

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Present: Mr. John Meischke (Chairman) Mr. Charles Clark (after 1935)  
 Mrs. Christine Dinnin Mr. Denis Filer  
 Mr. Ian Knight Mr. Nigel Poulton  
 The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)

Members of public: Mr. Chris Fowler

### 1 Apologies for absence and leave of absence

Apologies for absence: Mr. Michael Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Iain Harris and Mrs. Helen McCash  
 Leave of absence: Mr. David Stock.

### 2 Public Participation

Mr. Chris Fowler (1 School Lane) said that on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January at approximately 2100, he phoned the police to tell them that there were young persons drinking alcohol and playing loud music at the Community Hall car park. The young women in particular were very drunk. He did not tell the police about the fire that had been lit between the Community Hall building and the sportsfield. The police failed to attend the scene and Mr. Fowler asked the Parish Council if they could help in any way to stop young people congregating in the car park and making a noise well into the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Poulton said that the Parish Council were aware of the fire at the Community Hall and he had personally spoken to the police on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January and was informed that they did not attend because one of the officers who covers this area was ill and the other was attending an incident in another area. The police did say that if they had been informed about the fire they would have attended the incident.

Mr. Poulton said that the Parish Council and members of the public (including Mr. Fowler) must continue to report all incidents of vandalism and noise nuisance etcetera to the police and obtain a log/crime number.

Mr. Fowler gave the Parish Council the car registration numbers for four vehicles, which were at the Community Hall car park while youngsters were drinking alcohol and playing loud music.

The Clerk to e-mail PC Andy Woodward the car registration numbers.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Fowler said that the youngsters seem to congregate as soon as the Community Hall lights go out at around 2200. Mr. Poulton said that the lights go off early each night because the previous occupant of 1 School Lane found them annoying when they were on late at night. Parish Councillors agreed to alter the time clock for the outside lighting so that they remain on until 0200.

**Action: N. Poulton**

Mr. Fowler asked when the Parish Council would be discussing a barrier for the Community Hall car park. Mr. Poulton said this item is on the agenda under item 7, Specific items - Community Hall car park. However, as the Parish Councillor who has been investigating costs is away on holiday, this item will be deferred until the March Parish Council meeting.

### 3 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

None.

### 4 Declaration of Interests

None.

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

#### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

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

Mr. Knight seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

#### b) Review of actions

- **Write to planning department re plans for Land adj, 99, High Street (3/10/2045/FP and 3/10/2046/FP): completed.**
- **Arrange for copy paper to be delivered to Mr. Iain Harris and Mr. David Stock: outstanding.**

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Contact Santander re bank statements: completed.**

The Clerk confirmed that Santander have provided the missing bank statements and have agreed to provide monthly (instead of three monthly) bank statements.

- **Write to Blue Bury Contractors accepting Lammas and Watton Green grass cutting quotation: completed.**
  - **Chase Arro Signs re order for car-park usage sign**  
Arro Signs have had some problems with material quality, which has delayed the arrival of the new sign. Delivery is expected to be within the next two weeks. The Clerk to monitor. **Action: J. Allsop**
  - **Contact Adam Welch to find out when he intends to plant the tree on the sportsfield**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Planting of tree on Sportsfield.
  - **Contact Fiona Underhill (CMS) re Parish Paths Partnership grant payment**  
Mrs. Dinnin said that the P3 grant payment of £1000 has now been received.
  - **Speak to Mr. Stock re extended leave of absence**  
Refer to item 7 a, Specific items - E-mail from Parish Councillor David Stock.
  - **Reply to Mr. Harris' e-mail re attending meetings: completed.**
  - **Complete and return the draft-Policing Plan comment form: completed.**
  - **Write to Hertfordshire County Council re Rights of Way Improvement Plan document: completed.**
  - **Write to Hertfordshire County Council re Home to School Transport Plan: completed.**
  - **Include Article on "to grit or not to grit" in Parish Council folder: completed.**
  - **Obtain the price of salt bins and the salt to fill them**  
Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Report and minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
  - **Inspect the play area safety surface to assess the current situation**  
Mr. Meischke, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Knight inspected the play area safety surface and agreed that repair work is not required at the present time.  
A catalogue has been obtained from Pro-Teq Surfacing, who advertises in the Society of Local Council Clerks magazine. Their repair work includes making good broken edges to the safety surface, fill in holes and applying a sealed topcoat over the whole area, at a cost of £46 per square meter (plus VAT).  
East Herts Council have used Pro-Teq Surfacing to repair their safety surfaces and therefore the Parish Council will easily be able to inspect the quality of their work.  
It was agreed to include in the 2012/13 budget, a provision for repairing the safety play area surface. **Budget: 2012/13**
  - **E-mail a copy of Adam Welch's Tree survey report to all Parish Councillors: completed.**
  - **Write to Mike Freeman re the opening of the Horticultural Show on 4<sup>th</sup> September: completed.**
  - **Ask Hertfordshire Highways to inspect the post and rail fence in Mill Lane: completed.**  
Mrs. Dinnin to inspect the fence and take action as necessary. **Action: C. Dinnin**
  - **Remove motorcycle on the Lammas by the bike ramps: completed.**
  - **Ask Hertfordshire Highways to fill the salt bins in the village: completed.**
  - **Remove the paint pot behind the dog waste bin in Station Road: completed.**
  - **Report incident of vandalism in the external Ladies toilets to the police: completed.**
  - **Ask Peter Allsop to upload the Housing Questionnaire onto the website: completed.**  
Mr. Poulton expressed thanks to Mr. Knight and the Parish News team for arranging for the Housing Questionnaire to be on the centre page of the Parish News.
  - **Include Parish Council meeting dates for the Civic Year 2011/12 on the website diary: completed.**
  - **Include the date for the Horticultural Show on the website diary: completed.**
  - **E-mail ideas for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012 to Councilors**  
Mr. Meischke explained that this action point was for Parish Councillors to come up with ideas for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012 and e-mail these ideas to each other. **Action: Parish Councillors**
  - **Place on circulation the East Herts Strategy and the development pressure on the Stevenage area document: completed.**
  - **Write and submit articles for February issue of the Parish News: completed.**
- c) **Action points outstanding for more than two months**
- **Submit articles identified at the December Parish Council meeting to the editor of the Parish News: completed.**
  - **Continue to investigate high interest options from CCLA Investment Management Ltd**  
Refer to item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee.

Mr. Clark arrived at the meeting.

## 6 Planning

### a) Applications

#### i) 82, High Street 3/10/1846/LB

Replace timber bracket of swinging sign and repair first floor bay window

Mr. Meischke, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Knight discussed these plans prior to the Community Hall Trustees meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January and instructed the Clerk to write to East Herts Council informing them that we have no comment on this application. Parish Councillors agreed with this decision.

#### ii) 60 Great Innings North (3/11/0071/FP)

Proposed two storey side extension

These plans were given to Mr. Harris to investigate. Mr. Meischke read out Mr. Harris' e-mailed report dated 29<sup>th</sup> January.

'Mr. Harris viewed these plans and his report is as follows

In relation to the planning application for 60 Great Innings North, I have viewed the area and spoken to the adjoining house occupier at 58. The plans show that 60 will bring forward the garage, turn the existing garage into living accommodation and add a 1<sup>st</sup> floor onto both. There is no loss of garage.

60 is the last house in a terrace of three in a small 10-year-old cul-de-sac. The development appears from the plan and site to have no visual impact as it is largely hidden from view.

I spoke to the occupiers of 58, Nicholas Hurt and his partner. Neither had any view to express against the proposal and, save for party wall issues, which are of no concern to the PC, had no comment.

My recommendation is that the Parish Council makes no comment on the proposal to the planning authority. I shall drop the plans back to you later today'.

After reviewing the plans, it was agreed that the Clerk writes to East Herts Council informing them that we have no comment on this application. **Action: J. Allsop**

#### iii) 1 High Street (3/11/0126/FP)

2 no. detached dwellings with associated car parking and vehicular access

The Parish Council viewed an earlier version of these two properties last year. The two properties detailed in the latest plans are slightly smaller and lower than the original plans, and overcome the concerns raised by the owners of Beane Cottage, who overlook this site.

Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council write in support of this application. He said in the district plan for Watton-at-Stone it dictates that in a three property development, which this application is when the Waggon and Horses is included, requires one of those properties to be affordable housing. In view of this restrained development, which could have included more properties on the site, the planning department have agreed to waiver this requirement because it would ultimately ruin the site.

Mr. Knight said that in supporting the application the Parish Council should ask that the site boundary with the Walkern Road be arranged such that there is a clear line of sight for drivers. The current boundary obscures the bridge in one direction and obscures vehicles approaching the bridge in the other direction.

Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

### b) Decisions

#### i) 1 High Street (3/10/2010/LB)

Change of use from Public House to residence. Conversion and extension of existing outbuilding to form garaging. Modifications to existing vehicular crossover. - East Herts Council – permission granted

#### ii) 1 High Street (3/10/2011/LB)

Demolish former toilet accommodation, construct single storey rear extension, insert roof lights and internal alterations to accommodate residential use. Conversion and extension of existing outbuilding to form garaging. Modifications to existing vehicular crossover. - East Herts Council – permission granted

## 7 Specific items

### a) E-mail from Parish Councillor David Stock

Mr. Meischke read out the following e-mail (dated 18<sup>th</sup> January) from Mr. Stock.

'Further to our recent telephone conversation, I hereby ask that, due to on-going problems/complications related to my health, the Parish Council considers extending my leave of absence until the end of April 2011.

Obviously you can appreciate from my record of attendance over the years as a Parish Councillor that I am unhappy to miss any meeting and therefore look forward to returning at the earliest opportunity.'

All Parish Councillors present at the meeting agreed to accept Mr. Stock leave of absence.

**b) Community Hall car park**

As reported under item 2, Public Participation, this item to be deferred to March 2011.

**Agenda: 03/11**

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

It was agreed that the quality of the 'Peep in the Past' video was so poor that in its current state it could not be made available for sale.

Mrs. Dinnin asked if the quality of the DVD could be improved. The Clerk said that she believed that the original reel of film was in the Parish Council cupboard. Mr. Poulton obtained the film, which appears to be the original 'reel to reel' film used to produce the 'Peep in the Past' video.

Mrs. Dinnin to ask her son, Alex Dinnin if a better quality DVD could be made from the original film.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

**d) Whempstead notice board**

In September 2010, Mr. Clark hand-delivered letters to the residents of the 14 properties in Whempstead re the Parish Council's proposal to remove rather than replace the old notice board sited on the barn at Whempstead Gate Farm.

No objections have been received from the Whempstead residents and it was agreed to the remove the notice board. Mr. Clark to contact David Sinclair (Whempstead Gate Farm) to arrange for its removal and to make any repair work needed to the barn.

**Action: C. Clark**

**e) Community Safety Partnership public consultation**

Mr. Poulton said that it was important that there is Parish Council representation at the Community Safety Consultation meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March at the East Herts Council Chamber (Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford).

Mr. Poulton said that due to a prior engagement he was unable to attend the meeting until 1100.

**Note:** Mr. Poulton e-mailed all Parish Councillors (on 11<sup>th</sup> of February) to inform them that his prior engagement on 9<sup>th</sup> March has now been cancelled so he can attend the East Herts Community Safety Partnership meeting. Mr. Poulton also said that he would welcome any questions Parish Councillors would like him to put to the Police and/or the Fire and Rescue.

**f) Regulations on holding meetings during the Parish Council pre-election period**

Mr. Poulton drew to Parish Councillors attention the regulations of holding meetings during the pre-election (Purdah) period via e-mail on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

He said that he had some concerns that the Parish Council meetings could not be held during the Purdah period (which starts on 25<sup>th</sup> March and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> May) because the District Council had cancelled all their meetings. However, on investigation it has been established that the Parish Council, as a non-political organisation can hold meetings, where as the District Council as a political organisation has decided to cancel meetings during this period.

Parish Council agreed that they could proceed with their April Parish Council meeting, which falls during the Purdah period.

**g) Monthly distribution of Parish Council agenda**

On reading the governance toolkit for Town and Parish Councils, Mr. Poulton said that he and the Clerk have realised that the monthly Parish Council agenda is being issued too late. The agenda should be issued at least three clear working days before a meeting. Therefore the agenda needs to be issued by no later than Wednesday for a meeting to be held the following Tuesday (Thursday, Friday and Monday being the three clear working days).

**8 Reports****a) Sub-Committees****Budget & Finance**

Mr. Filer reported on the following items.

- **COIF – CCLA**

Mr. Filer said that he had eventually obtained data from CCLA Investment Management Limited re three possible COIF (Charities Official Investment Fund) accounts that the Community Hall Trustees could invest surplus funds. These investment accounts could show a good return but they could as easily show a loss. Mr. Filer said that because we are dealing with public money we could not afford to take the risk.

This was agreed by Parish Councillors present.

- **Monthly accounts**

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

Mr. Filer expressed a concern about the amount of money paid out on litterpicking each month.

Mr. Poulton said that if Parish Councillors were to visit the sportsfield area at 0700, they would find a

huge amount of litter on the sportsfield and the surrounding areas. Mr. Brown does an admiral job of clearing the litter several times each day.

At Mr. Filer’s request, it was agreed to show all direct debits payments in the monthly accounts.

Mr. Poulton confirmed that the Community Hall is only heated when in use, to ensure that the gas bills are kept as low as possible.

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

- **Recording of Parish Council and Community Hall expenditure and income items**

This topic came to light following advice sort from Lionel Thatcher (Society of Local Council Clerks) concerning the recording of accounts. Mr. Thatcher advised that the Parish Council include the monthly accounts in either the minutes (with the exception of salaries, which can be put together as a lump sum payment) or the Parish Council, after approving the accounts, sign and date the accounts sheet.

Jeff Hughes was asked to confirm the regulations on minute recording requirements for accounting activities. Unfortunately, to date he has not had a chance to research this issue fully and to give a more detailed response. His initial thoughts are that the advice the Parish Council has received from a colleague with the SLCC is sound and reflects common practice.

Mr. Poulton proposed that the Parish Council sign the approved monthly accounts and a summarised version of the accounts be included in the minutes. Mr. Flier seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Meischke signed the approved monthly accounts.

The summarized monthly accounts are as follows.

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council		Watton-at-Stone Community Hall	
Petty cash Income	£1.00	Petty cash Income	£172.00
Petty cash payments	£9.84	Petty cash payments	£11.25
Cheques issued	£2053.66	Cheques issued	£2069.66
Cheques received	£1325.00	Cheques received	£1388.30

## Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items.

- **Report and minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Mr. Meischke proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by Mr. Poulton, Chairman of the Community Hall Board of Trustees, as a true record. Mr. Knight seconded the motion and Mr. Poulton was in favour.

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items discussed at the Community Hall Trustees meeting.

- **To grit or not to grit**

The Trustees recommendation is to purchase two small 30 litre salt bins at a cost of £49.99 each. They are supplied with salt and a salt scoop. The suggested location for the bins is one at the entrance to the car park and the other one at the footpath entrance onto School Lane.

Mr. Filer said that the War Memorial Hall had been advised that there was no legal obligation to supply salt and if they did, they could be liable if an accident happened.

It was agreed to seek the advice of Richard Slater (Village Hall Adviser, Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire), as to whether or not the Community Hall Trustees should supply grit bins with salt in them for hirers of the hall to use in bad weather.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Queen Elizabeth II Fields Fund**

Mr. Poulton has applied, on behalf of the Watton-at-Stone Community Trustees, for the QEII Major Works Fund. If successful, the money will be used towards the building of the new Tennis court.

- **Water meter readings**

Because the latest water bill from Veolia was an estimated, Mr. Poulton tried to take a meter reading, but the meter was covered in mud. He said he was not concerned about the reading as it is only £3 higher than the reading for the same period last year and the Clerk had informed him that Veolia takes regular readings.

- **Condition of Oak tree in Sportsfield**

The Parish Council is still waiting for a written response from Malcolm Amey (Landscape Officer, East Herts Council) that although one of the Oak trees on the sportsfield does have a fungal infection, it is not in immediate danger.

- **Decoration of the Pavilion**

In the 2011/12 budget there is a provision to paint the Pavilion and purchase new blinds (if our East Herts Council grant application is unsuccessful).

Mr. Poulton said that there is a window of opportunity in the Community Hall diary, which allows the painting work to be done during the school half term week, commencing on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February after midday. If the decoration work were finished by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, it would allow Beane Valley to use the Pavilion facilities on the mornings of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. The new blinds could then be fitted on the Friday.

Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council proceed with the decoration work and the installation of new blinds during the February school half-term week. Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

The Clerk to notify both contractors accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Purchase of new blinds for the Pavilion**

Refer to the above item – Decoration of the Pavilion.

- **Graffiti in outside ladies toilet and other vandalism around the Community Hall**

Mr. Poulton has removed the graffiti from around the Community Hall and the outside Ladies toilet. Ted Brown has cleared the debris caused by a fire lit against the building and hosed the Community Hall walls down to remove smashed eggs remains.

- **Damaged door to the Community Hall from the Car Park**

It would appear that the door to the Community Hall has been damaged from the inside by a footballer partially kicking out the panel of the new door. Brian Bunyan, who made the door in 2010, has repaired the door.

- **Replace small window panels in the Pavilion area**

Brian Bunyan has inspected the Pavilion door and suggests it needs a bit more support in the doorframe to take the weight of the fire doors. He suggested that the small glass panels between the windows and the doorframe be removed and replaced with wooden panels. This would help strengthen the door supports. The removal of these glass panes means that we no longer require two new blinds to cover them.

## Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **MPPA – fencing wire**

The top tensioning-wire was damaged when the recent pruning was done to the Oak tree. The wire is very rusted with age. Mr. Knight has asked P. J. Fencing to provide a quotation. If the quotation is less than £100, Mr. Knight can go ahead with the work being done without any further approval. **Action: I. Knight**

- **Cricket Shed surrounds**

Mr. Knight said that Rob Clayton (Chairman of the Cricket Club) has agreed to inspect the area around the Cricket Shed and to organise the removal of the rubbish. The work will be done when the ground is hard enough for a vehicle to drive over the sportsfield without causing damage.

- **‘No Dogs’ notices on the MPPA fencing**

Mr. Knight has fitted the two ‘No Dogs’ notices on the MPPA fencing.

## Environment Sub-Committee

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Planting of tree on Sportsfield**

Adam Welch has planted and staked the new tree on the sportsfield and invoiced Dr. Anthony Norden accordingly.

- **Pruning of oak on sportsfield**

Adam Welch has pruned the Oak tree overhanging the MPPA.

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

All Parish Councillors have been copied with Adam Welch’s tree survey report. Mr. Filer commented that most items identified were a category two out of a possible ten and it would appear that currently there are no concerns re tree safety.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**ii) Monthly village-report**

Mr .Meischke said that Mr. Harris completed the report on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

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

- **Litter bin on Abel Smith land**

Mr. Harris report stated ‘A litter bin has appeared on the field by the Lammas. It seems in the middle of nowhere and is always full.’

Mrs. Dinnin to find out who owns the litterbin.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

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

Mr. Brown was instructed to clear the leaves on the MPPA and the mud from the car park drain.

Mr. Knight said that it would not be long before the weed killing around the MPPA, play area and Community Hall areas will soon need to commence. This item to be put on the April agenda.

**Agenda**

**v) Website**

None.

**v) Website diary**

None.

**9 Correspondence received**

**a) Parish and Town Councils invitation to the Policing Plan launch 2011**

Mr. Filer said that he usually attends this annual event and would confirm with Mr. Meischke if he is able to do so again this year.

**Action: D. Filer**

**b) E-mail from BT Payphones - Adoptabox Update - Red Telephone Box in East Hertfordshire District**

Parish Councillors agreed that the receipt of the e-mail, dated 27<sup>th</sup> January from K. Chandarana (Commercial Field Officer at British Telecom) did not change the decision they made at the January 2010 Parish Council meeting; i.e. The Parish Council does nothing for the time being (namely, does not adopt or sponsor the kiosk).

**c) East Herts Fund for the Future Annual Quiz 2011**

All Parish Councillors have been copies with East Herts Council e-mail dated 19<sup>th</sup> January and attached invitation to their Annual Quiz. No Parish Councillors present showed an interest in attending the event.

**d) Localism Bill: Real planning powers handed to the parishes**

The Localism Bill could ultimately give more powers to Parish Councils.

Parish Plans were discussed and Mr. Poulton said that over half of the Parishes in East Herts Council already have Parish Plans. Although the cost of producing the plan is covered by a grant payment, the time involved in gathering the information is great and it took Aston Parish Council two years to produce.

It was agreed to put this item on the June agenda, after the new Parish Council members have been elected.

**Agenda 06/11**

**e) HCC - Consultation on School Enlargements**

The Hertfordshire County Council consultation on school enlargements does not directly affect Watton-at-Stone. The nearest schools in the consultation are in Stevenage and Hertford areas.

- **Free Schools**

Mr. Clark explained the status of free schools. They are all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to parental demand. Free schools should enable teachers to create schools and improve standards for all children, regardless of their background.

Under the new plans, it will become much easier for charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers and groups of parents to get involved and start new schools.

Existing schools that ‘opt-out’ are known as Academy schools and obtain more funding than those that don’t opt-out.

**f) E-mail from Sophy Severn (Geography BSc degree undergraduate student) re Right to Build questionnaire**

Sophy Severn e-mailed Mr. Meischke (on 1<sup>st</sup> February) asking him to complete a questionnaire she has produced as part of her degree programme.

It was agreed to reply by informing her that the Parish Council are unable to respond at the present time.

Firstly, because they are in the middle of a housing needs survey, which will determine where housing will need to be provided in the district. Secondly, the Parish Council is up for election in May.

**Action: J. Meischke**

## 10 Village organisations

- **Police internet Crime maps**

Mr. Poulton said that the Police have recently launched a new website, [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), which on entering the name of the village brings up the crime statistics for the village.

- **Mercedes parked outside former Post Office**

Mr. Filer said that he e-mailed PC Andy Woodward on 7<sup>th</sup> February, as follows.

‘Once again car Mercedes T151MBC is parked outside the old post office in the village. This is now a very regular occurrence, the car is parked there for long periods, and as I have said to you on a number of occasions it is an accident waiting to happen! If an accident does happen on this blind bend due to this car being parked there, then it would not look too well for the police that they have been informed many times of this potential danger.

I am sure that the issue of one ticket would stop this parking.’

- **Police**

PC Andy Woodward is unable to give the Parish Council an update on police issues in our area at the February or March Parish Council meetings. He has agreed to try to change his day off to enable him to attend the April Parish Council meeting.

- **Independent remuneration panel**

Because of his District Councillor status, Mr. Poulton felt it was inappropriate for him to remain in the meeting and left the room.

Mr. Filer said that he is now part of a newly formed nine-person panel, which is independently looking at District Councillor remuneration. The previous panel had its recommendations rejected and subsequently resigned.

Mr. Filer said that Town and Parish Councils were contacted asking volunteers to form a new panel and the Clerk put forward both himself and Mr. Smith. He said it would appear that Mr. Smith must have dropped out. All nine persons who put their names forward were accepted on the panel.

Mr. Filer has attended two out of the three panel meetings, but was unable to attend the third because it clashed with tonight’s Parish Council meeting.

Mr. Poulton returned to the meeting.

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors:** Nothing to report.

- **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 attended the last meeting of the Scout and Guide Group on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. He said that the group are eager to fill the vacant position of Chairman.

Funds are to be spent on new equipment and to carry-out tests within the Scout Hut, e.g. electricity, lighting and fire checks.

The Scout and Guide Group will be holding its AGM on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club:** Nothing to report.

- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.

- **River Beane Restoration Association:** Nothing to report.

## 11 Items for Parish News

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

- Donation of new tree on sportsfield
- Unsocial behaviour in around the sportsfield area

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **The meeting closed at 2052.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**