

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Maintenance Committee
11 April 2017, 20.30h**

Present	Councillors	T Reason G Clark L Halford D Johnston	Chairman
		Julia Warren Press Public	Clerk 0 0

5088-17 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors A Dante, E Habib, J Shardlow and P Woodhams (personal reasons).

5089-17 Public Speaking

None.

5090-17 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

5091-17 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 27 February 2017

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5092-17 Report of Maintenance Contractor

The Maintenance Contractor had reported on the following maintenance jobs:

- Five poplar trees planted on North Meads
- Zip wire repaired
- 'gardening work' at East Lane car park
- 'hedge' / overgrowing undergrowth on Meads exit to overflow car park at East Lane pruned back
- Removed/vandalised trees screening the ATP on Marford Field replaced and planted
- Debris at Rectory Copse cleared
- Churchyard green waste cleared
- Fly tipped waste removed at Old 16th Green and replacement bollard fitted to restrict access.

It was recommended that the fence around Rectory Meadow Play Area be removed as it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and it was perceived that it was no longer a necessary construction.

Councillor Wilby proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed that the fence be removed. A laminated sign advertising its removal to be put in place to advise users in advance proffering the opportunity to review this decision.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the report.**
 - 2 To install a sign at Rectory Meadow play area advising that the fence would be removed.**
 - 3 Subject to '2' above to remove the fencing.**

5093-17 Work of rangers and open space management including river works and Meads willow project

The Meads Ranger reported that 58 willow setts comprising 8 species had been planted on the eastern plantation. One of the three mature apple trees in the Meads Community Orchard had received restorative pruning. Plum trees in Meads Dell had been cleared of invasive vegetation and it was hoped that they would flourish. The additional litter bins had been secured to the Forge for use by summer visitors.

In his capacity as River Warden Patrick McNeill had been interviewed by a group of Cranfield University Masters' students undertaking research for the Environment Agency in connection with plans to improve water quality in local rivers including the Upper Lea. The project spanned a few years.

Together with Eddie Cornell he had removed significant amounts of debris accumulated by the boom at the Mill. Plastics were disposed of in nearby litter bins, he requested that vegetation debris be left for collection by the Council's contractor.

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston and it was agreed that the Council's contractor be asked upon request to remove cleared vegetation debris. The Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to enquire on the purpose of the boom, pointing out that this design encouraged the unattractive accumulation of debris.

It was observed that the tulips in the Tithe Barn Yard by the Crinkle Crankle Wall; and tulips and daffodils in the Bury Green Garden looked lovely.

It was reported that a spate of pro vegan graffiti was occurring in a number of sites in Hertfordshire, including along the Ayot Greenway and FP67. The police had asked that it be photographed and the pictures and location sent to them prior

to removal.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
 - 2 The Environment Agency was to be contacted to enquire on the purpose of the boom, pointing out that this design encouraged the unattractive accumulation of debris.**
 - 3 Council's contractor be asked upon request to remove vegetation debris cleared from the river by the Mill. to include an article in the Pump about litter and dog mess.**

5094-17 Tree work and vegetation management

The parish tree survey had been undertaken as approved at Minute 5037-17, its recommendations noted and to be actioned. Much of the work was/would be undertaken by the Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteers.

All previously authorised winter treework to cherries near the tennis courts, holly and scrub removal in the Meads, Lime and Willow at Melissa Field and Apple tree restorative pruning had now been undertaken.

Resolved To note the reports

5095-17 Memorial Hall maintenance

It was reported that pothole repairs to the memorial hall car park were planned for 10 May. A number of plumbing problems had been dealt with. The need to engage an architect to consider redesign of the building was agreed.

Resolved To note the report.

5096-17 Football Pitch Maintenance report

A report from Wheathampstead Wanderers FC had been circulated regarding the condition of the football pitches, vertidrainage and the need for oversowing. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that oversowing be approved and the WWFC fees be amended accordingly.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To approve oversowing.**

5097-17 Open spaces noticeboards

A large number of amendments to the artwork for the Meads notice board had been agreed at Minute 5039-17. Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Clark, and it was agreed that an additional fee of £350 be approved

Resolved **To approve the additional £350 charge
for artwork.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.40.

Dated this **day of** **2017**

Chairman