

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
30 June 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston G Clark D Davies E Habib L Halford S Haynes T Reason J Shardlow P Wilby P Woodhams	Chairman
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	2

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and thanked Council for its support following the death of his wife.

4699-16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster and A Dante.

4700-16 Public Speaking

Peter Partington outlined his frustrations with past campaigns to make the Lower Luton Road a safer route with fewer heavy goods vehicles. He asked Council to consider supporting an alternative approach, one which included replacing (lorry) banned zones with alternative routes. This he suggested was a supportive and enabling project.

4701-16 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Clark declared an interest as Member of Plans North at St Albans District Council. She would look afresh at any planning application Minute 4716-16.

Councillor Wilby declared an interest in Minute 4707-16 being a friend and neighbour of the fitness instructor

4702-16 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 26 May 2016 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 26 May 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

4703-16 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the following draft Committee minutes and working group notes were received and adopted:

Neighbourhood Plan SG	6 June 2016
Maintenance Committee	13 June 2016
Planning Committee	20 June 2016
Allotments Committee	27 June 2016

Resolved	To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of
	Neighbourhood Plan SG 6 June 2016
	Maintenance Committee 13 June 2016
	Planning Committee 20 June 2016
	Allotments Committee 27 June 2016

4704-16 Symondshyde proposed development

On 13 June Welwyn Hatfield DC approved the proposal to build a standalone settlement at Symondshyde Wood to the next stage. There would however be an eight week consultation to include development of this site in August. The proposed settlement would be in the centre of the highest grade agricultural land and excellent quality Green Belt. 1130 houses, a primary school and retirement village. Arguably this development would drive a wedge into a particularly precious piece of Green Belt between Wheathampstead and Welwyn Garden City. Concerns had been raised in terms of the significant harm it would do a highly valuable piece of Green Belt in the short and long term, as well as the very questionable sustainability of creating a settlement of 1000+ houses. There is the undoubted issue of volumes of traffic on roads. Also some suggestion that HCC have plans for significant amounts of quarrying on HAT2 and in due course 'restoration' (i.e. bringing in large volumes of inert waste).

HAT15 'dropped in' the sites options for the WelHat Local Plan at a very late stage last year. If at the end of the consultation there was not an overwhelming demand from interested individuals and groups for it to be reconsidered, it would be allocated as a site.

A draft letter to the Chief Executive and Leader of Welwyn Hatfield DC had been circulated. Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was approved was this be submitted (as amended), and that WPC raise awareness of this potential loss of Green Belt land the environmental and infrastructure consequences through the Pump and contacting walking, cycling and environmental organisations to ensure that they are aware of it; and that the WPC submit a response to the August consultation. No financial commitment was made

Resolved	1 To submit the letter to the Leader and Chief Executive of Welwyn Hatfield District Council.
	2 To raise awareness of the loss of Green Belt

3 That a formal response be submitted to the August consultation.

4 That no financial commitment be made.

4705-16 Second Meads Footbridge

The planning application to SADC for a second Meads footbridge was withdrawn following concerns regarding the design. Stipulations made by the Environment Agency project meant this would need significant change and the design submitted did not comply.

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason, and it was agreed, that the current proposal for a second bridge be put in abeyance; and that the money allocated for the bridge be held to benefit people with mobility issues.

Resolved 1 That the current proposal for a second bridge be put in abeyance.

2 That the money allocated for the bridge be held to benefit people with mobility issues.

4706-16 Crinkle Crankle Garden designer

Tenders had been sought to produce a design brief for the Crinkle Crankle Garden. Funding was to be pursued from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Confirmation was to be obtained that the quotation included three rough sketches, and clarification of meetings.

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason and it was agreed that Jackie Gough be appointed.

Resolved To appoint Jackie Gough

4707-16 Memorial Hall fees

A request to cancel a 'GoBowlingNow' booking Friday 1 July due to lack of take up of a 'ladies' night' event has been received. After approximately £1k advertising only 25 tickets had been sold. Current policy was 50% fees payable if more than 15 days notice was received (80% if less than 15 days).

Councillor Shardlow proposed, seconded by Councillor Wilby, and it was agreed, that the policy be adhered to, 50% payment being payable.

A request to run a new fitness (Insanity) class at the Memorial Hall had received from a local resident. Consideration was given to community group/residents' reduction and business start up reduction.

Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and it was agreed that the full rate be charged or this new

business. In common with other regular hirers the booking was subject to a trial period, a three month trial with monthly review was agreed.

Resolved **In relation to GoBowling, that the charging policy be adhered to, 50% payment being payable.**
In relation to Insanity classes that the full rate be charged or this new business. That the booking was subject to a trial period, a three month trial with monthly review.

4708-16 Memorial Hall refurbishment

It was reported that the current phase of works to the main hall was completed as specified with the exception of the Audio Visual works.

Consideration was to be given to painting the east wall and that the 'display' window be boarded over and painted. The quotation of £1,525 was agreed

Quotations to remodel and refurbish the ladies, gents and disabled toilets were to be sought, estimated in the region of £26,000 to include heating, additional toilets and urinals and modern hygienic surfaces.

An architect based locally had been recommended to consider redesigning the remainder of the building particularly library and Hewitt Room.

Resolved **1 To paint the east wall of the main hall.**
2 To seek quotations and contact the architect.

4709-16 Diversion of Footpath 29

It was reported that HCC had decided that the application to divert Footpath 29 under s119 of the Highways Act 1980 met the legal tests and should be approved. The Diversion Order 2016 was sealed on 10 June and Notice served. A laminated notice was placed on the noticeboard outside the Memorial Hall on 21 June and the Order available for inspection in the Parish Council office

Resolved **To note the diversion**

4710-16 Public events on the Meads

Consideration was given at Minute 4677-19 to the ranger's request for a policy on public events on the Meads. The management of open

spaces was a function of biodiversity, visual appeal and access, the balance dependent upon the site. The South Meads were a popular family picnicking area and also well used for educational visits.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed not at this point of time to develop a formal policy for public events on the Meads. Resources would be used to maintain the natural environment .

Resolved **1 Not at this point of time to develop a formal policy for public events on the Meads.**
2 To allocate resources to maintain the natural environment.

4711-16 Annual Governance Statement

The draft annual return with governance statement and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 had been previously circulated. This was discussed gone through line by line and responses unanimously agreed.

Proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed.

Resolved **That the Clerk and Chairman on behalf of Council sign Section 1 of the Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement 2015-16**

4712-16 Approval of Accounts 2015-16

The draft annual return with governance statement and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 had been previously circulated. The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Clerk sign the Annual Return Section 2 as presented on behalf of Council.

Resolved **That the Chairman and Clerk sign the Annual Return Section 2 – Accounting statements 2015-16 as presented on behalf of Council.**

4713-16 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the reports

Resolved **To note the reports**

4714-16 Consultations

Councillor Shardlow agreed to prepare a draft response to St Albans District Council Detailed Local Plan policies consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to consider.

4715-16 Reports on training and meetings

Written reports from the Clerk and councillors on meetings and conferences attended had been circulated and were noted.

The Clerk had attended NALC – LGA conference on devolving and delivering a new relationship for principal and local councils, the SLCC Leadership in Action conference, the Herts Sports Partnership and Herts Health and Wellbeing conferences. The important role parish councils could play within their communities was a factor in all. Councillor Brewster had attended the residents' meeting called by Chamonix Estates for the Old School Drive Estate.

Councillor Shardlow had attended a meeting regarding the Symondshyde development.

Councillors Johnston, Haynes, Shardlow, Habib, Woodhams and the Clerk had attended an SADC facilitated workshop about Neighbourhood Plans and housing needs.

The Chairman and Clerk had met with County Councillor David Williams to discuss a number of county related matters which required support and action in Councillor Crawley's absence. The mechanism for cover in periods of councillor sickness was discussed.

The Chairman had given a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan to the U3A.

Councillor Halford had attended meetings WEB (with Councillor Haynes).

Councillor Clark, with Councillor Wood, had attended District Council briefings and discussion regarding planning matters.

Resolved To note the reports

4716-16 Planning

Consideration as given to the draft response to the HCC planning application for Harpenden Common Golf Club. Amendments were agreed which referred to the previous response. This now read: WPC is very concerned about the application to import a large quantity of recovered material to Harpenden Common Golf Club. Importing waste material into Green Belt land would cause intrinsic harm to the land as well as setting an unacceptable precedent for other land owners. Moreover, we are concerned about the amount of traffic this will produce. Increased number of lorries accessing the site by travelling through our already congested village and surrounding narrow lanes, would not be acceptable to our residents. In addition, please note that some of our lanes already have their sides eroded by heavy vehicles using them as short cuts. Therefore WPC would regard this application as being unacceptable.

Resolved

To approve the response as amended: WPC is very concerned about the application to import a large quantity of recovered material to Harpenden Common Golf Club. Importing waste material into Green Belt land would cause intrinsic harm to the land as well as setting an unacceptable precedent for other land owners. Moreover, we are concerned about the amount of traffic this will produce. Increased number of lorries accessing the site by travelling through our already congested village and surrounding narrow lanes, would not be acceptable to our residents. In addition, please note that some of our lanes already have their sides eroded by heavy vehicles using them as short cuts. Therefore WPC would regard this application as being unacceptable.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.55h.

Dated this day of 2016

Chairman