

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 13th November 2002 at 7.15 pm

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. S. Davies (after 7.23 pm)	Mrs. C. Dinnin
	Mr. V. Dunhill	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. J. Meischke

Members of Public: Mr. E. Riddle

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark and Mr. Filer.

2 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Meischke declared a personal interest in item 4 b, Chase Doe sport about quote for repairing fencing at MPPA (on page 2 of these minutes) because he owns Watton Service Station, which is one of the companies that has provided a quotation for the repair work to the MPPA fencing. Mr. Meischke will therefore leave the meeting when the item is discussed.

3 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

- **Road safety issues**

Last Thursday, there was a fatal accident on the Watton-at-Stone by-pass between a car and a motorcycle. The car was exiting Mill Lane and crossing the carriageway to go towards Stevenage when the collision took place.

As a result, the by-pass was closed and traffic diverted through Watton-at-Stone.

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail from Mr. Clark.

- **'Traffic Calming in Whempstead**

As elsewhere in Watton we are experiencing significantly higher volumes of traffic through the village both north/south from Benington to the A602 but also East/West between the Watton Bypass and Dane End avoiding the heavy traffic on the A602. As you will be aware it was the use of this road as a "rat run" last Thursday that led to the tragic death of a motor-cyclist last Thursday morning.

There are many minor collisions in the surrounding lanes but last week was an exception when there were 3 separate accidents in Mill Lane, at least one of which on Saturday led to the hospitalisation of one of the drivers.

The residents are therefore requesting the PC write to the Highways Partnership asking for a review of the situation especially as we do not even have any speed limits through the village. I, of course, would be very keen to take some responsibility for this project.

I would ask the Parish Council to make this request as a matter of urgency.'

Mr. Poulton proposed that Mr. Clark takes up this issue and liaises with the Clerk to send letters to the appropriate authorities.

Action: C. Clark

Parish Councillors discussed the accident and the slow traffic movement through the area. It was suggested that when the problem arises again the police could divert some of their officers to manage the traffic through the village. The worst affected areas of the village are at the Waggon and Horses junction and the southern end of the village near the post office.

Mr. Knight suggested that traffic exiting Mill Lane should not be allowed to turn right across the carriageway because it is too dangerous.

It was agreed to ask Mr. Clark to involve the police when proceeding with this issue and raise with them, and the Highways Authority, the suggestion of a no-right turn from Mill Lane onto the Watton by-pass.

Action: C. Clark

4 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2002**

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

b) Review of actions

- **Attend the site meeting at Watton Railway Station**

Mr. Stock reported that he and Mr. Poulton, together with Barbara Knight and Peter Knight (members of the Conservation Society), had an on-site meeting with WAGN representatives to discuss problems associated with our railway station. The meeting was very positive and WAGN has already made some minor improvements to the station, including the installation of a "community notice board" (for which Mr. Poulton holds the key). WAGN said that they were unable to fund CCTV at the station. In response to this, the Conservation Society asked that if they raised the funds for the installation of CCTV at the station, would WAGN allow it to be installed. WAGN were very pleased and surprised by this suggestion.

However, because of their general concerns about our railway station, the Conservation Society and the Parish Council have invited WAGN to attend a Public Meeting to be held in the Community Hall during January (date to be agreed). The topics for discussion will include the maintenance of the station, information systems, security and vandalism, and the quality of the train service. It is hoped that as many local rail-users will attend this meeting so that WAGN can be made aware of our concerns and dissatisfaction. (Will all Parish Councillors please note that the meeting is scheduled for 15th January 2003 starting at 8 pm.)

- **Write to May Guerney re replacing the trees that they have removed**

This action point has been completed.

The meeting closed because PC Ivens arrive and asked the Parish Council if they had any current problems to discuss with him.

The only issue raised was that of skate boarders and cyclists who were causing problems tonight in the High Street and on the Great Innings slope to the High Street. PC Ivens agreed to investigate. He reported back later in the evening to say that he had spoken to the youngsters involved (and to a High Street resident) requesting them to stop.

The meeting then re-opened.

- **Purchase an 'Outstanding Effort' trophy**

Mr. Poulton asked for this item to be deferred until May 2003, when the new council has been elected.

Agenda: May 2003

Refer to item 4 c, Action points outstanding for more than two months - Contact Watton Primary School re a Good Citizenship trophy (on page 3 of these minutes).

- **Accept Turner's verbal quotation for repairing the showers**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 6 a, Community Hall Trustees – Verbal report on meeting held on 12th November 2002 (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Chase Doe Sport about quote for repairing fencing at MPPA**

Because Watton Service Station had quoted to carry-out the repair works to the MPPA fencing, Mr. Meischke left the room while this item was discussed.

Mr. Poulton said that two quotations had been received for the repair to the kicker boards and the tensioning of the perimeter wire-fencing. One for £305 plus VAT and the other (a verbal quotation) for £150 plus VAT.

Mr. Knight proposed that the Parish Council accepts the lower quotation, Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to contact Doe Sport asking them to carry-out the work as soon as possible.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Meischke returned to the meeting.

Mrs. Davies arrived at the meeting.

Mrs. McCash asked if all Parish Councillors could be issued with the 2003/2004-draft budget prior to the December meeting.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Oversee the cutting back of the branch at the MPPA**

Mr. Meischke said that the sportsfield is still too wet to allow a cherry picker onto it and therefore this item is deferred until conditions improve.

- **Chase Doe Sport re six holes in surface of MPPA**

This item action point has been completed and Doe Sport has now completed the work

- **Chase Doe Sport and Wicksteed Leisure for quotes re installing a hard surface under the bike ramps**

Wicksteed Leisure has now inspected the site and promised to provide the correct dimensions for a hard tarmac-surface under the bike ramps. However, they will not be quoting to do the work because they advised the Clerk that their contractors would charge a lot more than a local company.

The Clerk to chase Wicksteed Leisure.

Action: J. Allsop

Doe Sport had informed the Clerk that they are unable to provide a quote for installing a hard surface under the bike ramps.

- **Accept Tim Clark's quotation for work on Parish Council land at Rivershill**

This action point has been completed.

- **Attend site meetings on the Lammas on 15th and 19th October to discuss Children's recreation area**

This item to be discussed under item 5 e, Specific Items - Children's recreation (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Give details to be included in the 2003/04 budget to Mr. Filer before 30th October**

This action point has been completed.

- **Place a public notice in the Hertfordshire Mercury to advertise byelaws for Watton Green and the Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

Refer to item 6 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Byelaws - Watton Green and the Lammas (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Write to allotment holders re rabbit problem on the Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

- **Investigate damage to surface of footpath near barrier on footpath leading to Church Lane**

Mr. Dunhill said that he had inspected the surface of footpath near the barrier and instructed the Rights of Way Officer at HCC to also inspect the site and make any repairs necessary.

Mrs. McCash, who originally reported the problem, agreed to chase this item to make sure that it is carried-out to her satisfaction.

Action: H. McCash

- **Contact Herts Tree Care re their quotation for work on the Lammas**

This action point has been completed.

- **Inform CDA Rural Enterprise Project that Mr. Poulton will attend meeting on helping your Local Community**

This action point has been completed.

- **Give Mr. Filer details of items to be included in Parish News**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write article for inclusion in the Parish News**

This action point has been completed.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

- **Contact Watton Primary School re a Good Citizenship trophy**

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Clark's report as follows.

'The Governing Body of the School will be delighted to accept the Parish Council's sponsorship of this award as it fits in very well with the drive for the children becoming more responsible citizens.

The Governors have asked the senior management team to develop some criteria for the award for the PC to consider.'

Mrs. Dinnin to find out the cost of two trophies.

Action: C. Dinnin

- **Install dog-fouling-penalty signs on allotments**

Mr. Meischke said this action point is outstanding because the public footpath signs at Glebe Court had not yet been reinstated and one of the dog-fouling-penalty signs needs to be fixed to it. He has asked some of the allotment holders where they would like the other sign to be erected.

Action: J. Meischke

5 Specific Items

a) Ornate Village sign

Mrs. Dinnin and Mrs. McCash have arranged to meet Mr. Mould (the sign maker) on 20th November.

Action: C. Dinnin/H. McCash

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Keith Bewley (Chairman of the Wotton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre Committee) who wants to know how the project is progressing, and repeated that the sign must be in accordance with this original design and specification.

Mr. Stock reminded all present that, at its meeting held in June 2002, the Parish Council agreed that there were some problems with Mr. Bewley's original design and the potential cost of the ornate sign, and it was therefore agreed to investigate a much simpler design carved in Oak. He now felt strongly that before we precede any further, we needed to meet with the Wotton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre Committee to discuss and agree our current plans.

Mr. Stock, Mrs. Dinnin and Mrs. McCash agreed to arrange a meeting with the Wotton-at-Stone Millennium Mayfayre Committee before our meeting with Mr. Would. If they are not happy with the Parish Council's proposals, we may need to consider alternative plans (e.g. worst case: returning the project funds).

Action: D. Stock/C. Dinnin/H. McCash

b) Ownership of footpath adjacent to Bull Public House

The Clerk said that she is due to visit the Land Registry in Stevenage within the next week, because the information they had sent her was insufficient.

Action: J. Allsop

c) Public footpath sign at Glebe Court

As Parish Councillors are aware, the builder went bankrupt during the refurbishment of Glebe Court. Although a replacement builder was found, he also failed to complete the job. Mr. Poulton said that Stort Valley Housing Association had now appointed D. J. Higgins, a very reliable company, to carry-out the remainder of the contract. A site meeting took place on 11th November and Mr. Poulton is confident that the footpath sign will soon be re-erected.

d) Freedom of Information Act

Mr. Poulton was due to report on this item at the December Parish Council meeting. However, because he will be absent at that time, he gave his report to this meeting.

The Commissioner has apologised for all the misinformation that has been supplied. Mr. Poulton has now studied all the relevant information re the Freedom of Information Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that local government does not discriminate against the public.

After discussion, Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council adopts the Model Code of Conduct entitled 'Parish Council Model Scheme' with options. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to notify the Deputy Information Commissioner accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

e) Childrens' recreation

The site meeting arranged for Tuesday 15th October was cancelled due to bad weather. Instead, some Parish Councillors met with the youngsters on Saturday 19th October to find out what they wanted from the site.

Parish Councillors agreed that the youngsters could use an isolated part of the Lammas for biking and the construction of mud ramps. A one-month licence was issued to all the youngsters involved. This license is now due for renewal.

Mr. Poulton said that he has been visiting the area regularly and has been surprised by the amount of positive comments he has received from adults, who do not have children, about how well the scheme is working. The youngsters have also been litterpicking the area to keep it tidy.

Mrs. Davies asked if the bike ramps on the sportsfield were a waste of money. Mr. Poulton said that essentially they were, however their purchase showed the youth of the village that the Parish Council is willing to listen to them, and consequently graffiti and drug taking in the village has stopped.

It was agreed to issue new licences (valid to up to the end of 2002) to all the youngsters. **Action: N. Poulton**

f) Replacement trees for Walkern Road

Mr. Poulton said that the replacement trees have now been planted.

g) Minerals Local Plan Review-Area Forum 21st November

Mr. Poulton said that the Minerals Local Plan review is on the agenda for the next Area Forum meeting.

Mrs. Dinnin and Mr. Poulton to attend the meeting.

Action: N. Poulton/C. Dinnin

Mr. Poulton to draft a response for discussion at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 11th December 2002.

Action: N. Poulton

h) EHDC meeting to discuss Crime and Disorder Act

Mr. Poulton said that Pauline Entecott (EH Community Safety Partnership) has engaged Crime Concern to run several workshops on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. This will help Town and Parish Councillors to understand their statutory duty under the act and know how they can ensure that they comply. These workshops will take place in early 2003.

i) Village Directory – update

All Parish Councillors have been given a copy of the latest edition of the village directory and asked to update it. Mr. Poulton asked any Parish Councillor who has not yet made their amendments to do so as soon as possible so that a new version can be printed and distributed throughout the village as soon as possible.

Action: All Parish Councillors

The Clerk to update and copy the village directory for distribution throughout the village. **Action: J. Allsop**

6 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

The Budget & Finance Sub-Committee met on 30th November to discuss the 2003/2004 budget figures. All Parish Councillors to be issued with the draft budget figures well in advance of the December meeting.

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Verbal report on meeting held on 12th November 2002**

- **Fence work at MPPA**

This item was discussed under 4 b, Review of Actions - Chase Doe Sport about quote for repairing fencing at MPPA (on page 2 of the minutes).

Mr. Meischke will report on the remaining items discussed at the meeting held on 12th November 2002 under Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee.

- **Internal decoration work of large changing rooms and corridor**

Mr. Poulton said we had received the following quotations for decorating the large changing rooms and corridor.

- M. Taylor £350
- The Devine Decorating Company £385 plus VAT

Mr. Poulton proposed that, when the budget is agreed, we accept the lower quotation from M. Taylor. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Recreation & Amenities

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

- **Lighting at Community Hall**

All the work to the Community Hall lighting has now been completed and is working satisfactorily.

- **MPPA light**

The most recently-replaced floodlighting bulb is not working. Mr. Meischke has asked an electrician to check the fuse for this light.

- **Fire alarm**

Mr. Meischke said that there is a fault with the Community Hall fire alarm, which is activating intermittently. Therefore, the fuse to the fire alarm has been removed to disable the system. He has been in contact with MD Electrical, the only company he found that could repair the system. They have verbally quoted £155 plus VAT to repair the system, although this would involve a delay of approximately three weeks. If a new electronic board is installed to repair the fault, it could be fitted immediately and would cost £177 plus VAT. Because of the health and safety issues involved, Mr. Meischke has already instructed MD Electrical to proceed with the work (which will be done within the next few days). Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council authorise the work to be carried-out immediately. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Meischke to report back to the Parish Council about the repair of the fire alarm. **Action: J. Meischke**

- **Community Hall roof**

During the recent storm, some of the roof tiles were broken. These have now been repaired by David Bunyan.

- **Boiler and showers**

Mr. Meischke said that Turners had now de-scaled the pipe-work to the shower system. The football club said there is some improvement.

Turners have been instructed to fit 12 new showerheads because the existing ones have been damaged by hirers trying to improve the flow of water by enlarging the holes. The cost of replacements is £12 per showerhead plus a total fitting-charge of £200 plus VAT.

Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council authorises the purchase and installation of the showerheads. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Now that the flow of hot water has been improved, it has become apparent that the external toilets and the toilets adjacent to the changing rooms do not have a blender in the system. This means that very hot water is discharged at high pressure, which could cause burns. The cost of installing blenders is £75 per basin.

After discussion, it was agreed to have the blenders installed in the two hand-basins in the toilets adjacent to the changing rooms and that the hot water supply to the hand-basins in the external toilets be cut off.

Mr. Meischke to instruct Turners accordingly.

Action: J. Meischke

- **Guttering**

Mr. Meischke said that Mr. Bunyan has had to carry-out repair work to the guttering. This will continue to be an on-going problem.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke have been advised by Mr. Bunyan that we should not install a snow guard to the guttering. Tennis balls etc. can get between the snow guard and the guttering, causing it to be blocked.

Parish Councillors discussed this item and agreed to leave the guttering as it is for the time being.

- **Storm damage**

During the recent storm, a large branch of the Oak tree on the sportsfield broke away from its trunk and was left lodged up in the tree. Because of the potential danger, a tree surgeon was called out immediately to remove the branch.

After discussion, it was agreed to submit a claim to Cornhill Insurance for all the damage done during the storm (i.e. repair to the roof tiles and damage to the Oak tree).

Action: J. Allsop

Environment

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

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

Mr. Stock said that the Parish Council will apply to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for confirmation of the byelaws after the 18th November 2002

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Watton Green**

Mr. Stock gave all Parish Councillors a copy of the Countryside Management Service's report on Watton Green and asked Parish Councillors to give him their comments before 20th November.

Action: All Parish Councillors

- **War Memorial**

Mr. Stock said we had received the following quotations for cleaning the War Memorial and surrounding paving stones.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| • Hugh McAlpine | £1,700 |
| • S. C. Dass, Hertford | £780 |

Mr. Stock proposed that, when the budget is agreed, we accept the lower quotation from S. C. Dass. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour. Mr. Stock said that we can wait for the worst of the winter weather to pass before we authorize the work to be done.

S. C. Dass to be informed accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill said damage had occurred to some of the trees on the Lammas during the recent storm; the pollarded Willow tree near the factory has a few fallen branches and a small tree along the river had fallen, slightly obstructing the footpath. The owner of 51A High Street is concerned that a tree on his property is in danger of falling onto the public footpath on the Lammas and is arranging for its removal.

Mr. Dunhill agreed to investigate and take any necessary action.

Action: V. Dunhill

b) Sportsfield

i) Report

Mr. Stock carried-out the sportsfield report on the 11th November 2002, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	OK
Litter	OK
Dog fouling	OK
Netball posts	OK
General	Very clean overall.
- **Children’s Playground:**

Condition of surface	OK
Litter/Litter bin	OK
Large swings	OK
Small swings	OK
See-Saw	OK
Multi-play and slide	OK
Two spring sit-on	OK
Teen shelter	OK
Comments	Very clean overall.
- **Bike ramps area:**

Junior Jump	OK }
Double Ramp	OK } sadly, no signs of recent use.
Fun Box	OK }
- **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	OK
Litter bin	OK
Car Park	OK
General	Free of litter.
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	OK
Boundary Fencing	OK
Tennis nets	OK
Litter	None.
General	OK, no obvious problems.
- **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	OK
Surfaces	OK
Litter	OK
Dog fouling	OK
Comments	Very good overall.
- **Allotments Area:**

Access	Can see problems re overgrown trees at entrance. Need attention.
Condition of paths between Allotments	OK
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	OK
Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	As to be expected.
Litter	OK
Comments	Good overall condition.
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**

Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	OK
Dog-fouling	OK, but some minor episodes.
Comments	-
- **Salt bins**

Perrywood Lane	OK
Great Innings	OK
Station Road	OK
Moorymead Close	OK
Hazeldell	OK

Garages between Glebe Close & Rectory Did not find one!

• **Dog-waste bins**

Footpath 17	OK
Sportsfield	OK
Church Walk	OK, but no lid (open top).
Walkern Road	OK
Station Road	OK, but no lid (open top).
High Street (by Memorial)	OK, but no lid (open top).
Great Innings	OK
Mill Lane	OK

• **Salt bin - Garages between Glebe Close & Rectory Lane**

Mr. Poulton said that this salt bin had been removed. Therefore, this item to be removed from the check list. **Action: J. Allsop**

• **Entrance to allotments**

It was agreed to contact the owners of the trees overhanging the entrance to the allotments to request that they be cut back.

The Clerk to act accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

• **Footpath access along Rectory Lane**

Mr. Davies reported that overgrown hedges in Rectory Lane are obstructing the footpath so that parents and children walking to and from school have to walk single-file. In addition to this, cars are obstructing the pavement when they park to drop-off or pick-up children from school.

Mrs. Davies agreed to inform the Clerk with regard to which hedges were causing the obstruction.

Action: S. Davies

The Clerk to contact EH Highways Partnership and the Police accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

ii) **Weekly report and action**

No new problems were identified during the weekly inspections.

7 Planning

a) Applications

i) **The Old Chapel, Whempstead**

Alteration to include ground floor and 1st floor extension

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Clark's comments on the above application.

'I visited a number of the closest houses and found very little interest. There are no objections whatsoever from those neighbours spoken to.

However Barbara Knight had asked for a sight of the plans on behalf of The Conservation Society and I delivered them to her on Sunday evening. I have asked her to return them to either you or David Stock before Wednesday with any comments.

My own view is that the extension has both a positive and a negative effect. The new bedroom enhances the appearance, as it will go on top of a single storey flat roof. The down side is that the new pitched roof appears to diminish the view of the bell tower.

However overall I am happy with it and no neighbouring properties are affected by the work.'

Parish Councillors studied the amended plans and agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Decisions

i) **R/O 36 High Street**

Detached bungalow

-EHDC permission granted

ii) **R/O Telephone exchange, High Street**

Radio dish antenna mounted on a steel pole at 15 metres above ground level

-EHDC prior approval is refused.

Mr. Stock said that this was a good example of what can be achieved if we object strongly enough to such proposals.

iii) 49 Hazeldell

Single storey rear extension
-EHDC permission granted

iv) The Crowbury

Erection of Cartshed/barn
-EHDC permission granted

8 Correspondence received**a) EHDC – 2003 Summer Playscheme**

Mr. Poulton reported that EHDC had written requesting a financial contribution of between £100 and £150 towards the running costs of the 2003 Summer Playscheme (which will run for a four-week period from 28th July to 22nd August 2003).

Mr. Stock proposed that EHDC be informed that the free use of the Community Hall facilities represents the Parish Council's contribution towards the 2003 Summer Play Scheme. Also, that they ensure that enough leaders are employed to run the play scheme properly. Again, a deposit of £100 will be required from EHDC (to cover any possible damage to the building) before any booking is confirmed. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

b) Environment Agency – Flood-event data gathering - Parish Council involvement

Mr. Poulton said that the Environment Agency had written requesting flooding-data from the Parish Council. He proposed that the following response be sent.

'I thank you for your letter dated 1st October with enclosures and would comment as follows.

The main flooding in our Parish is caused by the river Beane.

The areas most at risk are properties bordering this river in Lammas Road, the end of Beanside, parts of the High Street, Rivershill, Beane Road and Mill Lane.

Last year no flooding occurred in any of these properties, but water did rise up the gardens.

East Herts District Council distributed sand bags to those properties that requested them.

The water came from the river overflow and did not contain any sewage, although it should be noted that the main sewage system does run close to this river.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.'

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Mike Freeman (10 Rivershill) had been appointed as a Flood Warden for Rivershill. He would like to come and speak to the Parish Council before the start of its meeting on 11th December 2002. This was agreed. Mr. Poulton to notify Mr. Freeman accordingly. **Action: N. Poulton**

c) K. C. Bewley re ornate village sign

This item was discussed under 5 a, Specific Items (on page 4 of these minutes).

d) K. C. Bewley re damage to house and gardens of 19 High Street

Mr. Poulton read out an undated letter from Keith Bewley concerning damage done to his property. A young driver lost control of his vehicle when coming down Great Innings and ploughed through the garden of number 17 High Street and then came to a halt when it smashed into the front wall of his property, 19 High Street.

Mr. Poulton then read out his response to Mr. Bewley.

Mr. Poulton said that obviously this was not a Parish Council issue. The Stort Valley housing association is dealing with the damage to Keith Bewley's property and the police will be prosecuting the young driver concerned.

e) Watton-at-Stone Playschool

Watton-at-Stone Playschool has sent a hand-made card of thanks to the Parish Council for its donation towards the new self-closing entrance gate.

f) NHS – Patient and Public Involvement in Health Project

Mr. Poulton said read out a letter (dated 18th October) from Anne Kingsley-Pie (Community Empowerment Officer, NHS - Patient and Public Involvement in Health) regarding the need for patient (and visitor) transport to and from hospital. Mr. Poulton said that, in his capacity of District Councillor, he had met with Ms. Kinsley-Pie to see how best this matter could be brought forward.

g) HCC – Mass Family Rally 24th November 2002 re airport expansion

All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of a poster. Mr. Poulton said that it was up to each individual if they chose to attend the rally.

h) HCC – Airport Expansion

HCC’s Environment Scrutiny Committee is carrying-out an inquiry into the impact of the proposed expansions of Luton and Stansted Airports, and the Government’s other proposals for airports in the South East. They have invited the Parish Council to give a brief summary of its thoughts and reactions to the proposals.

Parish Councillors discussed this item at length and agreed to strongly oppose the proposals to add further runways at Stansted and to extend the runway at Luton. They agreed that they were concerned about the environmental impact on the area and the supporting infrastructure which would be needed to support these proposals.

Mrs. McCash proposed that the Parish Council write accordingly. Mrs. Davies seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

9 Reports from other Organisations

• Watton-at-Stone School Conservation Society

Mr. Stock reported that the Conservation Society is still pursuing the following items.

- Condition of Watton Station.
- Updating the Village Guide.
- Arranging for the way markers to be purchased and installed, and organising a guided walk with the Watton Ramblers.

• Watton-at-Stone Playgroup

Mrs. Davies reported that the new self-closing entrance gate has now been installed.

The tabletop fundraiser was a great success.

The Christmas fundraiser will take place on 19th December.

• Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee

Mrs. Dinnin said that the Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee had been re-elected during its recent AGM.

The Memorial Hall has now achieved regular bookings for Monday to Friday each week.

• Youth Club

Mrs. Dinnin said that Mr. Andy Manson had been appointed as Manager of the East Area Youth Service (based in Cheshunt). He aims to arrange a meeting of all Youth Club organisations in the area and also hopes to employ a full-time youth leader/coordinator if it is viable.

10 Items for Parish News

Articles on the following items discussed by the Parish Council to be sent to the editor of the Parish News for inclusion in next issue.

- Watton-at-Stone station
- Airport expansion

Mr. Poulton to write the articles for the above and send them to the Parish News. **Action: N. Poulton**

11 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr & Mrs Thurlow – Allotment rent

7.00
7.00

Payments

None

Cheques required

Nick Whitehead	Hedge cutting + weed killing	376.00
Jeff Skidmore	Grass cutting and strimming works	1429.97
J. Allsop	£55 for Ted Brown's wages + £48.80 NTL phone bill	103.80
Herts & Essex Newspaper	Byelaws advertisement for Watton Green and the Lammas	206.64
SLCC	Accounts course for Mr. Filer	30.00
Inland Revenue	Tax & NI	127.20
Watton Service Station	Damage caused to Mr. Stock's car by the Clerk's son	123.70
J. Allsop	Cartridge for printer	44.98
Boardmans Photocopying	Charges to 30/09/02	5.55
Ted Brown	20 hours	105.00
EHDC	Two dog fouling signs	12.60
J. Allsop	November salary	491.82
Earl Haig Fund	Poppy donation	55.00
D. R. Monk	Leaf clearance	<u>100.00</u>
		<u>3212.26</u>

Cheques received

Mr. Hall	Allotments hire 2002/2003	7.00
Mrs. Baines	Allotments hire 2002/2003	3.50
Mr. Hodges	Allotments hire 2002/2003	7.00
		<u>17.50</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community

Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

Mr. Keen – Main Hall	100.00
Barry Moor – Main Hall	14.00
Nikki Roberts	40.00
Mrs Lane – Pavilion & Main Hall	26.00
Fiona Shepherd – Main Hall	12.00
Sarah Strandage – Main Hall	12.00
Floodlighting to 11/09/02	<u>369.00</u>
	<u>573.00</u>

Payments

NSPCC Diary	2.00
Kate Harris	20.00
Drainage centre - brackets	6.44
VAT return 9/02	<u>46.79</u>
	<u>75.23</u>

Cheques required

K. S. Burgess	Repairs to lighting system	800.00
Fire Protection Service	Annual Fire Inspection	71.92
David Bunyan	Repair to guttering	100.35
David Bunyan	Repair to roof due to storm damage	149.52
David Bunyan	Tree surgery to Oak tree re storm damage	605.13
Christine Bewley	55 ¼ hours	<u>328.13</u>
		<u>2055.05</u>

Cheques received

Badminton Club	Main Hall hire	135.00
Mrs Heald	Pavilion hire	14.00
Mrs. Kingsdale	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	39.00
Mrs. Hodge	Pavilion hire	<u>28.00</u>
		<u>216.00</u>

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

- **The meeting closed at 8.57 pm.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 11th December 2002.**