

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
30 July 2015, 19.55h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston A Brewster G Clark A Dante D Davies E Habib S Haynes D Johnston T Reason P Woodhams	Chairman
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		S Wood J Charlton	District councillor SADC Environmental Compliance Officer
		Press	0
		Public	3

4232 -15 Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A Brewster (late arrival- SADC meeting) and J Shardlow (personal reasons).

4233-15 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor G Clark declared an interest in Minute 4235-15 because of her membership of St Albans District Council Plans North Committee. As a district councillor she would look at the matter afresh should any plans be discussed at Plans North.
Councillor S Haynes declared a personal interest in Minute 4245-15 as near neighbour.

4234-15 Public Speaking

Mr Peter Rudge, Architect, gave a presentation on the proposed four two bedroom apartment block dwelling development behind 3 Station Road including details of pre planning consultation, design and proposed materials (see also Minute 4235 -15). He explained how the new residents and guests would co-operate for parking with the existing shop parking of the land owners. Mr and Mrs Shifrin confirmed the acceptability of the arrangements. The area earmarked from building was adjacent but outside the High Street conservation area and following recent flood alleviation works no longer in the high risk flood plain.

Cllr Brewster arrived at the beginning of this item

4235-15 Planning Matters –3 Station Road development

The following plan was discussed and a recommendation of REFUSAL made to St Albans District Council

5/2015/1787 Jarvis - Land rear of 3 Station Road Wheathampstead Hertfordshire Apartment block comprising four, two bed dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, demolition of brick wall and widening of crossover to facilitate access at Land r/o 3 Station Road

Concerns were raised regarding the availability of parking given the known pressure of parking in the Village centre and that the building design did not adequately reflect the adjacent conservation area.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed, that a recommendation of REFUSAL be made to SADC on the grounds that the proposed development is near to the historic Conservation Area in the centre of the Village and does not adequately reflect the area around (Policy 70).

It also fails to meet Policy 69 (i) and (ii). The area proposed for development adjoins the Conservation Area for Wheathampstead and its proximity to the to the Conservation Area (Policy 85) and to buildings of historic interest (Policy 86) (The Old Bakery, The Mill and Wheathampstead Place) should give additional weight to the need for any development on this site to be of a scale and design which enhances this part of the Village. This application does not do this.

There is already a great deal of pressure on parking in the Village centre. It is believed that there are likely to be more requirements than one parking space per flat plus one visitor space.

Resolved

Recommendation of REFUSAL be made to SADC on the grounds that:

The proposed development is near to the historic Conservation Area in the centre of the Village and does not adequately reflect the area around (Policy 70).

It also fails to meet Policy 69 (i) and (ii). The area proposed for development adjoins the Conservation Area for Wheathampstead and its proximity to the to the Conservation Area (Policy 85) and to buildings of historic interest (Policy 86 (The Old Bakery, The Mill and Wheathampstead Place) should give additional weight to the need for any development on this site to be of a scale and design which enhances this part of the Village. This application does not do this.

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on parking in the Village centre. It is believed that there are likely to be more requirements than one parking space per flat plus one visitor space.

4236-15 Parking in the Village

John Charlton, Environment Compliance Officer – Parking & Parking Services, SADC and District Councillor Sandra Wood spoke about parking in the Village.

Mr Charlton confirmed that HCC was to complete road repairs to Mount Road whereupon single yellow lines would be remarked.

Parking enforcement in Wheathampstead had to date been sporadic, undertaken by mobile enforcement officers. They would be asked to attend and be more visible, for example walking the High Street. A more regular 'blitz' approach was requested.

Road markings by the High Street loading/ limited waiting bay outside Tesco had become faint and inadequate. His recommendation was that it become a permanent loading bay. Parish Councillors asked that following remarking and resigning the bay, post the current resurfacing works, a trial of enforcement of vehicles parked awkwardly outside the bay be undertaken.

SADC were reviewing their parking orders. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that SADC be asked to include parking orders for Wheathampstead car parks: East Lane, Memorial Hall, Folly Fields, and Butterfield Road/Old School Drive.

- Resolved**
- 1 To thank Mr Charlton and Cllr Wood for the report.**
 - 2 To ask St Albans District Council to include parking orders for Wheathampstead car parks: East Lane, Memorial Hall, Folly Fields, and Butterfield Road/Old School Drive.**

4237-15 Minutes of Council

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 June 2015 be approved.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 June 2015 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

4238-15 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:

Nomansland Joint Committee	11 June
Finance Committee	29 June
Community Involvement Committee	6 July
Bury Green WG	9 July
Village weekend WG	15 July
Maintenance Committee	20 July

Resolved:	To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of	
	Nomansland Joint Committee	11 June
	Finance Committee	29 June
	Community Involvement Committee	6 July
	Bury Green WG	9 July
	Village weekend WG	15 July
	Maintenance Committee	20 July

4239-15 Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday celebrations

It was noted that Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 90th birthday in 2016. Councillors wanted to officially recognise and organise an event complimentary to and additional to Village weekend.

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Brewster and it was agreed, that an event be run to commemorate the Queen's birthday on a suitable weekend in June 2016.

Resolved	That an event be run to commemorate the Queen's birthday on a suitable weekend in June 2016.
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4240-15 ATP Misuse

A number of incidents of misuse of the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) had been reported included burnt patches of turf, large amounts of litter and poor behaviour. Advice and observations had been sought from St Albans District Council, police and youth connexions. Quotations for electronic locks and door closures had been obtained.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that this matter be discussed at a Community Involvement Committee meeting to be called as soon as possible

Resolved **To defer discussion to a Community Involvement Committee meeting to be called as soon as possible.**

4241-15 Public Art

Some years since the idea of siting a wooden statue of George Bernard Shaw at the Railway station had been put forward. He had lived at Ayot St Lawrence (Shaws Corner is now in the hands of the National Trust) and was a regular user of the Wheathampstead Station. A colourful character with some controversial beliefs and causes, he was also Founder of the LSE and recipient of the Nobel prize for literature. His statue would provide a visual link between Shaws Corner and Wheathampstead's Heritage Trail.

Recent discussions with SADC had revealed that some s106 Public Art money was available.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Brewster, and it was agreed that up to £2,000 be spent on a wooden statue of George Bernard Shaw, to be located at the Station Platform site, subject to the availability of s106 Public Art money.

Resolved **That up to £2,000 be spent on a wooden statue of George Bernard Shaw, to be located at the Station Platform site, subject to the availability of s106 Public Art money.**

4242-15 Request to erect a gazebo on the Marford Field on 30 August for a christening party

A request had been received from a resident of Necton Road to erect a gazebo on the Marford Field, behind their garden gate for a christening party.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed, that as a pilot this be approved. The gazebo was to be erected and dismantled same day and it was at the resident's risk and covered by their insurance. A small charge of £50 to be made with £100 damage deposit.

Resolved **To approve the request as a pilot at residents' risk and insurance. The gazebo to be erected and dismantled same day and a charge of £50 incurred with refundable damage deposit.**

4243-15 Training Strategy

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed, that the updated training strategy as circulated be approved and adopted

Resolved To approve and adopt the training strategy

4244-15 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The circulated reports were reviewed and noted.

Resolved To note the reports.

4245-15 Consultations, training and meetings

The Chairman reported on a meeting at Harpenden Town Council regarding the submission of Wheathampstead's Designated Plan Area. It was noted that SADC had subsequently approved the Area of Designation as the Parish boundary. Councillors were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the planning process, the current Local Plan, and become involved in the Neighbourhood Plan activity.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that 4 additional copies of the Local Plan be obtained to facilitate this.

Councillor Reason reported on the meeting with the Maintenance Contractor (together with Cllrs Johnston and Dante and the Clerk). He was contracted for 12 hours work re ATP maintenance, play area checks and litter picking. It had been agreed that a further 12 hours per week through August be devoted to painting agreed areas of the Memorial Hall. September priorities would be determined in the near future.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Wheathampstead Open Spaces Volunteer are asked if they would change their planned August event to pulling and removing the rose bay willow herb (fireweed) on Marshalls Heath prior to it seeding as this was time critical. This was necessary to maintain the acid heathland environment of the ant hill areas.

The Clerk had circulated a report covering various meetings and courses:

- CIPFA Conference
- Local Council Advisory Service seminar on risk and business continuity
- Dementia Awareness training (with Cllrs Halford, Haynes, Reason and Woodhams)
- St Albans District Association of Local Councils (with Cllr Johnston)
- Planning training – covering planning responses and neighbourhood plans
- Butterfield Road play area and facilities (with Cllrs Brewster, Johnston and Woodhams)
- Wheathampstead Community Safety Forum (with Cllr Johnston)

- Crinkle Crankle Garden – meeting re wall and responsibilities with Hammersmatch (with Cllrs Johnston and Woodhams)
- Baxendale Allotments flooding – meeting with I Piggott adjacent land owner re consideration of cross compliance issues (with Cllr Haynes)
- Permissive Bridleway opening at Water End, on Ayot Estate (with Cllr Brewster)

It was agreed that no response be given to HCC Rail consultation nor Central Bedfordshire County Council's consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy. Councillor Clark to look at the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs assessment for the Strategic and Detailed Local Plans and bring back to August Council for consideration. Councillors Davies and Shardlow to look at the HCC Minerals Local Plan Consultation.

The report on schools expansion (HCC Education and Skills Cabinet 3 July) was brought to councillors' attention, particularly the increase of capital budget for the acquisition of secondary schools sites in Harpenden and Croxley Green.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
 - 2 To approve purchase of additional copies of the Local Plan**
 - 3 That the WOSV be asked to make their August event the removal of rosebay willow herb at Marshalls Heath.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.10h.

Dated this day of 2015

Chairman