

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
31 July 2014, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		G Clark	
		N Clements	
		D Davies	
		S Haynes	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

3707-14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors I Begg, A Brewster, L Halford, P Wilby and P Woodhams (personal reasons).

3708-14 Public Speaking

Mr Cross, aware that his request would not be considered as too late to be an agenda item, had asked that it be read out instead as public speaking.

He requested Council to permit him to erect another wooden temporary shed on the Glebe South grazing field similar to the current one used as a stable. This 12'x12' would be used to store more hay/straw so he had a winter supply for his horses on site. His health was worsening and breathing more difficult.

Under normal circumstances this request would go to the next Community Involvement Committee on 22 September, but in light of Mr Cross' health it was agreed this be taken to August Council prior to which councillors would inspect the grazing field.

3709-14 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

Resolved **To note the report**

3710-14 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 be approved.

Resolved: **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the**

Chairman.**3711-14 Minutes of Committee Meetings**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the following draft committee minutes were received and adopted:

Community Involvement Committee 2 June, 7 July

**Resolved To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of
Community Involvement Committee 2 June, 7 July**

3712-14 Hertfordshire County Council draft Charter for Parish & Town Councils

Councillors discussed the proposed HCC Charter for Parish & Town Councils, noting that it had also been discussed by the St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC). The meeting considered that HCC should have modelled the charter on the one that they have already signed up to with SADC and the Association which worked well in the District. A charter from Warwickshire was briefly compared.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that:
delegated authority be given to the representatives on SADALC to work with HCC and draw up a draft charter acceptable to Wheathampstead and local parishes.

HCC be encouraged to look at the Warwickshire local council charter.

**Resolved 1 That delegated authority be given to the
representatives on SADALC to work with
HCC and draw up a draft charter
acceptable to Wheathampstead and local
parishes.
2 HCC be encouraged to look at the
Warwickshire local council charter.**

3713-14 Pensions Policy

It was noted that Council had a legal duty to prepare and publish a written statement of its policy relating to certain discretions that the Parish Council had as employer under the Pensions Regulations.

It was also under a duty to formulate, publish and keep under review the policy that it applied in exercising discretionary powers under Regulations relating to the payment of compensation to employees whose employment was terminated as a result of redundancy or certain other reasons.

The discretion policy had been reviewed in light of the publication of the revised Pensions Regulations 2014. Publication of the policy ensured we are meeting our obligations of transparency and consistency in managing and applying decisions regarding membership of the LGPS and early termination payments.

The discretion policy was required to be approved by Full Council. Wheathampstead PC is a member of the LGPS through HCC. Hertfordshire CC adopted its pensions policy on 15 July. It was recommended and agreed that WPC adopt a policy modelled on this.

Councillor Clements proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies and it was agreed, that the pensions policy as circulated, modelled on that approved by HCC, be approved and adopted.

Resolved **That the pensions policy as circulated, modelled on that approved by HCC, be approved and adopted.**

3714-14 Budget Planning

Councillors were urged to budget plan more strategically. A number of projects, some currently in progress, were suggested for inclusion in the next budget cycle including:

- Memorial Hall redevelopment
- Bower Heath
- Melissa Fields river work
- Meads disabled parking, second footbridge
- Crinkle crankle garden and adjacent amenity space
- Staffing

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that he with the Clerk produce a draft outline strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. A potential neighbourhood plan to be considered at a later date.

Councillor Shardlow proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed, that to facilitate budgeting a 3-5 year business plan be produced for the parish.

Resolved **1 To produce a draft strategic plan for planning .**
2 To produce a draft 3-5 year business plan for budgeting purposes.

3715-14 World War Commemorations

It was noted that the brownies had offered to donate some of the profits from their Village Day duck race towards the memorial plaque commemorating those omitted in error from the war memorial. St Albans Museum had also agreed to grant fund this project.

The floating of commemorative candles down stream at dusk during Music on the Meads, in containers of poppy seeds and RBL poppies, had been well received.

The Parish Council would host a community docudrama on 31 October which looked at the effects of World War I on Wheathampstead residents. This was being organised by Mr Pankhurst and members of the History and Drama Societies.

Resolved To note the reports

3716-14 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The list of accounts paid to July had been circulated and noted.

Resolved To note the reports

3717-14 Consultations, training and meetings

The draft response to the household waste recycling consultation was agreed. Concerns were raised over the short period of tip opening hours and that this may be false economy. It was noted that flytipping was to be reported to the police via 101 as a crime. Councillor Haynes agreed to produce a discussion draft consultation response to the HCC bus consultation.

Councillor Johnston reported on the SADALC meeting. It was agreed that unlike Redbourn additional cycling events would not be encouraged in the parish. Both he and Cllr Clements were now on the SADALC Standards Committee.

Councillor Shardlow reported on the District Local Plan training. Members were encouraged to identify to SADC policies in the current local plan seen as useful for inclusion in the developing DLP. SADC was also interested in large projects being planned by its parishes. The Green Ring 2 – to link St Albans with Wheathampstead, Redbourn and Harpenden was applauded. Councillors supported links in all directions to the Village. It was agreed that Green Belt land was precious and any release should be specifically identifiable and controlled.

Councillor Clements had attended the Wheathampstead Community Group's AGM, Parish conference and HAPTC transport group

Resolved To note the reports

3718-14 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to exclude the press and public, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

Resolved To exclude press and public

3719-14 Parish Council Asset

A verbal update was given. Councillor Shardlow expressed her regret that she was away for the Finance Committee meeting.

Resolved To note the report.

3720-14 Readmission of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the press and public be readmitted.

Resolved To readmit press and public.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.45h.

Dated this day of 2014

Chairman