

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 26 July 2018 19:30

Present:	Councillors	T Reason	Chairman
		J Booth	
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		E Habib	
		L Halford	
		S Haynes	
		D Johnston	
		P Woodhams	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

5734-18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor O McKenzie, R O'Brien and T Ryan (personal).

5735-18 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5736-18 Public Speaking

None.

5737-18 Proposed new waste incinerator at Hyde

Further to Minute 5119-18 a meeting with Emsrayne, responsible for planning the Lea Bank Energy Park (previously called Chiltern Green Energy) had been arranged. Emsrayne were not prepared to talk to a public meeting, instead an invitation meeting for local councillors was held prior to this Council meeting. County, district and neighbouring parish councillors attended, including representatives from Kimpton and Hyde parish councils. The presentation and answers to questions were to be made available in the near future by Emsrayne. Another meeting with neighbouring councillors would be arranged once any planning application were submitted and more details available. Wheathampstead Parish Council was named as a statutory consultee by the Planning Authority, Central Bedfordshire Council.

5738-18 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2018 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

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5739-18 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the following draft Committee minutes were received:

Maintenance Committee	25 June 2018
Community Involvement Committee	2 July 2018
Planning Committee	5 July 2018

Resolved:

To receipt and adopt the Committee minutes of:

Maintenance Committee	25 June 2018
Community Involvement Committee	2 July 2018
Planning Committee	5 July 2018

5740-18 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

5741-18 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group recommendations

Further to Minute 5703-18 it was reported that the housing sub group had produced and disseminated a document to explain the process so evaluation between sites was comparable.

Resolved:

To note the report.

5742-18 Memorial Hall Working Group update and approval of recommendations

Councillor Booth reported that responses had been received from the two architect firms. It was agreed that he call a working group meeting to consider them and make a recommendation to Council.

Resolved:

To call a working group meeting which would consider the responses and make recommendations to Council.

5743-18 Parkrun request

Heartwood Forest Parkrun, being no longer permitted by the Woodland Trust to use Heartwood Forest weekly, had asked that the run be relocated to begin on the South Meads picnic area, crossing the river following a circular route towards Water End not dissimilar to part of the annual Wheathampstead 10K. Councillors appreciated the mental and physical health benefits of social runs, but significant concerns remained about the location – the very limited public parking, narrow paths, damage to vegetation, proximity to livestock and effect on the local residents and businesses of a weekly race. Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston, and it was agreed, that in the circumstances it was not appropriate to support the application for a Parkrun.

Resolved:

That whilst Wheathampstead Parish Council supports the ideas of fresh air, exercise and companionship promoted by

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Parkrun, it believes the route identified, starting on the Meads, is not appropriate. Footpaths are narrow so there is concern for significant surface wear and damage to flora and impeding by/of other users. Also concern for stress to livestock in neighbouring fields and the pinch points caused by gates and barriers. The pressure on very limited public parking is of further concern and its effect on local residents and businesses.

5744-18 Facebook

Consideration was given to Council's use of social media. Members agreed that the Council's website should be better promoted. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that where appropriate queries noticed, on for example Facebook, should be responded to by signposting to the Council's website. Where possible individuals should include a direct link.

Resolved:

To answer comments on Facebook by signposting to the Council's website.

5745-18 Committee Terms of Reference

None received.

5746-18 Access to Open Spaces

Further to Minute 5713-18 it was agreed that further actions be considered by the Maintenance Committee

Resolved:

To refer further consideration to Maintenance Committee.

5747-18 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. It was noted that the presentation of some Gold Award badges remained outstanding.

Resolved:

To note the report and amended priorities.

5748-18 Website

Consideration was given to the Events and Communications Administrator's request to upgrade the Council's website. Technology has progressed since the website was developed and a working group was to look further into the proposal. Councillor Booth proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed that the cost of a web developer be investigated.

Resolved:

To investigate the cost of a web developer.

5749-18 Accounts and Finance Reports

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

Resolved:

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To note the reports.

5750-18 Consultations

Consideration was given to a number of consultations. It was agreed that no corporate response be given to the CPRE campaign against fast track fracking or changes proposed by DEFRA to byelaws for SSSIs. Draft responses to the LLA airport expansion and CAA Draft Airspace Modernisation Strategy to be brought to the August Council meeting.

Resolved:

Draft responses to the LLA airport expansion and CAA Draft Airspace Modernisation Strategy to be brought to the August Council meeting.

5751-18 Reports on meetings and training

Councillors Haynes, Johnston, Ryan, Woodhams with the Clerk had attended GDPR training at St Albans District Council. Councillors Clark and Habib had attended the Wheathampstead Community Safety Forum and Councillor Woodhams the LLA consultation event on airport expansion plans.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:25

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman