

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
25 September 2014, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston I Begg G Clark D Davies L Halford S Haynes T Reason P Wilby J Shardlow P Woodhams	Chairman
		L Harrison	Deputy Clerk
		Public	0
		Press	0

3793-14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N Clements and A Brewster (personal reasons).

3794-14 Public Speaking

None.

3795-14 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in Minute xx-14 because of her membership of Plans North, St Albans District Council, and would look at any matter afresh should any plans be discussed at Plans North.

Resolved To note the report

3796-14 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2014 be approved.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

3797-14 Minutes of Committee Meetings

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

Planning Committee

18 August, 17 September

Allotment Committee 15 September
**Resolved To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of
Planning Committee 18 August, 17
September
Allotment Committee 15 September**

3798-14 Booking Fee Structure

The Deputy Clerk provided a report on the current booking fees for the Memorial Hall, comparisons with other local council premises and recommendations for new hourly fees. Cllr Begg proposed the following: to change the current booking time slots to hourly hire charges; to agree rates for the hire of the Hewitt Room hourly as off peak £35 and peak £40, Main Hall off peak £45 peak and £60 and for hiring both off peak £55 and peak £70; to agree a discount for community use of 40%; and if one of the parties booking a function (for example a wedding) was a resident of the Parish the hirer would get the hire rate at the community rate. He also proposed a historical analysis of proposed income against actual income for the last three months and fees would be reviewed if there was a more than 15% increase. It was agreed that a community group was a non-profit making group. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hayes and all agreed.

- Resolved**
- 1 To review the booking fees for the last 3 months against the proposed fees for a comparison of income.**
 - 2 That a community group was a non- profit making group.**
 - 3 To introduce hourly charges for the rooms for hire in the Memorial Hall**
 - 4 40% discount for community users**

3799-14 New Website

The Deputy Clerk provided a report on the current WPC website run by SADC and information from other web site providers who specialised in PC website. The Chairman confirmed that a budget of £1500 had been set aside for this project. Cllr Woodhams proposed that WPC move away from the current SADC website as WPC had limited control over content and amendments, this was seconded by Cllr Shardlow and all agreed. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would email all councillors with a brief regarding what the new website should contain and that all councillors could add or reduce this list and resubmit to the Deputy Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Reason that the Deputy Clerk review the information provided by other web providers and make a recommendation to Council within budget by the next Parish Council meeting next month. This was seconded by Cllr Halford and all agreed.

- Resolved**
- 1 Deputy Clerk to email all Councillors a brief of content for the new website.**
 - 2 Deputy Clerk to review information and recommend a web provider to Council within budget for the next Parish Council meeting.**

3800-14 Land Agent

The Chairman confirmed that the current local Land Agent was soon to retire and recommended that the Clerk research WPC requirements.

Resolved The Clerk to review current land agent requirements

3801-14 Accounts for Payment and Finance Report

The above reports were reviewed and noted.

Resolved To note the reports

3802-14 Consultations, training and meetings

Councillor Haynes confirmed he had attended a meeting regarding the County Council bus survey and would draft a response to the proposed cuts to service on behalf of WPC.

Cllr Shardlow confirmed she had attended a meeting organised by the Harpenden Parents Group regarding the proposed secondary school sites, which had also been attended by three County Council officers and two members of the Trust. The ongoing concerns expressed by parents at the meeting was that until County identify the site parents were unwilling to show their support. This remains an ongoing issue.

Cllr G Clark and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that SADC were looking to host a consultation evening for the Strategic Local Plan. *Post meeting update – the date has been agreed for Monday 20th October from 2pm to 8pm in the Hewitt Room.*

Cllrs Halford and Shardlow agreed to review the Hertfordshire Physical Activity & Sport Framework Consultation.

Resolved To note the reports

3803-14 Exclusion of Press and Public

None

3804-14 Parish Council Asset

None

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.17h.

Dated this day of 2014

Chairman