

A meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 20th December 2000 at 7.15 p.m.

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mr. C. Clark	Mrs. C. Dinnin
	Mr. V. Dunhill	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. J. Meischke

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Filer and Mrs. Davies.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November**

The following amendment was made to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th November 2000.

- Page 5, Item 4 a, Specific items - Parish Map

An additional sentence to be inserted after the end of the final paragraph.

'It was agreed to sell the map at £1.50'.

Mrs. McCash proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Dunhill seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

b) Review of actions

- **Contact village correspondent re article advertising for a Special Police Constable**

Mr. Poulton said that Mrs. Davies had informed him that she is awaiting the police article asking for a volunteer for the position of Special Constable before she contacts the village correspondent for the Mercury. It was agreed that when this has been received, appropriate text would also be placed in the Parish Magazine.

This item to remain an action point.

Action: S. Davies

- **Monitor Village Pump site to see if replacement planting has been carried-out**

Mr. Poulton said that, because Major Shepherd is very busy with the Christmas season, he collected nine plants from Watton Nursery and planted them around the Village Pump. He has also removed several dead shrubs and cut back a fallen lilac branch from the back of the pump area.

Mr. Poulton said that the site should be monitored on a regular basis because there is evidence that the adjacent property is again piling-up rubbish at the back of the pump area.

- **Invoice the Football Club for permanent line-marking on the sportsfield**

The Parish Council has still not been invoiced for the permanent line-markings and therefore cannot invoice the Football Club.

This item to remain an action point.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Chase GBS Estates for a response to our letter re fir trees at Willowdene overhanging Mill Lane**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Stephen Kitchen (GBS Estates) concerning the fir trees. Mr. Kitchen apologised for not answering our letter and informed her that a tree surgeon had inspected the site and would carry out the work on these trees (and others on the site) provided that he had written permission from EHDC. To speed things up, Mr. Kitchen asked if the Parish Council could obtain permission on his behalf. The Clerk agreed to do this and a letter has now been sent to Liz Greenwood at EHDC.

- **Copy list of TPOs in Watton-at-Stone to all Parish Councillors**

This action point has been completed.

- **Return Co-operative bank forms re change of bank signatories and opening of new 30-day account**

This action point has been completed.

- **Sift through artwork information from Sian Freer for information board at Watton Green**

This item to be discussed under 4 a, Environment Sub-Committee (on page 3 of these minutes).

- **Report on outcome of OFSTED report at Watton Primary School**

Mrs. McCash said that now that she had resigned as a School Governor she could not report on this item.

Mr. Clark said that the OFSTED report would be made public tomorrow and he would give the Parish Council a full report at the next Parish Council meeting.

This item to be placed on the agenda under Specific items.

Agenda: 01/01

- **Arrange photograph session with Phil Berry**

This action point has been completed.

- **Accept Jono Meischke's quotation to supply 500 copies of the Parish Map**

This action point has been completed.

- **Copy all Parish Councillors with the current Village Directory**

This action point has been completed.

- **Amend the Village Directory where necessary and pass it back to the Clerk as soon as possible**

Six Parish Councillors gave their amendments on the Village Directory to the Clerk.

Refer to item 3 g Village Directory (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Arrange site meeting at Walkern Road bridge to see if remaining signpost is causing visibility problems**

Mr. Knight reported that he had visited the site and that the visibility was satisfactory.

- **Find out if Jeff Skidmore has completed the strimming of the branches along Lammas river bank**

Mr. Skidmore has completed the work.

- **Place Royal Mail letter re postal deliveries in the village on circulation**

This action point has been completed.

- **Accept Jeff Skidmore's quotation for strimming and grass cutting works for 2001**

This action point has been completed.

- **Check that sufficient funds are available in next years budget for strimming and grass cutting works**

Mrs. McCash said that the strimming and grass cutting works are slightly over the budgeted figure, but not enough to warrant changing the budget figures.

- **Return completed precept form for the year 2001/2002 to EHDC**

This action point has been completed.

- **Amend all notices advertising Community Hall hire charges to show agreed new hourly-rates**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to Cled Fursland re storage building on sportsfield**

This action point has been completed.

- **Inform Sports & Social Club of hire charges for 2001/2002**

This action point has been completed. An acknowledgment has been received from the Sports & Social Club.

- **Return completed MAFF claim form for year 1999/2000**

This action point has been completed.

- **Inspect damage to horses field fence and arrange for any repair works**

Mr. Poulton reported that he had inspected the fence, which has one missing rail at the bottom of the fence and one broken rail. It was agreed that repairs should be carried-out at a later stage when more work is required to the fence.

- **Try to remove graffiti on Community Hall brick work**

Mr. Meischke said that he would try and remove the graffiti over the holiday period. **Action: J. Meischke**

- **Write to EHDC asking them to close the gaps in the Great Innings Play area fence so as to make the area dog-proof**

Mr. Stock said that EHDC had responded positively to our request to have the gaps closed. They will be carrying-out the work as soon as they can schedule it.

Mr. Stock to monitor progress.

Action: D. Stock

- **Write to HCC Rights of Way Department to reinstate the Church Walk barrier**

Mr. Dunhill said that now that the hedge cutting had been carried-out he would contact HCC Rights of Way Department asking them to reinstate the Church Walk barrier.

Action: V. Dunhill

- **Acknowledge receipt of Jeanette Williams' letter concerning Youth Club funds**
This action point has been completed.
- **Ask EHDC to produce a poster to advertise the 'Shoe Recycling Banks'**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Mrs. Dix (Chairman of Governors) re re-cycling site at Watton Primary School**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re use of Community Hall for the 2001 Summer Play Scheme**
This action point has been completed.
- **Have Community Hall keys cut for the Sunday Football team**
This action point has been completed.
Four keys have been passed to Mr. Knight (1 external door key, 1 external cupboard key and 2 keys to the changing room) asking for reimbursement for the cost of having them cut.
- **Return completed Nationwide Rural Survey forms to the Countryside Agency**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Alan Neville (WAGN) re Watton-at-Stone train service**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to item 6 e, Allan Neville Great Northern Railway – two letters (on page 8 of these minutes).
- **Write to HCC re Hertfordshire's Rail Prospectus – 2001-2005**
This action point has been completed.
- **Plant holly bushes in gap in sportsfield hedge in School Lane**
Mr. Dunhill said that he would complete this action point during the Christmas holidays.

Action: V. Dunhill

3 Specific items

a) Parish Map

The 500 copies of the Parish Map have been received and will be on sale (at £1.50p each) at the public exhibition on the 30th December 2000.

Mrs. McCash proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Jono Meischke for his outstanding work on producing the Parish Map. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

b) Time Capsule

- **Burying time capsule on 31/12/00**

Mr. Poulton said that the University of Herefordshire had written to say that they are unable to send a representative to the commemorative church service on the 31st December 2000 (when the Time Capsule will be buried in the Meyer Chapel in the church of St. Andrew and St. Mary, Watton-at-Stone). However, they would like to take some photographs of the Time Capsule at the Church on Friday 22nd December 2000 with representatives of the University and the Parish Council. Mr. Poulton said that he would be present at the session and that all Parish Councillors were welcome to attend.

Mr. Poulton said that he would not be present at the service on the 31st December due to a prior commitment. Mr. Stock will take the Time Capsule to, and represent the Parish Council at, this service.

Action: D. Stock

- **Posters**

It was agreed that posters be made, and put up around the village, advertising the exhibition to be held on the 30th December (in the Community Hall). **Action: N. Poulton/ J. Allsop**

Members of the public will be able to:

- view the Time Capsule and its contents
- see the new Parish Map produced by the Parish Council (copies of which will be on sale for £1.50 each)
- have an opportunity to buy a copy of the Peep into the Past video (a film record of various events in the village)
- see details of what has been purchased from the proceeds of the Millennium May Fayre event
- view Alan Rattue's Village Photographs of Watton-at-Stone, past and present.

c) Three Valley Water trenches

Mr. Stock said that Mr. Filer had informed him that he had inspected the roundabout at Perrywood Lane and confirmed that the repair work had been carried-out satisfactorily, although nearby resurfacing work had not been completed. Mr. Stock to inspect Hazeldell to determine whether or not the repairs promised had been completed. **Action: D. Stock**

d) Litterpick

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Meischke sent the following letter (dated 11th December) to Kevin Jones.

'I am writing to you as I have been unable to contact you by phone over the last 10 days, even leaving six messages for you has received no response.

As the bins have not been emptied or any litter picked since 15th November, and you have made no attempt to contact us to inform us of any problems, we can only assume that you no longer require the job.

Please confirm immediately whether this is correct or not. If a response to this letter is not received by 19th December 2000 we will assume that you no longer require the job and it will be offered to other contractors.'

Mr. Meischke said that no response had been received from Kevin Jones and that he had not been treated unfairly in any way and has been paid in full for all the timesheets he submitted.

Mr. Poulton personally emptied all the bins in the village last week. He spoke to EHDC regarding our problems with litterpicking and has now arranged for Onyx, who empty the dog-waste bins in the village, to empty all the litterbins and carry-out litterpicking for the same amount of money that EHDC grants us each year. However, this does not include the two hours of litterpicking carried-out by Don Chandler each week in the Community Hall/sportsfield, Church Walk and School Lane area. It was agreed by all present that the Parish Council should pay for the two hours litterpicking.

The bins will be emptied once a month by Onyx and litterpicking will be as follows.

- Week 1 High Street
- Week 2 Great Innings and Hazeldell
- Week 3 High Street
- Week 4 Station Road etc.

Mr. Poulton said that the advantage of a contractor carrying-out the work is that they have to arrange for cover for all holiday and sick leave of their employees. All the bins now have blue plastic bags in them. Mr. Poulton said that he has also arranged for the contractors, Ecovert, to clean the inside of all the litterbins. Once this has been done, it will be the responsibility of Onyx to keep them clean.

Mr. Poulton said that EHDC had agreed to erect the new litterbin for the station free of charge. (The previous bin was set alight by vandals.)

e) Fir trees at Great Innings Play area

EHDC has asked its grounds contractors to cut back the lower branches of the fir trees to a height of 1 metre above ground level, as requested by the Parish Council. This item to remain on the agenda until the work has been completed. **Agenda: 01/01**

f) Watton Station

This item to be discussed under 6 e, Allan Neville Great Northern Railway – two letters (on page 8 of these minutes).

g) Village Directory

All Parish Councillors had been given a copy of the amended Village Directory (version 12/00) prior to the meeting.

Mr. Clark said that the representative on the Angling Society is now Trevor Burchmore. Mrs. Dinnin noticed that under Bell Ringing the word 'practices' had been spelt incorrectly. Mr. Poulton said that Judy Bambrough is leaving the village and therefore no longer wishes to be the village correspondent. Mrs. Davies knows the name of somebody who may be interested in the position and will inform Mr. Poulton of their decision within the next few days. Mr. Poulton to inform the Clerk accordingly. **Action: N. Poulton**

The Clerk to photocopy the amended village directory and copy it to all Parish Councillors for distribution.

Action: J. Allsop

Parish Councillors and Clerk to distribute the village directory. **Action: All Parish Councillors/J. Allsop**

h) Parish Council representative for the Watton-at-Stone School Governors

Mr. Poulton said that Helen McCash had resigned her position and Mrs. Davies had asked for her name to be put forward as the Parish Council representative for the Watton-at-Stone School Governors. Mr. Clark said

that he had been asked by the Chairman of the School Governors (Jackie Dix) to stand for this position and resign from his current position as a Local Education Authority School Governor. He said that Mrs. McCash's resignation had left the School Governors without a representative experienced in accounts. Mrs. Dix knows someone with accounting experience who she would like to be co-opted onto the Board of School Governors.

A secret ballot was held and Mr. Clark was duly elected as the Parish Council representative for the Watton-at-Stone School Governors.

The Clerk to inform Mrs. Dix accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

i) Dates in 2001 for visits to planning department

Mr. Poulton reported that the planning liaison meeting arranged for 12th December had been cancelled.

He had been given three more provisional dates for a meeting in January 2001. Mr. Clark and Mrs. McCash agreed to attend a meeting on the 15th January 2001 at 2.00 pm.

The Clerk to inform EHDC accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton will also attend the meeting as a District Councillor.

Mr. Clark and Mrs. McCash to meet at Mr. Poulton's house at 1.30 pm, and then travel together to EHDC in Hertford.

Action: N. Poulton/C. Clark/H. McCash

4 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Mrs. McCash reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

• **Zip drive**

Mrs. McCash said that a zip drive had been purchased and installed on the Parish Council computer. This will allow the Clerk to back-up all Parish Council files onto a single disc.

• **Xmas bonus**

Mrs. McCash proposed that the following Christmas bonuses be paid.

- Mrs. Christine Bewley £45
- Mr. Don Chandler £20
- The Clerk £55

Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items concerning the Community Hall Trustees.

• **Leaking guttering**

Mr. Meischke said that the guttering above the car park entrance to the Community Hall is leaking again. Mr. Poulton said that the gutter needs clearing of debris again. Mr. Bunyan has repaired this section of gutter in the past.

Mr. Meischke agreed to inspect the gutter when the weather is dry.

Action: J. Meischke

This item to be placed on the agenda for the Community Hall Trustees meeting to be held on 14th February 2001.

Agenda: Community Hall Trustees/02/01

Recreation & Amenities

• **RoSPA – Annual playground inspection**

Mr. Meischke said that the report on the RoSPA annual playground inspection (carried out via EHDC) had been received. However, the report showed discrepancies with the one carried-out (in error) by RoSPA in May 2000. Mr. Meischke said that he would look into this matter and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: J. Meischke

• **Progress on MPPA**

Mr. Meischke said that the resurfacing work had now been completed and temporary line-markings have been laid. The coloured surface will be applied during March/April, providing there is a good period of dry weather to allow the paint to adhere properly. Mr. Knight said that the surface was now in excellent condition.

It was agreed to find out the price of a foot-scraper, to be concreted into the ground next to the main entrance to the MPPA.

Action: J. Meischke

Comment [C1]:

Environment

Mr. Stock reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Watton Green**

Mr. Stock said that HELP had asked him to explain the £300 under-spend in their grant for Watton Green. During his explanation he got HELP to agree that we could use the £300 under-spend to help fund the cost of the information board. As a result of this, we now have £600 available for the information board. (i.e. £300 from HCC Environment, plus £300 from HELP).

He then presented a draft illustration that he had prepared to give everyone an idea of what the information board may look like, and what text and illustrations it would contain.

It was agreed that we proceed and develop the draft further.

Mr. Stock asked Mr. Dunhill if he could obtain detailed and accurate maps of Watton Green (i.e. to ensure the correct size and boundaries are illustrated).

Action: V. Dunhill

Mr. Stock to contact CMS to establish what wildlife and plants we could/should not illustrate.

Action: D. Stock

- **TPO on the Oak tree at Great Innings**

Mr. Poulton said that EHDC had, on the 14th December, confirmed the TPO on the Oak tree at Great Innings.

- **Reinstatement of bank in Church Lane (Clappers Lane)**

Mr. Stock said that he had been verbally informed that the bank along this stretch of road belongs to EHDC. Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership) has informed Mr. Stock that the bank will be reinstated, but not in this financial year. However, if there is enough spoil left from the installation of the footpath over the Station Road bridge, this work could be carried-out earlier. Some of the spoil has already been earmarked for in-fill work on the Datchworth-side of the Station Road bridge.

- **Footpath over railway bridge at Station Road**

Mr. Stock said that work to the bridge is scheduled to be carried-out by the end of January 2001.

This item to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 21st February under Environment Sub-Committee.

Agenda: 02/01

- **Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill reported that he had contacted CMS re the condition of the grass on the Lammas, which is very poor due to an excessive amount of cleavers and therefore makes the area unviable for cutting as hay. The FRCA, who manage the Countryside Stewardship Scheme have made a surprise visit to the Lammas and have suggested that the best method of getting rid of the cleavers is by spraying them with chemicals. Mr. Dunhill and Mr. Poulton have met with Sian Freer (CMS) and agreed that this would be the preferred option. A derogation order is required from the FRCA to permit the chemical spraying to be carried-out in late spring 2001. The Parish Council is awaiting the necessary forms and information in order to proceed. The Parish Council would need to advertise that spraying was to take place and put up notices around the relevant areas accordingly.

Action: V. Dunhill

Mr. Dunhill said that he had been in contact with Tony Bradford concerning the next phase of the tree planting on the Lammas. Mr. Bradford informed him that the tree planting carried-out to date had done very well with a higher than expected take-up. He suggested that the Parish Council contact MAFF and ask them if we can put a hold on tree planting for one year so that we can see how much cover we get from the trees already planted.

Action: V. Dunhill

Mr. Dunhill said that 2 – 3 metres of the hedge planted along the boundary of the Lammas and the adjacent horses field had died. This would need replanting, however the Parish Council would have to pay for any cost incurred.

Sian Freer has informed Mr. Poulton that a Countryside Stewardship Scheme is planned to cover the horses field adjacent to the Lammas, which is owned by the Abel Smith Estate.

- **PPP**

Mr. Dunhill said that a cheque for £905.00, which is the PPP grant-aid for 2000/2001, had been received.

Mr. Dunhill said that three signs would need ordering for the re-routed footpath between Watton House and Mill Lane (close to the quarry edge and adjacent to the by-pass).

Action: V. Dunhill

Mr. Poulton asked Mr. Dunhill if PPP would fund the purchase and installation of a litterbin to be located next to one of the seats on the Lammas.

The Clerk to find out the cost of a new litterbin and ask Jeff Skidmore to supply a quotation for its installation.

Action: J. Allsop

i) **Report**

Mr. Knight carried-out the sportsfield report on the 20th December, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**
 - Condition of grass } All OK – but very wet.
 - Litter }
 - Dog-waste bin and fouling }
 - Netball posts }
 - General } Notice board to be replaced.
- **Children’s Playground:**
 - Condition of surface }
 - Litter/Litter bin }
 - Large swings } All OK.
 - Small swings }
 - See-Saw }
 - Slide }
- **Community Hall:**
 - General Condition }
 - Litter bin } All seems in good order.
 - Car Park }
 - General }
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**
 - Surface } Now looking very good.
 - Boundary Fencing }
 - Tennis nets } OK.
 - Litter }
 - General }
- **Great Innings Play Area:**
 - Equipment }
 - Surfaces } Generally in good condition.
 - Litter }
 - Dog-waste bin and fouling }
 - Comments } Trees to be cut! Path showing signs of some weeds growing through.
- **Allotments Area:**
 - Access }
 - Condition of paths between }
 - Allotments }
 - Condition of Allotments } OK for time of year.
 - Cultivation }
 - Condition of Allotments not }
 - under cultivation }
 - Litter }
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**
 - Litter and rubbish in and } Clear.
 - Culverts }
 - Dog-fouling } None.
 - Comments } Exposed wires in broken concrete fixture in Lammas field.
- **Salt bins**
 - Perrywood Lane }
 - Great Innings }
 - Station Road } As before.
 - Moorymead Close }
 - Hazeldell }
- **Dog-waste bins**
 - Footpath 17 }
 - Sportsfield }
 - Church Walk }
 - Walkern Road } All seem to be in use.
 - Station Road }
 - High Street (by Memorial) }
- **General Comments:** -

- **Concrete fixture in Lammas field**

Parish Councillors agreed that the wires did not appear to be connected to an electrical supply. It was agreed to write to the Environment Agency asking them to arrange to have the box inspected/removed.

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

5 Planning

a) Applications

b) Applications

i) **Sacombe Hill Farm, Ware Road**

Erection of one 15-metre mast complete with three cross-polar antennas, two dish antennas, one radio equipment housing and ancillary development

Applicant: One to One Personal Communications Ltd

-Prior approval given.

c) Decisions

None.

6 Correspondence received

a) **University of Hertfordshire – re invite to commemorative church service**

This item was discussed under 3 b, Time Capsule - Burying time capsule on 31/12/00 (on page 3 of these minutes).

b) **EHCPA Community Playbus Association**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter (dated 23rd November) from the East Herts Community Playbus Association, asking if the Parish Council could again send a donation to assist in the operation of their play schemes.

Mr. Meischke proposed that the Parish Council send a donation of £25.00. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

c) **EHDC - Great Innings Play Area Fence Line**

This item was discussed under item 2 b, write to EHDC asking them to close the gaps in the Great Innings Play area fence so as to make the area dog-proof (on page 2 of these minutes).

d) **Jackie Dix (Chairman of Governors) – Recycling site at Watton Primary School**

Prior to the meeting all Parish Councillors had been given a copy of Jackie Dix's letter of 29th November 2000.

Mr. Poulton said that, at the public meeting held on Wednesday 6th December to discuss the transfer of the Watton-at-Stone re-cycling site to Great Innings car park, there was an outcry about the facility being removed from its current location to Great Innings. EHDC has rejected the re-location of the site to the Great Innings Estate.

Mr. Poulton reported that Major Shepherd (of Watton Nursery) has shown an interest in having the recycling facility relocated to his nursery. EHDC would approve this site, however permission is required from the Abel Smith Estate (who own the land).

e) **Allan Neville Great Northern Railway – two letters**

As agreed at the last Parish Council meeting, a letter was sent to Alan Neville (letter dated 21st November) expressing great concern about the lack of a train service and requesting an update with regard to when we can expect the current situation to improve.

Prior to the meeting all Parish Councillors were copied with Mr. Neville's response (dated 23rd November 2000).

Mr. Poulton reported that he wrote to Mr. Neville on the 29th November as follows.

'I thank you for your letter of 23rd November and this will be discussed at our next Parish Council meeting on 20th December 2000.

In the meantime, would you please let me have your comments to the following.

1. It is strongly rumoured that due to the heavy flow of rail traffic on the Hertford loop, this line will be closed for three months for urgent repairs. If this is true would you please supply dates.
2. If the line is closed what other form of reliable public transport will be provided, bearing in mind that the majority of your customers commute in and out of London.
3. Would you please investigate why no bus service was provided last weekend leaving many of your customers stranded at Watton Railway Station.

4. Finally would you please place a notice at Watton Railway Station giving a contact name and telephone number where somebody at WAGN can be contracted for information and advice.

The Parish Council awaits your response.'

Mr. Poulton then read out Mr. Neville's response (dated 4th December) a copy of which is attached to these minutes. **See attached**

f) McNicholas – re telecommunication route on behalf of Tycom UK

Mr. Poulton read out a letter (dated 7th December) from McNicholas Construction Limited confirming that the ducting to be laid between Harlow and Stevenage, during April and June 2001, will be routed via the Watton by-pass.

g) EHDC – Partnership working in rural Hertfordshire

Mr. Poulton reported that he attended a meeting on 12th December (at Woolmer Green Village Hall) aimed at supporting new ways of developing rural areas. Money has been made available for rural villages, however none has been earmarked for East Hertfordshire.

h) Hertfordshire Constabulary

Mr. Poulton read out a letter dated 11th December from Superintendent T. Cox (Divisional Commander at Hertfordshire Constabulary).

'Thank you for your letter dated 8th December 2000 stating that you were very happy with the help you had from Constable John Ivens when he showed you around Hertford Police Station. I am glad that you all found it interesting and that you have learnt how modern policing is carried out in the district. It will give me great pleasure to pass on your kind remarks to him.

I am very happy indeed, to add your letter to the "appreciation list".

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to write.'

Mr. Stock said that the visit to Hertford Police station on the evening of Thursday 7th December had been quite an eye-opener. Although impressed by what they saw, the Parish Councillors on the visit were concerned about the apparent lack of manpower. For example, the cells were not in use because no one was available to supervise them.

7 Reports from other Organisations

• **Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society**

Mr. Stock said that the December meeting of the Conservation Society had been cancelled.

Mr. Poulton said that the Conservation Society was still in possession of the Parish Council's strimmer.

Mr. Meischke agreed to arrange for its collection and return.

Action: J. Meischke

• **Whempstead roads**

Mr. Clark said that the scheduled road patching-work at Whempstead had been completed.

8 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

None

Payments

None

Cheques required

HCC	Photocopy paper		22.21
EHDC	Charge for emptying 2 dog-waste bins until 31.03.00		77.55
D. R. Monk	War Memorial Maintenance		31.25
EHDC	Annual playground inspection		72.85
N. J. Whitehead	Hedge cutting – sportsfield		300.00
Post Office	Mercury paper		8.71
J. Allsop	December salary	447.80	
	Phone	25.98	473.78
Diocesan Board	Allotment rent		300.00
HCC	4 zip-drive discs		53.06
Phil Berry	Photographs of Parish Councillors		88.13
J. Meischke	To supply 500 A3 matt printed copies of the Parish Map		350.00
Don Chandler	16 hours litterpick		67.84
J. Allsop	50 x 27p stamps		<u>13.50</u>
			<u>1858.88</u>

Cheques received

PPP	Grant aid		905.00
Groundwork Trust	Grant aid		<u>100.00</u>
			<u>1005.00</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Ms Emus – Pavilion hire
Floodlighting to 29/11/00

21.00
15.00

36.00

Payments

VAT return 10/00
4 keys to community Hall
First-aid equipment

36.84

28.15

6.80

71.79

Cheques required

HCC Cleaning materials
Mrs C. Bewley 32 hours cleaning
R. Stephenson Window cleaning
EHDC December rates
Business Gas
N. Poulton 4 light bulb tubes
Doe Sport Resurfacing work to MPPA
Mrs C. Bewley 32 hours cleaning
Mr. D. Chandler 8 hours work

144.22

160.00

69.00

83.00

33.78

38.00

8064.61

160.00

33.92

8786.53

Cheques received

Football Club Main Hall hire
Sally Reid Pavilion hire
Mrs. Gilbey Main Hall hire

40.00

21.00

55.00

116.00

Mrs. McCash proposed that the accounts be paid, Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

9 Chairman's / Clerk's Report

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

• **Wooden footbridge over River Beane at southern-end of village (adjacent to Watton Nursery)**

Mr. Poulton said that the wooden footbridge has become dangerously slippery. Mrs. Monk had fallen and broken her arm whilst crossing the bridge. A type of algae/moss growing on the wooden surface of the bridge is causing it to be slippery. HCC is to rectify the problem. This item to remain on the agenda until it is resolved.

Agenda: 01/01

• **Dog-fouling on footpaths**

Mr. Poulton said that Mrs. Davies had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for our meeting in January.

Agenda: 01/01

• **Meeting dates in 2001/2002**

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Filer had asked for the subject of meeting dates in 2001/2002 to be placed on the agenda for our meeting in January.

Agenda: 01/01

• **The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.**

• **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 17th January 2001.**