

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 26 October 2017 – 20:10

Present:	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		J Booth	
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		E Habib	
		L Halford	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		P Woodhams	
		S Wood	District Councillor
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	12

5330-17 Apologies

None.

5331-17 Public Speaking

Mr Begg spoke about 'Corporate Memory' and decision made regarding the former Helmets site and the Crinkle Crankle Garden; and specifically the Parish Council's dealings with the developer, Hammersmatch. As part of the planning process for the six new flats the land (known as the Crinkle Crankle Garden) was gifted to the Parish for the benefit of the community. He was concerned that in considering plans for the Garden the community, including but not exclusively the residents of the flats, be listened to, and decisions taken taking into account a majority view.

5332-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5333-17 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 September 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 September 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5334-17 Consultation response to the Katherine Warrington School

The draft response to HCC's planning consultation on the proposed new secondary school, as circulated, was discussed. Site specific concerns centred around site history, topography, lighting on site, Green Belt design choices, flood management, transport network and school transport; and risk of accidents using the toucan crossing, exiting the school site and at Common Lane. Further concerns about emergency vehicle access particularly to the

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residential care home on Common Lane were raised. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that it be submitted as modified.

Subsequent to the meeting Councillors became aware of archaeological remains including a locally rare late 7th Century rural burial site. An addendum was agreed (Minute 5363-17)

Wheathampstead Parish Council is now aware of archaeological remains on this site including a locally rare rural cemetery. This burial site of potential national significance dates from the late 7th Century and is vulnerable to development and illicit activities such as night hawking. In the event of development being approved Wheathampstead Parish Council believe that excavation of this site is essential for the long term public benefit and for the acquisition of knowledge. This significantly outweighs any option to deep bury the cemetery in situ.

Resolved:

To submit the response as modified from Wheathampstead Parish Council

5335-17 Minutes of Committee Meetings

Notes and minutes of working group and committee meetings had been circulated for information. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that these be received.

Resolved:

To receive the notes and minutes of the following meetings:

Planning Committee	28 Sept
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	2 Oct

5336-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

5337-17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Update

Further to Minute 5280-17 the consultant had been asked to draw together sub group information to compile the draft plan. A competition had been run including over school half term for images of street scenes, landscapes and buildings, to feature in the Neighbourhood Plan, on council's website and publicity material. A number of responses to the 'Call for Sites' had been received which would be considered once the selection criteria had been approved.

Resolved:

To note the report

5338-17 Sunday public bus service

District Councillors Sandra Wood and Gill Clark had undertaken their own survey of Sunday public buses travelling on various routes and talking to passengers. They had also met with representatives from Sandridge and Redbourn to discuss the service and usage. Needs varied but included loneliness brought about by the absence of transport, mental health, reducing private car usage and outlying villages' use of district leisure service. In some instances users were

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reliant upon public transport for employment. At this point they suggested a number of options for consideration:

Further liaison with representatives from Sandridge, Redbourn and St Albans District Council was required.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that a sub committee comprising Councillors Clark and Halford with District Councillor Wood investigate further and report to Community Involvement Committee.

Resolved:

That a sub committee comprising Councillors Clark and Halford with District Councillor Wood investigate further and report to Community Involvement Committee.

5339-17 Co-option process for new councillors

It was reported that no election being called following the resignations of Councillors Dante and Wilby, WPC was bound to co-opt. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that two consecutive elections take place on 9 November whereby the successfully elected first candidate is removed from the list and a second election then held

Resolved:

To hold two immediately consecutive elections to co-opt parish councillors to replace councillors Dante and Wilby.

5340-17 Dapplewood House

It was reported that a request to amend the right of way and grant an easement to Dapplewood House had been received, details attached.

Councillor Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and it was agreed, that the Parish Council enter into negotiation to grant an easement, subject to the following conditions

1. the owners to pay the costs of the granting of the easement
2. the owners to indemnify the Parish Council against wear and tear on the roadway.
3. the right of way to limited to access necessary for residential use of the current site.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council enter into negotiation to grant an easement, subject to the following conditions

- 1. the owners to pay the costs of the granting of the easement**
- 2. the owners to indemnify the Parish Council against wear and tear on the roadway.**
- 3. the right of way to limited to access necessary for residential use of the current site.**

5341-17 Memorial Hall

Following discussions at Community Involvement Committee, to approve investigation of a redesign scheme to extend the existing

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building to enable the vacated library space to become an additional function or meeting room; and that financing be in part by borrowing from, for example, the Public Works Loans Board over a period of 30 years, the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that a working group be established the compile plans.

Resolved:

To establish a working group to look at feasibility of designs, potential funding and draw up a business plan.

5342-17 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed.

Resolved:

To note the report and amended priorities.

5343-17 Accounts and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to note the reports.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5344-17 Consultations

Councillor Shardlow reported on the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan consultation, specifically that part relating to the proposed Symondshyde development

Resolved:

To note the report.

5345-17 Training and reports on training and meetings.

It was reported that on 25 October persons unknown had deliberately blocked the sinks in the gent' toilets and turned the taps on full causing flooding through the library corridor. There was some evidence of a failed attempt to set light to toilet roll. HFRS attended. CCTV was to be looked at.

The Clerk's report on training and meetings had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk had attended the CIPFA Commercialisation in the Public Sector seminar which included projections on loans , anticipated interest rates, in our context useful for the Memoria Hall refurbishment project. The SLCC conference (engage, empower and exceed) looked at devolution and how parish councils are now well placed to take on local tasks, work place relationships, and the standards framework. The events and communications administrator had attended a General Data Protection Regulation course detailing the huge changes effective from May 2018 which would impact work practices including for councillors. She also attended a safeguarding course.

Councillors Johnston and Reason with the Clerk had interviewed for a replacement finance and meetings administrator.

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Councillors Johnston and Clark with the Clerk had attended a meeting with Herts Highways, their contractor (Ringway) and county councillor Annie Brewster, notes separately circulated.

Councillors Johnston and Clark with the Clerk had attended the Nomansland Joint Committee meeting.

Councillors Johnston and Woodhams had met with Mr Laverick to discuss residents' concerns about the Crinkle Crankle wall for which residents were jointly responsible.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5346-17 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved:

To exclude press and public.

5347-17 Additional time

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, as 22:30 approached, to suspend Standing Order 3 and the meeting go into extra time.

Resolved:

To suspend Standing Orders and continue the meeting.

5348-17 Crinkle Crankle Garden

Various concerns were raised but no consensus reached..

5349-17 Readmission of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to readmit press and public.

Resolved:

To readmit press and public

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:45

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman