

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Present: Mr. John Meischke (Chairman) Mr. Michael Smith (Vice-Chairman)  
 Mr. Charles Clark (after 1717) Mrs. Christine Dinnin  
 Mrs. Helen McCash Mr. Ian Knight  
 Mr. Nigel Poulton The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)

Police: P C Andy Woodward and PS Tom Turner (both left at 2000)  
 Members of public: Alan and Wendy Rattue, Tony Common, Mike Romanos, Graham Cove and Simon Ewan (all left at 1936)  
 Mercury representative: Priya Gulraj

**1 Apologies for absence and leave of absence**

Apologies for absence: Mr. Denis Filer and Mr. Iain Harris.

Leave of absence: Mr. David Stock.

**2 Public Participation**

This item to be taken directly after item 4 - Declaration of Interests.

**3 Chairman's/Clerk's Report**

Mr. Meischke had one additional item for this meeting.

- **E-mail from Sara Miller - Datchworth Fairtrade Group**  
 This item to be discussed under 10 d, Correspondence received.

**4 Declaration of Interests**

Mr. Poulton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 a i and ii, Planning applications - Land adjacent to 99 High Street (Mr. Poulton has been helping local residents with their objections).

**2 Public Participation**

See item below.

**7 Planning**

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

**a) Applications**

**i) Land adj, 99, High Street (3/10/2045/FP)**

New dwelling with part formed of conversion of existing stable with attached existing garage and car parking

This item was discussed with the item below, under item 2, Public Participation.

**ii) Land adj, 99, High Street (3/10/2046/FP)**

New dwelling with part formed of conversion of existing stable with attached existing garage – Listed Building consent

This item was discussed under item 2, Public Participation.

Mr. Clark arrived at the meeting

Mr. Poulton invited the members of public to speak about their concerns re the applications at 99 High Street.

After discussion by the Parish Council, and taking into account the views of the members of public, the Parish Council agreed to write to the planning department as follows.

‘The Parish Council would like a decision on the above applications to be made by a full Planning Committee meeting and not delegated to an officer for a decision. They have asked their District Councillor, Nigel Poulton, to help insure that this happens.

The Parish Council strongly objects to the above applications for the following reasons.

- The proposal, on this restricted site, would result in a cramped form of development out of scale and character with the surrounding area with little amenity land. It would consequently be obtrusive and detrimental to the street scene and overbearing for occupiers of adjacent properties.
- The proposed development is in the Conservation area and is not in keeping with the surrounding houses in White House Close.

- The height of the proposed development exceeds those in the adjacent area and would be out of keeping.
- The entrance to this proposed development has a restricted access and any increase in traffic movement onto the High Street would be dangerous.
- The proposed development would cause a lack of privacy and light to the adjacent properties in White House Close, 93 High Street and The White House (99 High Street).
- The development is only 6.5 meters from one of the adjacent properties
- There is insufficient parking for a 4+ bedroom house and the proposed dwelling has sufficient rooms to be used as a six bedroom dwelling.
- The surface drainage would drain into the next door garden at 93 High Street.
- The plans are deceptive because they indicate that the garage and the barn are of an equal size, when in fact the garage is three times longer than the barn.

If planning permission is granted against our recommendation, the Parish Council would want your assurance that the residents of White House Close will be able to gain access to their properties at all times whilst construction work is being undertaken.'

**Action: J. Allsop**

## b) Decisions

### i) Land to south of Station Road, Watton At Stone (3/08/2054/OP

Residential development, community uses (doctors surgery, Early Years Centre and associated parking).  
- East Herts Council – permission granted

## 5 Police report from PC Andy Woodward and PS Tom Turner

Mr. Meischke welcomed PC Andy Woodward and PS Tom Turner to the meeting and invited them to speak. PS Turner gave details of the Speed Watch Programme to Parish Councillors and handed round paperwork relating to the project, which is currently being trialled in North Herts. He asked Parish Councillors and the Mercury Correspondent to keep the details of programme confidential and not to publish anything on the topic.

Mrs. McCash said that Parish Councillors had discussed the Speed Watch Programme during their December meeting. She informed PS Turner that if less than six volunteers come forward from the Parish Council, selected neighbourhood watch co-ordinators would be invited to put their names forward.

PC Andy Woodward and PS Turner left the meeting.

## 6 Minutes of the last meeting

### a) Acceptance

#### • Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010

The following amendment was made to the minutes of the meeting.

- Page 1, Item 2, Public Participation, beginning of first line.

Mr. Harry Slater (2 Glebe Close)

Should read:

Mr. Harry Slater (2 Glebe Court).

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

### b) Review of actions

- **Write to Hertfordshire Highways re School Lane: completed.**
- **Purchase copy paper for Parish Councillors: completed.**  
The clerk asked Parish Councillors to take a pack of paper at the end of the meeting.  
The Clerk to arrange for paper to be delivered to Mr. Iain Harris and Mr. David Stock. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Place 'Peep in the Past' DVD on circulation: completed.**  
Mrs. Dinnin said she currently had the DVD, but had not viewed it yet.
- **Write to East Herts Council re two planning applications for 1 High Street: completed.**
- **Contact Churches Serving Watton and the Cricket Club re 2011 Community Service: outstanding.**
- **Draft an e-mail to send to all Parish Councillors re speed detection use: no longer required.**
- **Send out email re speed detection use: no longer required.**
- **Place a hard copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly inspection in the 2010/11 accounts: completed.**

- **Contact Santander re bank statements: completed.**  
The Clerk said that Santander agreed to change the bank statements to monthly; however, none has been received to date. The Clerk to chase Santander. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Write to Sports and Social Club re review of hiring charges: completed.**
- **Write to all contractors who submitted quotations for work in 2011: completed.**  
The Clerk said she had not written to Mike Smith (Bluebury Contractors) because Mr. Smith was present at the December Parish Council meeting.  
Mrs. McCash said the Parish Council should write and accept Blue Bury Contractors. If the current Parish Councillors are not in office in May, the new Parish Councillors could refute Blue Bury Contractors contract to cut the grass on Watton Green and the Lammas.  
The Clerk to write to Blue Bury Contractors accordingly. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Contact Make it Cheaper instructing them to accept British Gas' quotation: completed.**
- **Give Npower notification of termination of contract: completed.**
- **Issue revised 2011/12 budget sheets: completed.**
- **Return completed Precept form to East Herts Council: completed.**
- **Continue to investigate high interest options from CCLA Investment Management Ltd**  
Mr. Filer was not present at the meeting to report on this item. **Action: D. Filer**
- **Pay BSWW Parish News for annual Community Hall advert in the Parish News: completed.**
- **Renew Society of Local Council Clerks membership: completed.**
- **Order car-park usage sign from Arro Signs**  
The Clerk confirmed that the sign is on order and agreed to chase. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Obtain the cost of sliding gates for the Community Hall car park**  
Mr. Smith said he had looked into the cost of a gate for the Community Hall car park.  
It was agreed to discuss this item at the February Parish Council meeting. **Agenda: 02/11**
- **Contact the Society of Local Council Clerks re noise issue at the Community Hall car park: completed.**  
Lionel Thacker's response to the Clerk's e-mail re noise issue at the Community Hall car park to be discussed at the February Parish Council meeting with the above item. **Agenda: 02/11**
- **Ask Ted Brown to clear the leaves on the MPPA periodically over the next few weeks: outstanding.**
- **Chase Adam Welch re pruning of Oak tree and planting of new tree**  
The Clerk said that she believed that Adam Welch had done the pruning work on the sportsfield.  
Mrs. Dinnin agreed to confirm and find out when the tree planting will be done. **Action: C. Dinnin**
- **Obtain 'No dogs' notices for MPPA: completed.**
- **Put up 'No dogs' notices on the MPPA fencing: outstanding.**
- **Look up the MPPA Floodlighting guarantees and take action as necessary**  
Mr. Knight reported that the guarantee on the floodlighting ran out early last year and the Parish Council chose not to take up the cost for site visits. He said the misalignment of the floodlighting unit is not serious enough to require action at this time.
- **Speak to the two allotment holders who have trees growing on their plots**  
This item to be discussed under Environment Sub-Committee - Allotments.
- **Install new kissing-gate and making it rabbit-proof**  
This item to be discussed under Environment Sub-Committee - Allotments.
- **Contact Fiona Underhill (Countryside Management Service) re P3 grant payment**  
The Clerk contacted Fiona Underhill before Christmas to ask when we can expect to receive the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) grant payment. However to date, the payment is outstanding. Mrs. Dinnin tried to speak to Fiona Underhill today but she was not in the office. She agreed to chase again. **Action: C. Dinnin**
- **Draft a response to the Policing plan for 2011-2014**  
Refer to item 8 c, Specific items - Policing plan for 2011-2014.
- **Inspect the High Street bench at bus stop (near Great Innings junction)**  
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Smith cleaned the two benches between the Great Innings junction and the bus stop. The Clerk thanked them both for cleaning the Parish Council notice board in this area. Mr. Smith said that the seats get covered in berries from the overhanging pine trees belonging to the Grey House.

Mr. Meischke said that Mr. Harris (Grey House) has agreed to cut back some of the branches overhanging the footpath, which should alleviate some of the problem.

- **Attend working group meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January to discuss HCC's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Home to School Transport Plan**

Refer to item 8 d, Specific items - Report on working group meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

- **Invoice Watton Youth Drop Inn for Community Hall usage from January to March 2011: completed.**

- **Write articles and arrange for inserts in Parish News**

Mr. Filer has written the 2011/12 Precept article.

The Clerk said she decided to defer sending the December Parish News articles until after this meeting to enable the January entries to be sent at the same time.

**Action: J. Allsop**

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

None.

**7 Planning**

**a) Applications**

- i) **Land adj, 99, High Street (3/10/2045/FP)**

New dwelling with part formed of conversion of existing stable with attached existing garage and car parking

This item was discussed under item 2, Public Participation.

- ii) **Land adj, 99, High Street (3/10/2046/FP)**

New dwelling with part formed of conversion of existing stable with attached existing garage – Listed Building consent

This item was discussed under item 2, Public Participation.

**b) Decisions**

- i) **Land to south of Station Road, Watton At Stone (3/08/2054/OP)**

Residential development, community uses (doctors surgery, Early Years Centre and associated parking).

- East Herts Council – permission granted

This item was discussed under item 2, Public Participation.

**8 Specific items**

**a) Agree meeting dates for the Civic Year 2011/12**

The Clerk e-mailed all Parish Councillors the dates in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month falls for the Civic Year 2011/12. It emerged from e-mail conversations, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month is difficult for some Parish Councillors. In particular, Mr. Filer who would not be able to attend five out of the eleven dates. However, he would be able to attend meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

After discussion, it was agreed to move the Parish Council meeting dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in each month, with the exception of the May and December meetings, which will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month.

The May meetings will stay at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month because following the Parish Council elections in early May, newly elected Parish Councillors are required to sign their declaration of acceptance of office within a given number of days after the election. It was decided to move the December meeting forward by one week because if it were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, namely 20<sup>th</sup> December, it would be very close to Christmas day.

The agreed meeting dates in the Civic Year 2011/12 are listed below.

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (see note below)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Note: This includes the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

**b) E-mail from Jeff Hughes re Parish Councillor attendance**

The Clerk e-mailed Jeff Hughes (Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services, East Herts Council) to seek clarification on the requirements for Parish Councillors attendance. Mr. Meischke read out Jeff Hughes reply (dated 16<sup>th</sup> December).

After discussion, Mr. Meischke agreed to speak to Mr. Stock to ask if he wishes to extend his leave of absence.

**Action: J. Meischke**

Mr. Meischke read out an e-mail he had received from Mr. Harris (dated 5<sup>th</sup> January) expressing his embarrassment at diary clashes that made him unable to attend the November and December meetings.

Mr. Meischke said that Mr. Harris is now uncomfortable, having taken on the Parish Council commitment, to find that he is now unable to attend the January, February and April meetings. He is happy to remain a Parish Councillor, but if any of his colleagues feel this is incompatible with continuing as a member of the Parish Council, he would quite understand if they wished him to stand down.

All Parish Councillors present at the meeting agreed that Parish Councillor Harris is a valued member of the Parish Council. Mr. Meischke to reply to Mr. Harris' e-mail accordingly.

**Action: J. Meischke**

**c) Policing plan for 2011-2014**

Mrs. McCash said that she had read the draft-policing plan and was concerned that there is only mention of PCSO visibility within the towns but not in the rural areas. She said it was important in our response to highlight the need for PCSO in the rural villages, especially as these areas no longer have beat policemen. Mrs. McCash was concerned that reduction of funding for policing in rural areas would see youth support reduced, the neighbourhood watch scheme suffer and the end of police locality meetings.

Parish Council agreed with Mrs. McCash's concerns and that the Parish Council's response to the draft-policing plan for 2011-2014 should highlight our apprehensions.

Mrs. McCash and Mr. Meischke to meet and complete the draft-policing plan comment form.

**Action: H. McCash/J. Meischke**

**d) Report on working group meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Mr. Smith, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Filer attended the working group meeting held on 5th January, to discuss the Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan document and the Home to School Transport Plan.

• **Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan document**

Mr. Poulton proposed that the following letter be sent to Ms. Julia Clarke (RoWIP Officer, Hertfordshire County Council). Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

'Councillors on Watton at Stone Parish Council thank you for your letter of 15th November 2010 and would respond as follows.

- Councillors would like to see the existing network updated and enhanced with signs, repairing damaged steps and clearing overgrown foliage from the paths.
- To publish a list, with maps, of all the network of footpaths within each rural area.
- Supply dog and litterbins on the footpath network that can easily be accessed for emptying.
- Erect fencing, where appropriate, to stop and discourage fly tipping.'

**Action: J. Meischke**

• **Home to School Transport Plan.**

Mr. Poulton proposed that the following letter be sent to Justin Donovan (Deputy Director, Chief Education Officer, Hertfordshire County Council). Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

'Councillors on Watton at Stone Parish Council would like to make the following observations on the County's Home to School Transport Policy.

It appears there is a discrepancy in who pays what for School Transport. From our findings it appears some parents have to pay whereas others don't, Councillors feel this is unfair and that all parents should contribute for this service.

Councillors feel very strongly that the existing Home to School Transport scheme should be continued and enhanced and provided for by Hertfordshire County Council and that a charge similar to that of the local bus and train companies be charged to parents for the scheme

That all children in full time education, no matter what their age, are provided with Home to School Transport with the appropriate charge being levied and that this should include children with special educational needs and disabilities

Councillors fully endorse a Walking to School Policy for all Schools and the provision of enabling children to cycle to school.'

**Action: J. Meischke**

**e) Consider possible use of Church Fete to promote the sale of the Parish Council Map and Video**

After a brief discussion on the subject it was agreed to defer this item to the February Parish Council meeting, after which time all Parish Councillors will have viewed the Peep in the Past DVD **Agenda: 02/2011**

**f) Article on "to grit or not to grit"**

Mr. Poulton asked all Parish Councillors to keep the "to grit or not to grit" e-mail from Came and Company in their Parish Council folders. **Action: Parish Councillors**

Mr. Poulton said that he had spoken to Hertfordshire Highways concerning gritting around the Community Hall and they feel that the Parish Council should provide salt bins to enable members of the public to apply salt in the Community Hall grounds.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to obtain the price of salt bins and the salt to fill them.

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

**9 Reports**

**a) Sub-Committees**

**Budget & Finance**

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

- **Monthly accounts**

All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of the monthly accounts.

Mrs. McCash proposed that the Parish Council approves the payments. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

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

Mr. Smith read out Mr. Filer's report on the 9-monthly statement of accounts as follows.

**Parish Council Accounts**

**Expenditure**

- **Parks and Open Spaces**

Sportsfield Hedges, Sportsfield Grass, Sportsfield Maintenance, Lammas & Watton Green and Parish Paths and Land all appear to be overspent but these are payments for the full year so there is no cause for concern.

The big item in this section is the £783 spent on allotments and the clerk has given a full description of this expenditure, the main items being removal of trees and creation of new allotments.

- **Highways/Footpaths/Rights of Way etc**

Lighting Maintenance is over budget as is the litterpicking by Ted Brown

- **Administration**

Two items on this list are annual payments (namely: Insurance and Trophies)

The overall expenditure is shown as 81.9%, but if we allow for the influence of annual payments this reduces to approx 77%, which is near enough to budget (75%).

**Income**

The total income of 92.9% includes Rubbish Collection, Allotment rents and Precept, which are all full year receipts. If we adjust for this then the % income at the 9-month point drops to approx 68% I think therefore that the PC accounts are OK.

**Community Hall**

**Expenditure**

The total expenditure at the 9 months is 109.3% of annual budget. However, there is only one more Council tax payment due and the annual audit fee has been paid.

The large expenditure items are Maintenance (377.1%), MPPA Maintenance (178.9%), Equipment (460.7%), Safety checks (140.0%) and Play equipment (2220.8%). The clerk has given a full explanation of these amounts in the comments section.

**Income**

Fortunately, our income (at 98.8% of annual budget) has gone well leaving us with an expenditure/income deficit of £853, which is just under 5% of our annual budget. I think that this is acceptable and we do have fairly high reserves anyway.

- **9-monthly inspection of accounts**

Mrs. McCash said she had been unable to do the 9-monthly inspection of accounts due to the lack of current bank statements.

## Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Letter from Wicksteed re remedial works to Playground Equipment**

Wicksteed Leisure Limited has done an excellent job on the repair work required to the play area and re-set the fireman's pole free of charge.

However they were unable to do the repair work to the safety surface for the estimated price of £105 plus VAT because the work was more extensive than they had anticipated. The safety surface needs to be cut back by two metres from the edge to get it to bond properly. The cost of this work would be £1091 (plus VAT).

Because this is a low risk item, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke asked Wicksteed Leisure not to do the work.

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Smith agreed to inspect the safety surface to assess the current situation.

**Action: J. Meischke/M. Smith**

- **Graffiti**

Over the New Year, there have been two incidents of graffiti being painted on some of the Community Hall windows and a small amount on the Pavilion fire exit doors. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke painstakingly removed the graffiti with a razor blade.

Both incidents have been reported to the police.

- **External woodwork**

The external woodwork on the Community Hall, particularly on the Southside, is in need of staining with Sadolin.

This item to be placed on the September agenda.

**Agenda: 09/11**

## Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight had nothing to report under Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee.

## Environment Sub-Committee

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Allotments**

- **Kissing gate**

Mrs. Dinnin said that Mr. Smith had done an excellent job of installing the kissing gate. The gate and installation work will come out of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) grant. She will be informing Tom Goldsmith (Countryside Access Officer, Rights of Way, Hertfordshire County Council) that the work has been completed.

- **Trees**

Mrs. Dinnin said she had inspected the trees which are growing on two of the allotment plots.

Bob Thurlow has done some cutting back to the fir tree growing on his plot.

John Phillips has not done any work to the tree on his plot.

This item to be deferred until the March Parish Council meeting.

**Agenda: 03/11**

- **Tree survey carried-out by Adam Welch**

Adam Welch has completed the annual tree inspection and produced his report.

None of the trees identified in the report were high-risk items.

A copy of the report to be e-mailed to all Parish Councillors.

**Action: J. Allsop**

This item to be put on the February agenda

**Agenda: 02/11**

- **Horticultural show**

Mr. Meischke read out the following letter from Mike Freeman dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

'As you will have seen, our Association plans to revive the village Horticultural Show this year, with the first event scheduled for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon.

We would be delighted if the Chairman of the Parish Council for the time being would do us the honour of opening the event, of which more details will be published in the coming weeks, and I would be grateful if this item could be added to the appropriate Parish Council agenda.

With many thanks.'

It was agreed to write to Mike Freeman informing him that the Parish Council would be delighted for their Chairman to open the event.

**Action: J. Meischke**

**b) Routine reports****i) Emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests**

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke carried-out the emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**ii) Monthly village-report**

Mr. Clark completed the report on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Only the adverse items highlighted in the monthly village-report are minuted.

- Sportsfield and play area muddy as expected.

- Culverts on Mill Lane on right hand side – missing rail on the post and rail fence.

It was agreed to contact Hertfordshire Highways asking them to inspect and take action as required.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- Motorcycle on Lammas by the bike ramps - Mr. Meischke and Mr. Poulton to remove.

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

- Salt bins - The salt bins are empty or partially empty – Contact Hertfordshire Highways requesting that all the salt bins be filled.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- Paint pot behind dog waste bin in Station Road – Mr. Smith to remove the paint pots. **Action: M. Smith**

- Roadside gutters down station road are full of debris.

**iii) Weekly sportsfield-report and action**

Mr. Meischke said that the outside Ladies toilet was left in a mess on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Fish and chips had been thrown all over the place and brown sauce smeared all over the walls. Brian Thompson asked Mr. Meischke to inspect the toilet before he agreed to clear up the mess.

The Clerk to report this incident to police.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**v) Website**

The Clerk to arrange for her son to upload the Housing Questionnaire onto the website.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**v) Website diary**

The following items to be included on the website diary.

- Parish Council meeting dates for the Civic Year 2011/12.

- Horticultural Show to be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**10 Correspondence received****a) E-mail re East Herts Sports Facilities and Active Recreation Consultation event**

Claire Pullen (East Herts Council) e-mailed on 16<sup>th</sup> December to invite Parish Councillors to attend their Sports Facilities and Active Recreation Consultation Event on, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011. It was agreed not to attend the event.

**b) E-mail from Peter Mannings (East Herts Council) re the Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee**

All Parish Councillors have been forwarded Peter Mannings e-mail (dated 20<sup>th</sup> December) concerning the Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

It was agreed to put this item on the June Parish Council agenda, which will be after the election of the new Parish Council.

**Agenda: 06/11**

Mr. Meischke asked Parish Councillors to e-mail their ideas for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration to each other.

**Action: Parish Councillors**

**Note:** The May Bank Holiday has been moved in 2012 to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and an additional Jubilee Bank Holiday will be held the following day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**c) East Herts Strategy and the development pressure on the Stevenage area**

This item to be placed on circulation.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**d) E-mail from Sara Miller - Datchworth Fairtrade Group**

Mr. Meischke read out the following e-mail received today (11<sup>th</sup> January)

'I'm part of a small group of people who would like to make Datchworth a Fairtrade Village. We're having an open meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January at our village hall at 8pm for people to find out more.

If you can think of anyone who might be interested in coming along from Watton-at-Stone - perhaps with a view to making Watton a Fairtrade village - could you please pass on the details? There's more info on our website - [www.datchworth.info](http://www.datchworth.info)'

Parish Councillors noted the content of the e-mail.



## 11 Village organisations

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn**  
Mr. Poulton reported that the Watton youth Drop Inn held its first session after the Christmas break on 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors**  
Mr. Clark said that the building work at the school had been delayed by the recent snowy weather conditions. The school had hoped that the work would be completed by half-term, which is at the end of February.  
Mr. Clark said that the footpath 17, adjacent to the school boundary, was free of dog-fouling on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Mrs. Dinnin said that her daughter has complained to her today that there is dog-fouling on this footpath, Mrs. McCash confirmed that this was so.
- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone War Memorial Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group**  
Mr. Poulton said that the next meeting of the Scout and Guide Group is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club:** Nothing to report.
- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.
- **River Beane Restoration Association:** Nothing to report.

## 12 Items for Parish News

There were two items identified for inclusion in the February 2011 issue of the Parish News.

- Meeting dates for the Civic Year 2011/12
  - Repair to play equipment. **Action: J. Allsop**
- 
- **The meeting closed at 2121.**
  - **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**