

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman)  
 Mr. C. Clark Mrs. C. Dinnin  
 Mr. V. Dunhill Mr. M. Smith  
 Mr. D. Stock The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. Filer, Mr. Knight and Mrs. McCash.

### 2 Public Participation

None.

### 3 Declaration of Interests

Mrs. Dinnin declared a personal interest in item 6 a ii, planning application – 25 Rivershill (on pages 2 and 3 of these minutes).

### 4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Mr. Poulton asked Parish Councillors to pass on items on circulation within two days of their receipt because there have been some lengthy delays recently.

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

#### a) Acceptance

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

Mr. Stock proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

#### b) Review of actions

- **Order replacement fire extinguisher:** Completed. Delivery is expected tomorrow.
- **Remind Football Club to lock the corridor during matches:** Completed.
- **Monitor Hazeldell footpath situation and chase Hertfordshire Highways as necessary**  
 Mr. Stock was pleased to report that since his recent site meeting the companies and agencies involved had reacted quickly to the problems outstanding. As a result, major reinstatement/corrective work had now been completed. The only action outstanding is the planting of trees to replace those damaged. Mr. Stock will monitor this and ensure that the tree planting is done and at the appropriate time.  
 Mr. Stock said that because the work had been done in accordance with his complaints, he is no longer too concerned about receiving an official report from Hertfordshire Highways.
- **Speak to Insignia Signs re the frames of the interpretation boards**  
 Mrs. Dinnin said that Insignia Signs recommend that the frames be prepared with fine sandpaper and then treated with Danish Oil.  
 Mrs. Dinnin to purchase the fine sandpaper and Danish Oil. **Action: C. Dinnin**  
 Ted Brown to be asked to do the work. **Action: N. Poulton**
- **Write again to Raj Goutam (Hertfordshire Highways) requesting a Walkern Road site meeting:**  
 Completed.  
 Raj Goutam has told the Clerk (by telephone) that a site meeting was unnecessary because the work required would be obvious when on site and he would arrange for the work to be done.  
 If the matter is not resolved before the Parish Council meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007,  
 Mr. Goutam to be asked again for a site meeting. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Contact P. J. Roofing re newly installed section of guttering:** Completed.  
 Mr. Poulton said that Rosemary Brown contacted him this morning to report that some of the guttering was down. This has now been repaired and Mr. Poulton thanked Mr. Meischke for doing the work (which included fitting new clips).
- **Write to planning department re 122 High Street:** Completed.
- **Write to planning department re 39 Station Road:** Completed.
- **Contact Danny Kyan (Hertfordshire Highways) re gully cleaning**  
 Refer to 7 a, Specific items - Gully cleaning programme 2006/07 (on page 2 of these minutes).
- **Attend Basic Awareness Training re Child Protection in the New Year**  
 Mr. Poulton said that because Mrs. McCash is not a Trustee she cannot be appointed as the Child Protection Officer for the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall. She will therefore not be doing the associated training.

- **Write to all regular hirers and Ian Vosper re child protection policy:** Completed.  
All regular hirers and Ian Vosper have agreed to give us the name of their Child Protection Officer together with a copy of their Policy Statement and Good Practice Guidelines.  
This item to remain on the agenda under Community Hall Trustees. **Agenda: 01/07**
- **Alter Community Hall advert in Parish News:** Completed.
- **Inspect Church Walk after Adam Welch has done clearance work**  
Refer to 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Church Walk Footpath (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Obtain quotations re Oak tree on the Lammas bank**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Trees on the Lammas (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Write to Malcolm Amey (East Herts Council) re work to trees on the Lammas:** Completed.  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Trees on the Lammas (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Ask Grass Roots to re-lay the triangular slab around the War Memorial:** Completed.  
Grass Roots have done this work free of charge.
- **Obtain a football fixture-list for the Clerk**  
Mr. Knight spoke to the Football Club who in turn contacted the Clerk. However, to date, no fixture list has been obtained.
- **Write to East Herts Council re seven trees near the Great Innings play area:** Completed.  
Mr. Stock read out the following letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> December reply from Kenneth Coyne (Landscape Officer, East Herts Council).  
‘Thank you for your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> November to Trevor Waldock. The Council is grateful for your surveillance of the newly improved facilities at Great Innings and it is sad to hear that some of the trees have been vandalised.  
Unfortunately the budget for this area is now committed. I have inspected the trees, which are still alive and will be pruned to see if growth from the base will continue, and a shorter, but less satisfactory trees may grow.  
If the Parish Council have funds I can arrange for additional trees to be supplemented and perhaps a letter from you to residents in the area could be helpful requesting assistance in ensuring the improvements are respected.’  
It was agreed that Parish Councillors monitor the trees whilst doing the monthly village-report.
- **Contact Bridget Ward re her request for a seat opposite the Waggon & Horses**  
Refer to 7 g, Specific items - Request for a memorial seat (on page 4 of these minutes).
- **Attend Hertfordshire Police Authority – Community Safety Awards 2006**  
Mr. Poulton and Mrs. McCash attended. PC Andy Woodward was nominated for an award (although he did not win on this occasion). Mr. Poulton said that his was a worthwhile event.
- **Write to the Jim Fitzpatrick MP re retention of the Post Office (with a copy to Oliver Heald MP and the Chief Executive, Countryside Alliance):** completed.  
Jim Fitzpatrick’s response is currently on circulation. Those Parish Councillors who had seen the response agreed that it was difficult to understand and did not appear to address the points raised by Mr. Stock in his letter outlining our objections to any threat to the future of rural post offices, in particular our own.
- **E-mail Parish Councillors copies of letters re planning application at 1-3 Mill Lane:** Completed.
- **Write Parish News report:** Completed.
- **Contact Mr. Poulton re elections in May 2007**  
To date, Mr. Poulton has not heard from any Parish Councillors.

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

None.

**6 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 3 Long Meadow (3/06/210/FP/SD)**

Loft conversion to dwelling containing velux roof window

Mr. Knight was not able to make contact with the neighbouring residents. After studying the plans, he felt that there was no problem with this application. Mr. Poulton agreed and the Clerk was instructed to write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed with this decision.

**ii) 25 Rivershill (3/06/239/FP/SE)**

Single Storey Front Extension

Mr. Dunhill visited one of the neighbouring residents and they had no objections to the application but observed that the proposed extension was forward of the current building line.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**Note:** Mrs. Dinnin took no part in the debate or vote due to his personal interest in the application.

**iii) Wagon and Horses 1 High Street (3/06/2307/AD/SD)**

Replacement Lettering and new sign (externally Illuminated)

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**iv) Wagon and Horses 1 High Street (3/06/2273/FP/SD)**

Proposed rear kitchen extension including new kitchen extract and intake fans plus internal refurbishment

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decisions**

**i) 27 Lammas Road**

Single storey side extension (with small pitched roof over existing extension) and first floor rear extension

- East Herts Council- permission granted

**ii) 122 High Street**

Single Storey rear extension to enclose swimming pool

- East Herts Council - permission refused

**c) Application withdrawn**

**i) Unit 1-3 Mill Lane Watton at Stone**

- East Herts Council - permission granted

**7 Specific items**

**a) Gully cleaning programme 2006/07**

Danny Kyan (Hertfordshire Highways) has informed Mr. Poulton that the contractor had been unable to do the work as planned and it had now been rescheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

**b) Lights in Lammas Road**

Following consultation with the residents of Lammas Road, the new lighting-scheme was modified slightly. Mr. Poulton said that all the new lighting-columns had now been installed and will be connected to the electricity supply during January 2007. The three old columns will be removed.

It was agreed to write to Hertfordshire Highways in February 2007 (when the scheme is complete) asking them to confirm that they are adopting all the lighting columns in Lammas Road and will amend our maintenance and electricity lighting bills accordingly. **Agenda 02/07**

**c) Meeting on 22nd November re facilities for the Youth**

Mr. Poulton said that two successful meetings had taken place to discuss the opening of a Youth Club in Watton-at-Stone and volunteers had come forward to help to run it.

Ideally, the Youth Club would be based at the Community Hall and hire both the Main Hall and Pavilion. However, currently the only nights that both facilities are available are Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A new Yoga class is due to start in the Community Hall on Wednesday evenings in the New Year.

The Youth Club committee will elect a Chairman and Treasurer during its next meeting. The Committee will include two male and two female youth-members.

The Clerk to inform (by e-mail) Mr. Poulton of the amount of money held in the bank on behalf of the previous Youth Club. **Action: J. Allsop**

**d) Report on policing matters concerning the Parish**

Mr. Poulton updated Parish Councillors on policing issues.

A Harlow man has been charged with a car crime that occurred in Glebe Court last year. This man asked for 8 other offences to be taken into account, 5 of which occurred in Watton-at-Stone.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December the police and Mr. Poulton did a speed check on the Walkern Road. 113 cars entered Watton between 0800 and 0900:

- 74 were travelling under 30 mph
- 17 were travelling between 30 and 35 mph
- 16 were travelling between 35 and 40 mph
- 5 were travelling between 40 and 45 mph
- 1 was travelling over 45 mph

Twenty two drivers will be receiving 'caution letters' for driving at speeds over 35 mph in a 30 mph speed limit.

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail, dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, from PCSO Paul Weston.

‘As promised some details for feed back at your next Parish Council meeting.

In response to issues of criminal damage at the Community Hall we have increased our patrols in the village and in particular around the hall, as a result of these patrols I have listed below a breakdown of our progress so far.

- 1) 19 stop and accounts completed
- 2) 3 stop and searches
- 3) 4 vehicle checks
- 4) Letters taken to all stop and account home addresses.

In regard to point 4 the letter sent gave details of the damage and problems at the hall, and when visiting the home addresses we are speaking to parents asking them to contact us with any information which may assist us in catching culprits.

We still have two people to speak with about the graffiti and two possible suspects about the sauce that was thrown at the windows.

We will continue to keep you updated with our progress.’

Watton Primary School had a flower tub thrown at one of its windows on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December and resulted in setting off the burglar alarm. Entry was not gained to the premises.

PC Andy Woodward and PCSO Paul Weston to be invited to give a policing update at the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Action: J. Allsop**

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

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

Parish Councillors to monitor the colour of the post when carrying-out the monthly village-report.

**f) Major Incident Emergency Plan - Parish Council’s Role**

This item to be deferred to the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Agenda: 01/07**

**g) Request for a memorial seat**

Mr. Poulton has spoken to Bridget Ward about the difficulties involved in getting permission from Hertfordshire Highways to erect a memorial seat opposite the Waggon and Horses public house.

An alternative location would be adjacent to the Parish Council notice board at the Great Innings roundabout. If the existing damaged seat is removed, a memorial seat could be erected in its place. If Bridget Ward and her family are in agreement with this suggestion, Hertfordshire Highways (the land owners) will be contacted for their agreement.

Mr. Poulton has given Bridget Ward appropriate seating brochures.

**8 Reports**

**a) Sub-Committees**

**Budget & Finance**

• **SLCC Membership Renewal**

The SLCC membership renewal is £95, which is a £2 increase on last year.

It was agreed to renew the membership, which provides the Parish Council with legal advice and useful information about changes in legislation, e.g. changes in accounting practises. Although this information is also available from the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils, the annual membership fee would be in the region of a thousand pounds.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

• **Purchase Council’s “Bible Book”**

Lexis Nevis Butterworth contacted the Clerk re the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Local Council Administration book by Charles Arnold-Baker which is now available for £60 (£48 to NALC members). The Parish Council purchased the 6<sup>th</sup> edition a few years ago but has never had a need to refer to it.

It was agreed not to purchase the latest edition book.

**Community Hall Trustees**

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

• **Insurance Claim for the car-park wall**

Cornhill Insurance has approved the claim for the damage to the wall. However, the claim is under the Community Hall policy and not under the Parish Council policy, as originally submitted.

The wall has been repaired by David Bunyan and the Clerk is to send a copy of his invoice to Allianz Cornhill.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Annual Playground inspection**

Mr. Poulton was pleased to report that no problems arose from the Annual Playground inspection. A copy of the report to be placed on circulation.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Fire regulations**

This item to be deferred to the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Agenda: 01/07**

- **Community Hall Door Lock and Keys**

After finding the door on car-park side of the Community Hall open on a number of occasions, Mr. Stock discovered that if the door was pushed or kicked hard enough it would unlock itself. Mr. Poulton therefore had it inspected by Lock Stock and Barrell. Unfortunately, the whole locking mechanism had to be replaced, including the crash bars.

Mr. Poulton ordered 15 keys for the new lock, which he distributed to the Parish Councillors who hold keys to the Community Hall, the Clerk and the Sports and Social Club. Keys have also been added to the sets used for casual hirings.

Lock Stock and Barrell damaged the mat at the entrance to the building whilst drilling out the lock.

Mr. Poulton said he is negotiating a reduction in the invoice (currently £444.54) as a settlement for replacing the mat.

Mr. Dunhill said that the external lights at the Community Hall are going out at 2100 instead of 2230.

Mr. Meischke agreed to investigate.

**Action: J. Meischke**

## Recreation & Amenities

Nothing to report.

## Environment

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

- **Cottage site**

Tony Bradford and a group of his friends will start coppicing the trees on the Cottage Site at Watton Green on 17th December.

Mrs. Dinnin to inform Mr. Filer accordingly.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Church Walk Footpath**

Mrs. Dinnin had not been down Church Walk and therefore did not know if Adam Welch had cut back the lower growth of nettles and branches at the base of the hedge.

Mrs. Dinnin to inspect the Church Walk Footpath.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

- **Trees on the Lammas**

Mr. Poulton said that because the work needed doing as soon as possible, Adam Welch was instructed to remove the fallen branch of the Oak tree on the Lammas bank. The branch was obstructing the public footpath in the adjacent field at the top of the bank (Abel Smith land). This work has been done.

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter from Malcolm Amey (East Herts Council) dated 30<sup>th</sup> November re trees on the Lammas.

**'Tree work at the Lammas to the rear of 51B and C High Street, Watton-at-Stone**

With reference to your enquiry made on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006, I can confirm that on this date your tree/s were not protected by a Tree Preservation Order, they are not growing within a Conservation Area, and are not protected by other Planning Legalisation. With respect of the planning authority you may proceed with your proposed work.

This letter does not give you permission to work on trees NOT under your ownership or to entering a neighbour's land to gain access to the trees in question. It is advisable you receive the landowner's permission in accordance with the Law.

It is possible that the legal status of these trees could change in the future. If you intend to carry out work at a later date, I would advise you to check that the legal designation has not changed.

- **Lammas Stewardship scheme**

Mr. Dunhill said that the 10-year agreement we have with the Stewardship scheme on the Lammas comes to an end in September 2007 and is not renewable. Unfortunately, the Lammas does not meet the criteria for the new Stewardship schemes.

**b) Routine reports**

**i) Monthly village-report**

Mr. Smith completed this report on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**
  - Condition of grass Good.
  - Litter None.
  - Dog fouling OK.
  - General Good.
- **Children’s Play Area:**
  - Condition of surface Good.
  - Litter/Litterbin OK.
  - Large swings OK.
  - Small swings OK.
  - See-Saw -
  - 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) Good.
  - Litterbin OK.
  - Car Park OK.
  - General Tidy.
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**
  - Surface Good.
  - Boundary Fencing OK.
  - Tennis nets OK.
  - Litter None.
  - General Tidy.
- **Great Innings Play Area:**
  - Equipment Good.
  - Surfaces Good.
  - Litter None.
  - Dog fouling None.
  - Comments Litter under north hedge.
- **Allotments Area:**
  - Access Trees?
  - Condition of paths between Allotments Fair
  - Condition of Allotments under cultivation Good.
  - Condition of Allotments not under cultivation As expected.
  - Litter OK.
  - Comments -
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**
  - Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts None.
  - Dog-fouling Some.
  - Comments Good condition.
- **Salt bins**
  - Perrywood Lane OK.
  - Entrance to Great Innings OK.
  - Great Innings South – outside number 93 OK.
  - Station Road OK.
  - Moorymead Close (2) OK.
  - 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.
  - Great Innings OK.
  - Mill Lane OK.
  - Opposite 5 School Lane OK.
- **War Memorial**
  - Comments Tidy.
- **Ornate Village Sign**
  - Comments Tidy.
- **General Comments**
  - Leaf picking required by school and High Street south.

- **Litter – Great Innings play area**
  - It was agreed to write to East Herts Council asking them to clear this litter. **Action: J. Allsop**

- ii) **Weekly sportsfield-report and action**
  - There was nothing to report from Ted Brown’s weekly inspections.

## 9 Correspondence received

### a) East Herts Council –Summer playschemes 2007

Mr. Poulton read out a letter, dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, from Jo Rodwell (Play Officer at East Herts Council), requesting the free use of the of the Community Hall during August 2007 for the Summer Playscheme. East Herts Council will send us a £100 refundable deposit to secure the booking and to cover any possible damages to the premises.

Parish Councillors agreed that, as in previous years, East Herts Council can have the free use of the Community Hall facilities for the 2007 Summer Playscheme and that the booking will be confirmed on receipt of the £100 refundable deposit.

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

### b) Inter-Parish Quiz 2007 - In aid of East Herts Fund for the Future

The Parish Council will not be represented.

### c) Letter from CDA for Herts

Kate Belinis (Chief Executive of CDA for Herts) wrote on 20<sup>th</sup> November to inform us that they are closing their Puckeridge office at the end of December 2006 due to a decline in resources (funding) for their rural activities.

### d) Community Action Dacorum

Mr. Poulton completed and returned a survey re the Hertfordshire Children’s Trust Partnership.

### e) E-mail from Oliver Heald MP re League of Mercy

Oliver Heald has asked the Parish Council if there is any person living within our Parish whose name can be put forward to the League of Mercy for an award for distinguished voluntary service within the following areas of care. The sick, injured or disabled; the homeless; the dying; young people at risk; the elderly; those impaired in mind and other areas at the discretion of the trustees of the League of Mercy.

It was agreed to respond to Oliver Heald informing him that the Parish Council had given consideration to his request but is unable to assist at this time. **Action: J. Allsop**

### f) Letter from Mr. D. Chandler

Mr. Poulton read out the following undated letter from Don Chandler (61 High Street).

‘I am writing to enquire as to whether the hedges along the horribly uneven pavements and footpaths around the village are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

If you have ever walked these you would know that a lot of them are so overgrown you take your life in your hands, especially if like me you are trying to walk your dog, I am very bad at walking (due to a stroke some years ago) and could stumble sideways at any time, there is so little room between you and what always seems to be speeding traffic just the other side of the kerbstones, inches away.

Surely these hedges must be the duty of the occupier of the houses, whether owners of tenants and any land not built on, the owner.



The unevenness of the footpaths in the High Street to me personally are little more than treacherous and at some points slope quite steeply towards the road as to make it scary when the road is busy. This does not only apply to me but to quite a few people around the village who are mostly of an age and seem to be the people that mostly walk these footpaths!

Even when I venture out on of my electric pavement scooter and come across one of the slopes that have been put in place at road junctions to me it is easier for people like me, or with wheelchairs find them very uneven and in places to steep to climb. Some places have no slope at all making it necessary to manhandle, or in my case man and women handle (I never go out on my scooter without my wife) It is still quite difficult to get past some of the hedge that I have mentioned.

Hope this letter in some way be acted upon.'

Mr. Poulton said that he had met with Don Chandler and also wrote as follows.

'Many thanks for your letter regarding the hedges and uneven footpaths around the village.

As I mentioned to you when we met these are the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways.

The Parish Council has written to Hertfordshire Highways on numerous occasions drawing their attention to the hedges that have overgrown the footpaths.

The Parish Council has been successful in getting the hedges cut back by the entrance to the Great Innings Estate but the overgrown hedges from the George and Dragon going south is still badly overgrown and need cutting back.

I note your comments regarding the uneven pavements especially with regards to disabled people travelling around the village; again the Parish Council has drawn this to the attention of Hertfordshire Highways.

The Parish Council will again write to Hertfordshire Highways drawing their attention your concerns about the overgrown hedges and uneven footpaths

Your letter will be included on our agenda for the December meeting of the Parish Council which meets on the 13<sup>th</sup>.'

Hertfordshire Highways wrote (on 12<sup>th</sup> December) to Don Chandler as follows,

**'Re uneven footpaths and hedges**

I write with reference to you recent open letter addressed to the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council which has been forwarded to me by Nigel Poulton, Chairman of the Parish Council.

As mentioned in my telephone call message on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006, I will arrange for an inspection of the hedge over hanging the footway to be carried out in the New Year following which any further action needed can be undertaken.

With respect to the footways, Hertfordshire Highways currently maintains over 11000 footways through out the County with programmed works being undertaken to approximately 300 annually. I regret to advise you that there are currently no plans to undertake any remedial works within Watton-at-Stone at present. In the event that you feel that there is a fault on the footway, this can be reported to our Customer Services Centre on 01438 737320 or via the web on [www.hertdirect.org/highwayfaults](http://www.hertdirect.org/highwayfaults) where it will be responded to by making safe the fault.

I realise that this may not be the response which you would have liked, however, I trust that the above has dealt with your enquiry. I am forwarding a copy of my response to the Parish Council for their records.'

Mr. Poulton said he had spoken to Alan Grant re the overgrown hedges in the High Street that belong to the Abel Smith estate.

Hedges in the High Street to remain on the agenda until the matter is resolved.

**Agenda: 01/07**

**g) E-mail from Mr. Abel Smith re Web Site**

Julie Russell (PA to Mr. Abel Smith) e-mailed the Parish Council to inform them that the Woodhall Estate is developing a website and, as a source of further interest in the area, would like to include a link to the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council's website.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Woodhall Estate could have a link to our web site. It was agreed that we ask the Abel Smith estate if they are happy for us to include a link to their site.

The Clerk to inform Julie Russell accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**h) Letter from East Herts Council re recycling paper, glass and cans in your green box**

East Herts Council have provided us with booklets and posters on recycling cans, glass and paper in the green boxes they provide for collection once a fortnight.

The posters to be put up on the notice boards in Watton-at-Stone and Whempstead.

**Action: C. Clark/J. Allsop**

The Clerk to complete and return the recycling feedback form to East Herts Council.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 10 Reports from other Organisations

- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors**

Mr. Clark said that the building work at the school is now complete in readiness for the Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Play Group. The Play Group will move from its current location, the Horsa Hut in School Lane, to the school at the beginning of 2007.

## 11 Items for Parish News

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

- Countryside Alliance re village post offices
- Child Protection

The Clerk to write the entries accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 12 Accounts

### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

None

##### Payments

None

#### Cheques required

Bluebury Contractors	Allotments – levelling soil	58.75
Bluebury Contractors	Top grass on Lammas, remove concrete on sportsfield, remove seat on Hockerill slope	544.03
Earl Haig Fund	Poppy donation	65.00
Brian Hall	Bind 2005/06 Parish Council minutes	35.00
Ted Brown	35 hours litterpicking	214.50
Grass Roots	War Memorial & High street flowerbed maintenance	235.00
J. Allsop	December salary	559.05
J. Allsop	Phone charges to 3.12.06	25.00
Frank Cooper & Son	Grass cutting on sportsfield on 3/11/06	42.30
		<u>1778.63</u>

#### Cheques received

Mr. Hall	Allotment rent 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2006 to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	13.00
Steve Dann	Allotment rent 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2006 to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	6.50
Mr. Hankin	Allotment rent 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2006 to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	13.00
DEFRA	Annual Grant	<u>343.65</u>
		<u>376.15</u>

### Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

#### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Floodlighting to 18/11/06	140.00
Jim Keen – Main hall hire	35.00
Gill Gilbey – Main Hall hire 4/9/06	<u>10.00</u>
	<u>185.00</u>

##### Payments

Remove graffiti from Community Hall	10.00
John Phillips – 6/10/ - 13/11/06	<u>38.00</u>
Westward vents	21.02
Vat return 09 + 10/06	<u>30.69</u>
	<u>99.71</u>

#### Cheques required

P J Roofing		193.88
BSWW Parish News	Community Hall advert	100.00
Rosemary Brown	24 hours cleaning	144.00
Stevenage Glass	Replace broken windows	127.95
J. A. Turner	Annual boiler service	211.50
David Bunyan	Repair of car-park brick wall	<u>3395.75</u>
		<u>4173.08</u>

#### Cheques received

Parish Council	½ year annual grant	2250.00
J. Aylott	Pavilion hire	17.50
Allianz Cornhill Insurance	Insurance claim	300.00
Allianz Cornhill Insurance	Insurance claim	<u>305.00</u>
		<u>2872.50</u>

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

Mr. Smith gave his apologies for absence from the next Parish Council meeting.

- **The meeting closed at 2042.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.**