

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Maintenance Committee
27 February 2017, 19.30h**

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

5031-17 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors A Dante and E Habib (personal reasons).

5032-17 Public Speaking

One.

5033-17 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

5034-17 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 16 January 2017

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5035-17 Report of Maintenance Contractor

The Maintenance Contractor had reported that the parish had been lucky with damage by Storm Doris, just a few trees affected:

- Marshalls Heath and Butterfield Nature Reserve had been cut and cleared
- Paths cut (Minute 4941-17)
- First set of brushes replaced at 3G pitch, another set were on order for replacement (Minute 4941-17)
- Repaired gutter on Marford pavilion
- Pink pellets cleared from Devil's Dyke.

He had yet to remove the obsolete goal posts from Meads Dell, the reroofing of Butterfield football pavilion remained

outstanding and the gates to Butterfield Nature Reserves, now delivered would be installed soon. He advised that new posts were required to replace rotten posts at Folly 'parking' area, and that the goal netting should be replaced at the ATP. The Wheathampstead Wanderers FC had asked for vertidrain of the football pitches, he advised that the field used by Regiment Fitness also be treated. He also sought guidance on bench maintenance.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that

- ATP goal nets be installed
- Benches be maintained on a sector basis, ie a quarter a year
- Football pitches and Marford Field as discussed to undergo vertidrain treatment.
- Replacement posts at Folly to be quoted for.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 ATP goal nets be installed.**
- 3 Benches be maintained on a sector basis, ie a quarter a year**
- 4 Football pitches and Marford Field as discussed to undergo vertidrain treatment.**
- 5 Replacement posts at Folly to be quoted for.**

5036-17 Work of rangers and open space management including river works

Reports of Bower Heath, Gustard Wood, the Meads and Rectory Copse were received. As at Minute 5035-17 Storm Doris had largely overlooked the parish.

The Willow project was progressing well, pollarding had taken place and brash removal, new setts chosen and the area ready for pre planting spraying. The Pump article about work in this area had generated much positive response.

The Meads Community Orchard project was doing well.

Trellis work was to replace the redundant herras fence near King Edward Place, more snowdrops to be planted

Regular litter picks generally kept litter under control. Dog waste was an increasing problem. Agreed an article to be included in the Pump covering owner responsibility, hygiene and that it could be disposed of in both litter and specific dog bins.

Litter accumulation on the boom by the Mill in the River Lea was unsightly, a named contact at the Environment Agency was to be contacted whenever it became a significant problem.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to include an article in the Pump about litter and dog mess, also to buy wild flower seed suitable for clay to brighten the area adjacent to the Mill. The annual rangers' social would be 21 March at Croft Farm.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
 - 2 the Environment Agency was to be contacted whenever litter became a significant problem at the litter boom.**
 - 3 to include an article in the Pump about litter and dog mess.**
 - 4 to buy wild flower seed suitable for clay to brighten the area adjacent to the Mill.**
 - 5 Annual rangers' social 21 March**

5037-17 Tree work and vegetation management

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed the Mark Carter undertake and update the parish tree survey for 2017.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the request for £150 plants for Bury Green Garden be approved as a budget advance for 2017-18.

- Resolved**
- 1 Parish Tree survey to be undertaken.**
 - 2 That the request for £150 plants for Bury Green Garden be approved as a budget advance for 2017-18.**

5038-17 Memorial Hall maintenance

It was reported that there had been severe drains blockage caused by incorrect disposal of nappies, sanitary wear and the like. On further investigation the manholes were found to be disintegrating and the manhole covers also needed replacement. They had been temporarily blocked off and had now been made safe. It was also possible that the drains were technically a sewer being accessed by neighbouring properties, Veolia to be contacted.

On a number of occasions hirers had failed to secure the building properly and the intruder alarm was sounded. In some instances it was clear that the person collecting the key and being shown the system was not at fault, written instructions to be revisited and all hirers reminded of their responsibility to adhere to them.

- Resolved** **To note the report.**

5039-17 Open spaces noticeboards

The artwork for Marford Field and the Meads had been received and was circulated. Amendments were agreed.

Resolved To note the report.

5040-17 Budget report

The budget report was noted.

Resolved To note the report.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.30.

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman