

A meeting of the Wotton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 17th May 2000 at 7.40 p.m. (following the Annual Meeting of the Wotton-at-Stone Parish Council)

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mr. V. Dunhill	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. J. Meischke
Member of public	Mr. E. Riddle	

Mr. Poulton was sad to report the death of ex-Parish Councillor David Gifford. Mr. Gifford died on the 12th May and his funeral will take place at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Mary on Monday 22nd May at 3.30 p.m.. The family has asked for donations rather than flowers. Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council send a donation of £25 (beneficiary to be advised). Mr. Stock seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Poulton then asked Parish Councillors to stand for a one-minute silence.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark, Mrs. Dinnin, Mr. Filer and Mr. Singleton.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th April 2000**

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th April 2000.

- Page 3, Item 4 e, Reinstatement of bollards in School Lane
HCC Rights of Way Officer (not EH Highways Department).
- Page 12, Item 8, Reports from other Organisations - Wotton-at-Stone School Governors
Mrs. Morag Green (not Morage Green).

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

b) Review of actions

- **Inspect fly-tipping at Broom Hall Farm**

Mr. Poulton reported that he had inspected the site and although it appeared that some of the fly-tipping had been removed, more had now been dumped on the site.

- **Write to Railtrack if fly-tipping at Broom Hall Farm has not been cleared**

This action point has been completed.

Railtrack have agreed to clear the site within 28 days.

- **Submit report and annual return for the year 1999/00 to PPP**

This action point has been completed.

- **Submit an application for grant-aid for the year 2000/01 to PPP**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write and thank Countryside Management Service for re-vegetation work carried-out on footpath 36**

This action point has been completed.

- **Contact the Chairman of Three Valleys Water again re trench-work problem within Wotton-at-Stone**

Mr. Filer was not present at the meeting to report on this item.

Action: D. Filer

- **Pursue the matter of the visibility problems on Walkern Road bridge**

Mr. Knight reported that he and Mrs. Dinnin had met to discuss the matter. However, they have not yet contacted Mr. Ron Jack at EH Highways Partnership to arrange a meeting. This item to remain on the agenda under Specific Items.

- **Contact Wotton-at-Stone Primary School re their recycling site**

Mr. Poulton reported that he had been invited to attend the next meeting of the School Governors on 25th May 2000 to discuss the future of the recycling site.

Action: N. Poulton

- **Place notices advertising Police Surgery on 4th May on notice boards and in local shops**
This action point has been completed.
- **Arrange Budget & Finance Sub-Committee meeting before Parish Council meeting on 17th May 2000**
This action point has been completed.
- **Obtain quotation from another insurance broker for all items currently covered under existing policy**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to item 4 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee -Report on meeting held on 10th May 2000 (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Contact Doe Sport re flexibility of deposit required for MPPA and when payment is required**
Mr. Meischke reported that he had been in contact with Doe Sport who have agreed that the contract can be signed and returned to them by the 1st of August 2000, together with the deposit payment.
Mr. Meischke and Mr. Poulton to sign the contract and arrange for the deposit to be paid accordingly.
Action for 7/00: J. Meischke/N. Poulton
- **Sign contract with Doe Sport, subject to the outcome of the above action point**
Refer to the above item.
- **Contact electrician to repair hand dryer**
Mr. Poulton reported that the damage to the hand dryer in the Ladies toilets had been reported to the Police and to Cornhill Insurance at the same time as the recently-broken window. Mr. Meischke said that he had been in contact with Hertford Installations re the supply of a replacement hand dryer. It was agreed to obtain a quotation from them for a metal-cased hand dryer suitable for use in public areas (i.e. vandal proof).
Action: J. Meischke
- **Write to Cricket Club re sight screens**
This action point has been completed.
- **Inform Countryside Management Service of names of volunteers wanting to register for training**
This action point has been completed.
Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock and Mr. Dunhill will liaise with the Countryside Management Service re a suitable date for training.
Action: N. Poulton/D. Stock/V. Dunhill
- **Write to Mr. Abel Smith re woodwork on village pump**
Mr. Filer was not present at the meeting to report on this item. **Action: D. Filer**
- **Write to Mr. Standen and Mr. Jack (EH Highways Partnership) re traffic-calming in Station Road**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to item 4 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Traffic-calming and safety of crossing in Station Road (on page 6 of these minutes).
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for Crowbury, Church Lane**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re planning application for Land off School Lane - Amended scheme**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Watton-at-Stone Primary School re use of Community Hall for sponsored skip**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Watton-at-Stone Primary School re use of Community Hall for emergency evacuation situation**
This action point has been completed.
- **Purchase tennis nets**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to HCC re regional planning guidance for the South East and the threat from house building**
This action point has been completed.
- **Remind Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock to respond to the Government re regional planning guidance for the South East and the threat from house building**
Send response to the Government before 12th June 2000. **Action: N. Poulton/ D. Stock**

- **Write to EHDC re TPO for ancient Oak Tree adjacent to 99 Great Innings South**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Stock reported that to-date, Ms. Greenwood (Landscape Officer, EHDC) had not responded to our letter of the 28th April 2000. After discussing the subject again briefly, he felt that the Parish Council must do all it can to get the tree protected by at TPO now, rather than wait until it is under threat again.

A number of Parish Councillors repeated their strong feelings on the subject and agreed that the Parish Council shall continue to pursue this matter until it has been resolved.

If no response has been received from EHDC by the 26th May, then the Parish Council will write again on the subject. (If this is not successful, Mr. Poulton will be asked to take the matter up, as a District Councillor, on our behalf.)

Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop

- **Attend meeting on 4th May re Watton Youth Club**

This item to be discussed under item 4 g, Future of Watton Youth Club (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Write to PC Ivens requesting quarterly crime and nuisance figures**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re annual RoSPA playground inspection**

This action point has been completed.

- **Produce poster for ‘Peep into the Past’ videos**

This action point has been completed.

- **Find out reasons for granting permission for mobile dwelling at Blue Hill Farm**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 5 b i, Blue Bury Farm, Walkern Road (on page 7 & 8 of these minutes).

3 Specific items

a) Parish Map

Mr. Meischke presented the latest version of the Parish Map and invited comments from the Parish Councillors. Various additions and changes were discussed and agreed.

Mr. Meischke to give this latest input to his son, Jonathan Meischke, so that he can make the necessary alterations to the map.

b) Dog-fouling: dog-waste bin for Mill Lane

Mr. Poulton reported that he had spoken Mr. McGregor of Wimpey Homes, who informed him that they have agreed in principal to purchase three dog-waste bins for the village. They are now awaiting the agreement of the finance department so that bins can be purchased.

It was agreed that the bins shall be located as follows.

- Great Innings - at the back of the play area
- Mill Lane - adjacent to EMM Decor’s car park
- Moorymead Close - at the Station Road entrance to the close

c) Three Valley water trenches

Mr. Filer was not present at the meeting to report on this item.

d) Walkern Road bridge

Mr. Knight reported that he and Mrs. Dinnin will contact Mr. Ron Jack at EH Highways Partnership to arrange a site meeting.

Action: I. Knight/C. Dinnin

e) Reinstatement of bollards in School Lane

Mr. Dunhill reported that the bollards are scheduled to be relocated in July 2000, in conjunction with resurfacing works on the stretch of footpath 17 that runs from Glebe Close to Rectory Lane.

This item to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 20th September 2000 so that Mr. Dunhill can report if the work has been done satisfactorily or not.

Agenda 9/00

f) Sports & Social Club - additional playing fields and sporting facilities

Parish Councillors discussed the Sports & Social Club’s proposals presented to them at their Parish Council meeting held on the 19th May 2000.

Mr. Poulton asked Mr. Knight to define what he meant by explicit support. Mr. Knight said that the Parish Council should state its support for this project which is a necessary requirement for this ever expanding village.

The question was raised that if the Sports & Social Club failed in obtaining funds for their project, would the Parish Council be willing to follow the project forward for them. Mr. Poulton said that, in his opinion, the Parish Council would be more of a hindrance than a help in obtaining grant money because it had already received substantial amounts for the Community Hall and the MPPA projects.

Mr. Poulton also reminded Mr. Knight that when the Parish Council was building the Community Hall, there was no outside support given by the Sports and Social Club.

g) Future of Watton Youth Club

Mr. Poulton reported that, following the Police Surgery held on the 4th May, he, PC Ivens, Mrs Dinnin and Sarah Davies (Voluntary Youth Worker) had met to discuss the future of the Youth Club. Mrs. Davies asked the Parish Council to send a letter to the Youth & Community Service, at HCC, to request that they provide and fund a permanent Youth Club leader for one evening a week.

Mr. Poulton then read out Mr. Vaughan's (Area Manager at HCC) response dated 15th May.

'I write further to your letter to me dated 8th May 2000.

In your letter you ask for our support to provide a part-time paid youth club leader to run the youth club alongside local volunteers. This, in addition to the £200 grant that the youth club currently receives for programme costs from the Youth Service.

Although all grants for this year have now been agreed, I am prepared to make an exception in this case on receipt of a grant application from the youth club for one paid p/t member of staff for one session per week. Roger Inglis, the full-time area youth worker is arranging this with Sarah Davies (local volunteer). Should you have any queries, please contact Roger on (01920 888173) or, of course, myself.

In the meantime, thank you for your letter and for your funding request. I hope that this has been helpful.'

It was agreed to write to Mr. Vaughan expressing the Parish Council's thanks and appreciation of his support, which will hopefully lead to Watton-at-Stone soon having a part-time youth club leader. **Action: J. Allsop**

h) Request by George Marvin for use of Community Hall car park on 20th July 2000

Mr. Poulton reported that he had received a request for the use of the Community Hall car park on Thursday 20th July 2000. Mr. Poulton stated that the car park is not private and members of the public are therefore entitled to use it. It was agreed that Mr. Marvin be informed that he can have the use of the car park if spaces are available.

i) Government threat to abolish Town and Parish Councils

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Mr. Oliver Heald MP (date 15th May) which acknowledged receipt of the detailed and interesting response from the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council on the subject of the future of Town and Parish Councils.

Mr. Heald said that the views of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council were very much in accord with his own and he shall take every opportunity to put these points forcefully whenever the subject arises in Parliamentary debate.

j) Future of the recycling site at Watton JMI School

Refer to item 2 b, Contact Watton-at-Stone Primary School re their recycling site (on page 1 of these minutes).

k) BT phone box - High Street

Mr. Dunhill reported that the crowns on the BT phone box had still not been painted gold. The Clerk to contact BT again. **Action: J. Allsop**

l) Police Surgery - 4th May 2000

Mr. Poulton reported that the Police Surgery had been very successful. 12 members of the public had attended and a follow-up meeting has been arranged for Thursday 22nd June, between 6 to 7 p.m. Mr. Poulton said that he had arranged for a notice to appear in the June issue of the Parish Magazine and that posters advertising the event will be displayed within the village.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

m) Lamppost number 5 on Hockerill

Mr. Poulton said that he had met with Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership) concerning the safety of this damaged lamppost. EH Highways Partnership had informed the Parish Council that the lamppost was so badly damaged that it needed replacing. Mr. Jack has agreed to see if the lighting column can be repaired.

This item to remain under Specific Items until it has been resolved.

n) **Renewal of license for temporary access across the land known as the Old Cottage site at Watton Green**

Because no objections had been received from members of the Parish Council or the public, it was agreed that the License be renewed for the period 9th June 2000 to 9th June 2001.

Action: N. Poulton

4 Reports

a) **Sub-Committees**

Budget & Finance

Mr. Knight reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

- **Report on meeting held on 10th May 2000**

All Parish Councillors were copied with the minutes of the meeting, together with the revised 12-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall.

Mr. Knight gave his report on the meeting.

Cornhill Insurance, our current insurers, remain competitive.

Valuations for insurance purposes are being sought for the War Memorial and the Parish Council owned play equipment.

The Parish Council agreed the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee recommendation to make the following changes on the insurance schedule.

- valuation for street lighting columns to be increased to £700 each
- dog-waste bins to be increased to £200 each

The Clerk to contact Cornhill Insurance accordingly when the valuations for the War Memorial and play equipment have been obtained.

Action: J. Allsop

- **12-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall**

No comments were made on the revised accounts.

Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council place £5,000 in 'ear marked reserves' for any unforeseen repairs to the Community Hall. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Damage to fire doors**

Mr. Poulton said that the doors had now been repaired by Mr. Bunyan, at a price of £200. The invoice was settled directly by the Cornhill insurance, who have requested a cheque from the Parish Council for the excess of £75.

- **MPPA**

- **Applications for grant-aid for re-surfacing project**

No further applications for grant-aid have been submitted for the shortfall of £2593 required for the re-surfacing project.

However, Coutts Charitable Trust has written stating that no funds are available for the project. No decisions have yet been received from EHDC, B.B.A. Group or SQ Environmental Trust Limited.

- **Contract with Doe Sport for re-surfacing**

This item was discussed under 2 a, Review of Actions - Contact Doe Sport re flexibility of deposit required for MPPA and when payment is required (on page 2 of these minutes).

- **District Valuer re assessment of rateable property**

Mr. Poulton reported that the District Valuer has requested information on the accounts for the Community Hall since it became a Charitable Trust, so that the rateable value on the Community Hall building can be reassessed.

It was agreed that Mr. Poulton sign the completed forms and they be returned accordingly.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop

Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Meischke reported on the following items concerning the Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee.

- **MPPA - floodlighting lamp**

Mr. Meischke said that one of the MPPA floodlighting lamps is broken. He is trying to find a contractor to supply and fit a replacement 2 kW lamp. The installation work requires the use of a cherry-picker vehicle.

Action: J. Meischke

Comment [C1]:

• **Main Hall flooring at Community Hall**

Mr. Meischke read out the following letter (dated 15th May) from Tim Ellis of J & M Contract Flooring.

‘Re: Sports Hall floor repair, Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Further to our recent meeting, we confirm that we have consulted Mr. P Gardener of Altro Ltd., with a view to providing a satisfactory repair to the damaged area of Mondesport flooring.

The options are as follows:-

1. Neatly cut out a square of material e.g. six inches sq.

Fully adhere replacement material to recess

or

2. Carefully peel up damaged surface layer to flooring, apply contact adhesive and press down firmly.

Either option should incur a charge of £75 plus VAT (one man ½ day minimum charge).

However, if you decide to accept option no. two I will endeavour to carry out this work myself - no charge!

After discussion it was agreed write to J & M Contract Flooring accepting their offer to carry-out option 2, free of charge. **Action: J. Allsop**

Environment

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

• **Watton Green**

Mr. Stock said that he would check the state of the ditch at Watton Green to see if it needed strimming. He will also see if the way-paths need mowing. He will then get quotes and authorise the work accordingly. These tasks will be funded by the grant-aid from HELP. **Action: D. Stock**

• **Village Pump**

Mr. Stock said that he had not received a report from Mr. Filer on the village pump.

However, he had noticed and was concerned about the new hedging around the pump being lost in the long grass. He therefore felt that we need a maintenance programme to ensure that the new hedge was always visible and clear of grass. It was agreed to ask Jeff Skidmore to trim and hand cut the area on a fortnightly basis so that the hedging does not get damaged. Mr. Skidmore to be asked to arrange for the first cut to be carried-out without delay. **Action: N. Poulton**

• **Traffic-calming and safety of crossing in Station Road**

Mrs. McCash presented the plans received from EH Highways Partnership for the raised and extended footpath across the railway bridge in Station Road.

The scheme, which includes simple solid white-lines on both sides of the road on the bridge, is scheduled for implementation during May/June of this year.

Mr. Stock said that EH Highways Partnership’s intention was to slow traffic over the bridge by presenting drivers with a visual impression (i.e. a solid white-line) that the bridge was narrower than it really is.

After much discussion on the subject, it was agreed to write to EH Highways Partnership on two separate issues.

1. Agree to the plans for the installation of the raised footpath and associated white-lining.
2. Request plans for the previously discussed traffic-calming scheme for Station Road before the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 21st June 2000. **Action: H. McCash**

i) **Report**

Mr. Meischke carried-out the sportsfield report on the 14th May, the result of which is as follows.

• **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Just cut.
Litter	Some.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	OK.
Netball posts	OK and chained.
General	Rail fencing at gate dangerous. Grass cuttings in hedge excessive.

• **Children’s Playground:**

Condition of surface	Good.
Litter/Litter bin	½.
Large swings	Seats condition poor.

Small swings	Good.
See-Saw	Still squeaks.
Slide	Good.
Comments	Lots of litter.
• Community Hall:	
General Condition (Exterior)	OK.
Litter bin	OK.
Car Park	OK.
General	Roof rubbish - clear.
• Multi-Purpose Play Area:	
Surface	OK.
Boundary Fencing	OK.
Tennis nets	Good.
Litter	OK.
General	Some ingress of weeds. Fence requires painting soon.
• Great Innings Play Area:	
Equipment	Excellent.
Surfaces	Excellent.
Litter	Excellent.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	None.
Comments	Wonderful.
• Allotments Area:	
Access	OK.
Condition of paths between allotments	Mainly OK.
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	Good (nice to see so many).
Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	Poor.
Litter	OK.
Comments	Footpath and trees behind Chestnuts requires attention.
• Culverts on Mill Lane	
Litter and rubbish in and around culverts	Some.
Dog-fouling	Some.
Comments	Very overgrown.
• Salt bins	
Perrywood Lane	OK.
Great Innings	OK.
Station Road	OK.
Moorymead Close	OK.
Hazeldell	OK.
• Dog-waste bins	
Footpath 17	OK and in use.
Sportsfield	OK and in use.
Church Walk	OK and in use.
Walkern Road	OK and in use.
Station Road	OK and in use.
High Street (by Memorial)	OK and in use.

5 Planning

a) Applications

i) Crowbury, Church Lane

Single storey infill to courtyard. Single storey extension to provide new rear access. Some elevation alterations. Conversion of coach house to gymnasium.

Parish Councillors studied the plans for this application

After lengthy discussion, no objections were raised.

The Clerk to inform EHDC that the Parish Council has no comment on this application. **Action: J. Allsop**

b) Decisions

i) Blue Bury Farm, Walkern Road

Mobile Dwelling.

-EHDC - Permission granted

Mr. Poulton reported that because of problems caused by staff shortages in the planning department, the Parish Council had unfortunately received late notification that permission had been granted.

Parish Councillors again expressed their concern that granting permission for a mobile dwelling could be followed by permission for a permanent dwelling. Mr. Poulton assured Parish Councillors that the planning department would need proof that a permanent agricultural dwelling was justified for the site. This would include information on the farm accounts to see if the business would support the need for a permanent dwelling.

ii) 20 Lammas Road

Small rear conservatory

-EHDC - Permission granted

6 Correspondence received

a) Mr. Northcott (11 Watton House) Southern entrance of village

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Mr. Northcott, dated 19th April, in which he complained about the poor state of the road, footpath and grass verges at the South entrance to the village, i.e. as result of the water rehabilitation works.

Mr. Poulton said that had a site meeting with Ron Jack (EH Highways Partnership) who has agreed to have the area tidied (he will contact Three Valleys Water re their responsibilities in this area).

The Parish Council agreed to purchase a selection of two to three hundred spring bulbs for this site. These will be purchased and planted in early autumn. This item to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 20th September 2000.

Agenda 9/00

It was agreed to write to Mr. Northcott informing him of the Parish Council's actions. **Action: J. Allsop**

b) Mr. Dennison - re Coronation photograph of village

Mr. Poulton said that he had received two letters from Mr. Dennison (dated the 9th and 27th April). He then read out the first letter as follows.

'If by chance you can cast your mind back nearly 50 years, you may recall the Watton-at-Stone Coronation Celebrations. On that occasion your Coronation Committee used one of my photos as the basis of a drawing for a Christmas card which you used for fund raising.

The Golden Jubilee year rapidly approaches. By chance I came across the Christmas card in question.

A "then and now" exercise?

Mr. Poulton replied to Mr. Dennison asking him if he had an original of the card that he would be willing to donate to the Parish Council's archives. He also enclosed three booklets on the village's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the by-pass, and the Parish Councils Centenary Celebrations.

In Mr. Dennison's second letter, he said that he needs time to decide whether or not to pass the original card to the Parish Council and wonders if there maybe another copy somewhere in the village.

c) Robert Adams - re ferreting

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Mr. R. Adams, of 4 Glebe Close (dated 24th April 2000), in which he thanked the Parish Council for the licence to ferret the areas of ground known as The Lammas, Watton Green and the allotments from September 1999 to March 2000.

The following rabbits and vermin were taken:

Lammas	28 rabbits	&	2 rats
Watton Green	6 rabbits		
Allotments	7 rabbits		

Mr. Adams confirmed that the rabbit problem on the allotments still stems from warrens in an adjacent garden.

He also said that the paddock at the far end of Lammas is overrun by rabbits. If permission was granted to ferret the paddock and hedgerows, the reduction in the number of rabbits would be greater.

Mr. Dunhill confirmed that the paddock at the far end of the Lammas belongs to the Abel Smith estate. It was agreed to write to Mr. Abel Smith stating that the Parish Council seeks permission to have this paddock ferreted professionally.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Stock proposed that, because there had been no problems during the last season, we renew the licences for Mr. Adams to ferret Watton Green, the allotments and the Lammas. This was agreed.

Mr. Stock to arrange to sign the licenses with Mr. Adams.

Action: D. Stock

d) Watton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre and Charity Truck Pull Pitch Association

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter dated 8th May.

‘On behalf of the above mentioned committee, I would like to thank the Parish Council for your very kind donation towards Mayfayre 2000. I’m sure everyone who attended on the day will agree a good time was had by all and a grand total of £2,500 was raised.

Once again your support is very much appreciated.’

Mr. Poulton said that it is not often that you see four people do so much hard work for the good of their community. He proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the members of the Watton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre and Charity Truck Pull Committee stating the Parish Council’s appreciation of their efforts in bringing the community of Watton-at-Stone together in such a successful manner. Also thanking them for the clean condition in which the High Street was left after the event.

Action: J. Allsop

e) EHDC - RoSPA Playground inspections

EHDC has written (letter dated 2nd May) thanking the Parish Council for confirming their intention to participate with its annual playground inspection (undertaken by RoSPA). The inspection will be carried-out during September and the estimated cost is £40 with an additional cost of £20 if a risk assessment is carried-out at the same time.

It was agreed to ask EHDC to arrange for a risk assessment to be carried-out at the same time as the annual inspection.

Action: J. Allsop

f) Cricket Club - re storage space on meadow

Mr. Poulton read out a letter (dated 10th May) from Cled Fursland of the Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club. In his letter, he asks the Parish Council to consider proposals for a brick building (to house the motorised roller) to be built on the sportsfield. The total cost of the scheme would be born by the Cricket Club or the Sports & Social Club. Two schemes are proposed. One scheme is to locate the building adjacent to the MPPA (on the Church Walk side of the sportsfield) and to include the Tennis Club in their plans. The other one is to locate the building on the School Lane side of the field, i.e. in the far corner furthest away from the Community Hall. Because the last meeting of the Sports & Social Club was cancelled (8th May), the Cricket Club has not yet informed them of its intentions.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to Cled Fursland stating that in principal the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal to site the building adjacent to the MPPA. Obviously any further discussions would need to be directed through the Sports & Social Club. Also, permission would be required from the St. Albans Diocesan Board for such a structure and planning permission would be required. The total cost of the project would have to be paid for by the Sports & Social Club.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop

g) EHDC - Training for planning committee members in development control decision making

EHDC has written (letter dated 9th May) inviting Parish Councillors to attend a planning committee training session on Thursday 22nd June. No Parish Councillor present is able to attend. The Clerk to contact the other Parish Councillors to find out if they would like to attend this meeting.

Action: Action: J. Allsop

7 Reports from other Organisations

None.

8 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Payments

Padlock for Lammas field gate

6.69

6.69

Receipts

3 Peep in the Past Videos

15.00

15.00

Cheques required

J. Allsop

April salary

447.90

J. Allsop

Tax rebate

149.76

M. Stanley

Installation of bench seat

150.00

Kevin Jones

48 hours litterpick

203.52

Stevenage Glass

replacement glass window

102.50

J. Allsop

May salary

447.70

D. Chandler

8 hours litterpick

33.92

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

PC-05/00

J. Allsop	Cable phone calls to 4/5/00	28.18
Cornhill Insurance	Annual premium	<u>556.65</u>
		<u>2120.13</u>

Cheques received

Cornhill Insurance	Insurance claim for broken seat	385.66
N. Poulton	Sale of 28 Peep in the past videos	140.00
EHDC	Half-year litterpick payment	<u>1590.68</u>
		<u>2116.34</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall**Petty Cash****Payments****Receipts**

Jim Keen - Main Hall hire	80.00
Mrs. Beatty - Pavilion hire	<u>14.00</u>
	<u>94.00</u>

Cheques required

EHDC	Rates for April and May 2000	165.83
Cornhill Insurance	Excess on insurance claim for damaged pavilion door	75.00
Parish Council	ref. Stevenage Glass Co re broken window	102.50
Henry Tilly Sports Ltd.	2 Tennis nets	170.00
C. Bewley	32 hours cleaning work	160.00
D. Chandler	4 hours work	16.96
Eastern Energy	bill date 3rd May 2000	<u>185.87</u>
		<u>876.16</u>

Cheques received

Mrs. Gilbey	Main Hall hire	89.00
Tennis Club	Main Hall hire	138.00
Watton School	Hire of Parish Council room	10.50
Badminton Club	Main Hall hire	135.00
Tennis Club	Donation towards purchase of tennis nets	144.68
Mrs. Rutter	Pavilion hire on 27.05.00	<u>32.00</u>
		<u>549.18</u>

Mr. Poulton reported that he had purchased a padlock for the Lammas gate and that the key is in the locked store room in the Main Hall.

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

9 Chairman's / Clerk's Report

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Grass cutting**

Mr. Poulton said that Jeff Skidmore had spoken to him about the grassed area adjacent to the Community Hall garden and the piece of land in front of Beane Cottage on the Walkern Road. Mr. Skidmore felt that both pieces of land required a grass cuts on a two-weekly basis (and not four weekly) to keep them looking presentable. There will be an additional cost of approximately £80 to have 5 or more cuts carried-out during this season. All Parish Councillors present agreed to this action.

Mr. Poulton to inform Mr. Skidmore accordingly.

Action: N. Poulton

- **Community Hall hirings**

Mr. Poulton reported that there had been a couple of inquiries about the use of the Parish Council room because the Pavilion facilities had already been booked. He said that it would be a shame to turn away potential hirers when the Parish Council room could be made available for use. All Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council room should be hired out at the same hourly rate as the Pavilion. Only persons known to the Parish Council to be allowed to use this facility and the Clerk to monitor the meter readings on the photocopier to check its use during such hirings.

- **The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 21st June 2000.**