

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
23 February 2017, 20.00h**

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

5014-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster, D Davies and J Shardlow.

5015-17 Public Speaking

None.

5016-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5017-17 Minutes of Council

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5018-17 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:

Village Weekend WG	23 January 2017
Planning Committee	30 Jan, 20 Feb
Community Involvement Committee	20 February

Resolved To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of

**Village Weekend WG
Planning Committee
Community Involvement
Committee**

**23 January 2017
30 Jan, 20 Feb
20 February**

5018-17 Hedgerow removal

Councillors considered the residents' concerns about removal of a hedgerow in Down Green lane, and what permissions may have been sought and obtained. Councillor Wilby proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed that the issue of removal of the hedgerow was a matter for the relevant planning authorities rather than Wheathampstead Parish Council. Wheathampstead Parish Council hoped that the original planned extension to the bridleway would be approved in due course.

Resolved That the issue of removal of the hedgerow was a matter for the relevant planning authorities rather than Wheathampstead Parish Council. Wheathampstead Parish Council hoped that the original planned extension to the bridleway would be approved in due course.

5019-17 Recycling

Agreed that the suggestion to install recycling bins adjacent to the landfill bins by the Artificial Turf Pitch be deferred pending further information on design and feasibility.

Resolved To defer discussion to a later meeting

5020-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

5021-17 Review of draft facilities White Paper

Deferred to a later meeting

5022-17 Project and task review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. Priorities identified at Minute 4982-17 were complete or in progress. The issue of the disposal of dog mess to be referred to Maintenance Committee.

Resolved To note the report.

5023-17 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the reports

Resolved To note the reports.

5024-17 Consultations

None.

5025-17 Reports on training and meetings

Councillor Woodhams attended a useful course looking at Standing Orders and council procedures.

Councillor Haynes and the Clerk attended an East of England Allotments Society meeting. Discussions showed that allotment rents in Wheathampstead were similar to those represented, some authorities were much stricter implementing rules. Pigeon keeping was not permitted by any present.

Councillor Dante and the Clerk attended an SADC course on influencing skills, the clerk also attended their course on the use of Social Media and on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillors Clark, Haynes and Johnston attended a bus service provision meeting with SADC and HCC representatives. SADC was currently the only district council in the county to support bus services, but the cost benefit was low as the service used by very few individuals. Discussions were also being undertaken with Redbourn, Sandridge and Harpenden.

Resolved To note the reports.

5026-17 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.

5027-17 Recruitment

It was reported that Simbo Nuga has been appointed, through Reed Recruitment Agency, to the position of finance, meetings and administration assistant. She would commence employment on 26 February with a handover from Vicky Puttock.

Details of her contract of employment were discussed and agreed (proposed by Councillor Dante and seconded by Councillor Haynes)

**Resolved To note the report.
To agree the contract of employment**

5028-17 Pension Scheme

Deferred pending details from the Actuary.

5029-17 Readmission of Press and Public

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

Resolved To readmit press and public.

5030-17 Bank Mandate

Councillor Wilby proposed, seconded by Councillor, and it was agreed, that the new finance, meetings and administration assistant be added to the bank signatories mandate and to operate the online banking.

Resolved That the new finance, meetings and administration assistant be added to the bank signatories mandate and to operate the online banking.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.55h.

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman