock
	Cllr. Emma Waltham	Clerk: Jane Allsop

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Cllr. Kay Jancey.

2. Public participation

None.

3. Chairman's/ Clerk's report

None.

4. Declaration of interests

Cllrs. McCash declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee – Annual audits (Immediate Family).

5. Minutes of the last meeting.

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2022**
Parish Councillors agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.

b) Review of actions

1. **Look at alternative insurance providers**
Refer to item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee – Parish Council and Community Hall insurance cover.
2. **Fit a new litterbin to the play area-side of the railings on the new entrance onto the sportsfield**
Two new litterbins have been delivered and will be fitted before the Jubilee celebrations. One is for the sportsfield and the other to replace a broken bin in the High Street. **Action: M. Smith/J. Meischke**
3. **Speak to the owners of new Budgens shop re litterbin**
Cllr. Smith said that he had spoken to the owners of Budgens about the litter problem caused by coffee cups etc. He was disappointed that they had chosen to remove the litterbin located outside their shop when they took over from the previous owners. The former owners used to empty their bin regularly into their large bin container, together with the EHDC bin located outside Crumbs.
The Budgens owners have said they will consider the matter.
4. **Investigate tree down along the Rivershill section of the River Beane**
Cllr. Smith said that he had spoken to Nick Fox (Woodhall Estate), and he agreed to remove the fallen tree if it is on their side of the river.

c) Action points resolved

1. Arrange for the Community Hall accounts to be submitted to McCash & Hay for auditing
2. Send Charles Clark a letter of thanks for submitting a successful grant application
3. Amend agreement for use of Parish Council land adjacent to Beane Cottage
4. **Purchase self-charging lights for use on link footpath running from the Bull car park to Rivershill**
Cllr. Meischke said that he had now fitted the lights. He asked Parish Councillors using this footpath in winter to inform him if they are working or not. He is concerned that when the daylight hours are reduced there may not be enough power generated to work the lights. They have so far been well received by those using the footpath at night.
5. **Contact Youth Football Club re selling beverages and snacks at the Platinum Jubilee event**
Cllr. Meischke confirmed that the Youth Football Club will be selling beverages (coffee, tea and cordial) as well as crisps and chocolate snacks. They have been asked not to sell other food items or fizzy drinks that Scouts will be selling with their barbeque.
6. **Order new litterbin to replace the one broken opposite Crumbs in the High Street**
Refer to item 5 b 2, Review of actions - Fit a new litterbin to the play area-side of the railings on the new entrance onto the sportsfield.
7. **Obtain quotations for installing motion sensor lights in all the toilets at the Community Hall**
Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall.

8. Ask Adam Welch to inspect the trees on Watton Green and quote for any work required

Cllr. Dinnin said that she did ask Adam Welch to provide a quote for work required at Watton Green. However, he did not quote but did the work instead and will include a charge of £60 for the work when he invoices the Parish Council for his regular work in the village. Parish Councillors approved this expenditure.

9. E-mail all Parish Councillors a copy of Cllr. Waltham's monthly village-report**6. Planning****a) Applications**

The following planning application was received after the agenda was published.

• Lane Croft, Perrywood Lane (3/22/0973/ASDPN)

Construction of an additional storey to increase the height of the dwelling from 5.295 metres to 7.887 metres

Parish Councillors studied the plans and expressed concern regarding the visual impact that raising the height of this property by almost 2.5 metres would have on the surrounding areas. Although the dwelling is just outside the conservation area, it could impact it. Cllr. Hammon said the increased dwelling height might be visible from protected view WAS18 within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed to write to the planning department accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Decisions**i) Watton-at-Stone Community Sports Hall, School Lane (3/22/0277/FUL)**

Car park extension

- EHDC permission refused

ii) Gregorys Barn, Gregorys Farm, Dane End (3/21/0211/FUL)

Change of use of 2 attached barns to 1 residential dwelling. Single storey frameless glass extension. New ground floor, first floor and roof window openings and blocking up of existing openings. External alterations with stained black softwood feathergate boarding and white render finish to brickwork. New patio and fence

- EHDC permission granted

7. Specific items**a) Neighbourhood plan and benefits**

The NP team is reviewing comments following Regulation 14. They hope to complete this work in June and recommend any changes to the Plan to the Parish Council. Once the Plan is approved and submitted to EHDC, EHDC will co-ordinate the Regulation 15 public consultation, which will be followed by a review of the Plan and consultation comments by a Planning Inspector.

Cllr. Waltham asked for an update on the Youth football pitches for Mill Lane. Groundwork Trust have paid a grant of £14,965 towards feasibility studies for the site. Cllr. Smith said that a tomography report has been done and this shows that it would not be possible to fit an (Under) U15's pitch on the site but a U13/14 would be achievable together with an U7/8 pitch. The ground is very poor and will require the addition of topsoil to the site. Access from the bypass end of Mill Lane, may be needed, as taking so many vehicles into Mill Lane from the High Street could cause damage to the road infrastructure (bridges and culverts).

Cllr. Hammon said that the Woodhall Estate were reluctant to suggest any other sites than the Mill Lane site. The NP team's preferred site had been on Woodhall Estate land off Church Lane and nearest to the school, so that their parking facilities could be easily accessed. However, the Woodhall Estate have been unwilling to offer this land.

Cllr. Smith will continue to update Parish Councillors of the progress he is making.

b) Hockerill footpath behind the George and Dragon public house

Cllr. Smith said there was no progress to report on this item, however he had spoken to CClr. Ken Crofton about this again.

This item to remain on the agenda until resolved.

Agenda: 06/2022

c) Overgrown hedge along the Hockerill footpath

Cllr. Dinnin said that the hedge in front of the bungalows is overgrown and needs cutting back. This is on the opposite side of the footpath to 78 High Street.

The Clerk to report this overgrown hedge

Action: J. Allsop

d) Work required to HCC owned hedge that runs along the Grey House boundary

This item to be removed from the agenda.

e) Speed signs

Cllr. Smith said that he is still waiting to hear the result of our application for funding towards speed signs for the village. He agreed to chase.

Action: M. Smith

f) Parish Council land adjacent to Beane Cottage

Cllr. Smith said that he is liaising with Cllr. Hammon to amend the current license we have with Mr. Sell re his use of the Parish Council land adjacent to Beane Cottage now that he has agreed to pay an annual rent of £400 per annum for its use.

When they have agreed the document, Cllr. Smith will sign it and send it to Mr. Sell.

Action: M. Smith/C. Hammon

- **High street**

Cllr. Waltham expressed her concern that drivers are not taking notice of the car parking restrictions along the stretch of road outside the Bull pub and shops. The yellow lines have nearly disappeared, and she is concerned for people, especially children crossing the road on this dangerous stretch of the High Street. She said her daughter was due to go to secondary school in autumn and she would not be happy about her crossing the road on the return journey home.

It was agreed that the parking problems have got considerably worse since the Parish Council last discussed the problem with the Highways department. A scheme had been agreed that would have helped alleviate the problem, but this was totally overturned at the time by the shop owners and the current scheme was installed instead.

The Parish Council agreed that firstly they would contact EHDC enforcement asking them to arrange for traffic wardens to visit the village on a regular basis. Secondly, they would contact Highways stating the business model in this stretch of the High Street has changed and needs to be revisited.

Cllr. Stock said that the biggest way forward when resolving the Station Road issues had been during a site visit when one of those attending had to quickly get out of the way of a speeding car, which would have knocked them over. It was agreed that a morning site visit with members of the Highways team, during the restricted parking times, would be the best option to reopen discussion.

EHDC and Highways to be contacted accordingly.

Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop

- **New roundabout**

Cllr. Waltham said that the new A602 roundabout is not being used properly. Those wanting to go straight ahead onto the Watton bypass are going into the right lane with those that want to turn right onto the Ware Road, and nobody is using the left-hand lane, which logically should be used by those going straight ahead. This is causing traffic to back up unnecessarily.

g) First aid course

Cllr. Jancey provided the following report.

‘My e-mail to London Heart has had no response, nor has the one to Staff Skills training.

Cllr. Bell has responded and said:

The project would be suitable for the community grants programme. The parish council can apply for up to £300 any time to part cover the costs of delivering a course for members of the community.

However, I think we should share the link below to the whole community. Cheaper and will reach a wider audience.

I have tried it and found it to be a great resource.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes.>’

Cllr Block said that the online tutorial was a very good resource. One half of the tutorial teaches you how to administer CPR and the other explains how to use a Defibrillator.

Parish Councillors agreed to advertise this on Facebook, our website, in the Parish News and on the noticeboards and BT phone box.

Action: J. Allsop

8. Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Cllr. Block reported on the following items.

- **Monthly accounts**

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council		
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty cash - Payments
None		None
Payments		
Frank Cooper & Son Ltd	Pitch marking on 24/02.22, 25/03.22, 8/04.22	126.00
Wages and salaries	April 2022	1,393.64
Grassroots	War Memorial maintenance – March 2022	50.40
eBay		29.75
Grassroots	War Memorial maintenance – April 2022	50.40
BT	phone bill to 28th April 2022	24.33
Fantastic Fireworks Ltd	Firework display for Platinum Jubilee celebrations	3,600.00
Frank Cooper & Son Ltd	Grass cutting on 22nd & 29th April	156.00
Frank Cooper & Son Ltd	Pitch marking on 29th April	42.00
East Herts District	3 dog bins emptying on 65 occasions between 01/04/22-31/03/23	503.30
JRB Enterprise	Dog waste bags	261.60
		6,237.42

Receipts		
Groundwork Trust	Grant for Youth football project	14,965.00
East Herts District	1st precept payment	19,245.00
Nationwide	Interest for period 01.4.22 to 30.04.22	26.93
Santander	Interest on deposit account	1.27
Sports and Social Club	Football pitch marking donation	210.00
		34,448.20
Watton-at-Stone Community Hall		
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty Cash -Payments
Floodlighting donations	72.00	
Tony Silverstri – Pavilion	30.00	
Art Group – Meeting room	48.00	
Youth Football – Main Hall	48.00	
	198.00	
Payments		
British Gas	gas	154.11
Wages	April 2022	304.50
British gas	electricity	110.78
HMRC	VAT return - March 2022	137.71
East Herts Council	Rates - payment 2 of 10	73.00
M K Windows	Repair to one side of high-level window opening mechanism	1,554.00
		2,334.10
Receipts		
Stephen Block	Table Tennis - Main Hall 01 - 04 2022	80.00
Jo Jamieson Da Silva	2nd payment for hire - 24th April	33.25
Talbot Fitness	April use of toilets and changing rooms	60.00
Gustave Jahnert	2nd payment for hire - 2nd May	44.00
Santander	bank interest	0.68
Pam Grandison	1st 50% deposit for hire - 19th July	33.00
HCC	Meeting room hire on 24th April	42.00
Janine Gildersleve	Main Hall hire - April - June	596.12
Tim & Victoria	2nd payment for hire - 14th May	47.50
Paula Sutton	Main Hall hire - April - June	259.35
		1,195.90

Parish Councillors approved the payments.

- Internal Audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**
 Stuart McCash has completed the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 with a clean bill of health. Parish Councillors approved payment of Mr. McCash's invoice for £270.
Action: J. Allsop
- Approval of the Annual Return of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**
 The partially completed AGAR form was e-mailed to Parish Councillors on 15th May.
 The Parish Council went through the annual governance statement and the following questions were answered as listed below.

Section 1 – Annual governance statement	
We acknowledge as members of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 st March 2021 that,	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	Yes
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes
4. We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Yes
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes
6. We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	Yes

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	Yes
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events, or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	Yes
9. Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee, we discharged our responsibility fund(s) assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit	N/A

Parish Councillors agreed that the Annual governance statement detailed in section one (listed above) of the Annual Return, together with section two, the accounting statement 2021/2022, be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Clerk will send the completed Annual Return and relevant documentation to PKF Littlejohn (official auditors) 1st July 2022.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Audit of the Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**

All Parish Councillors were e-mailed (on 15th May) a copy of the audited Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022. Parish Councillors approved the audited Community Hall accounts and agreed that Cllr. Smith sign two copies of the accounts, one of which will be returned to McCash and Hay.

Parish Councillors approved payment of McCash & Hay's invoice for £168

Action: J. Allsop

- **Parish Council and Community Hall insurance over (due for renewal on 1st June 2022)**

Cllr. Block said his recommendation is to renew our insurance with our current providers. the Parish Council use BHIB, who are insurance brokers and are the official partner of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Our policy is with Aviva who are the UK's largest insurer. The renewal premium is £1555.24 compared to £1406.28 last year an increase of 10.6%. This is explained by index-linking and the rising costs of claims. Having reviewed our cover Cllr. Block is confident that we are satisfactorily insured even taking into account the new playground equipment.

Parish Councillors approved Cllr. Block's recommendation to renew the BHIB insurance policy for three-year deal until 2025.

Action: J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

Cllr. Meischke reported on the following items.

- **Hall wall**

There is a lot of weeds and grass growing in the mortar lines of the Community Hall boundary brick wall. Cllr. Meischke said if they are left to grow it could cause the wall to fail.

It was agreed to ask Frank Cooper & Son Limited to apply weedkiller to both sides of the wall.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Caretaker**

Cllr. Meischke said that he had received several enquiries about the caretaker position and will be meeting with someone soon to discuss the role, but to date, nobody has officially applied for the job.

The deadline date for applications officially closed on Sunday 15th May 2022.

- **Jubilee event**

Cllr. Meischke said that he had done some advertising of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on the sportsfield. This includes on Facebook, our website and notices around the village. He said he does not want to advertise further afield for fear that too many people will attend and resultant parking problems that would occur.

Cllr. Meischke has spoken to Annie (Watton Place Clinic) to see if they know of any first aiders who can attend the event. He is awaiting a response.

D. P. Electrics have checked the hall's electrics suitability for the music event and found that the electrical point in the outside footballer's storage cupboard needs to be upgraded. The Pavilion, kitchen and Main Hall sockets are fine.

It was agreed to instruct D P Electrics to upgrade the outside storage socket so it can be used by the live band during the jubilee event.

Action: J. Meischke

Cllrs. Meischke and Stock to do a risk assessment prior to the event.

Action: J. Meischke/D. Stock

It was agreed to inform our insurers that we are holding a free of charge event on Saturday 4th June.

Action: J. Allsop

The Youth Football Club, who will be selling soft drinks and sweets, will need to sign a hire agreement for use of the Pavilion and kitchen facilities and be charges a nominal fee of £1.

Action: J. Meischke

- **New bins installation**

Two new bins have been delivered. One is to be located on the sportsfield adjacent to the ramp near the tennis courts and the other is to replace the vandalised bin outside 112 High Street (opposite Crumbs).

- **High level window repair**

M K Windows have repaired the high-level window winder mechanism at a cost of £1,295 plus VAT.

- **Toilet lights**

D. P. Electricians have been asked to quote for the supply and installation of new LED lights with built in sensors to turn the lights on and off in all 5 inside toilets. When no motion is detected after a set amount of time (for example 10 minutes) both the lights and fans will automatically turn off.

- **Car park**

Cllr. Meischke said that the refusal of the car park application was covered under item 6 b i, planning decisions.

The lack of parking continues to be a problem. He said that he had to put five cars on the field a few nights ago as there was insufficient parking. Both football and tennis were using the field and many of the tennis players, who lived close by, chose to drive to the hall. Cllr. Meischke asked Cllr. Knight to request that the Tennis Club players walk to the courts when they live close by.

Action: I. Knight

He said we may not have been granted permission but he's not giving up on this project.

- **New entrance to play area**

Cllr. Meischke said that due to the car park extension application being refused, he had gone back to Ben Storey (Grassroots) asking him to requote separately for the disabled ramp from Church Walk onto the play area next to the toddler swing and slide equipment.

- **Grassroots**

£7,579.57 plus £1,515.91 VAT

This includes the supply and fitting of the handrail

- **Ace Driveways & Ground Works Ltd**

£4,850.00 plus £970 vat

This does not include the supply of the handrail but does include fitting it. An additional £800 for a retaining wall may be required.

It was agreed to accept Ace Driveways quotation. Both contractors to be notified accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Cllr. Smith to give the Clerk the details for ordering the new handrail.

Action: M. Smith/ J. Allsop

Cllr. Meischke said that the large car park bin will be relocated to near the new ramp, after the completion of these works.

- **Hall energy consumption**

Cllr. Smith said that the Community Hall would be a viable option for a ground source heat pump installation using either horizontal pipes or digging down deep to install vertical pipes. Grants are available and most of the capital outlay would be recovered over a 7-year period. Cllr. Smith said we have the funds to provide such an installation and in the long term it would save money. He said he had made some preliminary enquiries from a well reputed company in Cambridge; however, they would not be in a position to do the work for approximately 2 years, and he has therefore asked them to provide recommendations of alternative installers.

Cllr. Meischke said that the orientation of the Community Hall building is not ideal for solar panels. When building the hall, the main factor had been to position the pavilion room in the same orientation as the original cricket pavilion and solar panels were not considered at that time.

Parish Councillors agreed that we should investigate this option. Cllr. Hammon said that she had a contact who is installing ground source heat pumps and would pass their details to Cllr. Smith.

Action: C. Hammon

It was noted that the Community Hall is not an ideal candidate for air source heating or a ground source pump as it is thermally inefficient. In order for a heat pump to work at its most efficient, the hall would need to be well insulated to prevent as much heat from escaping as possible and have underfloor heating installed.

However, it would be possible to make significant upgrades to the hall when windows need replacing and underfloor heating installed when the flooring needs upgrading.

Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee

Cllr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **Tennis Court resurfacing**

Cllr. Knight said that the Parish Council, at its meeting held in March 2021, agreed that we would resurface the double tennis courts in 2022. He proposed that the work be done around August and would obtain up to date quotations for the resurfacing work and e-mail them to Parish Councillors for approval. This was agreed by all present.

Action: I. Knight

Cllr. Smith said that, whilst carrying out the 6-month inspection with Cllr. Dinnin, they noted that the fencing, although it looks good from a distance, is taking quite a battering. Tennis players are bouncing against the fence because they are not restricted by kicker boards anymore. Similarly, football players who are missing goals are doing the same from the other side. Mr. Knight was asked when obtaining quotations to resurface the double courts, to ask contractors to include the re-tensioning of the perimeter fences on all courts and re-securing the stays.

Action: I. Knight

- **Goal mouths**

Cllr. Knight said that Scott Reynolds (men's football team) has requested that the Parish Council carry out repairs to the goalmouths.

Cllr. Smith to contact both Grassroots and Frank Cooper asking them to quote for repairing the goalmouths.

Cllr. Smith also to look at the possibility of artificial goal mouths.

Action: M. Smith

Once the goal mouths work has been done, the surface will require watering regularly by the football clubs.

Environment Sub-Committee

Cllr. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Allotments**

Cllr. Dinnin said that she had now re-let the vacant allotments to two people from the waiting list.

Quite a number of plots are currently not being cultivated. It was agreed to e-mail these allotment holders asking them if they are willing to give up their plots to allow someone else the opportunity of having one.

Action: C. Dinnin/J. Allsop

- **Watton Green**

Refer to item 6 c 8, Action points resolved - Ask Adam Welch to inspect the trees on Watton Green and quote for any work required.

- **Lammas**

Cllr. Dinnin said that the Lammas is looking lovey. She estimated that the grass would not need cutting for another 3 or 4 weeks.

Cllr. Smith said that he will ensure that Stanley Agricultural are fully operational with their contact to cut the grass on Watton Green and the Lammas and the hedge cutting around the sportsfield and Church Walk before he leaves the Parish Council in September this year.

Action: M. Smith

He will also ensure that they include cutting the grass around the edges of the Lammas when required.

- **Mill site**

The Mill owner remains keen to get involved with the notching of the River Beane Weir adjacent to his property.

Cllr. Smith said that he had made contact with both Tim Hill (Conservation Manager) and Sarah Perry (River Catchment Coordinator) from Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. They have agreed to contact the Environment Agency to reinstate the River Beane upgrade project through the Lammas, which included baffles and the notching of the weir to slow the river down and putting a gully in to feed into the Mill Pond at times of flood. A site meeting will then need to be arranged between all the different parties. Cllr. Smith said that he also wanted to speak to them about the possibility of a pedestrian footpath in Mill Lane over the River Beane.

b) Routine Reports

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

Cllr. Meischke continues to carry-out the emergency escape lighting and manual alarm call tests on a monthly basis. He also continues to inspect the hall regularly including running the water every 2-3 weeks to prevent the risk of legionnaires disease.

- 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. Dinnin completed the report on 14th May 2022, a copy of her report has been e-mailed to all Parish Councillors.

- **Tennis Courts** - the double tennis court awaiting resurfacing and the boundary fencing is bulging where footballs and tennis players hit the fence. Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - Tennis Court resurfacing.

- **Allotments** – some paths need cutting back.

- **War Memorial** - the Michael Freeman memorial bench needs bird droppings removed.

- vi) **Weekly sportsfield-report**

Nothing to report.

vii) 6- Month report

Cllrs. Dinnin and Smith completed the report on 14th May 2022.

- **Tennis courts** - refer to item 8 b, iv – monthly village report
- **Community Hall** – the loft ladders not checked. Cllrs. Meischke and Block to inspect.

Action: J. Meischke/S. Block

- **Benches** – 4 High Street benches have been identified as needing painting, these are
 - High Street North near bus stop.
 - High Street near Mill Lane.
 - Station Road opposite junction with Rectory Lane.
 - High Street South adjacent to the ornate village sign.

In addition:

- One bench on the sportsfield will be removed when the new ramp is installed
- The bench at the High Street/ Great Innings roundabout is in its usual state of being covered in bird droppings and plant debris. It was agreed to look at the possibility of moving this seat to replace the one by the bus stop. As this is a memorial seat, the family would need to be contacted first.

Action: C. Dinnin/M. Smith

- **BT phone box**

The inside of the BT phone box needs cleaning. It was agreed to ask Rosemary and her team if they would clean it out.

Action: J. Allsop

viii) Weekly defibrillator inspection

Nothing to report.

ix) Website/Facebook

Items to be put on the website and Facebook

- Jubilee notice
- British heart foundation website

Action: J. Allsop

x) Highway issues

None.

xi) Dog fouling reports

None.

xii) Police reports

All Parish Councillors have been e-mailed PCSO Sally Brook's police report of 17th May.

9. Correspondence received**a) E-mail from Ian McCreddie re Police cars racing through the village**

Ian McCreddie e-mailed the Parish Council copies of email correspondence he had with the police re their speeding through the village. Cllr. Smith said he had also witnessed similar police speeding along the High Street.

Cllr. Meischke said that Hendon Police train their officers for high-speed chases on various routes, one of which includes Watton-at-Stone High Street.

It was agreed to reply to Mr. McCreddie informing him that his e-mail was discussed at our May Parish Council meeting, and we note his comments, but we have no jurisdiction over this issue. **Action: J. Allsop**

10. Village organisations

None.

11. Items for Parish News

None.

The meeting closed at 2117.

The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 14th June 2022.