

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 6 December 2022

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. Emma Waltham (Chairperson)	Cllr. John Meischke (Vice-Chair)
	Cllr. Stephen Block	Cllr. Christine Dinnin
	Cllr. Annabel Kirk	Cllr. Ian Knight
	Cllr. David Stock	Cllr. Nicola White
		Clerk: Jane Allsop
<b>Public:</b>	Mr and Mrs McPherson (left meeting 1930)	

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Cllrs. Helen McCash and Catherine Hammon.

### 2. Public participation

Cllr. Waltham welcomed Mr. and Mrs. McPherson to the meeting and agreed that item 7d, Specific items - Mr and Mrs McPherson to be discussed now.

Mr. and Mrs. McPherson outlined their privacy issues concerning work the Parish Council has done in recent years, which now means their garden can be fully viewed by walkers on the Lammas. They handed out pictures taken before and after their recent restorative work to their riverbank, which they did (with the permission of the Environment Agency and the Parish Council) by gaining access via the Lammas.

Cllr. Meischke asked them to produce a drawing of what they would like the Lammas bank opposite their garden to look like and the Parish Council can then discuss to see if they can support them.

Mr and Mrs McPherson left the meeting.

### 3. Chair's/Clerk's report

Cllr. Waltham welcomed recently elected Cllr. Kirk to her first meeting.

### 4. Declaration of interests

None.

### 5. Minutes of the last meeting.

#### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022**  
Parish Councillors agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.

#### b) Review of actions

##### 1. Investigate need for dog fouling signage for the village

Cllr. Dinnin said that she had walked around the village and there are new dog fouling signs in the areas EHDC are responsible for but in other places, like part of the High Street and sportsfield areas, they are either faded or missing. It was agreed to ask our District Councillor, Sophie Bell, if she could obtain 20 more sticker signs for us.

**Action: J. Allsop**

##### 2. Ask Thames Water what the problem is with the Station Road sewer

The Clerk said she had contacted Thames Water on two occasions, but they had not come back to her with the information required. She had asked Cllr. McCash if there had been any new problems with the Station Road sewer and was told that she was not aware of any more problems.

This action point not to be pursued further unless the problem arises again.

##### 3. Complete form to close CCLA coif deposit account

The CCLA bank closure form has been completed and signed by Cllr. Block and the Clerk. The latter will submit it to CCLA.

**Action: J. Allsop**

##### 4. Investigate the problem with the mobile floodlighting batteries

Refer to item 8a, Community Hall Trustees - Batteries for Mobile lights.

##### 5. Take images of the High Street traffic at various times during a one-week period

Refer to item 7b, Specific items - High Street traffic issues.

##### 6. Investigate suitable budget figure for litterpicking and litterbin collection for 2023/2024

Refer to item 7 c, Specific items - EHDC re litter picking and litterbins.

### c) Action points resolved

1. Write to EHDC planning application re 10 Watton House (3/22/2099/HH)
2. Lane Croft, Perrywood Lane (3/22/2224/HH)
3. Write to EHDC planning application re Broom Hall farm (3/22/2288/AGPN)
4. Give the Clerk budget requirements for 2023/2024
5. Arrange a Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting
6. Amend Trustees Charity Deed on the Charity Commission website
7. Chase Wicksteed Leisure re faults identified during the annual playground inspection
8. Give the Clerk contact details from CPM playground
9. Contact CPM playground re missing Kompan parts
10. Ask Adam Welch to quote for cutting back shrubbery around the seat opposite Watton Place Clinic
11. Arrange a meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee to discuss tree safety checks
12. Ask Cricket Club to cut back overgrown areas at the bottom of the cricket nets
13. Inspect the ground where the bike ramps used to be
14. **Discuss War Memorial Garden issues with Grassroots**

As a result of the discussion with Ben Storey, Cllr. Stock reported that the discoloured white-stones had been sprayed and that the situation should improve. Likewise, the health of the tree/shrub behind the memorial bench had been looked at and we should give it time to see if it recovers by the Spring. If not, we shall need to look at replacing it.
15. **Turn off Allotment water supply for winter and take a meter reading**

Cllr. Block and Meischke turned off the water supply for the allotments, only to discover that there was no water meter.

The Clerk contacted Affinity Water in March 2022 to inform them of a leak. Someone came and inspected the leak and confirmed that it was on their side of the water meter. The Clerk was informed that the leak would be repaired within the week and a new meter fitted with a smaller style inspection cover. The latter never happened and therefore it was presumed that the leak had not been repaired.

The Clerk said she has now written to Castle Water, by uploading a letter to their website, asking them for a rebate on the estimate water readings, which were calculated when there was no water meter in place.

The Clerk to chase Castle Water if no response is received. **Action: J. Allsop**
16. **Complete 6-month report**

Cllrs. Stock and Knight completed the report – refer item 8 b, Routine Reports - 6- Month report.
17. Upload two articles to Facebook and website and submit to Parish News

## 6. Planning

### a) Applications

None

### b) Decisions

- i. **63 Rivershill (3/22/1963/HH)**

Loft conversion with the addition of two new roof light windows on the front and rear elevations  
-EHDC - permission granted
- ii. **Broomhall Farm (3/22/2288/AGPN)**

Erection of agricultural building (grain store) **-EHDC - Prior Approval is not Required**

## 7. Specific items

### a) Neighbourhood plan and benefits

Cllr. Waltham stated that the EHDC current 6-week consultation on the NP ends on 20 December 2022. She said that the NP will not receive any feedback on the consultation until after it has ended. The next stage will be for the NP to be submitted to the planning inspector, hopefully in January 2023. Jacqueline Veater's expertise will be sort on choosing which inspector to use.

The NP have spoken to Derek Hill (Youth Football) who has confirmed that he would like the options of both the 4G all-weather pitches as well as grass pitches at the Mill Lane site. The Woodhall Estate have shown an interest in funding the 4G pitches as a business proposition. If an application for 4G facilities is submitted as sporting facilities, then it would give other activities, such as archery, the option to use the amenities.

The Mill Lane youth football pitches could take several years to come to fruition because the Woodhall Estate are not likely to develop their Green Belt land soon.

Michael Smith has not had a response from the Willowdene residents get re the request for a small piece of their land to allow for a pedestrian bridge in Mill Lane. Mehron Kirk concerned the Environment Agency would not support the installation of a pedestrian bridge because of the adjoining brick wall. Cllr. Meischke said that the Environment Agency had been very positive about the bridge option during a recent visit to the village.

**b) High Street traffic issues**

Cllr. White e-mailed all Parish Councillors (on 28 November) with two attachments. A summary she produced of the Compliance Parking Log data supplied through Sophie Bell covering the last two years. The photo storyboard to date showing pictures of the High Street at various times of the day. All numberplates and faces have been merged out. Parish Councillors present at the meeting confirmed they had been able to open and read the attachments.

Cllr. White said it is evident that even if we had a full-time traffic warden, it would not stop the traffic issues currently occurring in the village.

She thanked all Parish Councillors who had shared photos of the traffic problems in the High Street.

It was agreed to arrange another meeting of the High Street working group.

Concern was raised about the danger of commercial vehicles parking on the High Street, the drivers of whom live in the area. This behaviour is making it difficult for residents to exit driveways due to poor and often non-existent visibility. Cllr. Waltham said she was very concerned for pedestrian safety whilst crossing the High Street, in particular children and the elderly.

It was agreed to run a control week to start on Monday 12 and end on Sunday 18 December during this time Parish Councillors will take photographs of the traffic and submit them to Cllr. White for editing.

The Clerk to e-mail all members of the HS Working Group (Cllrs. White, Dinnin, Hammon, Meischke and Stock) to see if they can meet on Wednesday 4 January.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**c) EHDC re litter picking and litterbins**

Cllr. Bell was asked to investigate the estimated litterpicking and litterbin collection costs for 2023/24 for the Parish Council. She forwarded an e-mail, dated 2 December, from Jeanette Lowden (Shared Service Contract Manager Waste & Recycling at EHDC), which clarifies that the Parish Council will only be responsible for covering the loss of the annual litterpicking grant as all other costs are already serviced by their contractor. All Parish Councillors have been sent a copy of this e-mail.

**d) Mr. and Mrs McPherson**

Refer to item 2 – Public participation.

**e) 390 Bus service**

Cllr. Waltham said that there is a reliability issue with the 390-bus service that children are using to attend their secondary schools in Hertford and Ware. The bus is often late in the morning and sometimes the journey takes as long as an hour with some children having to stand throughout. On one occasion the bus did not run at all.

Cllr. Waltham said that she had asked Cllr. Kirk to generate a survey to local schools asking them to send out to parents, which she has done.

Cllr. Waltham said that she had also approached County Cllr. Ken Crofton, who gave her the contact details for Daniel Tancock (Team Leader for Network & Infrastructure at HCC transport section). Mr. Tancock investigated the issue and found that the service is falling short and the bus often leaves late from the depot.

Parish Councillors endorsed the action that Cllr. Waltham had taken.

However, questions were raised with regard to actions being taken without following the appropriate Parish Council protocols we have in place.

**• Parish Council protocols and documentation**

For the benefit of the new Councillors, Cllr. Meischke said that the Parish Council has various protocols that must be followed when we deal with specific subjects/activities (e.g., dealing with planning applications, becoming involved with outside bodies and organisations on behalf of the Parish Council). These have been developed based on past experiences and events and are in place to protect the council and its members.

All issues pursued by a Councillor on behalf of the Parish Council must be approved by the Council itself beforehand. For example, No Councillor(s) can decide to support or initiate something in the name of the Parish Council, without the full endorsement of the other members. Usually, this should be done at a Parish Council meeting, but if the item is very urgent, approval can be sort via e-mail and then endorsed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Also, all letters written by Councillors must be done so on the Parish Council's headed-paper and sent out via, and using, the Clerk's address (i.e., that of the Council's office). This ensures that the Clerk is aware of, and keeps a record of, all written Parish-Council communications. All formal communications with third-parties and external agencies must be via this method. In situations where a Councillor communicates with someone on 'routine/work in progress' Council business via e-mail, then our standard mandatory disclaimer must be included. Copies of all emails should be forwarded to the Clerk so she has and can maintain a complete record.

The Clerk to send out the Parish Council e-mail disclaimer to all Parish Councillors, together with all other relevant Parish Council documentation and protocols.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Cllr. Waltham suggested that a Drop Box could be set up that all Parish Councillors could access. The Clerk could then upload all relevant Parish Council documentation to the drop box.

**Action: E. Waltham/J. Allsop**

## 8. Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

- **Appointment of Parish Council to sub-committees**

Cllr. Meischke suggested that in May 2023, when the new Parish Council has been elected, they could consider changing the responsibilities of the Environment Sub-Committee and Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee. The Allotments could be transferred to Recreation and Amenities and all sportsfield related items could be transferred to the Community Hall Trustees.

Cllr. Waltham asked if there are any Parish Councillors who intend to stand down in May 2023. Cllr. Block confirmed his intention and Cllr. Waltham said she hoped to do so too but would stay on if she is needed.

The following appointments were made:

- Former Parish Councillors Mr. Michael Smith appointed as a Community Hall Trustee in place of Cllr. Dinnin who has resigned (refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Charity Deed changes).
- Cllr. White - member of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee.
- Cllr. Kirk - member of the Environment Sub-Committee.

In May 2023, the NP committee could be maintained in its current group, reporting directly to the Parish Council or via a Parish Councillor elected to the NP committee.

### Budget & Finance

Cllr. Block reported on the following items.

- **Monthly**

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council			
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty cash - Payments	
None		BT phone calls to 28.11.22	23.74
			<b>23.74</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Rosemary Brown	32 hours litterpick @ £10.50 per hour		336.00
Stanley Agricultural	Lammas & Watton Green grass, sportsfield & allotment hedges		2,755.2
Grassroots	relocate 2 benches on sportsfield		214.27
J. Allsop	BT phone calls to 28.10.22		27.36
Graham Hurley	Return of allotment deposit		50.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal donation		80.00
Adam Welch	£1,450-½ year maint £150-leaf clearance £150-clear bench		1,750.0
Gary & Tracy Brennan	Return of allotment deposit		50.00
J. Allsop	2 x Land registry searches		59.88
J. Allsop	October salary + £11 mobile phone		1,087.9
			<b>6,410.6</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Nationwide	Interest for period August 22		144.92
Santander	Interest on deposit account		0.84
3 Allotment holders	Deposits, Rent and water charges for year 2022/2023		216.00
			<b>361.76</b>
Watton-at-Stone Community Hall			
Petty Cash – Receipts		Petty Cash -Payments	
Art Class – meeting room	48.00	None	
Tony Silverstri - Pavilion	60.00		
Table tennis -Main Hall	136.00		
Archery – Main Hall	90.00		
Floodlighting to 25.10.22 – 21.11.22	125.00		
	<b>459.00</b>		
<b>Payments</b>			
Rosemary Brown	27 hours cleaning @ £10.50 per hour		283.50
East Herts Council	Rates - payment 8 of 10		73.00
Mark Blacktin	repair to damaged door		30.00
D P Electrics	Supply and fit 2 new inline fans in loft and new klick rose for		215.00
Pamila Grandison	refund on hiring - cancelled due to extreme hot weather		66.00
			<b>667.50</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Casual hirer	1st 50% deposit for hire - 7 Jan 23 Main Hall & Pavilion		60.50
Casual hirer	50% final payment for 13th Nov – Main Hall		42.00
Casual hirer	2nd 50% for hire - 20th Nov Pavilion		18.00
Bounce	Main Hall hire - October 2022		159.13
Casual hirer	2nd 50% for hire - 19th Nov Main Hall + Pavilion		58.00
Casual hirer	Main Hall on 18.11.22		24.00
Karate	Main Hall hire - October – December		209.00

Casual hirer	extra hour for hire - 20th Nov Pavilion	9.00
Talbot Fitness	Nov use of toilets and changing rooms & Main Hall	86.00
Casual hirer	2nd 50% for hire - 27 Nov Main Hall + Pavilion	38.00
Zumba	Main Hall	239.40
Santander	Interest on deposit account	0.84
Casual hirer	2nd 50% for hire - 4 Dec Main Hall & Pavilion	38.00
Casual hirer	50% final payment for 6th Dec	93.50
		<b>1075.37</b>

Parish Councillors approved the payments.

- **Report and Approval of minutes of Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on 01/12/2022**

All Parish Councillors were e-mailed copies of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee minutes together with associated paperwork relating to the budgets for 2023/24 prior to this meeting.

Parish Councillors approved the minutes and recommendations contained in the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee minutes dated 1 December 2022. Cllr. Block to sign the minutes. **Action: S. Block**

- **Quotations received from contractors**

Parish Councillors agreed to accept the following quotations, which are detailed in the minutes of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee meeting dated 1 December.

- Frank Cooper and Son Limited quotation (dated 11 November 2022) for Sportsfield grass cutting.
- Frank Cooper and Son Limited Sportsfield quotation (dated 11 November 2022) flowerbed and grass cutting work around the perimeter of sportsfield, Community Hall, tennis courts, bike ramps and seating areas etc.
- Grassroots quotation for War Memorial Garden maintenance.

The contractors to be notified accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Parish Councillors approved the following.

- **Community Hall hire charges**

The Community Hall hire charges to remain the same. However, a fuel levy may need to be applied if the heating costs are too high.

- **Sports Clubs hire charges**

The annual hire charge for the to the Sports Clubs will be as follows

- Cricket Club 5% increase from £1173 to £1232
- Tennis club 5% increase from £838 to £880
- Men's Football – no increase on £670, in the 2022/23 budget. The Sports and Social Club have always invoiced the football teams after the year end in April, when the football season ends.

Cllr. Knight said that although the Parish Council has been increasing the charges year on year to the Sports and Social Club, for approximately the last five years, he had not applied this increase to the different clubs and therefore the football club is unaware of the budget figures.

The Clerk to notify the football club accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- Ladies Football – currently there is no team and if they do put together a team, they will be charged on an ad-hoc basis.

- **Allotment rental charges**

The allotment rent to remain the same at £32 per full allotment plot and £16 for one half plot.

The annual allotment rent renewal date is on 1 October each year.

Water charges will be agreed at the September Parish Council meeting, prior to invoices going out in October 2023.

**Agenda: 09/2023**

- **Employees and self-employed remuneration**

The Parish Council agreed the recommendations of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee for Rosemary Brown's litterpicking and cleaning hourly rates.

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services has agreed the new rate of pay (an increase of just over 7%) backdated to 1 April 2022. It was agreed by e-mail, that it was appropriate to give the Clerk the backdated pay increase as she is paid in line with the NALC pay guidelines.

Parish Councillors present at this meeting endorsed this decision.

- **Budget 2023/24**

Cllr. Block said that they had kept the budget as low as possible by cutting back items such as the reserves for tennis court resurfacing, because the work has only been done this year and hopefully will not need doing for the next 15-20 years. The budget for the litterpicking and litter collection only took into account the loss of the annual EHDC grant for the sportsfield areas and did not include the rest of the village. This in retrospect was the correct decision because Cllr. Bell has now confirmed this with EHDC.

Cllr. White expressed her concerns that the Parish Council were not actually precepting their budget needs but anticipating using NHB funds to keep the precept down. It was explained to her that the precept is funded from council tax. Parishioners can see on their council tax bills the percentage rise in the Parish

Council precept. The Budget and Finance Sub-Committee felt that it was important to keep the precept level as low as possible in these economic challenging times. Parish Councillors agreed the use of NHB funds to underpin the precept needs on this occasion and would be an exceptional situation.

Parish Councillors approved the budget figures for 2022/2023.

- **Precept 2023/24**

Parish Councillors provisionally approved the annual precept requirements for 2023/24 of £42,545, which is an increase of 10.5%.

- **Approval and signing of Precept forms for 2023/24**

The Parish Council will formally agree the precept figure at their meeting in January 2023 and sign the precept form. This item to be placed on the January 2023 agenda.

**Agenda: 01/2023**

- **Allotment public liability insurance renewal**

The Parish Council agreed to reimburse the premium fee for the Allotment & Garden Association's public liability insurance cover from BHIB, at a cost of £132.20.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **SLCC membership renewal**

Parish Councillors approved the SLCC membership renewal which remains unchanged from the 2022 figure of £177.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## Community Hall Trustees

Cllr. Meischke reported on the following items.

- **Charity Deed changes**

The Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Trustees Charity Deed has been changed to allow one member of the public to be elected/co-opted by the Parish Council for a specific term (e.g., a period of one year and subject to re-election as appropriate).

Refer to 8 a, Sub-Committees Appointment of Parish Council to sub-committees.

- **Batteries for Mobile lights**

Cllr. Meischke confirmed that three of the floodlighting batteries and one of the chargers have died. He did not recommend replacing these items at the current time, as one lithium batteries costs £330 (ex VAT).

Ladies football, who currently do not have a team, were the main users of the mobile floodlights. Steve Betts, their manager, will see if there are any grants available.

- **Outside toilets**

The outside toilets have been vandalised three times in the last ten days. James Turner have been out to repair one of the toilets. Also, the toilet roll-holder and soap dispenser have been ripped off the wall. Cllr. Meischke said he does not intend to reinstate these at the present time.

- **Heating of the Hall**

Cllr. Meischke said that he is programming the heating to come on for each individual booking to reduce the heating costs.

The Community Hall will be assessing the heating costs so they can decide if they need to add a heating levy on top of the hirer charges.

- **Warm Place event**

Cllr. Meischke said that he is trying to set up the running of a 'warm place' in the Community Hall. He hopes to run this as a once-a-week event from Tuesday 3 January from 10:00 until 15:00. The Trustees have altered the current hire agreement to allow multiple people attending the event to sign the document.

On arrival, people will be expected to sign the modified hire agreement and add their contact phone number.

Whoever is running the library on a Tuesday morning will open the kitchen and pavilion rooms. Visitors will need to bring their own food and drink, but can use the kitchen facilities to make hot drinks etc.

Cllr. Meischke will arrange for someone to lock the building up at 15:00, turning off all lights and ensuring that doors and windows are locked.

- **Play Area report update**

Cllr. Meischke said that EHDC had forwarded the Parish Council two versions of the play inspection report for 2022. The first version was sent on the 28 September and a revised version on 23 November.

The only changes to the report were references to the large new swings.

Cllr. Meischke said he had copied Wicksteed Leisure with the original report and they in turn contact the Play Inspection Company complaining about the swing faults they highlighted. The Play inspection company then modified their report.

Cllr. Meischke said that he had been in contact with Wicksteed again and they attended a site meeting in which they agreed that the faults outlined in the first report were correct. They have agreed to give him, at no charge, the parts required to rectify the swing problems, as well as items for the teen shelter. However, the Parish Council will need to fit the items themselves when the parts arrive.

**Action: J. Meischke**



Cllr. Meischke will not raise this issue with the Play inspection company unless the Wicksteed Leisure parts are not forthcoming.

- **Car park notices**

Cllr. Meischke said that 6 or 7 people are parking their vehicles in the Community Hall car park daily, although they are not using the hall.

He said that he has put notices on these cars asking them not to park. Most of them have ignore the notices and are still using the car park.

Cllr. Block agreed to arrange for two signs stating, 'Private car park for hall users only' **Action: S. Block**

## Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee

Cllr. Knight had nothing to report.

## Environment Sub-Committee

Cllr. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Allotments**

All allotment holders have now paid their annual rent and water charges.

Three of the seven vacant plots have been re-let, leaving four vacant.

- **Shrubbery and seat opposite doctors' surgery**

Adam Welch has cut back the shrubbery around the High Street seat opposite Watton Place Clinic. This seat will need cleaning and wood treatment in Spring 2023, when the wood has been allowed to dry out.

Refer to item 8 b, Routine reports - 6-month report.

- **Tree safety checks**

Cllrs. Dinnin, Stock, Knight and the Clerk met Tony Bradford prior to this meeting to talk about tree safety checks.

It was agreed that the Environment Sub-Committee meet to put together a plan of action, but in the meantime, Adam Welch to be asked to submit a written quote for inspecting the trees. **Action: J. Allsop**

## 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**

Although smart meters are fitted, Cllr. Meischke continues to give the Clerk gas and electricity meter readings at the end of each month. The Clerk uploads the readings to the providers websites.

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

Done.

- iv) **Monthly village-report**

Cllr. Knight completed the report on 2 December 2022. All Parish Councillors were e-mailed a copy of the report on 5 December.

See comments under item 8 b iv below – Reports - 6-month report.

- v) **Weekly sportsfield-report**

Nothing to report.

- vi) **6- Month report**

Cllrs. Stock and Knight completed the report on 2 December 2022. All Parish Councillors to be sent a copy of the report. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Litter bin** - Missing but the post remains and has a sharp jagged end. Cllr. Meischke to inspect and take action as necessary. **Action: J. Meischke**

- **Community Hall** – Some of the exterior doors need attention. **Agenda: Trustees**

- **Car park** – The wooden sleepers need replacing. **Agenda: Trustees**

- **Tennis courts**

- **Surface** – Court B will be pressure washed and have moss kill applied in Spring.

The leaves around the base near clearing. Cllr. Meischke to arrange to this work to be done.

**Action: J. Meischke**

- **Tennis court fencing** - The bulges appear on both sides of the fencing thus suggesting that it is both the users of the tennis courts and footballers who are bouncing off the fencing. Cllr. Knight added that the fencing wires were tightened when Court A was resurfaced earlier this year and that this problem did not occur when we had the kicker boards.

- **Benches** – All of the wooden benches need rubbing down and wood treatment applied. If the weather is suitable, Mark Blacktin to be asked to do this work in March 2023.

This items to be placed on the February agenda.

**Agenda: 02/2022**

vii) **Weekly defibrillator inspection**

Nothing to report.

viii) **Website/Facebook**

None.

ix) **Highway issues**

Nothing to report.

x) **Dog fouling reports**

Nothing to report.

xi) **Police reports**

PCSO Sally Brook's did not provide a police report for this meeting. The Clerk to e-mail her and ask for a report.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 9. Correspondence received

None.

## 10. Village organisations

None.

- **River Beane Restoration Association**

Clr. Block said that more than 130 water voles were reintroduced into the river in a bid to stop them becoming extinct. They were released in the River Beane at the Woodhall Estate in late July and have been seen downstream in Stapleford.

## 11. Items for Parish News

Items for inclusion in the February 2023 issue of the Parish News to be identified at the January 2023 Parish Council meeting

**Meeting closed: 2130.**

**The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 10 January 2023.**