

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 20th November 2012

Present:	Mr. Michael Smith (Chairman)	Mr. John Meischke (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. Christine Dinnin (until 2138)	Mr. Denis Filer
	Mr. Iain Harris	Mr. Ian Knight
	Mr. David Stock	The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)

Members of public:

1 Apologies for absence

Leave of absence: Mr. Nigel Poulton

Apologies for absence: Mrs. Helen McCash and Ms. Emma Waltham.

2 Public Participation

None.

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 Tuesday 16th October 2012**

Parish Councillors agreed that the section relating to Nigel Poulton should be reworded and the October minutes will therefore be approved at the December Parish Council meeting. **Agenda: 12/2012**

b) Review of actions

1. Complete bank application forms for playground funds

Mr. Smith said that when he started to fill in the bank application forms it became evident that a new account would incur a monthly charge of £7.50. The Clerk said she had spoken to Hannah Brownlow informing her of this charge and she had no problem with playground funds being paid directly into the Community Hall account and accounted for separately.

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed not to open a separate bank account for grants and donations towards new play equipment. The Clerk to pay all funds directly into the Community Hall's current account and keep a separate set of accounts.

Hannah Brownlow to be notified accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

2. Arrange meeting date for Budget and Finance Sub-Committee to discuss budget

Refer to item 8 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee.

The following item was missed off the review of actions.

3. Policy and agreement document for cutting a set of keys for the Community Hall

Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall.

c) Action points resolved

1. Write to RBRA re installation of baffles along the Lammas stretch of the River Beane
2. E-mail Ms. Waltham comments on the wording for the Oak tree sign
3. E-mail Mr. Harris the plans for the Roundabout, Ware Road/A602 Watton At Stone Bypass
4. Deal with the Roundabout, Ware Road/A602 Watton-at-Stone Bypass application
5. Monitor the emptying of the bin at Walkern Road/entrance of Abel Smith field
6. Write to Jill Andreanoff re speeding issues in Whempstead
7. Check Parish Council accounts to see when payment for Allotment liability insurance is due
8. Contact Hertfordshire County Council re lighting invoices
9. Include 6-monthly accounts report in the Community Hall and Parish Council accounts for 2012/13
10. Distribute hard copies to the Financial Regulations to all Parish Councillors at the November meeting.
11. Contact Richard Stringer to ask him to return his set of Community Hall keys
12. Draw up a new key holder agreement
13. Talk to the Watton Youth Drop Inn about internal cupboard in sports hall
14. Obtain quotations for sportsfield pitch maintenance and MPPA surface improvements
15. Inspect allotment sign and take action as required
16. Purchase additional wooden plot numbering stakes
17. Inspect monkey-bar platform on Rainbow multi-play and slide

18. Ask Hertfordshire Highways to inspect and repair missing fence rail

19. Contact East Herts Council re missing litterbin on sportsfield

The Clerk said that East Herts Council did not know why the original bin went missing.

Mr. Meischke said that the Parish Council had a spare litterbin, which he asked Wicksteed Leisure Limited to fit when they were on site doing repairs at the play area.

20. Write to the new Head Teacher at Watton Primary School re updates on school matters

6 Planning

a) Amended Planning Application protocol

Following the October Parish Council meeting, Mr. Harris and Mr. Stock agreed a Note for inclusion in the document and e-mailed to all Parish Councillors.

This Note appears in the the Planning Protocol as follows.

“When a planning application is received it shall be passed to the Parish Council’s Planning Co-ordinator (or in the case of absence, to the Deputy Planning Co-ordinator) for review and the action to be taken.”

“Note: At the same time and for information purposes, the Clerk shall e-mail all Parish Councillors to inform them of the fact of the application by reference to the property in respect of which it is made. If any Parish Councillors then wish to view the application, they can ask the Clerk to provide them with the full details as appear on the web site of the planning department.”

The Parish Council formally agreed the insertion of the above note. The revised Planning Protocol will now be raised to Edition 4 and uploaded to the Parish Council website. Hardcopies to be given to all Parish Councillors for their file.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Applications

i) Roundabout, Ware Road/A602 Watton At Stone Bypass

4no. freestanding post mounted signs with coloured graphics and text detail to front, powder coated to reverse

In line with the Parish Council’s Planning Protocol, Mr. Harris reviewed this application and e-mailed his findings to all Parish Councillors. Following approval from Parish Councillors, the Clerk was instructed to e-mail East Herts Council as follows.

‘The Parish Council has no comment other than to express its concern at what appears to be an unnecessary addition to already considerable street furniture and a distraction on what can be a busy roundabout.’

ii) Emily’s Cottage, 2 Whempstead Cottages, Whempstead (3/12/1758/FN)

Single storey rear extension (renewal of application 3/09/1484/FP)

In line with the Parish Council’s Planning Protocol, Mr. Stock reviewed this application and e-mailed his findings to all Parish Councillors. Because this is an application to renew the previously-granted application, Mr. Stock suggested that the Parish Council respond in the same manner as before, i.e. no comment. Following approval from Parish Councillors, the Clerk was instructed to e-mail East Herts Council as follows.

‘The Parish Council has no comment on the above application.’

iii) Whempstead Farm, Whempstead (3/12/1548/FP)

Replacement 3 bay timber frame garage

In line with the Parish Council’s Planning Protocol, Mr. Harris reviewed this application, discussed the application with two Parish Councillors and then instructed the Clerk to e-mail East Herts Council as follows.

‘The Parish Council has no comment on the above application.’

iv) Blue Hill Farm, Walkern Road (3/12/1737/FP)

Boundary treatment to include new wall and gate

In line with the Parish Council’s Planning Protocol, Mr. Stock reviewed this application and discussed it with Mr. Knight (who also made contact with the neighbours affected) and Mrs. Dinnin. No objections were raised so Mr. Stock e-mailed the Clerk (cc Mr. Harris and Mr. Smith) instructing her to e-mail East Herts Council as follows

‘The Parish Council has no comment on the above application.’

c) Decisions

i) The Bull, 113 High Street (3/12/1513/FP)

Single storey side extension to kitchen area and conversion of existing cellar/store into dining area, erection of 2m fencing, bin store compound, new slabbed area and 2no. new timber sheds

-East Herts Council permission granted

ii) **The Bull, 113 High Street (3/12/1514/LB)**

Listed Building Consent for: Single storey side lean-to tiled roof extension with timber framed double glazed window, existing kitchen extract vent to be ducted out through new gable end and boxed in, conversion of cellar to dining room and existing store to cold room/cellar, addition of new fixed seating and new opening into extended dining room, removal of existing cellar door, cellar flap and toilet corridor access door, demolition of existing garage and replacement with 2 no. new timber sheds, new slabbed patio area and erection of 2m close boarded fencing to patio and with gate around bin store compound

-East Herts Council permission granted

Mr. Filer raised the problem of parking in this area and asked if some of the Bull pub garden would be converted to parking.

Parish Councillors agreed that although this area had considerable parking problems, the transformation of the Bull pub has made the village into a lovely vibrant environment for us to live in.

7 Specific items

a) Chairmanship of the Parish Council

In May next year, the Parish Council will again be electing its Chairman.

Although he did not say that he would not be prepared to continue as Chairman for another year, Mr. Smith wanted other Parish Councillors to consider taking up this post in either 2013 or 2014.

He also suggested that the Parish Council could consider alternative options to having a Chairman, such as Parish Councillors taking on this duty on month-by-month basis. Some Parish Councillors agreed that they would be happy to chair meetings as and when necessary, but felt that it was important to have one formal Chairman of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that there was a need to increase the distribution of workload between all Parish Councillors.

Various possibilities were suggested and discussed in very general terms. It was then agreed that this matter needed to be discussed again and in more detail.

Mr. Meischke said that due to other commitments during 2013/14, he would not be able or available to take on a workload similar to that he has had to date.

b) Parish Council land at Rivershill

Mr. Smith and Mr. Meischke had a successful meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson (52 Rivershill), who own the land adjoining the Parish Council land at Rivershill. Mr. Meischke said that their piece of land is easily three or four times as large as the Parish Council plot. The Wilkinson's have no intentions of building houses on the land but want to turn it into a garden as a long-term project.

Mr. Meischke said that the tree that has fallen from the Wilkinson's land onto the Parish Council land needs to be removed and the site boundaries marked out properly.

Parish Councillors agreed that three quotations should be obtained for clearing the tree. **Action: C. Dinnin**

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, 48 Rivershill, have not removed the rubbish they have dumped at the entrance to the Parish Council land. It was agreed to write to them again stating that if they do not remove the rubbish, the Parish Council will have it removed for them and invoice them accordingly. **Action: M. Smith**

Mrs. Dinnin to ask Adam Welch to provide a quotation for clearing the rubbish. **Action: C. Dinnin**

c) Car sales in Watton-at-Stone High Street

A sole trader has been parking cars for sale in the lay-by opposite the Bull pub. They only park one vehicle at any one time. Trading Standards are aware of the situation and investigating to see if they can stop this sole trader. The village cannot afford to lose a parking space in this already congested area.

8 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Mr. Filer reported on the following items.

- **Monthly accounts**

Petty Cash – Receipts
None

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Petty cash – Payments
None

Cheques issued

Post Office Limited	Tax and NI	218.34
HCC	Lighting charges 1 st October 2011 to 30 th September 2012	1,458.79
Earl Haig Fund	Poppy donation	70.00
Michael Smith	Soloway Recycling Limited - fencing for around Oak tree	445.06
Adam Welch	1/2 of £2700 for annual Watton maintenance schedule	1,350.00
Adam Welch	Additional plants and planting of War Memorial garden	148.00
Salary and Wages	November 2012	1040.89
Blue Bury Contractors	Grass cutting on Watton Green and the Lammas	420.00
J. Allsop	Phone charges to 10/2012	<u>21.90</u>
		<u>5,172.98</u>

Cheques received

Jill Cox	Allotment rent	13.25
Bob Thornton	Allotment rent	13.25
Adam Welch	Allotment rent	13.25
Julia Donger	Allotment rent	13.25
Pat Dormer (nee Hawkins)	Allotment rent	26.50
Ian Falconer	Allotment rent	26.50
Alex and Nicholas Hurt	Allotment rent	13.25
Michael Freeman	Allotment rent	66.25
Tony Morris	Allotment rent	13.25
Nicki Smith	Allotment rent	13.25
John Hodges	Allotment rent	26.50
Margaret Swannell	Allotment rent	13.25
Leslie Scott	Allotment rent	13.25
Carla Stewart	Allotment rent	13.25
Karen Kus	Allotment rent	13.25
Andrew Shafe	Allotment rent	13.25
Terrance Hankin	Allotment rent	26.50
Paul Watt	Allotment rent	13.25
Matthew Wood	Allotment rent	13.25
Rebecca Evans	Allotment rent	13.25
Richard Aston	Allotment rent	13.25
David Wilkinson	Allotment rent	13.25
Ian Wilson	Allotment rent	13.25
Sports and Social Club	3 rd quarter payment	<u>337.50</u>
		<u>748.25</u>

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash – Receipts

Floodlighting to 16.10.12	120.00
Sharon Ling – Pavilion – 19 Nov	12.00
Jim Keen–Main Hall 25 Sept 16, 23, Oct	60.00
Amy Bond – Main Hall & Pavilion	52.00
Candice Bennett – Main Hall & Pavilion	54.00
Tony Beach – Pavilion	80.50
Felicitas Dixon – Pavilion	14.00
South Anglia Housing Assoc	<u>8.00</u>
	<u>400.50</u>

Petty Cash -Payments

HCC – cleaning materials	<u>62.34</u>
	<u>62.34</u>

Cheques issued

Salary and Wages	November 2012	351.90
Gary smith	Windowing cleaning	<u>58.00</u>
		<u>409.90</u>

Cheques received

Dave Boddy	Main Hall and Pavilion	306.00
Watton School	For Dots and Tots - Pavilion hire	126.00
Peters	Main Hall and Pavilion	30.00
Sports and Social Club	3 rd quarter payment	<u>337.50</u>
		<u>799.50</u>

Parish Councillors approved the above payments.

• **Budgets for 2013/14**

Mr. Filer said that he and the Clerk had spent several hours drawing up a draft budget.

The Clerk to e-mail all Parish Councillors the draft budget figures.

Action: J. Allsop

• **Arrange meeting date to discuss 2013/14 budget**

A meeting of the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee will be held on Tuesday 27th November at 1900 in the Community Hall.

Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Policy and agreement document for cutting a set of keys for the Community Hall**

Mr. Stock prepared two options, A and B, for the 'Policy and agreement document for cutting a set of keys for the Community Hall', which he e-mailed to all Parish Councillors. Mr. Stock received comments on these documents from Mr. Meischke, Mr. Knight and Mr. Harris only.

He therefore explained the differences between the documents and the reasons for having the two options. It was then agreed to adopt Option A, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. **See attached**
The Clerk to issue all Parish Councillors with a hardcopy of the 'Policy and agreement document for cutting a set of keys for the Community Hall'. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Motorbike tyre marks on sportsfield**

Mr. Meischke e-mailed all Parish Councillors on 20th October as follows

'I have just been down the hall to let in the man who reads the electric meter. I noticed some tyre marks on the path, where a motor bike has been spinning up the rear wheel, these lead onto the sportsfield and have made lots of tracks, it's not too bad but needs reporting to the Police please Jane on your return, I think it would have been done Saturday night. Ian, can you let the footballers know, also the pitch is very wet!'

Because she was away from home at the time, the Clerk forwarded Mr. Meischke's e-mail to PC Andy Woodward who agreed to investigate.

Mr. Meischke said that there has been no lasting damage from this incident and the grass on the sportsfield is fully recovered.

- **External toilet floor**

The paint on the external toilet floor is lifting. Mr. Meischke said this is probably due to the fact that the surface was not sealed before the floor paint was applied earlier this year.

Mr. Meischke to contact Adrian Thompson in the first instance.

Action: J. Meischke

- **Plastic shovel for changing rooms**

Mr. Meischke suggested that a plastic snow shovel be purchased to enable Brian Thompson to remove mud from the changing rooms. This was agreed.

The Clerk to purchase two plastic snow-shovels from County Supplies.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Smith said that whilst carrying out the monthly inspection he encountered an incredible amount of mud kicked off onto the paths and up the walls of the hall. Mr. Knight agreed to take this up with the Football Club.

Action: I. Knight

Mr. Smith said that he did not encounter any use of foul language from the football players. Mr. Knight said that the current Wotton-at-Stone football manager is the best they have ever had.

Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items.

- **MPPA – leaves**

Mr. Knight said he had asked Ted Brown to clear the leaves on and around the MPPA.

- **Playing field – hedge**

Mr. Smith asked for this item to be deferred to the December Parish Council meeting because the nettles at the base of the hedge have not died back yet.

Agenda: 12/2012

There has been a request from a member of public that we clear the leaves on the Hockerill slope. These were cleared just before Remembrance Day. However, due to high winds, more leaves have fallen and the area needs clearing again.

Mrs. Dinnin to check the area, and if required ask Adam Welch to clear the leaves.

Action: C. Dinnin

Environment Sub-Committee

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items.

- **Fencing around the Oak tree on the sportsfield**

Mr. Smith said that he had ordered the fencing for around the Oak tree. This will be installed before the end of December.

The following permanent sign is being applied to the fencing. "Oak tree c1700 Beware possible danger from falling branches".

- **Jubilee Wood**

Mr. Abel Smith and Nick Fox (Abel Smith Estate Manager) met with the Jubilee woodland planting volunteers on Saturday 17th November at the Scout Hut. The Scout and Guide group will be among the volunteers who will start planting trees in the Jubilee Woodland on Saturday 24th November. On the following day, a team from the Allotment and Garden Association and residents of Beane Road will carry-out planting.

Watton-at-Stone school are also involved with the planting scheme, which is scheduled to take 10 days to complete.

Mrs. Dinnin said that there is a good mix of trees, which sadly don't include the Ash, due to the current disease problems in this species. She said that everyone is welcome to come and help with the Jubilee woodland planting.

- **Allotments**

Mrs. Dinnin said that all but two allotment holders have paid their rent and water charges for the year commencing 1st October 2012.

- **Watton Cottage Site**

Tony Bradford has written to Malcolm Amey (East Herts Council) to outline the next phase of work at the Cottage site. This includes the removal of some branches and additional planting. Mrs. Dinnin said that Tony Bradford has sent her a map detailing work involved.

Parish Councillors agreed they were happy for Tony Bradford to proceed with improvements to the Cottage site.

- **River Beane Catchment Plan**

Mr. Knight attended the Beane and Mimram Catchment Plan meeting held on 24th October. He said that a draft plan should be available on-line by January 2013.

Mrs. Dinnin said that she had asked Tony Bradford if work to the Lammas riverbank could be included in the 2013/14 P3 grant. Mr. Bradford has agreed to investigate.

- **Lammas - Jubilee garden**

Mr. Smith said that in his letter to Mrs. Zoe Hussain (Head Teacher, Watton-at-Stone school) he suggested that the Parish Council would be particularly interested in areas where they might be able to cooperate and connect with the children.

Subsequently, Mr. Smith has been introduced to the new Head Teacher, Mrs. Zoe Hussain, who asked what projects the Parish Council had in mind. He then suggested they could help with the Lammas Jubilee Garden.

b) Routine reports

i) Emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Smith carried-out the emergency escape lighting tests and manual alarm call tests prior to the meeting.

ii) Monthly village-report

Mr. Smith completed the report on 17th November.

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

- **Children play area:** Wicksteed Leisure Limited have completed repairs to the damaged safety surface under the rainbow multi-play and slide, serviced the see-saw and replaced bolt covers on the spring see-saw.
- **Salt bins:** All the bins are currently full.
- **Rubbish bins:** There was no litterbin bag liner in the bin by the Mill Lane culvert and the liner is damaged. There was also no liner in the bin on the Hockerill slope. Mr. Smith agreed to remove the damaged bin liner and whilst doing so check the bins to see if bag liners have been installed.

Action: M. Smith

iii) 6-monthly check of MPPA, Play Area on sportsfield and Community Hall equipment

Mr. Smith and Mr. Meischke completed the report.

Only the adverse items highlighted in the 6-monthly check are minuted.

- **Children play area:** There is some deterioration in wooden components of the rainbow multi-play and slide, but these are not hazardous. The safety surface maintenance and see-saw repairs have been completed and all items are serviceable.
- **Pavilion:** The tables stored in the table rack need cleaning. Mr. Meischke to arrange for the tables to be taken out of the table rack on a regular basis so that Rosemary Brown can clean them.

Action: J. Meischke

- **MPPA:** The whole area looks tired but is acceptable for now. Surface treatment and re-lining is required in spring. The kicker boards are remarkably resilient, they need no immediate attention, but we must expect a replacement cost in the next few years. The burned floodlight is being monitored, as is tree contact with the floodlights. No action required at this time.

iv) Weekly sportsfield

None.

v) **Website**

The Clerk to upload the following documents to the Watton-at-Stone website.

- Planning protocol
- Financial regulations

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Stock felt that we must have a consistent method of identifying the status of all Parish Council documents that we produce (e.g. policy documents, protocols, agreements). He suggested that, as in the recent past, we identify approved documents as Edition 1, Edition 2..... and unapproved/discussion documents as 1st Proposal for Edition 1, 2nd Proposal for Edition 1 This was agreed.

Therefore, the latest Planning Protocol document shall be identified as Edition 4.

The Clerk to modify the planning protocol to read 'Edition 4', before uploading it to the website.

Action: J. Allsop

vi) **Website diary**

None.

9 Correspondence received

a) Hertfordshire County Council – Waste Development Framework

Mr. Smith said that in their waste development framework, Hertfordshire County Council identified two existing waste collection sites. One of the sites is the Ware Westmill Road site and the other is the Stevenage Caxton Way site off Gunnels Wood Road.

b) Letter from Adam Welch

All Parish Councillors present at the meeting were given a copy of the following e-mail (dated 12th November) from Adam Welch.

I'd like to propose these topics for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. I shall list them in order of likelihood!

Defibrillator for the village: I recently did a first aid course and learned the value of having one of these close by. Modern ones are equipped with idiot-proof picture instructions and can be used by pretty much anybody. It would be almost certain to save some lives at some point. Maybe to be kept in a communal village building, with keys being kept by council members and these numbers being distributed around the village in case of emergency. The equipment is potentially only then 5-10 minutes away from being usable for a village emergency.

Repair of the village pump: Probably considered a waste of money if even possible, but as I understand it, the mechanism is very simple and if only a case of replacing this, could be worthwhile. Could we just get a quote? Modern water supply is dependent on electric pumps so a manual pump is nice to have as a backup. Hopefully it won't be required for that reason but it's just nice if it works anyway! Depending on the sturdiness of the replacement parts, I'm aware that future vandalism may be considered an issue.

Reinstatement of Watton-at-Stone Rifle Club: I was most amused by Alan Rattue's tale of the club in his recent book and currently shoot elsewhere. I am aware this would require many things, including appropriate space and enthusiasm. I was after a theoretical answer for the future really. If you don't ask you don't get!

Mr. Smith asked Parish Councillors if they would consider having a defibrillator in the Community Hall. Mr. Harris expressed concern that a defibrillator could cause more harm than good, especially if used by someone who was not fully trained in its use.

It was agreed to write to Professor Haslam (Watton Place Clinic) informing him of the request for a defibrillator in the village and asking if they have such a device at the surgery. Also, if he thinks it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to provide such a device elsewhere in the village and if such a provision could cause more harm than good in inexperienced hands.

Action: M. Smith

It was agreed to write to Adam Welch informing him of the Parish Council's actions regarding a defibrillator. Also, informing him that both the Village Pump and the old rifle range are owned by the Abel Smith estate. The old rifle range site is due to become part of the Jubilee woodland. Parish Councillors were happy for Adam Welch to pursue the opening of a rifle range himself.

Action: J. Allsop

c) East Herts Council - District Planning Executive Panel meeting on 28th November 2012

Mr. Smith said that it is his intention to go to the District Planning Executive Panel meeting on 28th November 2012.

- **Copy of letter from John Capon to Mr. Poulton dated 19th August.**

Mr. Capon wrote to Mr. Poulton on the 19th August asking him to raise certain issues at the next Parish Council meeting. Mr. Capon copied the Clerk with this letter on 17th November.

It was agreed to send a copy of this letter to the Highways department asking them to address the concerns raised in Mr. Capon's letter and in particular, arrange for the hedge at the entrance to the Great Innings estate (which is adjacent to Mr. Harris property) to be cut back.

Action: J. Allsop

The Clerk to notify John Capon of the Parish Council's action.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Datchworth Parish Council**

Mr. Smith read out the following e-mail, dated 19th November, from Chris Wilkins (Chairman, Datchworth Parish Council).

'We in Datchworth had a meeting last week to get Neighbourhood Plan going and we attempted to get our heads around the best way to approach it. One of the issues important to us is traffic flow. We identified that we sat within a triangle bordered by the A1M, A602, and the A1000. Relatively small changes to the flow on either of them can trigger rat runs through the village, which we would rather not have.

Traffic flow by definition crosses parish boundaries and we should therefore have some understanding of each others objectives in the context of any plan.

Aside from that, in a general sense it would be good to know and maybe share ideas on how to tackle the Plan generally. Do you have a councillor who has responsibility for your plan? If so, I would like to make contact. Would that be possible?'

After discussion, it was agreed to e-mail Chris Wilkins informing him that because the drawing up of a Neighbourhood Plan is such an enormous task and the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council does not have the expertise to draw up such a plan, they decided to wait and see what East Herts Council come up with first.

Action: M. Smith/J. Allsop

10 Village organisations

- **Watton-at-Stone War Memorial Hall Management Committee**

Mr. Stock said that the AGM was held on Tuesday 13th November and nine people attended. This was followed by a regular meeting of the War Memorial Hall Management Committee.

The main matters arising from these two meetings are as follows.

- Mr. R. Abel Smith said that during it's meeting on 29th October 2012 the board of trustees agreed that they are happy with the performance of the War Memorial Management Committee during the past year.
- Mrs. McCash was elected as Chairman, Mr. Ian Tyler - Secretary, Mrs. P. Filer - Treasurer and Mrs. M. Phillips - Bookings Secretary.
- Finances are sound and the hall continues to enjoy a good level of regular bookings.
- Although the hall is now in a good decorative condition, there is an on-going desire to improve (short and long-term) the general insulation of the building. This is not only to make the building more comfortable but also to reduce the energy bills.
- 9 double-glazed Windows are to be installed during December 2012.
- In due course, the committee will approach the Parish Council for funding from the New-Homes Bonus to replace the remaining windows and doors with new double- glazed units.
- It was suggested that the time will come when the existing roof needs to be replaced by a timber and tiled one.
- With the above 2 items in mind, Mr. Stock suggested that it would be useful if the committee prepared a list of anticipated short, medium and long-term items of expenditure. This would help them to identify items they may wish to inform the Parish Council about with regard to applications for funding from the New Homes Bonus scheme. It was agreed that such a list would be prepared. The next AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 20th November 2013 and the next meeting of the committee is on Thursday 17th January 2013.

- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group**

The Parish Council currently does not have a representative on the Scout and Guide Group committee, because Mr. Poulton is on leave of absence. The Clerk to contact Christine Emsley to ask her if the Scout and Guide Group require the Parish Council to elect another representative to their committee.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn**

Mr. Meischke said that Watton Youth Drop Inn is short of funds due to low club membership. Their main source of revenue is from tuck shop sales. Currently, they do not have enough income to cover the cost of hiring the Community Hall in 2013, although they do have enough funds to pay for their hiring costs from September to December 2012.

Mr. Meischke said that the Watton Youth Drop Inn committee are due to meet tomorrow (21st November) to discuss the current problems, which include the possibility of closing the club. He asked if the Parish

Council would be willing to waiver the Community Hall hire charges for the period 1st January to 31st March 2013, whilst a recruitment drive takes place to improve membership numbers.

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed to waiver the charges for the first three months of 2013 but would expect regular updates from the Watton Youth Drop Inn committee on their recruitment drive.

Mr. Meischke agreed to be the liaison between the Parish Council and the Watton Youth Drop Inn committee and will attend their meeting on 21st November.

The Clerk to find out if any grants are available from East Herts Council.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Meischke suggest that the Parish Council could also make contact with District Councillor Tony Jackson (Leader of East Herts Council) to find out if he knows of any grants available and other issues in the village such as responsibility for the cutting of certain hedges, which Mr. Poulton normally dealt with. It was agreed that it would be too demanding on Tony Jackson's time to ask him to attend a Parish Council meeting and that Mr. Smith should arrange a visit him with Mr. Meischke.

Action: M. Smith/J. Meischke

- **River Beane Restoration Association**

Mr. Knight said that the Parish Council wrote in support of the proposals for improvement to the River Beane in the Lammas by the Environment Agency, as outlined in the presentation given at the October Parish Council by Bob Thornton and Dave Stimpson.

The Environment Agency will come back to the Parish Council when it has drawn up detailed proposals.

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

Some time ago, changes came into effect that meant that one of the School Governors no longer had to be from the Parish Council, as had previously been the case. Also since that time, we have not had a Parish-Council-representative link with the Governors. However, up until May 2011 we did benefit from occasional updates about matters of interest via Charles Clark (a former Parish Councillor), who was then Chairman of the Board of Governors.

To re-establish a link with the school it was agreed that we write to the Head Teacher to ask if she would like us to appoint a Parish Council representative who, when invited to do so, could be available to attend any meetings etc. and act as a link between the school and the Parish Council.

Action: D. Stock/M. Smith

Note: This action point was subsequently cancelled after discussions between Mr. Stock and Mr. Smith. The reason for this will be explained during the December meeting of the Parish Council.

- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone Pre-School Playgroup**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the Pre-School Playgroup continue to have regular meetings and send her copies of the minutes of these meetings. She said that she supports all fund raising events and has agreed to attend meetings when required.

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

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

- **Diamond jubilee celebration – book of photographs**

Mr. Meischke has been given a book of photographs, produced by David Elson (Booking Clerk at Watton-at-Stone Station), from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations weekend held in the village over the bank holiday weekend of 3rd and 4th June 2012. He has asked if the Parish Council would like to accept the book and keep it in their archives.

Mr. Meischke said that the pictures do not have the names of the people photographed and suggested that a new version be made to include this. Mr. Meischke to circulate the book to Parish Councillors so that they can fill in the names of people they know. Mr. Meischke also to pass the book to Allan Rattue.

Action: J. Meischke

11 Items for Parish News

No items were identified for inclusion in the December 2012 issue of the Parish News.

- **The meeting closed at 2110.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 18th December 2012.**