

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman)  
 Mr. C. Clark Mrs. C. Dinnin  
 Mr. I. Harris Mr. I. Knight  
 Mrs. H. McCash Mr. M. Smith  
 Mr. D. Stock The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

Member of public: None

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Filer.

### 2 Public Participation

None.

### 3 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Stock declared a personal interest in item 6 a ii, Planning Application – 142 Hazeldell (Mr. Stock is a friend of the applicant).

Mr. Clark declared a personal interest in item 7 a, Specific items - Strimming work on Parish Council land at Rivershill (Mr. Clark's son carried-out the strimming and clearance work).

Mrs. McCash declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - External audit of the Community Hall accounts by McCash and Hay (Mrs. McCash's husband, Murray McCash, prepared the audit of the Community Hall accounts).

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

Mr. Poulton had one additional item for this meeting.

- **Glebe Court Open Day**

The Manager at Glebe Court, Lesley Cross, has written inviting Parish Councillors to attend the EPIC Trust's Open Day on 28<sup>th</sup> May between 11.30 and 15.30 at Glebe Court.

The event is being held to provide their stakeholders and prospective service users with the opportunity to obtain information about the support EPIC provides for older people. There will be an opportunity to view the building and surrounding area and talk to staff and residents.

Mr. Poulton asked Parish Councillors to inform him if they are able to attend. **Action: Parish Councillors**

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

#### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

Mrs. McCash proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

#### b) Review of actions

- **Visit Perrywood Farm re storage of vehicles and if necessary write to the Planning Enforcement**

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Filer had informed him that, following a site visit, it would appear that the vehicles being stored at Perrywood Farm have been removed. Therefore, the problem with traffic movement up and down Perrywood Lane has been resolved. Mr. Filer will be periodically checking the site to ensure that the situation remains resolved.

- **Purchase an external hard-drive**

The Clerk has purchased a Western Digital 250 GB Passport Elite (hand-held) external hard-drive for £59.54 plus VAT. Shipping free A Western Digital

- **Arrange a site meeting with Trevor Waldock (East Herts Council) re trees at Great Innings play area**

Mr. Stock telephoned Trevor Waldock (Environmental Services at East Herts Council) on 30<sup>th</sup> April and discussed the subject and history of the lost trees within the large play area in Great Innings at length. It was soon apparent that there had been some confusion in Mr. Waldock's mind about the trees in question and that a site meeting was no longer necessary because he was happy to investigate the matter further using the original landscaping plans for the area. Subsequently, on 6<sup>th</sup> May, Mr. Stock received a telephone call from Mr. Waldock informing him that 10 replacement trees had been ordered and will be planted during September of this year. Mr. Stock was pleased to thank Mr. Waldock for his co-operation and rapid response.

We need to review the situation in October 2009.

**Agenda: 10/09**

Mr. Raj Goutam phoned Mr. Stock on 11<sup>th</sup> May concerning the letter Hertfordshire Highways had received from Mr. Oliver Heald MP. Again Mr. Stock explained the situation at length and the Parish Council's position with regard to not paying Hertfordshire Highways to replace trees that they had removed etc. In summary, Mr. Goutam said that he had misunderstood the situation about us wanting to secure funding and plant trees ourselves and is going to investigate this possibility further. As far as the tree that was killed as a result of it being moved by Hertfordshire Highways is concerned, Mr. Goutam said that replacing trees is not a priority for him. Mr. Stock repeated his great concern because the tree was moved as the result of a commercial activity, and for no other reason, and should therefore be replaced by Hertfordshire Highways. Mr. Goutam is to come back to us on this also.

When a response has been received from Hertfordshire Highways, Mr. Stock is to write to (or if appropriate, meet with at his surgery on 20<sup>th</sup> June) Oliver Heald MP to inform him of the outcome of discussions with East Herts Council and Hertfordshire Highways.

**Action: D. Stock**

- **Write to planning department re Blue Bury Farm, Walkern Road: completed.**
- **Write to planning department re 152 Hazeldell: completed.**
- **Copy summary statement of accounts for presentation at the Annual Parish meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May: completed.**
- **Obtain quotations for items covered under the Parish Council insurance**  
Refer to item 8a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - Parish Council insurance.
- **Arrange for the Parish Council accounts to be audited by Jim Morrissey**  
The Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 went to Jim Morrissey for the annual internal audit on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- **Arrange for the Community Hall accounts to be audited by McCash and Hay: completed.**  
Refer to item 8a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - External audit of the Community Hall accounts by McCash and Hay.
- **Resolve problem with British Gas re closure of account**  
Mr. Meischke said that both he and the Clerk have been in contact with Make it Cheaper (who set up the new NPower contract) to try and resolve the problem of British Gas's unwillingness to close our account. NPower have confirmed that our new gas contract commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> April and British Gas have agreed to close our account. The overpayment for the supply of gas made to British Gas will either be sorted out as a credit on NPower's first bill or by cheque from British Gas.
- **Give Mr. Poulton copies of invoices relating to the purchase and installation of the new Main Hall lock: completed.**
- **Ask Brian Thompson to do additional cleaning duties in the pavilion: completed.**  
Refer to 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Industrial clean of changing rooms and showers.
- **Write to Bob Adams and Peter Phillips re internal decoration at the Community Hall: completed.**  
Refer to 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Industrial clean of changing rooms and showers.
- **Inform Diana Ranzetta of meeting room hire charge: completed.**
- **Instruct Sunstopper Blinds to repair the broken blinds in the Pavilion**  
Refer to item 8a, Community Hall Trustees - Repair of two blinds in the Pavilion.
- **Produce laminate keep clear signs for both sides of the fire exit door between the Main Hall and the Pavilion: completed.**  
Mr. Poulton put up the new signs today and thanked Mr. Knight for laminating them.
- **Complete Grassroots end of project forms**  
Mr. Knight said he is still waiting for the end of project forms from Helen Doubal (Grants Officer, Hertfordshire Community Foundation).  
It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- **Accept Adam Welch's quotation for work on Lammas: completed.**
- **If required, complete TPO tree work request forms re Oak tree on sportsfield**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Oak trees branches overhanging the MPPA.
- **Write to the Countryside Management Service re replacement stile on the Allotments: completed.**
- **Write to the St. Albans Diocesan Board re replacement stile on the allotments land: completed.**
- **Inspect MPPA gate and take action as necessary**  
Mr. Knight has inspected that gate and no action is required at this time.
- **Ask Adam Welch to attend to the War Memorial garden**  
Refer to item 8a, Environment Sub-Committee War Memorial Garden.
- **Repair tarmac surface adjacent to the large swings: completed.**

- **Secure the loose MPPA kicker boards: outstanding.**
- **Write to Mr. Abel Smith re rabbit control: completed.**
- **Write to Nick Fox to confirm contents of meeting about rabbit control: completed.**
- **Put letter and attachments from Hertfordshire County Council re Common Land in Parish Council register: completed.**
- **Arrange a meeting of the Allotment Management Working Group**  
Refer to item 10 - Reports from other organisations - Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association.
- **Ask Sports and Social Club to write re Ladies Football team's request to use the Pavilion**  
Refer to item 8 a, Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee - Letter from Sports and Social Club re Ladies football Team.

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

- **Complete Whempstead and Watton School section for the new website**  
Mr. Clark has drafted the school entry for the new website, which he has given to Watton-at-Stone Primary School so they can check the details. **Action: C. Clark**  
Mr. Clark has not yet had time to investigate the Whempstead entry but will be doing this soon. **Action: C. Clark**  
  
Mr. Stock said that he is aiming to have the new website live within the next two months.
- **Complete Neighbourhood Watch and Healthcare sections for the new website**  
Mrs. McCash said that she was in the process of writing the Neighbourhood Watch website entry. She has had no response from Doctors David Haslam and Delish Shah re her request for a website entry on Healthcare.  
Mr. Stock to draft a Healthcare entry, which Mrs. McCash will pass to Doctors David Haslam and Delish Shah for their comments. **Action: D. Stock/H. McCash**
- **Write Parish News article re adoption of the Major Incident Emergency Plan**  
Mrs. McCash said that this article will appear in the June issue of the Parish News.

**6 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 142 Hazeldell (3/09/0555/FP/JS)**

**Replacement rear conservatory**

Mr. Poulton read out section 6 (details of pre-application advice received) of the householder application for planning permission form as follows.

‘Having now been granted retrospective planning approval for the above I am unfortunately having the conservatory demolished and re-built to exactly the same size and specification except that the foundations will be much deeper.’

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

**b) Decisions**

**i) Heath Mount School, Woodhall Park**

Directional signage - East Herts Council - Permission granted.

**ii) Tudor Cottage, Whempstead Road, Whempstead (3/09/0284/FP/JS)**

Replacement of existing outbuildings - East Herts Council - Permission granted

**7 Specific items**

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

Mr. Poulton explained that the strimming work on the Parish Council land at Rivershill is done annually to prove an access onto the land.

Tim Clark has now completed the annual strimming work.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to inspect the site. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

**b) Ferreting Licenses**

The following ferreting licenses for Mr. R. Adams (4 Glebe Close, Watton-at-Stone) have been renewed:

- Watton Green
- The Allotments
- The Lammas
- The paddock at the far end of the Lammas.

**c) License across Cottage site**

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) has been renewed.

**8 Reports**

**a) Sub-Committees**

**Budget & Finance**

In the absence of Mr. Filer, Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Monthly accounts**

**Watton-at-Stone Parish Council**

**Petty Cash**

**Receipts**

None

**Payments**

None

**Cheques issued**

J. Allsop	Phone charges to 03/04.09	18.95
J. Allsop	April salary	711.13
Tim Clark	Clearance work on Parish Council land at Rivershill	40.25
Ted Brown	32 hours Litter picking	243.20
Denis Filer	Supply weed-killer for wooded area of Watton Green	25.00
Blue Bury Contractors	Maintenance work on the Lammas	86.25
Hertfordshire County Council	Lighting maintenance	202.56
Hertfordshire County Council	Lighting energy	208.15
Frank Cooper and Son Limited	April grass cutting	<u>94.30</u>
		<u>1629.79</u>

**Cheques received**

None

**Watton-at-Stone Community Hall**

**Petty Cash**

**Receipts**

Floodlighting to 23.04.09	55.00
Robert Penn Main Hall and Pavilion	52.00
Jim Keen – Main Hall	100.00
Dots and Tots – Main Hall and	<u>70.00</u>
	<u>277.00</u>

**Payments**

Rosemary Brown – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> April	29.40
Rosemary Brown – 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> April	29.40
Rosemary Brown – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> April	29.40
Rosemary Brown – 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<u>29.40</u>
	<u>117.60</u>

**Cheques issued**

Brian Thompson	24 hours cleaning	176.40
McCash and Hay	Annual audit	116.15
Halcyon Courts	MPPA pressure wash and moss kill	<u>851.00</u>
		<u>1143.55</u>

**Cheques received**

Helen Doubal	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	39.00
Watton Youth Drop Inn	Main Hall and Pavilion hire	397.80
Watton Primary School	Beane Valley - Main Hall, Pavilion and meeting room hire	<u>686.25</u>
		<u>1123.05</u>

Mr. Meischke proposed that the Parish Council approves the above payments. Mr. Poulton seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **Parish Council insurance**

Allianz have submitted their renewal papers for the Parish Council insurance to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009. Four other insurance brokers have been asked to submit quotations. To-date only one quotation has been received and one broker is not interested in submitting a quotation.

As soon as all the insurance quotations have been received, Mr. Filer, Mr. Poulton and Mrs. McCash to discuss and approve one of the quotations.

**Action: D. Filer/N. Poulton/H. McCash**

- **Asset register**

Mr. Filer, Mr. Poulton and Mrs. McCash to review the 2009/10 asset registers when they meet to discuss the insurance quotations.

**Action: D. Filer/N. Poulton/H. McCash**

- **External audit of the Community Hall accounts by McCash and Hay**

Mrs. McCash left the meeting.

The audit of the Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 has been done by McCash and Hay and everything is in order. A copy of these accounts is attached to these minutes. **See attached**

Mr. Meischke proposed that Mr. Poulton sign the audited accounts for the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall. Mr. Stock seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

A copy of the signed accounts to be sent to McCash and Hay.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mrs. McCash returned to the meeting.

Mrs. McCash said that her husband had reported that the Community Hall accounts produced by the Clerk were excellent this year.

### Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Repair of two blinds in the pavilion**

Sunstopper Blinds will be repairing and replacing the broken blinds in the Pavilion on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

- **Industrial clean of changing rooms and showers**

Mr. Poulton made arrangements for three companies to come and quote for cleaning the changing rooms, corridor and toilet areas. However, one of the three companies made a site visit and then failed to submit their quotation.

Mr. Poulton read out the following quotations.

- **Sparkle Bright**

To jet wash and degrease both changing rooms and floors

To clean paintwork and radiators

To clean benches

To clean doors and de-scale sanitary ware

To clean toilet floors changing room floors and corridor floors.

£395.00 plus VAT

- **Harden Elite (Contract Cleaners)**

To clean thoroughly all external windows throughout the building, including internal windows/frames of all glass windows. The front main entrance doors are also included.

Both changing rooms to be cleaned using jet spray to all walls, sitting area, all benches, doors, any wall tiles and also to both shower room areas.

To clean and disinfect the 2 main toilets/changing room areas, wash all floor areas using a buffering cleaning machine and also to disinfect all shower taps

£98.75 plus VAT

Mr. Meischke proposed that Harden Elite's quotation be accepted, Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: N. Poulton**

The Clerk to notify Sparkle Bright accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Poulton will liaise with Bob Adams re the painting work in the changing room corridor after the industrial cleaning work has been done.

**Action: N. Poulton**

Mr. Poulton to obtain a quotation from Harden Elite for cleaning the remainder of the Community Hall building.

**Action: N. Poulton**

Mr. Meischke will not talk to Brian Thompson about additional cleaning work in the Pavilion and kitchen for the time being.

### Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **MPPA – Floodlighting refurbishment**

Mr. Knight said he is still waiting for the Grassroots end of project forms from Helen Doubal (Grants Officer, Hertfordshire Community Foundation) re the £5,000 grant award for the floodlighting refurbishment and three notice boards for the Community Hall. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until Mr. Knight is able to report that the end of project forms have been completed and returned.

- **MPPA – pressure washing**

Halcyon Courts have done a first-class job of the moss-kill and pressure wash on the MPPA. The invoice of £740, plus VAT, was two-thirds of the price quoted by Doe Sport.

- **Football facilities**

Mr. Knight said that securing additional football facilities is now a problem for the Sports and Social Club to resolve.

- **Letter from Sports and Social Club**

Mr. Knight, in his capacity of Treasurer of the Sports and Social Club, has formally written to the Parish Council requesting that the Ladies Football team have the use of the Pavilion and kitchen when they have a home match booked.

Parish Councillors agreed in principal. However, if there are any confirmed Community Hall bookings received before the Ladies Football Team give the fixtures to the Clerk, the Ladies Football Team will not be able to use the Pavilion facilities.

• **Quotations for the renewal of part of wire fence on MPPA**

Mr. Knight has obtained three quotations for the renewal of the MPPA section of fencing directly behind the sportsfield football goal posts.

- Russell Fencing - £608 (including VAT).
- Halcyon Courts has quoted
  - £740 (plus VAT) using a 3.55/2.55mm chain-link
  - £820 (plus VAT) using a 4.0/3.0mm heavier chain-link
- P. J. Fencing - £414.00 (including VAT).

Mr. Knight said that the 2009/10 budget for MPPA maintenance is £1,300. £740 has been used on the moss-kill and pressure-wash, leaving a remainder of £560.

Mr. Meischke proposed we accept P. J. Fencing’s quotation, Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

**Environment**

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

• **Oak trees branches overhanging the MPPA**

Mr. Knight and Mrs. Dinnin have discussed the issue of the Oak tree branches overhanging the MPPA and decided not to pursue this matter at this time.

• **Countryside Management Service - stile replacement on the allotments**

Refer to item 5 a, Review of actions - Write to the Countryside Management Service and the St. Albans Diocesan Board re replacement stile on the allotments land.

• **Lammas Road - grass verge reinstatement**

Mrs. Dinnin has visited Lamas Road and confirmed that the grass verges adjacent to the new driveway installations have been re-instated. However the grass will take time to grow back to its former condition.

• **War Memorial garden**

Mrs. Dinnin instructed Adam Welch to attend to the War Memorial garden. However, the work is outstanding. Mrs. Dinnin to chase. **Action: C. Dinnin**

**b) Routine reports**

i) **Fire-alarm test**

The fire-alarm was tested before the start of the meeting by Mr. Poulton.

ii) **Monthly village-report**

Mrs. McCash completed this report on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Good.
Litter	None.
Dog fouling	None.
General	Good.
- **Children’s Play Area:**

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

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

General Condition (Exterior)	Good.
Litterbin	Full.
Car Park	Some rubbish.

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|--|--|
| General  | Good.  |
| • <b>Multi-Purpose Play Area:</b>  |  |
| Surface  | Good.  |
| Boundary Fencing )   | Some rails loose.                              |
| Tennis nets  | Good.  |
| Litter   | None.  |
| General  | Good.  |
| • <b>Great Innings Play Area:</b>  |  |
| Equipment  | OK.  |
| Surfaces   | OK.  |
| Litter   | Quite a lot.                                   |
| Dog fouling  | None.  |
| Trees  | OK.  |
| Comments   | Very well used.                                |
| • <b>Allotments Area:</b>  |  |
| Access   | Good.  |
| Condition of paths between Allotments  | Mostly good.                                   |
| Condition of Allotments under cultivation  | Good.  |
| Condition of Allotments not under cultivation  | Overgrown.                                     |
| Litter   | None.  |
| Comments   | Un-cultivated area needs to be strimmed.       |
| • <b>Culverts on Mill Lane</b>   |  |
| Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts  | Not too bad.                                   |
| Dog-fouling  | A little.                                      |
| Comments   | Culverts very overgrown with weeds.            |
| • <b>Salt bins</b>   |  |
| Perrywood Lane   | ½ full.  |
| Entrance to Great Innings  | Empty.   |
| Great Innings South – outside number 93  | Empty.   |
| Station Road   | Almost empty.                                  |
| Moorymead Close (2)  | Full.  |
| Hazeldell  | Empty.   |
| Footpath 17  | ¾ full.  |
| Beane Road   | Empty.   |
| • <b>Dog-waste bins</b>  |  |
| Footpath 17  | OK.  |
| Sportsfield  | OK.  |
| Church Walk  | OK.  |
| Walkern Road   | OK.  |
| Station Road (opposite Rectory Lane)   | OK.  |
| Station Road (by station)  | OK.  |
| High Street (by Memorial)  | OK.  |
| Great Innings  | OK.  |
| Mill Lane  | OK.  |
| Opposite 5 School Lane   | OK. Some ivy overgrown.                        |
| • <b>War Memorial</b>  |  |
| Comments   | OK, much tidier but weeks etc still a problem. |
| • <b>Ornate Village Sign</b>   |  |
| Comments   | OK.  |
| Post   | OK – but split.                                |
| <b>General Comments</b>  |  |
| • <b>Allotments plots not being cultivated</b>   |  |
| Mrs. McCash said that some of the allotment plots are not being cultivated.  |  |
| It was agreed that the Allotment Management Working Group should inspect the following areas.  |  |
| • All Allotments plots that are not being cultivated.  |  |
| • The uncultivated area of the Allotments, which are overgrown with nettles and agree what action should be taken.                     | <b>Action: J. Meischke/C. Dinnin/H. McCash</b> |
| • <b>Salt bins</b>   |  |
| Mr. Poulton said that Hertfordshire Highways would fill all the salt bins in the village when they have received a new supply of salt. |  |

- **Dog bin**  
Mrs. McCash has removed the ivy growing over the dog-bin opposite 5 School Lane.
  - **Ornate sign**  
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to inspect the Ornate Village sign post. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**
- iii) Weekly sportsfield-report and action**  
Nothing to report.

## 9 Correspondence received

### a) River Beane Restoration Association – re donation

The River Beane Restoration Association wrote on 5<sup>th</sup> May as follows.

‘We want to thank the Parish Council for the donation of £25 for our funds. It is appreciated.

We would be pleased to give you a presentation at one of your meetings to update you on the current position with our activities.

We are holding our AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the Community Hall at Wotton-at-Stone. If anyone is interested to come along, they will be very welcome.’

### b) East Herts Council - County Council & European Parliamentary Elections – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

The European County Council & European Parliamentary Elections will be held in the Community Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### c) E-mail from Mrs. Maureen Mellish

Mrs. Maureen Mellish sent the following e-mail to Mrs. Dinnin (addressed to the Clerk’s e-mail address).

‘Re: The River Beane

Some years ago yourself and John Meischke came to my front door, asking me to remove some Dog Roses ( I went to great pains to find a species, that would grow wild in England) I myself and my husband planted on the other side of the river to our house. We live at 4 The Beaneside, there was a very large gap opposite, so we bought these roses to fill the gap, also it would look very pretty in the spring, and would bring the birds to the Large Rosehips come the winter. We did remove these, later we planted a couple at the top of our private road. I have just come back from a walk around the back and was surprised to see at the Lammas Road end of the River near the corner about fifteen small trees have been planted, I recognised them as "Greek Strawberry Trees" grown in S.E. Europe (hence! Greek Strawberry Tree). Were they planted by the Parish Council! Yours and John Meischke objection was that it was not a wild English habitat. If not planted by The Parish Council, who will be asked to pull the up.

Mrs. Dinnin said she inspected the shrubs on the riverbank and confirmed that they are definitely on Mr. Abel Smith's bank (right in the corner as the path turns to follow the river). Mrs. Mellish has been notified by e-mail and informed that the Parish Council has no idea who planted them.

### d) East Herts District Council - introduction of major changes to refuse and recycling services in the Autumn 2009

Laura White (Waste Services, East Herts Council) e-mailed on 16<sup>th</sup> April as follows

‘As you may have seen in the Spring Edition of Link Magazine, East Herts District Council will be introducing major changes to refuse and recycling services in the autumn. The scheme is called ARC - Alternate Refuse Collection; it enables residents to recycle food waste, cardboard and plastic bottles more easily, reducing the amount of waste placed in black refuse bins. Therefore, from the autumn, the waste from black refuse bins - which is taken to landfill sites – will be collected once a fortnight.

We anticipate that residents will want to be fully informed about these changes and will wish to ask questions about how the scheme will work and why it is being introduced. We would like to talk to as many residents as possible about ARC and would like to attend a meeting of every Town and Parish Council in the district, or organise an open meeting through the Town/ Parish Council, to discuss the scheme.

I am therefore writing to you to request a 30-45 minute slot at one of your meetings from the start of July to the end of October, or to investigate the possibility of holding an open meeting on this matter.’

It was agreed to invite Laura White to the September Parish Council. This meeting to have an earlier start time of 19.00 hours.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 10 Village organisations

- **Wotton Youth Drop Inn:** Nothing to report.
- **Wotton-at-Stone School Governors:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association**  
 The Clerk to provide Mr. Meischke with an up-to-date list of all Allotments holders names and addresses including plot numbers before the Allotment and Garden Association AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> May. **Action: J. Allsop**  
 Mr. Poulton to pick up the new Allotment sign and arrange for it to be installed. **Action: N, Poulton**  
 Mr. Meischke to notify the Allotment and Garden Association (at it's AGM) that the stile on the allotments adjacent to the property 'Kimberley' needs to be replaced. **Action: J. Meischke**
- **Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup**  
 Mrs. Dinnin was unable to attend the last meeting of the Pre-School Playgroup. However, they are holding a Fun on the Field event on 14<sup>th</sup> June from 12.30 – 15.00 hours on the School playing field.
- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club:** Nothing to report.
- **Police Authority: Nothing to report.**
- **River Beane Restoration Association**  
 Mr. Knight reported on the following items.
  - The River Beane Restoration Association is having its AGM on Tuesday 2nd June at 20.00 hours in the Community Hall.
  - Oliver Heald is involved with a debate on Wednesday 13th May on endangered chalk streams with reference to the River Beane.

## 11 Items for Parish News

There were no items identified for inclusion in the June 2009 issue of the Parish News.

- **The meeting closed at 20.35 hours.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**