

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Maintenance Committee
29 February 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	T Reason G Clark L Halford S Haynes D Johnston P Woodhams	Chairman
		Julia Warren	Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	1

4551-16 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor A Brewster, G Clark and J Shardlow (personal reasons).

4552-16 Public Speaking

None.

4553-16 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

4554-16 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 18 January 2016

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2015 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2015 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

4555-16 Report of Maintenance Contractor

The Maintenance Contractor's invoice report was tabled and noted.

Resolved To note the report.

4556-16 Work of rangers and open space management

Further to Minute 4460-16 winter works at Butterfield, Marshalls Heath and Bower Heath had been undertaken and compliments received, particularly regarding Marshalls Heath. Volunteer work removing self-set saplings and scrubby vegetation from The Hill

under the Highways Together project using the 'letter of enablement' had transformed the locality.

The request from the ranger for the Station Sidings was considered. Councillor Johnston proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed, that a donated former railway bench be installed, with concrete footings, facing south near the path.

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

4557-16 Riverwork proposals

Further to Minute 4461-16 the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that a budget of £4,235 be approved for the improved River Lea access and bank protection/erosion mitigation project. She further proposed, and it was agreed, that a grant application be made to the Wild Trout Trust for this project as a Rivers and Wetlands Community Days project, funded by Thames Water. The proposal was that volunteers would be trained and work with a hurdle maker to make and install bespoke willow hurdles

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report.**
 - 2 To approve a budget of £4,325 for the improved access & bank protection of the River Lea at the Meads**
 - 3 To submit a grant application to the Rivers and Wetlands Community Days project managed by the Wild Trout Trust and funded by Thames Water, for this project.**

4558-16 Tree work and vegetation management

Guidance on the management of ancient yews circulated by St Albans District Council was noted. It was also reported that the arborial contractor had in hand work to trees in the Meads, Devils Dyke and Bower Heath as agreed at Minute 4462-16. Further to Minute 4556-16 a meeting with HCC Highways/Ringway was arranged to discuss Locality funding of additional work on The Hill.

- Resolved** **To note the reports**

4559-16 Tree Survey

Councillor Johnston proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed, that up to £500 be spent on updating the tree survey.

Resolved **That up to £500 be spent on updating the tree survey.**

4560-16 **Tree education and information**

Councillor Johnston reported on a meeting with Kate Bretherton who had produced a guide to remarkable trees in St Albans. She was happy for Wheathampstead Parish Council to link to her website and educational information. Wheathampstead had a number of interesting and 'remarkable' trees. A Heritage tree trail was discussed. It was agreed that volunteers put together information for the Parish Council's website which may later be developed into a formal tree trail.

Resolved **1 To add a link from WPC's website to Kate Bretherton's educational website.**
2 That volunteers put together information for the Parish Council's website which may later be developed into a formal tree trail.

4561-16 **Melissa Field**

Further to Minute 4463-16 it was reported that a barrier to deter illicit fisherfolk and vehicles accessing Melissa Field was now installed.

Resolved **To note the barrier installation.**

4562-16 **East Lane Car Park drainage**

It was reported that following recent wet weather the drains in East Lane Car Park had become very blocked. These were last professionally unblocked in 2014. Councillor Johnston proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed, that up to £600 be authorised to unblock the drains.

Resolved **To unblock the drains at East Lane Car Park, budget £600**

4563-16 **East Lane Car Park Markings**

A member of the public had suggested that East Lane Car Park be relined with one way system arrows and a 'finger post'. It was noted that at busy times vehicles parked outside bays. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed, that no marking and signage be undertaken.

Resolved **No remarking or additional signage be undertaken at East Lane Car Park.**

4564-16 Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

It was reported that the 2015 P3 grant towards the second set of access steps to the station platform had been signed off. The 2016 application for a feasibility study regarding joining FP32 and FP48a had been submitted following discussion with the project officer

Resolved To note the report.

4565-16 Signage

It was agreed that a quotation be obtained to sign the Memorial Hall on FP72 at Meads Lane .

Resolved To obtain a quotation for signage of the Memorial Hall from Meads Lane FP72.

4566-16 Cycle Route Kimpton to Harpenden

Kimpton Parish Council had asked Wheathampstead Parish Council to consider a cycle route from Kimpton to Harpenden. A tentative route had been circulated. It was noted that it ran along Marshalls Heath Lane but was unclear which side of the heath. Concerns were raised that the Local Nature Reserve not be damaged, but the idea was supported. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston, and it was agreed to approve in principal the cycle route but ensuring the Local nature Reserve was not adversely affected.

Resolved To approve in principal the cycle route but ensuring the Local nature Reserve was not adversely affected.

4567-16 Budget Review

The report of income and expenditure against budget was reviewed and noted.

Resolved To note the report.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.30h.

Dated this day of 2016

Chairman