

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
27 April 2017, 20.00h**

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

5098-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster and J Shardlow.

5099-17 Public Speaking

None.

5100-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Cllr Clark declared an interest on all the plans because of her membership of Plans North, St Albans District Council, and would look at the matter afresh should any plans be discussed at Plans North.

5101-17 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2017 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5102-17 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:

Community Involvement Committee	13 March 2017
Allotments Committee	20 March 2017
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	3 April 2017
Planning Committee	11 April 2017
Maintenance Committee	11 April 2017

Resolved	To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of	
	Community Involvement Committee	13 March 2017
	Allotments Committee	20 March 2017
	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	3 April 2017
	Planning Committee	11 April 2017
	Maintenance Committee	11 April 2017

5103-17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group update

Further to Minute 5069-17 it was reported that St Albans District Council's Head of Spatial Planning had agreed to a meeting with the suggestion that, to facilitate preparation, items for discussion be advised in advance. Councillors were concerned that at daytime meeting restricted attendance and asked that a further request be made for conference call facilities.

Over 570 responses to the Housing Needs Survey had been received to date. Of those so far processed a large number of respondents were 'older' and looking to downsize. Further volunteers were encouraged to assist with data inputting.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Head of Spatial Planning.

- Resolved**
- 1 To arrange a meeting with St Albans District Council's Head of Spatial Planning.**
 - 2 To note the report.**

5104-17 Crinkle Crankle Garden noticeboard

Councillor Wilby proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed to approve the cost of purchase of the noticeboard at a cost of £1, 848 plus installation. The interpretation panel would be purchased post delivery of the noticeboard frame.

Resolved To approve the cost of purchase of the noticeboard at a cost of £1, 848 plus installation.

5105-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

Consideration was given to the following plan:

5/2016/3011.	Land Rear Of 15 To 17 Castle Rise, Wheathampstead, AL4 8JB	PINS appeal Prior Approval - Change of use of agricultural barns to two dwellings and associated operational development
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Councillor Dante proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies, and it was agreed that a recommendation to the Planning Inspectorate that the

appeal for APP/B1930/W/17/3168563 be dismissed on the grounds:

Wheathampstead Parish Council believes that this application is technically invalid. It questions whether this is an agricultural holding and whether the buildings are structurally sound enough to be suitable for conversion.

The plot is approached by an unmade track and is of an essentially rural nature. Residential development would protrude into the rural backcloth of this area. It is not a site that could be used without harming the Green Belt as it could lead to further residential applications to the rear of Manor Road and Marshalls Way. People living in the Lea Valley Estate have long had problems extending their properties, so it would seem unjust for the proposed development to be allowed.

We ask that the Inspector dismiss this appeal.

Resolved **To recommend to the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal for APP/B1930/W/17/3168563 be dismissed on the grounds:**

Wheathampstead Parish Council believes that this application is technically invalid. It questions whether this is an agricultural holding and whether the buildings are structurally sound enough to be suitable for conversion.

The plot is approached by an unmade track and is of an essentially rural nature. Residential development would protrude into the rural backcloth of this area. It is not a site that could be used without harming the Green Belt as it could lead to further residential applications to the rear of Manor Road and Marshalls Way. People living in the Lea Valley Estate have long had problems extending their properties, so it would seem unjust for the proposed development to be allowed.

We ask that the Inspector dismiss this appeal.

5106-17 Project and task review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. The frustrations regarding progress of items related to the Butterfield Road site were discussed. An update from officers had been promised. Other priorities identified were revised financial reports, the project looking at the future use of the Memorial Hall and registration of assets.

It was noted that the Wheathampstead and District Preservation Society had previously organised a working party to clean village

allocated for refreshments for the next task group created to clean signage. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that £50 be signage.

The Wheathampstead Cricket Club's request to use the WPC wheatsheaf as part of their club logo was discussed. A sample logo in club colours 'maroon' had been circulated. Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Clark, and it was agreed, that the logo be approved.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To allocate a £50 refreshment budget to the signage cleaning work group.**
- 3 To approve the use of the WPC wheatsheaf by Wheathampstead Cricket Club, as circulated and in WCC colours.**

5107-17 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the reports.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed that a surveyor be appointed to provide an insurance reinstatement value for assets prior to insurance renewal in June.

Resolved

To note the reports.
To appoint a surveyor to provide insurance reinstatement values for properties prior to insurance renewal in June.

5108-17 Consultations

It was agreed that a response to the consultation on protection of office and business premises from conversion to dwellings would be delegated to Councillor Shardlow with the Clerk. This may be reported at the Annual Parish Meeting on 10 May.

Resolved

To respond to the consultation on the protection of office and business premises from conversion to dwellings, and that this be delated to Councillor Shardlow with the Clerk.

5109-17 Reports on training and meetings

Councillors Clark, Haynes and Johnston, with the Clerk visited Ayres End Barn at the landowner's request, no comments were given but it was interesting to view the site which was in Green Belt and relatively remote.

Councillor Halford had attended the Scouts' St George's Day Parade. She intended to attend their AGM in May.

Councillors Johnston and Shardlow with the Clerk had a meeting

scheduled with Jarvis on 3 May regarding the 'Reed Bed' site. Anyone interested was invited to attend.

Resolved To note the reports.

5110-17 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.

5111-17 Pension Scheme

Wheathampstead Parish Council (WPC) had just recruited two new members of staff who needed to be enrolled in a pension scheme. The Clerk's report together with HCC Employers' Results Report for the (LGPS) Pension Fund and Valuation report for the Parish and Town Council Pool as at 31 March 2016 had been circulated.

In 2008 WPC had resolved that all employees would be enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS was a 'Defined Benefit' scheme, the employees' pension being based on a career average and years in service. It included a number of benefits which councillors were advised of. Parish councils were now permitted to offer 'Defined Contribution' (such as NEST) for which future commitments were simpler to calculate.

The Clerk had been admitted to the LGPS on joining WPC in 2009 and stated that she believed it was the better option for employees. It was agreed that there were no plans to alter her terms and conditions of service. WPC however wished to be more conversant with its future pension commitments.

Councillor Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason, and it was agreed that NEST be adopted for the two new employees, with a parity of contributions to track those to the LGPS.

Resolved That NEST be adopted for the two new employees, with a parity of contributions to track those to the LGPS.

5112-17 Readmission of Press and Public

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

Resolved To readmit press and public.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.10h.

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman