

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Maintenance Committee  
13 June 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	T Reason S Haynes D Johnston P Woodhams	Chairman
		Julia Warren	Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

**4670-16 Apologies & Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Councillor A Brewster, G Clark, A Dante, E Habib, L Halford and J Shardlow (personal reasons).

**4671-16 Public Speaking**

None.

**4672-16 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None.

**4673-16 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 29 February 2016**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**4674-16 Report of Maintenance Contractor**

The Maintenance Contractor's invoice report was tabled and noted. Football pitches at Marford and Butterfield were to be fertilised that week as was reseeded of the Marford goal mouths. Wood to replace the stolen picnic bench seats on the Meads had now been obtained and they would be replaced forthwith.

**Resolved To note the report.**

**4675-16 Work of rangers and open space management**

Volunteer work at Marshalls Heath removing some of the invasive rosebay willow herb, and clearing and building deflectors in the River Lea at East Lane Car Park had been well

received.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
  - 2 That a donated railway bench be installed at Station Sidings.**

#### **4676-16 Tree work and vegetation management**

A request had been received from the homeowner adjacent to Maltings Drive play area to lower the hedge growing parallel to the play area by 2-3 feet. The hedge had been planted more than 20 years previously at a previous owner's request to reduce noise of ball games. This would be undertaken once the nesting season was over.

It was reported that a branch of a sycamore tree in Rectory Copse overhung the crinkle crankle wall and its leaves were interfering with a tv aerial of one of the flats in Moat House. It was agreed that this was to be pruned.

The Chairman proposed and it was further agreed that as in 2015 Rectory Copse would be strimmed once the cow parsley had finished flowering.

- Resolved To note the reports**

#### **4677-16 Policy of public events on the Meads**

The Meads ranger had suggested that a policy on public events on the Meads be approved and adopted. This area was potentially a victim of its own success, there was some concern that the area was suffering from abuse and guidelines were required. Consideration was given to this request, also the need to educate and inform the public and what to conserve along the river in this area where public access was deemed important. It was agreed that a recommendation to Council be not at this point of time to develop a formal policy for public events on the Meads. This could then be reviewed as appropriate.

- Resolved To recommend to Council not at this point of time to develop a formal policy for public events on the Meads.**

#### **4678-16 Review of Churchyard waste removal**

A request had been received to remove the flower waste from the churchyard. The Parish Council had been alternating responsibility to pay for this with St Helen's Church for a number of years.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Parish Council continue to support the maintenance of the grounds of

this Grade I Listed building, in the centre of the Village and conservation area and part of the Heritage Trail, by regularly cutting the grass and alternating paying for removal of dead flowers (laid by gravestones) up to once annually.

**Resolved**                    **To continue to alternate with St Helen's Church to pay to remove dead flowers (up to once annually) and to regularly mow the grass, as the Parish Council's contribution to maintenance of the grounds of this Grade I Listed Building in the Conservation Area**

**4679-16**                    **Damaged blouse**

A request had been received to replace a blouse damaged by a member of the public attending an art class at the Memorial Hall. This was discussed.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that WPC was not responsible for the accident and would not be replacing the blouse.

**Resolved**                    **Not to replace the damaged blouse.**

**4680-16**                    **Noticeboards**

This was deferred pending further information from Cityscape regarding artwork.

**Resolved**                    **To defer to a later meeting.**

**4681-16**                    **Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

It was reported that the 2016 application for a P3 grant towards a feasibility study to join FP32 and FP48a had been unsuccessful (Minute 4564-16).

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that an application be made for a grant towards opens spaces interpretation boards and noticeboards which would encourage people to access the Parish's open spaces

**Resolved**                    **To note the report.  
To apply for a grant towards interpretation boards .**

**4682-16**                    **Signage**

Proofs of a fingerpost design for marking the Memorial Hall and Playing fields from the footpath exit from the East Lane car park overflow, FP72, were circulated (Minute 4565-16)



**Resolved**            **To note the report.  
To undertake refurbishment work on the  
Marford Pavilion.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.30h.**

**Dated this            day of                            2016**

**Chairman**