

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman) after 1930
	Mrs. C. Dinnin	Mr. V. Dunhill
	Mr. D. Filer	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. M. Smith
	Mr. D. Stock	The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Mr. Clark.

**2 Public Participation**

None.

**3 Declaration of Interests**

Mrs. McCash declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - Internal and external audit of Parish Council and Community Hall accounts (on page 6 of these minutes).

Mr. Smith declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee – Sportsfield Maintenance (on page 7 of these minutes).

**4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report**

Mr. Poulton reminded Parish Councillors that on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 we have three meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 1900 followed by the Annual meeting (including the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and representatives to other organisations) and finally the monthly Parish Council meeting.

**5 Minutes of the last meeting**

**a) Acceptance**

• **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

The following amendment was made to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

Page 7 item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Lammas Riverbank

‘We had also received a phone call from Christine Ellison (24 Lammas Road) about the poor condition of the Black Poplar trees that were pollarded last year. Mrs. Dinnin has spoken to Sue Jarczewski about the trees and suggested that they are inspected in the autumn of 2006 to see if they recover during the growing season. A decision on their future can be made at this stage.

Mrs. Dinnin to speak to Christine Ellison accordingly.’

should read

‘We had also received a phone call from Christine Allison (24 Lammas Road) about the poor condition of the Black Poplar trees that were pollarded last year. Mrs. Dinnin has spoken to Sue Jarczewski about the trees and she suggested that they are inspected in the autumn of 2006 to see if they recover during the growing season. A decision on their future can be made at this stage.

Mrs. Dinnin to speak to Christine Allison accordingly.’

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

**b) Review of actions**

• **Speak and write to Raj Chauhan re Watton Place Clinic signs**

Mrs. McCash said that she spoke to Raj Chauhan informing him that the Parish Council had no objections to the new sign. Mr. Poulton said that the Parish Council also wrote to Mr. Chauhan on 31<sup>st</sup> March confirming this in writing. Mr. Chauhan responded on 6<sup>th</sup> April as follows.

‘Thank you for your dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 06, with reference to the new signs for Watton Place Clinic.

I am please to hear that the Parish Council has no objections to the new signs, which had to be replaced as a sense of urgency in view of our practice inspection form the Primary Care Trusts.

Mrs. McCash said that there are plans to install three more signs at Watton Place Clinic.

• **Write to British Gas re outstanding gas contract**

British Gas has not responded to our letters concerning the outstanding contract.

It was agreed to write to the Gas Regulators.

**Action: N. Poulton**

Mrs. McCash to provide the contact details of the Gas Regulator.

**Action: H. McCash**

• **Write to planning department re 1 – 3 Mill Lane: completed.**

- **Speak to Sports and Social Club re Mill Lane planning application:** completed.
- **Write to planning department re Tinkers Corner, Whempstead:** completed.
- **Ask Sodexo Land Technology to dispose of the sportsfield mini-goal-post:** completed.
- **Sign letter to Co-operative Bank re closure of the Community Hall current & 14-day accounts:** completed.

All accounts with the Co-operative bank were closed prior to the end of the last financial year (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006)

- **Accept verbal quotation for the repair of the wall, footpath and drain:** completed.
- **Accept Wicksteed Leisure Limited's quotation for repair work at the play area**  
The repair work was completed on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April.  
Mr. Meischke to inspect the play area. **Action: J. Meischke**
- **Contact East Herts Council re funding for moss and algae kill at MPPA:** outstanding.
- **Instruct Ted Brown to clear leaves from drainage channel around MPPA:** completed.
- **Visit Beanside occupants re illegal planting on the Lammas:** outstanding.  
**Action: C. Dinnin/J. Meischke**
- **Write to Mrs. Jay re her request for planting on the Lammas riverbank:** completed.
- **Speak to Christine Allison (420349) re Black Poplars on the Lammas:** completed.
- **Write to HCC – Open Access re the Lammas:** completed.
- **Write to Environment Agency re flood wardens:** completed.
- **Write to Environment Agency re consultation on the Upper Lee Catchment Abstraction Strategy:** completed.
- **Issue bus permits at Glebe Court on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March:** completed.
- **Write to Pre-School Playgroup advising them that Mrs. Dinnin is their Parish Council representative:** completed.

**c) Action points outstanding for more than two months**

None.

**6 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 5 & 7 Hazeldell**

Replace flat roofs to single storey areas at front and back of properties with matching lean to tiled roofs  
Mr. Stock said that because this application is similar to others that had been granted in Hazeldell, and is a great improvement to the properties, he had instructed the Clerk to write to the planning department stating that the Parish Council had no comment on this application.

Parish Councillors studied the plans and agreed with the decision.

**ii) 27 High Street**

Proposed double-storey side and rear extension

This application has now been withdrawn (see item 6 c i, below).

**ii) The Old Coach House, Rectory Lane, Watton-at-Stone**

Additional front dormer

Parish Councillors studied the plans for this application and after lengthy discussion agreed to write as follows.

‘The Parish Council objects to the above application for the following reasons

The cumulative effect of the dormer window is out of character with the existing building and has an adverse impact on the listed building and its appearance.’

**Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decisions**

**i) 1-3 Mill Lane**

Demolition of existing building and erection of 7 residential dwellings in a part 2/part 3 storey structure  
-East Herts Permission refused

**c) Withdrawn**

**i) 27 High Street**

Proposed double-storey side and rear extension - Application withdrawn

## 7 Specific items

### a) Lammas Road street lighting

Mr. Poulton said that all the funding for the Lammas Street lighting is in place he expected the work to be done sometime during the summer. However, he has asked Raj Goutam to confirm the timescales.

Mr. Filer said that the 2006/07 budget figure for street lighting is now incorrect. It shows an expenditure of £4200 on street lighting and a grant income of £3200. The actual figures will be an expenditure item only, of £1000.

### b) Update of Village directory

The Clerk said that the village directory will be ready for distribution as an insert in the May edition of the Parish News.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### c) Great innings play area

The new additions to the Great Innings play area are complete, with the exception of some higher fencing being installed because the original fencing was not higher enough. The new facilities are a great success and being well used.

### d) Report on Hertfordshire Policing Plan launch on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006 report written by DF

Mr. Filer reported that he had attended the launch of the Policing Plan on Monday 27 March 2006, as a representative of the Parish Council.

The plan was introduced by the Chairman of the Police Authority **Ian Laidlaw-Dickson**, who explained that the plan for Hertfordshire was based on information provided in the 'National Community Safety Plan' issued by HM Government. He pointed out that some reserves were being used to supplement pensions and that the budget was overspent. He said that the Authority had four aims:-

- To improve visible policing
- To prevent crime
- To bring more offenders to justice
- To detect crime

The Chief Constable, **Frank Whiteley**, then gave a presentation and explained that Hertfordshire was one of the safest counties in the country, however the perception of the people was not the same and the police were addressing that problem. He stated that in real terms crime was down and arrests were up and the visibility of Ward Constables was high with 83.5% of their time spent in the community. He declared that 'Neighbourhood Policing' was fundamental to restructuring and that if the police got this right then 'we can absorb restructuring whatever the final patter'.

He explained that the police budget for the next year was £164m (06/07) and that the police now had more money, more staff and more equipment than ever before.

The Deputy Chief Constable, **Simon Ash**, and an Assistant Chief Constable **Steve Devine**, then gave presentations and explained that the aim was to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds (92.2% achieved). It was explained that there were now 300 Ward Constables and PCSO's compared with 100 three years ago and that availability was well over 80% in the three regions. They stressed that working with 'partners' was essential to success.

The final presentation was given by **Robin Lipscombe** the Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority who explained the background to the restructuring debate. He explained that a former Chief Constable had carried out a survey and had concluded that the 43 Force structure of the police forces was 'no longer fit for purpose' and that the minimum strength of police in a particular force should not be less than 4000. Tight deadlines had been set for the consultation exercise with various models set out (we in Watton had opted for a north/south divide combining Beds, Herts and Essex). The Home Secretary had proposed a merger of Herts, Beds and Essex and had encouraged police authorities to accept proposed mergers voluntarily. However the Herts Police Authority had rejected this and wished to go for a merger of Herts and Beds only. (Note: The Chief Constable has since taken the stance in favour of accepting the three counties merger, seeing this as inevitable and likely to be imposed by government)

### e) Report on Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March

Mrs. McCash reported that Jill Dockley (Watch Liaison Officer, East Herts, Hertfordshire Constabulary) arranged a meeting with Watton-at-Stone, Datchworth and Aston on 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall, to discuss setting up Neighbourhood Watch Wards. Mrs. McCash, Mr. Dunhill and the Clerk attended the meeting along with other parishioners from Watton-at-Stone together with Parish Councillors and parishioners from Datchworth and Aston.

The idea is to have a tier of volunteers e-mailing or contacting householders in their area when crimes/incidents are reported to them by Hertfordshire Constabulary. Mrs. McCash said that she was asked to coordinate the ward for Watton-at-Stone and to date 30 people in Watton-at-Stone have shown an interest in being involved.

A preliminary date of 11<sup>th</sup> May, which has to be confirmed, has been arranged to launch the new Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch Ward, but this date is yet to be confirmed. Some volunteers have already indicated that they would be happy to participate via e-mail but would not want to attend regular meetings. It is anticipated that PCSO Paul Weston will meet with the Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Ward twice a year.

Neighbourhood Watch will be added to the list of Parish Council - Representatives to other Organisations, at the Annual meeting of the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006. **Agenda: Annual Meeting 05/06**

**f) Minute book binding**

The minutes for the years 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 have been bound into six separate books at a total cost of £180.

Brian Hall, the book binder, put up his costs to £35 in the New Year, but honoured his agreement of £30 per book for the six books. However, we are now due to have the year 2005/06 bound and this will cost £35.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**g) Strimming work on Parish Council land at Rivershill**

Mr. Poulton said that the annual strimming work on the Parish Council land at Rivershill is now due.

It was agreed to ask Tim Clark if he is available to do the work again this year.

He will also be asked to cut down the tree that is growing in the entrance gate.

**Action: J. Meischke**

**h) Ferreting Licenses**

It was agreed that the following ferreting licenses be renewed.

- Mr. R. Adams of 4 Glebe Close, Watton-at-Stone  
to ferret Watton Green, the allotments, the Lammas and the paddock at the far end of the Lammas.
- Mr. Wally Pressland, 61 Cozens Road, Ware, Hertfordshire  
to ferret the Lammas and Watton Green.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop**

**i) License across Cottage site**

It was agreed to renew the license for Temporary Access across the Land known as the "Old Cottage Site", at Watton Green, issued to Mr. Denis E. Filer (of Brambles, Watton Green). **Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop**

**j) Ornate village sign – review colour of the stained post**

It was agreed that the post on which the ornate village sign sits is in good condition.

This item to be reviewed again at the Parish Council meeting to be held in December 2006. **Agenda: 12/06**

**k) Allotment tenancy agreement**

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, from John Love (Chairman of the Allotment and Garden Association)

**‘Re Allotment Tenancy Agreement**

In view of the instruction from the Parish Council to allotment holders (September 05) regarding the disposal of rubbish it might be opportune to re-word para 6 of the Tenancy Agreement to read.

‘Compostable plant material must be disposed of either by composting on the tenant’s allotment or disposed of through approved re-cycling schemes. Non compostable, combustible material may be burned on the tenant’s allotment with due regard to other allotment holders and local residents provided that adequate care is taken to prevent damage to other property (see para 5). Other water/rubbish e.g. glass/metal/plastic must be removed from the allotment field and disposed of in a responsible manner.

This amendment is submitted for the Parish Council’s consideration.’

It was agreed to write to all allotment holders informing them that paragraph 6 of their tenancy agreement has now been reworded as above.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**l) Hertford/Stevenage Museums**

Mr. Poulton asked Parish Councillors whether their allegiance is to Hertford or Stevenage Museum. All Parish Councillors agreed with Hertford.

Mr. Poulton to inform the curator, Helen Gurney accordingly.

**Action: N. Poulton**

## 8 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

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

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

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the statement of accounts for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

Mr. Filer went through various items concerning the statements.

- **Summary 12-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall for the year ended 2005/06**

Parish Councillors were issued with the summary 12-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall for the year ended 2005/06.

The following summary statement of accounts to be presented at the Annual Parish meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action: J. Allsop**

<b>Watton-at-Stone Parish Council</b>	
<b>Summary statement of expenditure and income for the year 2005/06</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Sportsfield/Recreation Areas	14565.31
Administration	9983.81
Grant to Community Hall	4384.54
Footpaths/Amenities	4535.00
	<u>33468.66</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Hire of sports facilities	1035.00
Allotment rent	437.50
Agency grants	3694.87
General income	29.00
Bank interest	145.21
VAT refund	777.68
Precept	<u>23860.00</u>
Provision from 2004/05	<u>5000.00</u>
	<u>34979.26</u>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	
Total Income	<u>34979.26</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>-33468.66</u>
Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves)	<u>1510.60</u>
<b>Watton-at-Stone Community Hall</b>	
<b>Summary statement of expenditure and income for the year 2005/06</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
General	<u>12757.09</u>
VAT	<u>£148.64</u>
	<u>£12905.73</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Hire of sports facilities	6451.10
Floodlighting	1800.00
Grant from Parish Council	4535.00
Bank interest	69.70
Miscellaneous	<u>621.13</u>
	<u>13476.93</u>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	
Total Income	£13476.93
Total Expenditure	-
	<u>£12905.73</u>

Income minus Expenditure (change in reserves)	£571.20
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• **Internal and external audit of Parish Council and Community Hall accounts**

After discussion, the following re-appointments were made.

- Mr. Jim Morrissey to carry-out the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts
- McCash and Hay to carry-out the audit for the Community Hall accounts.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

• **CPRE – Membership renewal**

It was agreed to renew its CPRE membership. The annual subscription for 2006/07 is up by £1 to £26.

**Action: J. Allsop**

• **Insurance premiums for the Parish Council and Community Hall**

We have now received the annual renewals for both the Parish Council and Community Hall policies from Allianz Cornhill.

The Parish Council insurance, which is due on 1st June 2006, is £1302.19 (£97.81 under budget).

The Community Hall insurance which was due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 is £2171.50 (£28.50 under budget).

It was agreed to renew both policies.

**Action: J. Allsop**

• **Council tax charges for 2006/07**

EHDC has set the 2006/07 rateable value for the Community Hall at £4871.25. The amount now payable, after 80% relief (applicable under charitable status), is £974.25; an increase of £154.45 on last year. The first payment of £101.25 is due on 15/04/2006, followed by nine instalments of £97.00 from 15/05/06 to 15/01/07.

Mr. Filer said that the Community Hall budget figure for council tax in 2006/07 is £1150 and therefore we are £175.25 within budget.

**Community Hall Trustees**

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

• **Roof**

Field and Company have estimated £390 plus VAT to.

- Replace 10 slates
- Re-point verges where defective
- Clean out guttering.

It was agreed to accept this estimate.

**Action: N. Poulton**

• **Brick Wall and footpath**

The work to the brick wall and footpath has now been completed.

• **Repairs to play area equipment**

Refer to item 5 b, Review of actions - Accept Wicksteed Leisure Limited's quotation for repair work at the play area (on page 2 of these minutes).

Mrs. Dinnin said that during her inspection of the sportsfield all items on the play area looked OK.

• **Meeting with Fire Officer**

Mr. Poulton said that OFSTED require all properties used for the Summer Play schemes to be inspected by an officer from the Fire Brigade. The Clerk met with the Fire Officer who identified the following problems.

- One of the emergency exit signs in Main Hall indicates that the pavilion corridor is a fire exit, which it is not. **Action taken:** This has now been removed.
- The carrousel in the pavilion corridor hides the fire extinguisher. **Action taken:** The carrousel has now been relocated to the pavilion.

Mr. Poulton said that he investigated the cost of wall mounted leaflet racks to replace the carrousel and they would cost approximate £500.

- The mechanism in the double doors into the pavilion from main corridor is faulty. The doors have a lip to help hold back fire and the mechanism should allow one door to close before the other so that they close correctly. Sometimes the mechanism works and at other times it doesn't. The fire officer told the Clerk that this should be repaired but she did not think that OFSTED would fail the fire inspection because of the fault.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to investigate repairing the faulty mechanism.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

- Four emergency lights are not working correctly or are damaged. Three in the main hall and one in the pavilion. **Action taken:** Keith Burgess has repaired the lighting and invoiced us for £130.

The fire exit doors in the pavilion were not identified as a problem although the fire officer did find them very difficult to open and close.

It was agreed that the fire exit doors should be replaced during the year 2007/08 and the cost be included in the budget. **Budget 2007/08**

Mr. Stock asked if the bracket on the end wall of the Main Hall could be removed as they are no longer used. It was agreed not to remove them until the Main Hall is repainted because we have no spare green paint to cover up the marks that would be left.

### Recreation & Amenities

- **Sportsfield Maintenance**

Blue Bury Contractors have completed the sportsfield maintenance work, which included weed-killing, fertilising and re-seeding.

- **MPPA**

Mr. Knight said that he will arrange for the five floodlighting bulbs to be replaced when the ground is dry enough to take the cherry-picker equipment required to do the work.

- **Boot-bath/scrapper**

Nothing to report.

- **Additional Tennis Court**

Nothing to report.

### Environment

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Lammas Riverbank**

Mrs. Dinnin said that she is waiting for a report from Sue Jarczewski re the problems identified on the Lammas riverbank.

- **Walkern Road**

Hertfordshire Highways have trimmed some of the bushes along the Waggon and Horses boundary but more work is needed. Mr. Knight to contact Raj Goutam and Ian Bishop (Hertfordshire Highways) accordingly. **Action: I. Knight**

## b) Sportsfield

### i) Report

Mr. Knight completed the sportsfield report on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2006, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Good – muddy on football pitch as would be expected.
Litter	Good.
Dog fouling	Good.
General	Good.
- **Children's Play Area:**

Condition of surface	OK.
Litter/Litterbin	OK.
Large swings	OK.
Small swings	OK.
See-Saw	OK.
Rainbow multi-play and slide	OK.
Two spring sit-on	OK.
Teen shelter	OK.
General	Good.
- **Bike ramps area:**

Junior Jump	OK.
Double Ramp	OK.
Fun Box	OK.
- **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	Graffiti on wall, down-pipe looks as if it is leaking.
Litterbin	Good.
Car Park	Good.
General	Mud near storage shed and both scrapper.

- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**
  - Surface OK.
  - Boundary Fencing OK – graffiti on far gate.
  - Tennis nets OK.
  - Litter OK.
  - General Good.
- **Great Innings Play Area:**
  - Equipment I swing seat cracked on small swings.
  - Surfaces Good.
  - Litter Good.
  - Dog fouling Good.
  - Comments All very good – I new tree broken.  
New football area excellent. Finishing fencing.
- **Allotments Area:**
  - Access Good.
  - Condition of paths between Allotments Good.
  - Condition of Allotments under cultivation Good.
  - Condition of Allotments not under cultivation Good.
  - Litter Good.
  - Comments Looking very nice.
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**
  - Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts Clear, some rubbish.
  - Dog-fouling Good.
  - Comments Need a litter bin.
- **Salt bins**
  - Perrywood Lane OK.
  - Entrance to Great Innings Can't access due to gas works.
  - Great Innings South – outside number 93 -
  - Station Road OK.
  - Moorymead Close (2) One half full.
  - Hazeldell OK.
  - Footpath 17 OK.
- **Dog-waste bins**
  - Footpath 17 OK.
  - Sportsfield OK.
  - Church Walk OK.
  - Walkern Road OK.
  - Station Road OK.
  - High Street (by Memorial) OK - no lid.
  - Great Innings OK.
  - Mill Lane OK.
  - Opposite 5 School Lane OK.
- **War Memorial**
  - General Comments Looking very good. One bar of gate missing.
- **Ornate Village Sign**
  - General Comments OK, mellowing.
- **Litterbin or the Lammas**
  - Mrs. Dinnin asked if a litterbin could be installed on the Lammas. Mr. Poulton said that East Herts Council would not empty a bin on the Lammas. It was agreed to ask Ted Brown to periodically litterpick the Lammas. **Action: N. Poulton**
- **Replacement litterbin for Watton Green**
  - Now we are in the new financial year, Mr. Poulton to ask East Herts Council if they would provide a replacement litterbin for Watton Green. **Action: N. Poulton**
- **Graffiti on Community Hall building**
  - David Bunyan and Mickey Powell have agreed to try and remove the graffiti on the Community Hall building.
- **Graffiti on Parish Council notice board at the Great Innings roundabout.**



Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to inspect and, if possible, remove the graffiti on this notice board.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

- **Leaking down-pipe**

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to investigate.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

- **Cracked swing seat on Great Innings play area**

Report cracked swing seat to Trevor Waldock at East Herts Council.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Missing bar on kissing gate near War Memorial**

Mr. Dunhill to inspect and take action if necessary.

**Action: V. Dunhill**

- ii) **Weekly report and action**

There was nothing to report from Ted Brown's weekly inspections.

## 9 Correspondence received

### a) Environment agency - The Upper Lee Catchment Abstraction Strategy

The Environment Agency have written (letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March) to thank us for our comments on the Upper Lee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) consultation. Our comments will be taken into consideration and a Statement of response will be produced and distributed in April 2006.

### b) Allotment and Garden Association re hosepipe ban

Mr. Poulton said that John Love wrote on 6<sup>th</sup> April as follows.

'Re attached article on Hose Ban on allotments (Daily Telegraph page 11 of 5<sup>th</sup> April)

It would be useful is allotment holders were given some guidance from the Parish council re the current hosepipe ban.

There would appear to be several alternatives.

1. Do nothing and allow hand held hosepipes to be used on allotments.
2. Allow use of hosepipes to refill water butts on individual allotments and allow watering can to be filled from these.
3. Ban the use of hosepipes completely but allow watering cans to be filled from existing stand pipes.

The Allotment Association has made available a good supply of well rotted manure ideal for mulching and improving moisture retention on allotments for a modest charge so reducing the need for watering.'

Mr. Poulton read out the following statement which he found on the Three Valleys Water web site on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

**'Can allotment holders water their plots using a hosepipe?**

Yes the ban applies to watering of a private garden and allotments do not fall within this category.

However, we would encourage allotment holders to act now to install water butts for collection of water and think about other ways that they can mulch and use biodegradable gel to retain the moisture within the soil.'

It was agreed that when writing to all the allotment holders about the change in their tenancy agreement we include the above statement from the Three Valleys Water web site.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### c) Churches Servicing Watton – Community Service 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2002

Mr. Poulton said that we had received a letter (dated 7<sup>th</sup> April) from Rodney Ranzetta, of the Churches Serving Watton, requesting the use of the Pavilion facilities and sportsfield for the Community Service to be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006 at 1030. They will require the facilities from 0930 to 1200 at the latest.

Mr. Meischke proposed that the facilities be made available for the Community Service free of charge (as in the past). Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

A letter to be sent to Rodney Ranzetta accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

The Sports and Social Club to be notified accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 10 Reports from other Organisations

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

Mr. Stock said that Peter Knight, Chairman of the Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society, stated there is no need to have an AGM or call a meeting at the present time.

- **Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide AGM**

Mr. Dunhill said that the Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide group will be holding their AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 1930 in the Scout Hut.

- **Reporting incidents to Police via e-mail**

Mr. Filer said that he has been lead to believe that emails sent to PC Andy Woodward about the illegal parking of the silver Mercedes outside 130 High Street are not logged by the police.

It was agreed to e-mail PC Andy Woodward asking him to clarify the situation.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Pot holes**  
Mr. Filer said that the pot holes along the section of Church Lane (know locally as Clapper Lane) have not been repaired. The Clerk to report again. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Church Lane sign**  
Mr. Filer said that the Church Lane sign at its junction with Station Road has been damaged.  
Mrs. McCash said that there was also some damage to the Hazeldell sign.  
Mr. Poulton to notify East Herts Council accordingly. **Action: N. Poulton**

## 11 Items for Parish News

The following item to be sent to the Editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the next issue.

- Annual Parish meeting  
The Clerk to write the article accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**

## 12 Accounts

### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

None

##### Payments

None

#### Cheques required

Ted Brown	32 hours litterpicking	208.00
J. Allsop	April salary	545.01
J. Allsop	Phone charges to 03.03.06	25.00
Diocesan Board	Glebe rent – MPPA	90.00
HCC	Lighting maintenance – 1/03/06 to 31/03/06	217.86
HCC	Lighting energy – 1/03/06 to 31/03/06	118.67
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI	177.78
Brian Hall	Binding 6 Minute books	180.00
Community Hall	Reimbursement: Cheques paid into Parish Council account in error	169.20
D. R. Monk	Flowerbed maintenance 01/01/06 to 31/03/06	87.50
D. R. Monk	War Memorial maintenance 01/01/06 to 31/03/06 & spread shingle	75.00
Ted Brown	32 hours litterpicking	<u>208.00</u>
		<u>2102.02</u>

#### Cheques received

EHC	Leaf pick	300.00
Community Hall	Reimbursement: annual play area inspection	<u>58.16</u>
		<u>358.16</u>

### Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Jim Keen – Main Hall	80.00	2 x recorded delivery	1.62
Floodlighting to 11.04.06	300.00	Banked	<u>222.09</u>
Gill Gilbey – Main Hall hire	40.00		<u>223.71</u>
John Murphy – Main Hall	<u>6.00</u>		
	<u>426.00</u>		

#### Cheques required

Rosemary Brown	25 hours cleaning	150.00
David Bunyan	Replace lower guttering at Community Hall	634.50
J. Phillips	Opening toilets at Community Hall	29.00
James Hale	Repair brick wall, labour and materials	100.00
Parish Council	Reimbursement: annual play area inspection	58.16
Keith Burgess	Repair and replace broken emergency lighting	130.00
Rosemary Brown	2 hours cleaning	144.00
Ted Brown	Clear leaves from perimeter of MPPA	<u>25.00</u>
		<u>1270.66</u>

#### Cheques received

D Griffin, Watton House	Pavilion hire	21.00
Parish Council	Reimbursement for cheques paid into Parish Council account in error	169.20
Tennis Club	Pavilion hire	14.00
Mrs. Scott	Main Hall and pavilion hire	33.00
Mrs. Wakefield	Pavilion hire	<u>16.00</u>
		<u>253.20</u>

Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council approve the above payments, Mrs. McCash seconded the motion, and all present were in favour.

- **The meeting closed at 2032.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006.**