

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
25 February 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston G Clark D Davies L Halford S Haynes P Wilby P Elias T Reason P Woodhams	Chairman
		L Harrison	Deputy Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

4529-16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster, A Dante and J Shardlow.

4530-16 Statement from the Chairman

It was with deep regret that the Chairman formally announced the premature death of Jacqueline Turner.

Jacqueline served the Parish Council as Clerk for 16 years and then as a councillor for two separate terms of four years each. Jacqueline also represented the Parish Council on the James Marshall Trust and was active in a number of village groups. Jacqueline gave much of her private time for the benefit of residents and she will be sorely missed, as will the contribution she continued to make to village life.

The thoughts of the Parish Council are with her friends and family at this difficult time.

4531-16 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillors Davies and Reason declared a personal interest in Minute "Cherry Tree drainage number "-16 being a neighbour. Councillor Clark declared an interest in Minute "St Helens Clock"-16 being a member of the church bell ringing group.

4532-16 Public Speaking

None.

4533-16 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 January 2016 be approved.

Resolved **To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 January 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman**

4534-16 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:

Neighbourhood Plan SG	8 February
Planning Committee	15 February
Village Weekend WG	2 February
Wheathampstead Community Safety Forum	11 November 2015

Resolved **To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of**

Neighbourhood Plan SG	8 February
Planning Committee	15 February
Village Weekend WG	2 February
Wheathampstead Community Safety Forum	11 November 2015

4535-16 Cherry Tree Lane – flood alleviation

Councillor Wilby proposed that Wheathampstead Parish Council accept the work proposed by Hertfordshire County Council to dig a holding ditch on Cherry Tree Lane, in order to minimise damage caused to the carriageway, seconded by Councillor Habib, and all agreed. HCC would remain responsible for the ditch.

Resolved **To accept the work proposed by Hertfordshire County Council to dig a holding ditch on Cherry Tree Lane, in order to minimise damage caused to the carriageway.**

4536-16 Review of Training and Development Policy

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Training and Development Policy was accepted, and all agreed.

Resolved **Accept the Training and Development Policy**

4537-16 Review of Bench Policy

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Bench Policy was accepted with amendments, and all agreed.

Resolved **Accept the Bench Policy as amended**

4538-16 Agree Branding/Corporate Identity Logo Policy

It was proposed by Councillor Haynes that the Branding/Corporate Identity Logo Policy was accepted with amendments, seconded by Councillor Wilby and all agreed.

Resolved Accept the Branding/Corporate Identity Logo Policy with amendments.

4539-16 Consider banner request from Regiment Fitness and review of Regiment Fitness hiring increases 2016

It was proposed by the Chairman that item 17 on the agenda (Review of Regiment Fitness hiring increases 2016) was brought forward for inclusion for discussion under this item, all agreed.

The current banner policy was confirmed by the Deputy Clerk. The health and social wellbeing aspects of this fitness activity occurring on Council land was noted

It was proposed by Councillor Reason that Wheathampstead Parish Council had no reason to overturn the previous decision made by the Finance Committee when setting Regiment Fitness's 2016 hiring increase now that their membership numbers were established. On this occasion permission to allow Regiment Fitness, a commercial organisation, a banner, per the Banner Policy for a period of two weeks was agreed, seconded by Councillor Davies and all agreed.

Resolved:

- 1. The previous decision made by the Finance Committee when setting Regiment Fitness's 2016 hiring increase remains the same now that their membership numbers were established.**
- 2. To allow Regiment Fitness, on this occasion, to display a banner as per the Banner Policy, for a period of two weeks.**

4540-16 Consider request to reduce hire rate from Ramblers Association Hertfordshire and North Middlesex

The Deputy Clerk confirmed the current hiring charges. It was proposed by Councillor Wilby that Wheathampstead Parish Council are supportive of local voluntary and community groups but are constrained by the costs of running the Memorial Hall facility and as a result adhere to the current funding policy as noted in the current published hiring charges in regards to this request which reflect a 50% discount for all residents and local community groups, seconded by Councillor Reason and all agreed.

Resolved Wheathampstead Parish Council are supportive of local voluntary and community groups but are constrained

by the costs of running the Memorial Hall facility and as a result adhere to the current funding policy as noted in the current published hiring charges in regards to this request which reflect a 50% discount for all residents and local community groups.

4541-16 Cubs 2k and 5k Centenary Fun run 30 April 2016.

The Chairman reminded Council of the previous decisions made for similar events and the current policy on the use of amenity areas for organised events in the Council Policy Book. It was proposed by Councillor Halford that Wheathampstead Parish Council support the centenary celebrations and give permission for a helicopter to land on the field owned by Wheathampstead Parish Council but highlight concerns with regard to the impact of parking in the village and advise the organisers to talk to the Safety Advisory Group at SADC, in particular with regards to safety in relation to expected numbers for this event, seconded by Councillor Wilby and all agreed. It was also proposed by the Chairman that Councillor Halford contact the organisers with information in relation to suitable parking areas in the village, all agreed.

- Resolved**
- 1 Wheathampstead Parish Council support the centenary celebrations and give permission for a helicopter to land on the field owned by Wheathampstead Parish Council but highlight concerns with regard to the are impact of parking in the village and advise the organisers to talk to the Safety Advisory Group at SADC, in particular with regards to safety in relation to expected numbers for this event.**
 - 2 Councillor Halford to contact the organisers with information in relation to suitable parking areas in the village.**

4542-16 St Helen's Church request for financial support

The Chairman reminded the Council of the Grant Policy which comes into effect on 1st April 2016. It was proposed by Councillor Wilby that Wheathampstead Parish Council as a good will gesture offer the remainder of the current grant budget (£320) to St Helen's Church in the spirit of public amenity and to assist in the maintenance of a Grade 1 listed asset, with an explanation that this donation is a one off, and that from 1st April 2016 the Council will have a Grant Policy which cannot be applied for retrospectively, seconded by Councillor Habib and agreed (1 against, 3 abstained).

Resolved Wheathampstead Parish Council as a

good will gesture offer the remainder of the current grant budget (£320) to St Helen's Church in the spirit of public amenity and to assist in the maintenance of a grade 1 listed asset, with an explanation that this donation is a one off, and that from 1st April 2016 the Council will have a Grant Policy which cannot be applied for retrospectively.

4543-16 Consultations

None

4546-16 Reports on training and meetings

Cllr Wilby reported on an open meeting he had attended on 22 February 2016 at Roundwood School in relation to the proposed Harpenden Secondary Free School. County Councillors Teresa Heritage and David Williams were also present with officers from County and representatives from the Harpenden Secondary Education Trust.

Cllr Halford reported on the last WEB meeting. She advised Council that the current Chairman was standing down in April and that concerns had been raised with regards to funding fireworks for the Picnic on the Meads event this year.

Resolved Report noted.

4547-16 Accounts and Finance Reports

Report noted by Council, no comments.

Resolved Report noted.

4548-16 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was proposed by the Chairman that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below in the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, agreed by all.

Resolved Exclude press and public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

4549-16 Memorial Hall

A discussion took place with regards to the various options in relation to re-developing the current space. It was recommended by the Chairman that a consultation process was required with

residents via the Parish Council website, social media and Pump quarterly newsletter to canvas people's opinions on preferences for hire use in the Memorial Hall (for example a gym, youth club room, cinema, serviced offices/small business hub, room for civil wedding ceremonies, formal meeting room).

4550-16 Readmission of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the press and public be readmitted.

Resolved To Readmit press and public.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.40h.

Dated this day of 2016

Chairman