

A meeting of the Wotton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 5th December 2001 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. S. Davies	Mr. V. Dunhill
	Mr. D. Filer	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. J. Meischke
Police:	Inspector Pat Rawle	PC John Ivens
Public:	MR. E. Riddle	

2 Update on policing matters by Inspector Pat Rawle and P.C. John Ivens

Mr. Poulton welcomed Inspector Pat Rawle and PC John Ivens to the meeting. PC Ivens last attended a Parish Council meeting on the 3rd October 2001.

The additional police coverage that began on the 1st October is continuing within the village. There has been a significant drop in crime committed by the youth of the village, who have generally been very well behaved.

PC Ivens gave a break down of the crime figures from 1st October 2001 – 1st December 2001. There have been 147 incidents notified or attended by the police. These include requests for the inspection of suspicious parcels, incidents of theft or damage, road traffic incidents, car break-ins, assaults, burglary, concerns for welfare etc. There were 13 incidents of theft or damage to property during this period. It would appear that members of the public are now reporting more incidents that occur in the village, however small.

Seven sets of parents have been advised in writing of unsocial behaviour carried-out by their children. All of these families live in rented accommodation and have been advised that if their behaviour is not acceptable, then their tenancy would be jeopardised.

Mr. Poulton and PC Ivens have been meeting on a regular basis to monitor the policing in the village. During their discussions it was agreed that there is a lack of recreational activities for the youth in the village. They have also met with some of the youth who are very keen on the idea of bike ramps. Mr. Poulton said that he had been looking at the prices of mobile bike-ramps. Wicksteed Leisure could supply three suitable items of equipment for £6,973.

Mr. Poulton said that EHDC have money available in a community capital scheme. The Parish Council could apply to them for a 50% grant. Applications must be submitted by 19th December. However, because we had already received a grant from this scheme towards play equipment, it is unlikely that we would get any additional funding. The police also have money available in their drugs fund and PC Ivens suggested that our application would be viewed favourably.

Mrs. McCash proposed that Mr. Poulton be given the authority to submit applications for grant-aid to EHDC and the Police. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Action: N. Poulton

PC Ivens said that he attended the last Youth Club meeting. He arranged for the Hertfordshire Youth and Community Service 'Rolling Zone' van to be present. The van contains three computers, which have CD-Rom drive and a link to the Internet. The youngsters all enjoyed using the computer equipment.

- Pat Rawle and PC Ivens left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Dinnin.

2 Update on policing matters by Inspector Pat Rawle and P.C. John Ivens

This item was discussed before item 1 on this page.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2001**

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

b) Review of actions

- **Inspect the broken manhole covers on the sportsfield and decide what action should be taken**

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke inspected the two manhole covers and have placed concrete slabs over them as an interim solution.

The Parish Council needs to find out if these drains are in use or not and if they are, who they belong to. Mr. Poulton said that he believes that the Parish Council (or the contractor who built the Community Hall) wrote to the previous owner of 9 Rectory Lane. The Clerk to look through the files and old minutes to see if she can find the letter. **Action: J. Allsop**

If no correspondence on the matter can be found, then a method of finding out if the drains are in use or not must be found.

This item to remain on the agenda under Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee. **Agenda: 01/02**

- **Obtain model byelaws that have been on circulation from Mr. Clark's home and pass to Mr. Stock**
This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Byelaws - Watton Green and the Lammas (on page 5 of these minutes).

- **Arrange for the concrete bollard on the Lammas to be buried**

Mr. Dunhill said that during the tree-planting day he had tried to push the concrete bollard over so it could be buried. However, the structure is quite substantial and he had been unable to do so.

As previously minuted, 'in spite of extensive investigations, the Parish Council has been unable to ascertain to whom the concrete bollard belongs'.

It was agreed by all to leave the bollard as it is.

- **Contact Watton Primary School re the Lammas tree-planting day on the 21st November**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Tree planting on Lammas (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Write to Dr. Norden re the Oak Tree in the sportsfield hedge, opposite his house**

This action point has been completed.

No response has been received. The Clerk to chase.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Ask Wicksteed Leisure to supply and fit 4 swing-seats and inspect see-saw whilst they are on-site installing new play equipment**

The Clerk said that she wrote to Wicksteed Leisure as requested. Wicksteed Leisure has acknowledged our request to inspect the see-saw and said that it would be carried-out in the form of a safety check (at a cost of £25 plus VAT). However, they did not acknowledge our order to supply and fit 4 swing-seats. The Clerk spoke to Mr Les Pace at Wicksteed Leisure who agreed to look into the matter. No response has been received to date.

The Clerk to give all relevant information to Mr. Meischke.

Action: J. Allsop

This item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Community Hall Trustees. **Agenda: CH**

- **Speak to Police about residents' problems in the village**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton said that the police had visited the residents concerned and they were happy with the current situation.

- **Speak to Police to ask them to restart their visits to Watton Youth Club on Monday evenings**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton confirmed that the Police had restarted their visits to the Youth Club.

- **Chase WAGN for a response to our letter of 8th October**

Mr. Stock said that he had now received a letter dated 13th November from Norma Unwin (WAGN's Group Station Manger for the Hertford Loop). Ms. Unwin said that she would be addressing the issue of information to their customers with all staff in the area. The platform announcements appear to be operational again.

- **Ask Watton-at-Stone PCC if they would be willing to deliver the Rural Transport Guides for a fee**

This action point has been completed and the leaflets have now been delivered throughout the village.

Mr. Knight said that the Watton-at-Stone PCC fee for the delivery is £10.

- **Attend the public construction of the ramps on the sportsfield**

This action point has been completed.

- **Erect a sign adjacent to the ramps**

No action to be taken on this item for the present time.

- **Write to Mr. Skidmore asking him to submit his quotation again and clarify the frequency of the work**

Mr. Filer said that Mr. Skidmore was contacted verbally and has now submitted a revised quotation (dated 5th December 2001) of £1162 + vat for the following works to be carried-out in 2002.

1. Mow plot of land adjacent to Beane Cottage fortnightly or when required.
2. Strim footpath from Walkern Road to Oak tree.
3. Strim footpath alongside River Beane from Walkern Road to Mill Lane.
4. Strim around the two seats on Lammas field.
5. Strim from top of George and Dragon car park to 80 High Street.
6. Cut back hedge running from Bull car park to back of Rivershill 2 – 3 times per year.
7. Strim footpath from Community Hall to Rectory Lane (both sides).
8. Mow land by Community Hall fortnightly or as required
9. Dig and weed flowerbed by Community Hall as and when required.
10. Strim hedge, length of the playing area on Sportsfield site and under seats.
11. Strim or mow Church Walk (both sides).
12. Strim footpath behind the Chestnuts both sides of the stile.
13. Strim driveway alongside Glebe Court, both sides.
14. Strim around village pump.
15. Strim around MPPA 3 times a year.

Items, 2,3,4,5,7,10,11,12 and 14 cut monthly. All subject to weather conditions.

Mr. Filer proposed that Mr. Skidmore's quotation be accepted. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Place notice in the Parish News re funds available for Queen's Golden Jubilee events**
This action point has been completed.
- **Inform Clerk of her salary increase from the 1st April 2002**
This action point has been completed.
- **Enter into a five-year contract for the hire of a hand dryer**
This item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Community Hall Trustees. **Agenda: CH**
The next meeting of the Community Hall Trustees has been rescheduled for the 12th December.
- **Meet with Emma Norrington of HELP at Watton Green on 14th November**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Watton Green (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Meet on-site at Watton Green re mounting of the artwork on the information board**
This action point has been completed.
Refer to item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Watton Green (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Write to Mr. Abel Smith re control of rabbits on the Lammas**
This item to be discussed under 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Rabbit problem on Lammas (on pages 5 and 6 of these minutes).
- **Report faulty street lamp near Glebe Court to lighting department at the EH Highways Partnership**
Mr. Poulton said the contractors renovating Glebe Court had hit the street lamp. Unfortunately, the contractors went into liquidation about a week ago.
A potential new contractor for the work at Glebe Court is currently being vetted. Mr. Poulton said that it is still hoped that all the work to Glebe Court will be finished in January 2002.
The repair of the street lamp to remain on the agenda under Specific items until it has been repaired.
Agenda: 1/02
- **Write to EHDC re 2 The Beanside**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re Datchworth Manor Spring North**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re 36 High Street**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re 62 Rivershill**
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to EHDC re The Stables and early C19 building, Home Farm, Woodhall Park**

This action point has been completed.

- **Return completed Countryside Stewardship – Annual return forms to DEFRA**

This action point has been completed.

- **Return completed ballot paper for Standards Committee to EHDC**

This action point has been completed.

Mr. Poulton said that the following people were duly elected onto the Standards Committee.

Town Councillor Representative:	Councillor Jan Richardson of Bishop's Stortford Town Council
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Parish Council Representative:	Councillor Brian Taylor of Standon Parish Council
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- **Chase Claytons for a signed copy of the lease and a response to our letter re building start date**

This item to be discussed under 7 c, Claytons – Deed of Waiver (on page 8 of these minutes).

- **Attend EHDC Area Forum meeting on 8th November**

Mr. Poulton said that he attended the meeting, and one of the main topics of discussion was skateboards facilities throughout the district.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

- **Purchase cushions for the existing seats**

This action point has been completed.

4 Specific Items

a) Playground equipment – update

Mrs. Davies reported that the new playground equipment had now been installed. However, the rubber safety-surface has not yet been laid under the new large piece of play equipment. Also, the making good of the surface where the two pieces of new spring play equipment has been installed, in place of the old slide, has not been done. As an interim safety precaution to avoid tripping-up, sand has been poured into the holes in this safety-surface.

Mrs. Davies to chase Wicksteed to find out when the safety surface is to be installed **Action: S. Davies**

It was agreed that the new equipment looks very good.

b) Hosting of 2002 Inter Parish Conference and agenda items

A provisional date for the Inter Parish Council Conference was set for Wednesday 27th February 2002 at 7.30 pm in our Community Hall, School Lane.

It was agreed to invite the following speakers to talk.

- David Beales - Director of Planning & Property - on Rural Planning Matters
- Bernadette Marjoram - Director of Community Services – Community Planning

Action: N. Poulton J. Allsop

When David Beales and Bernadette Marjoram have confirmed that they can attend the conference, invitations will be sent to local Parish Councils accordingly.

This item to remain on the agenda.

Agenda: 01/02

c) Ornate Village Sign

Mr. Poulton said that Messrs. Bewley and Beavan were experiencing difficulty in getting the ornate village sign made. The Clerk has passed some leaflets on sign makers to them.

d) Flower bed outside Longmeadow

The flowerbeds outside Longmeadow have now been replanted by Camstead Homes.

5 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Mr. Filer reported on the following item concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

- **Precept 2002/2003**

Mr. Filer said that the precept forms had been received from EHDC.

Mr. Meischke proposed that the Parish Council agreed a precept of £19,594 and that the forms be duly completed and returned to EHDC. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Action: D. Filer/J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

Comment [C1]:

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

- **Repair of broken windows and insurance claim**

All of the broken windows have now been replaced and an insurance claim has been submitted to Cornhill Insurance.

Recreation & Amenities

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

- **RoSPA – Play area safety inspection**

The RoSPA inspection report has been on circulation.

Refer to item 3 b, Review of Actions - Ask Wicksteed Leisure to supply and fit 4 swing-seats and inspect see-saw whilst they are on-site installing new play equipment (one page 2 of these minutes).

Environment

- **Village pump**

Mr. Stock said that he had noted that the planting around the village pump was in a very poor state with only two or three of the original shrubs still remaining. He then suggested we consider planting some low level, low maintenance shrubs around the pump and on the bank. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Mr. Poulton said that he had been asked by Watton Primary School if the Parish Council had a small area of land that the children could cultivate and maintain. It was agreed that the pump site could be an ideal location. Mr. Poulton to speak to the school further.

Action: N. Poulton

- **Watton Green**

Mr. Stock was happy to report that the information board had now been completed. The laminated artwork has been sandwiched between two pieces of Perspex and mounted on the wooden framework of the information board.

Mr. Stock said that his meeting with Emma Norrington (of HELP) at Watton Green had been very successful. She has since written to us enclosing a cheque for £300 (i.e. the grant aid outstanding) and congratulating us on a successful and worthwhile project.

Mr. Stock said that the project was now complete although the Management Plan (e.g. cutting for hay and planting new trees) would continue. Also, there is a total overspend of £140 on the Watton Green project as a whole, which considering the vast improvements in the area is a very small amount for us to pay.

- **Byelaws - Watton Green and the Lammas**

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the byelaws suggested for Watton Green and the Lammas. A copy of which is attached to these minutes

See attached

Parish Councillors agreed that we should proceed with the process of having the byelaws confirmed. However, under our Countryside Stewardship scheme, we have to seek the permission of DEFRA before any byelaws are applied to the Lammas.

A copy of the byelaws to be sent to DEFRA accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Rabbit problem on Lammas**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Mr. Abel Smith (dated 14th November) concerning the rabbit problem affecting his field adjacent to the Lammas.

Mr. Poulton thanked Mr. Dunhill for speaking to the Countryside Management Service, who in turn put Mr. Steve Alsford (a full-time ferreter) in contact with us. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock met with Mr. Alsford on 17th November on-site and issued him with licences to ferret the Lammas and the paddock at the far end of the Lammas (this land is owned by the Abel Smith Estate). Mr. Alsford uses ferrets and lurchers, and will not be using guns or gas to control the rabbits.

Subsequently, Mr. Stock spoke to Mr. Adams (who also has ferreting licences for the Lammas and the paddock) to explain the current situation. He also gave him Mr. Alsford's telephone number so that the two licence holders could speak to each other.

Mr. Poulton wrote to the Countryside Management Service and DEFRA asking for clarification of the legal position regarding the reduction of crop yield due to rabbits on adjoining land. The Countryside Management Service has responded saying that we are legally responsible for keeping the rabbits culled. To date no response has been received from DEFRA.

The Clerk to Chase DEFRA.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Alsford was very disappointed that he had only taken 16 rabbits to date. He informed Mr. Poulton that the main rabbit problem appears to be on the bank adjacent to the bypass and that there is also a large infestation in Mill Lane. Parish Councillors discussed this problem at length.

It was agreed to write to Mr. Abel Smith informing him that we are seeking the advice of the Countryside Management Service and DEFRA on this matter. Also, that Mr. Alsford and Mr. Adams are continuing to ferret the Lammas and the adjacent paddock. **Action: D. Stock/J. Allsop**

Mr. Poulton agreed to contact EHDC to see if they can arrange for a survey to be carried-out on the land adjacent to the by-pass, plus Mill Lane and the Lammas bank, to ascertain where the main rabbit problem is coming from. **Action: N. Poulton**

• **Tree planting on Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill said that twelve Countryside Management Service volunteers (none of which came from the village) helped clear the two areas of hillside on the Lammas. Some tree planting was done but 30 trees still need planting. These have been temporality planted on Mr. Freeman's allotment.

Tree planting on the Lammas to be placed on the agenda for February 2002. **Agenda: 02/02**

Mr. Dunhill said that 15 children from Watton School spent an hour weeding and planting the hedge row. He said that this was another area that the school children could consider adopting.

It was agreed to write and thank Mrs. Manuel for the work the children had done. **Action: J. Allsop**

• **Broken stile on the Church meadow**

Mr. Dunhill said that this item has not progressed any further. Because the Rights of Way Officer has been off sick, he spoke to CMS and they will look at the stile to see what can be done. **Action: V. Dunhill**

b) Sportsfield

i) **Report**

Mrs McCash carried-out the sportsfield report on the 1st December, the result of which is as follows.

• **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Good (except goal areas).
Litter	None.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	Good.
Netball posts	Both OK.
General	-

• **Children's Playground:**

Condition of surface	Few holes in soft surface.
Litter/Litter bin	Empty.
Large swings	Seats in poor condition.
Small swings	Good.
See-Saw	Still squeaks.
Slide	One set of slide bars missing.
Comments	New play frame looking good and we in use.

• **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	Good.
Litter bin	Empty.
Car Park	Good.
General	Good. Boot scraper in need of clean.

• **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	Good, in use.
Boundary Fencing	Good.
Tennis nets	Good.
Litter	None.
General	Good.

• **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	Good.
Surfaces	Good. few weeds.
Litter	None.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	None.
Comments	Entry very muddy.

• **Allotments Area:**

Access	Good.
Condition of paths between Allotments	Good.
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	Good.

Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	Good.
Litter	None.
Comments	Good for the time of year.

• **Culverts on Mill Lane**

Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	Not too bad.
Dog-fouling	None.
Comments	-

• **Salt bins**

Perrywood Lane	Good.
Great Innings	Good.
Station Road	Good.
Moorymead Close	Good.
Hazeldell	Good.
Garages between Glebe	Good.
Closer & Rectory Lane	

• **Dog-waste bins**

Footpath 17	Good.
Sportsfield	Good.
Church Walk	Good.
Walkern Road	Good.
Station Road	Broken lid.
High Street (by Memorial)	
Great Innings	Good.
Mill Lane	Good.

• **General**

All well used.

• **Dog-waste bin – Station Road**

The Clerk said that this bin had had a problem closing and was repaired sometime during last week.

6 Planning

a) Applications

i) **62 Rivershill – Amended plan**

Front porch extension and garage conversion

Mr. Dunhill has inspected the amended plans, which show additional parking space at the front of the property. This has been done by reducing the amount of front garden.

The Parish Council has written stating that it has no objections to this application.

Parish Council agreed with this decision.

b) Decisions

i) **11 Glebe Close**

Two-storey rear extension

-EHDC permission granted

7 Correspondence received

a) HCC – Herts Minerals local plan review – key issues consultation

Mr. Poulton said that this item had been on circulation. It is the Parish Council's policy to reply to consultation documents.

Due to its extensive size, Mr. Stock was concerned about the impact the site near Stapleford would have on the local area.

After discussion, it was agreed to respond to the document stating that we are very concerned with the large-scale extraction of aggregate as identified on reference map 7 (potential locations for future sand and gravel extraction North of Hertford). Especially, with regard to the potential effect that heavy-lorry movements would have on the local roads and rural settlements. The site would have a detrimental effect on our villages and way of life.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscription renewal 2002

It was agreed that the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) provides the Parish Council with useful information on changes in legislation, e.g. changes in accounting practises. They also provide legal advice.

Therefore, Mr. Filer proposed that the SLCC annual membership of £48 be paid. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour. The Clerk to act accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

c) Claytons – Deed of Waiver

Claytons (the Diocesan Board Solicitors) have written advising us that the two copies of the Deed of Waiver have now been signed and sealed by the Church Commissioners. Claytons have requested a final payment of £150, i.e. is £100 for the release of the document and £50 fees for the Church of England’s legal office. One copy of the Deed will be sent to us on receipt of £150. A cheque has been sent to Claytons.

It was agreed that the Parish Council bear this additional cost and not the Cricket Club, who have already contributed £350 in legal fees and costs.

d) The Standards Board for England - Model code of conduct for local Councillors

All Parish Council were given a copy of the Model Code of Conduct prior to the meeting. Mr. Poulton said that the Parish Council will have to accept a code of conduct by May 2002. EHDC will be advising us on this document.

This item to be placed on a future agenda for discussion, when we have received the advice from EHDC.

e) Action for Growth in the Rural Economy (AGRE)– Rural business network meeting on 11th December

No Parish Councillors are able to attend this meeting.

The Clerk to notify AGRE accordingly

Action: J. Allsop

f) EHDC – Application for annual public entertainment licence at Waggon & horses Public House

Because the Waggon and Horses public House is a client of McCash and Hay, Mrs. McCash signed the Members’ Interest Book and left the meeting.

Mr. Poulton read out EHDC’s notification of the application from the Waggon and Horses for an annual public entertainment licence.

Mrs. McCash returned to the meeting.

g) Letter from Derek Monk re leaf collecting

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter dated 30th November from Derek Monk.

‘Please find enclosed invoice for £100 in respect of autumn leaf clearance in Watton-at-Stone.

Furthermore an additional invoice is included for £100. This is for extra leaf clearing as discussed with Mr. Poulton on 28.11.01.

The total number of hours worked as requested by Mr. Poulton is 40 hours.

If there is any query regarding works undertaken, please inform me.

I trust this meets with your satisfaction.

Mr. Stock proposed that the Parish Council pay the additional invoice of £100 submitted by Mr. Monk. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour

The clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

8 Reports from other Organisations

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

Mr. Stock said that the Extraordinary General Meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday 6th December. He said that he was unable to attend the meeting but had been speaking with Barbara Knight, who is hopeful that the Conversation Society will continue to exist. Mr. Dunhill will be attending the meeting.

• **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club**

Mr. Knight said that a ramblers and cyclists group has been formed within the village.

Mr. Poulton read Mrs. Dinnin’s reports on the Memorial Hall and Youth Club.

• **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee**

At the Memorial Hall Management Committee AGM on 8th November, the committee was re-elected. Denis Filer was elected as a new Trustee to replace Ted Skippin.

The work on the porch was due to start in early December. Mr. Filer said that this would now start in the New Year.

Grants are still being sort to pay for the modernisation of the toilets.

The Memorial Hall Management Committee has asked if they could group together with the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council for the purpose of annual fire checks. The aim being to see if the work can be done more cheaply than at present.

Mr. Filer to discuss this with Mr. Poulton for name and address of the Parish Council contractor.

- **Youth Club**

The Youth Club had its first committee meeting on 20th November. It was decided to send out a letter to all homes in the village to see if any more helpers could be persuaded to come forward.

9 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

None

Payments

None

Cheques required

Earl Haig	Poppy fund	55.00
N E Signs	Watton Green Notice Board	70.50
N J Whitehead	Sportsfield hedge cutting	300.00
Claytons	Additional legal fees for deed of Waiver on sportsfield	150.00
Woodland Improvement	Trees, Protectors and stakes for the Lammas	109.66
Watton PCC	For distributing leaflets around village	10.00
St. Albans Diocesan Board	Allotment half-year rent	300.00
J. Allsop	December salary	473.20
J. Allsop	Phone calls	24.20
C. Bewley	Christmas Bonus	50.00
Don Chandler	Christmas Bonus	25.00
J. Allsop	Christmas Bonus	<u>100.00</u>
		<u>1667.56</u>

Cheques received

Mrs. & Mrs. Stickley	Allotment hire 2001/2202	10.50
HELP	Grant – Watton Green information board	<u>300.00</u>
Sports & Social Club	Hire of sportsfield facilities	<u>450.00</u>
		<u>760.50</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr. Keen – Main Hall	80.00	Banked at Post Office	240.00
Mr. Murphy – Main Hall	6.00	Seat Cushions from John Lewis	71.40
Nikki Roberts – Main Hall	30.00	VAT return for 10/01	<u>69.75</u>
Mr. & Mrs. Emus – Pavilion hire	21.00		<u>381.15</u>
Mrs. Fuller – Pavilion hire	<u>20.00</u>		
	<u>157.00</u>		

Cheques required

Stevenage Glass	Replace broken window panes	<u>795.53</u>
		<u>795.53</u>

Cheques received

Sports & Social Club	Hire of Community Hall facilities	450.00
B & D Mech. Restoration Assoc		35.00
Mrs. Gilbey	Main Hall hire	75.00
Mr. & Mrs. McGrellis	Pavilion and Main Hall hire	<u>39.00</u>
		<u>599.00</u>

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

10 Chairman's / Clerk's Report

Mr. Poulton wished all Parish Councillors a happy Christmas and New Year. He then reported on the following items.

- **Community life in Hertfordshire**

Mrs. Muriel Allen has given the Parish Council a copy of the recently-published book 'Community Life in Hertfordshire'. The Parish Council donated £50 towards the publication of this book which contains an item about Watton-at-Stone (written by Mrs. Allen) together with pictures of the millennium tapestry.

This item to be placed circulation.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Litter bin**

Mr. Poulton said that we need to purchase a replacement litter bin for the one that was burnt in Hazeldell.

It was agreed not to purchase a metal bin because, although they do not burn, their shape can be distorted easily and makes them look shabby.

The Clerk to purchase a Trimline plastic bin (which is the type used throughout the village) with a metal liner from Glasdon UK.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Banding machine**

Mr. Dunhill to give the banding machine to Mr. Poulton.

Action: V. Dunhill

- **The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 9th January 2002.**