

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Maintenance Committee
18 July 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	T Reason G Clark A Dante L Halford S Haynes P Woodhams	Chairman
		Julia Warren	Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

4717-16 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors E Habib and D Johnston (personal reasons).

4718-16 Public Speaking

None.

4719-16 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

4720-16 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 13 July 2016

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2016 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

4721-16 Report of Maintenance Contractor

It was reported that the unrepairable bench on Rectory Meadow had been removed and area made good pending purchase of a replacement bench. Damaged swing seats at Maltings Drive Play Area had been replaced as had rubbish bins by the Scout Hut and Marford Pavilion.

Resolved To note the report.

4722-16 Work of rangers and open space management including river works

The Meads Ranger reported that the pollarded willows and willow setts planted in the Spring were thriving despite initial concerns regarding attack by willow beetles. The buffer strips retained on the Meads north and south banks had resulted in less erosion of the river banks, due to reduced access principally by dogs, and improved in-river vegetation. Flora and fauna particularly on the north bank continued to flourish.

Further work to the river and its banks at East Lane Car park had resulted in more light and a greater number and diversity of invertebrates and subsequently fish and birds in the area. The addition of four deflectors and three brash build outs had improved the variety, depth and flow of water in this area of river including exposure of the gravel bed. Further river work, for which grant funding had been obtained, was on hold pending discussions with the Environment Agency following changes to their regulations.

The Meads Community Orchard was thriving, the older trees through restorative pruning and the young trees from winter pruning. A path had been cut through rough grass at the northern end of the orchard. This encouraged insects and birds.

Litter was being controlled through the assistance of a number of local residents who made an effort to collect discarded litter and place it in the bins. Dog waste was an increasing problem.

Resolved To note the reports.

4722-16 Tree work and vegetation management

Requests for tree work to a sycamore tree on the verge of Brocket View and overhanging the gardens of 1 and 3 St Thomas Place had been received. The tree in question was subject to a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) (TPO 1358 22/3/99).

A request had been received from a resident of Necton Road that the overhanging branches of trees between the tennis courts and properties of Necton Road be pruned.

The Council's contractor had a purchase order to prune back the end of a sycamore tree branch which was interfering with the tv aerial of a property in Moat House.

Concerns of residents included blocking out of light and leaf fall.

The Parish Council's tree strategy was reviewed. This had been designed for consistency within the district and was based upon St Albans City and District Council's policy. It permitted residents to cut back trees where they overhung their property. In the case of trees with a TPO or in the conservation area

permission needed to first be sought from St Albans District Council.

Councillor Dante proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that residents be advised that the tree strategy held. In the case of the sycamore with a TPO the residents should discuss the matter with the tree officer and advise Council if approval for their pruning were granted so that permission could be given. Where no TPO was in place permission for residents to cut back the overhanging branches was approved.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
 - 2 That the Tree Strategy held.**
 - 3 That permission for residents to remove branches overhanging their property be agreed, subject to any necessary approvals from the SADC tree officer.**

4723-16 Play Area maintenance

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed that loose fill be purchased to top up the Marford Play Area, to a budget of £2,000.

It was further agreed that pigeon deterrent spikes be purchased and fitted to the swings in Maltings Drive in an attempt to reduce the problem of bird droppings on swing seats.

- Resolved**
- 1 To purchase loose fill to a budget of £2,000.**
 - 2 To purchase and install pigeon deterrent spikes to the swings in Maltings Drive.**

4724-16 Bury Green Garden

It was agreed that costs for maintenance of the Bury Green Garden fell under the general maintenance budget. The plans were that this newly refurbished garden would be maintained by volunteers. Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed, that Councillor Halford discuss maintenance plans with the WDPS, and also suggest that the WDPS apply to HCC for a Locality Grant for floral works within the Village. This might include plants for the Diamond Jubilee Garden which was also jointly maintained.

- Resolved**
- 1 That costs for maintenance of the Bury Green Garden fell under the general maintenance budget.**
 - 2 That Councillor Halford discuss maintenance plans for the Bury Green Garden with the WDPS.**
 - 3 To suggest that the WDPS apply to HCC for a Locality Grant for floral works**

within the Village.**4725-16 Noticeboards**

This was deferred pending further information from Cityscape regarding artwork.

Resolved To defer to a later meeting.

4726-16 Marford Football Pavilion

Following discussions with Wheathampstead Wanderers FC and Wheathampstead 89 FC priorities for the refurbishment of the Marford Pavilion were agreed as retiling of shower areas, new benches and new kitchen. WWFC had offered to fund the kitchen. Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed that quotations within budget be approved on delegated authority by the Clerk with Chairman of Maintenance Committee. Councillor Dante to assist in sourcing kitchen units.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To delegate approval for works within budget to the Clerk and Chairman of Maintenance Committee.**

4727-16 Memorial Hall works

It was reported that Councillors Haynes and Johnston were de-snagging the audio-visual works to the main hall which were not quite completed. A manual for usage was required from the supplier, councillors would then create a simplified version of instructions for Hall users. Quotes for an intruder alarm system and resurfacing of stage and main hall floors were being sought.

Resolved To note the reports.

4728-16 Replacement bench for Rectory Meadow

Further to Minute 2721-16 the Chairman proposed and it was agreed that a sustainably sourced, traditional style, hardwood bench be purchased to replace the one removed from Rectory Meadow. The Council's bench policy was reviewed and various designs and materials were considered. It was suggested that advice on supplier be sought from Mr Nigel Oxley.

It was further agreed that the bench be offered for public sponsorship. An article to be included in the Pump advertising the availability of a sponsorship opportunity.

Resolved

- 1 That a sustainably sourced, traditional style, hardwood bench be purchased to replace the one removed from Rectory Meadow.**

