

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
27 November 2014, 20.00h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		I Begg	
		G Clark	
		N Clements	
		D Davies	
		L Halford	
		S Haynes	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		P Wilby	
		P Woodhams	
		J Warren	Clerk
		V Windle	Redbourn Parish Council
		Public	0
		Press	0

3880-14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A Brewster (personal reasons) and S Haynes (late).

3881-14 Public Speaking

None.

3882-14 Presentation – Redbourn’s Neighbourhood Plan

Redbourn Parish Councillor Vivienne Windle gave an insightful presentation into the neighbourhood planning process Redbourn was undertaking. She covered reasons for undertaking a neighbourhood plan, the consultation and engagement process and funding. A number of lessons had been learnt and she generously she offered to further advise/support WPC should it choose to undertake its own Neighbourhood plan.

3883-14 Report from County Councillor Maxine Crawley

Councillor Crawley had sent apologies that she was unable to attend.

3884-14 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Begg declared a pecuniary interest in property in the High Street in relation to Minute 3886-14 and Council’s response to the Strategic Local Plan Consultation SLP18 (Retail hierarchy of centres) and withdrew from this aspect of discussions.

Resolved To note the report

3885-14 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014 be approved.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

3886-14 Strategic Local Plan Consultation

As agreed at Minute 3840-14 Councillor Shardlow with Councillor Johnston had prepared and circulated a draft response to the District Council's Strategic Local Plan consultation. This was discussed at length and a few minor amendments made. Councillor Begg requested that his approval (excluding that relating to SLP18 retail hierarchy of centres) be acknowledged. Councillor Shardlow proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason, and it was agreed, that the response as amended by approved and submitted to St Albans District Council.

Resolved That the response as amended by approved and submitted to St Albans District Council.

3887-14 Pay & Play Golf Course redevelopment plans

A draft response to these plans had been agreed at Minute 3841-14 pending their submission to Hertfordshire County Council. No submission had been made.

Resolved To note the report

3888-14 Station Platform

Councillor Johnston shared some ideas to develop the station platform project. These included:

- (1) A "fixed" 'level crossing gate'
- (2) Timber built buffer stop
- (3) Steps at the east end of the platform.

Councillor Begg proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and it was agreed that the 'level crossing gate' and buffers be approved and in principal there was no objection to the steps, but further details would be provided

Resolved **To approve the installation of a 'level crossing gate' and wooden buffers, and in principal steps to the east end of the platform.**

3889-14 East Lane Car Park extension

It was reported that Environment Agency approval had been given for the extension to East Lane car park. Quotations had been sought. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the choice of contractor be delegated to the Clerk with Councillors Johnston and Clements, up to a budget of £9,575.

Resolved **Choice of contractor to be delegated to Clerk with Councillors Johnston and Clements, up to a budget of £9,575.**

3890-14 Memorial Hall refurbishment

Quotations had been obtained for plastering the main hall walls and ceiling, and were being sought for house lights, projector system, acoustic surfacing and soundproof doors. It was agreed that the initial step within the building renovation was to refurbish the main hall. Councillor Johnston to contact Jarvis regarding grant funding.

Resolved **To note the report.**

3891-14 Parish Council projects

A non exhaustive list of a number of Parish Council projects had been circulated . Councillors were asked to nominate 'project leads/champions' as this should aid budgeting and project management.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed these be:

Booking System	Cllr Johnston
Bury Green Triangle	Cllr Shardlow
Butterfield Pavilion	Cllr Woodhams
Crinkle Crankle Garden	Cllrs Woodhams
CCTV	Cllr Haynes
Emergency tree work	Cllr Reason
Extend East Lane Car Park	Office
Heritage centre	Cllr Halford
Improve tennis facilities	Cllr Brewster
Lights up	Cllr Haynes
Memorial Hall maintenance	Cllr Clark
Memorial Hall renovation	Cllr Haynes
Noticeboards & open space signage	Cllr Shardlow
Pump	Cllr Johnston
Rectory Copse	Cllr Woodhams
Redevelop station sidings to leisure facility	Cllr Johnston

Second Meads bridge	Cllr Wilby
Station platform phase II	Cllr Johnston
Village weekend	Cllr Woodhams
website	Cllr Davies

Resolved **That the above projects listed by
championed by the nominated councillors.**

3892-14 Additional time

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the meeting be extended 15 minutes beyond 22.30hours so that business may be concluded. Standing Order 1z to be suspended.

Resolved **To suspend Standing Order 1z and
continue the meeting beyond 22.30h to
22.45h.**

3893-14 Brocket View barrier

Further to Minute 3838-14, it was reported that the road barrier across Brocket View had now been 'permanently' reinstated. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the decision at Minute 3838-14 be revoked as circumstances had been overtaken by events. Residents opinion be obtained through the Pump. He further proposed, and it was agreed, that any discussion regarding the status of the barrier be postponed to a future Council meeting following feedback from the Pump article

Resolved **1 To revoke the decision at Minute 3838-
14 as circumstances had changed**
**2 To seek residents' opinion regarding the
barrier through the Pump.**
**3 To postpone any discussion regarding
the barrier pending feedback from the
Pump article.**

3894-14 Additional time

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the meeting be extended 30 minutes beyond 22.30hours so that business may be concluded. Standing Order 1z to be suspended.

Resolved **To suspend Standing Order 1z and
continue the meeting beyond 22.30h
to 23.00h.**

3895-14 Councillor Allowances

It was reported that it was a requirement of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that any Town or Parish Council which proposes to pay a parish basic allowance and/or a travelling and subsistence allowance to any of its members must refer its proposals to a parish remuneration panel for consideration and to have regard to any recommendations which a panel may make. .

Councillor Clark proposed, seconded by Councillor Begg and it was agreed, that a proposal be made to the remuneration panel for travel costs outside the parish in line with SADC policy (45p per mile). No allowance would be payable.

Resolved **To propose to the parish remuneration panel that travel allowances in 2015/16 for its Members undertaking official duties outside the Parish be paid at the same rates as those to be adopted by the District Council**

3896-14 Accounts for Payment and Finance Report

The above reports were reviewed and noted.

Resolved **To note the reports**

3897-14 Consultations, training and meetings

Councillor Halford reported that she had attended the chairmanship course run by SADC and shared some pointers.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and the following response to the 'Inspiring Libraries' consultation was agreed:

"Wheathampstead Parish Council deplores the prospective reclassification of the library to tier 3- working without paid staff. This appears to be the 'thin end of the wedge'. Without sufficient volunteers usage will drop and lead ultimately to closure of the Wheathampstead library."

Resolved **1 To note the reports**
2 To respond to HCC's Inspiring Libraries consultation thus:
"Wheathampstead Parish Council deplores the prospective reclassification of the library to tier 3- working without paid staff. This appears to be the 'thin end of the wedge'. Without sufficient volunteers usage will drop and lead ultimately to closure of the Wheathampstead library."

3898-14 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**

3899-14 Parish Council Asset

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that advice be sought from the solicitor.

Resolved

3900-14 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 23.00h.

Dated this day of 2015

Chairman