

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 31 August 2017 – 20:10

Present:	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		T Reason	
		P Wilby	
		P Woodhams	
		A Brewster	County & District Councillor
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	8

5221-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors E Habib, L Halford, S Haynes, and J Shardlow (personal).

5222-17 Public Speaking

Mrs Duggett spoke of her concerns for her children following removal of the fencing around Rectory Meadow children's play area. Whilst she understood that the fencing had become worn out and irreparable and that there was no budget provision for its replacement, she was worried for their safety, being frightened of dogs, and of dog mess, and asked that new fencing be installed. A replacement fence, compliant with current safety standards was estimated to cost in the region of £7,000. Quotations were being sought to discuss at Community Involvement Committee on 11 September

5223-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5224-17 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 27 July 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

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

5225-17 Minutes of Committee Meetings

Notes and minutes of working group and committee meetings had been circulated for information. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that these be received.

Resolved:

To receive the notes and minutes of the following meetings:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	7 June, 7 Aug
Allotments Working Group	26 June

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Planning Committee

27 July

5226-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

5227-17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Update

As recommended by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of 7 August. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies, and it was agreed that a 'Call for Sites' be undertaken from 1 Sept for 6 weeks. An advert would be placed in the Public Notices in the Herts Advertiser and further publicised on the Council website, noticeboards and through local estate agents.

Resolved:

To undertake a 'Call for Sites' for 6 weeks from 1 September 2017.

5228-17 Bus Shelters -design and disposal

Quotations for wooden bus shelters for the Lower Luton Road (south side opposite Rose Lane) and the High Street (east side opposite St Helen's Church) had been received and locations visited. These to be joint funded between parish and county councils.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Wilby, and it was agreed that the metal bus shelters currently in situ be removed and disposed of.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that a Newstead style shelter with glass be installed in the High Street.

Councillor Clark proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies, and it was agreed that a Great Leigh Style shelter with glass glazing at arrivals end be installed on the Lower Luton Road.

Resolved:

- **To dispose of obsolete metal bus shelters on the Lower Luton Road and High Street.**
- **To install glass glazed shelters in their place, Newstead on the High Street and Great Leigh on Lower Luton Road and that these be jointly funded with Hertfordshire County Council.**

5229-17 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.

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5230-17 Presentation from Mount Carmel Nursery

Lucia and Roberto Federici presented a business proposal (previously circulated to councillors) for nursery school and football pavilion at Butterfield Road. Councillor Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed to approve the scheme in principal. County Councillor Annie Brewster agreed that the next steps were for her to arrange meetings with the Estates Department at County Council and Planning Department at St Albans District Council.

Resolved:

- **To approve the scheme in principal subject to planning and finer details.**
- **Councillor Brewster to arrange meetings with Herts County Council Estates Department and St Albans District Council Planning Department**

5231-17 Readmission of Press and Public

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

Resolved:

To readmit press and public

5232-17 Presentation on potential development of the Reed Bed

In advance of the planned informal public pre-application planning consultation on 7 September Mike Margereson presented the initial development plans for information and took comments and questions on behalf of Jarvis. The site was situated on the reed bed on the southern part of the former Murphy's Chemical Site. The site was listed in the St Albans District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) - 2016 Update under reference SHLAA-U-W-155 as urban (non Green Belt) and having passed the initial assessment for development. Access for utilities and vehicles had been planned from Palmeston Drive when the northern part of the factory site was developed.

Resolved:

To note the report.

5233-17 The Mill – planning

It was reported that John Titmus was looking to improve the Grade II Listed Mill: a focal point of entry to the Village centre. Initial planning designs had been shared and the Parish Council offered the north end for community use at a peppercorn rent. It might be used perhaps as a Heritage Centre. The History Society was interested in becoming involved.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that in principal this was a good idea and worth investigating further.

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Resolved:

That in principal the offer of the north end of The Mill for community use at a peppercorn rent was a good idea and worth investigating further.

5234-17 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. The Clerk was to contact Aitchison Raffety regarding the Tennis Club.

Resolved:

To note the report and amended priorities.

5235-17 Accounts and Finance Reports

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

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5236-17 Consultations

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the update on the car park at Nomansland opposite West End Farm was supported

Resolved:

To support the car park proposals for the car park on Nomansland opposite West End Farm

5237-17 Training and reports on training and meetings.

The Clerk's report and the adopted training policy had been circulated and was noted. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the training policy be updated acknowledging the need for continuing professional development for officers and members.

Resolved:

To update the training policy acknowledging the need for continuing professional development for officers and members.

5238-17 Additional time

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, as it was 22:30, to suspend Standing Order 3 and the meeting go into extra time.

Resolved

To suspend Standing Orders and continue the meeting.

5239-17 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.

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5240-17 Staffing

The Clerk's report was received and contents noted. Staff would have the option to receive Childcare vouchers under a salary sacrifice scheme with Edenread under which both Council and staff benefited

Resolved:

- **To note the report.**
- **To offer staff access to childcare vouchers as part of a salary sacrifice scheme.**

5241-17 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 22:45

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman