

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
28 August 2014, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston I Begg A Brewster G Clark N Clements D Davies L Halford S Haynes T Reason P Wilby	Chairman
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		S Wood	District Councillor
		Press	0
		Public	1

3725-14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J Shardlow and P Woodhams (personal reasons).

3726-14 Presentation by Lightsource Renewables – Proposed Solar Farm, Plummers Lane, Wheathampstead

The Clerk advised those present that Lightsource Renewables had advised that following feedback from the local community they were currently reassessing the site and had decided at this stage not to progress the application for the site at Plummers Lane. They had cancelled their presentation and the Clerk had advised those who had booked public speaking slots of this outcome, and also annotated the agenda posted on the noticeboard.

3727-14 Public Speaking

None.

3728-14 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Reason declared a personal interest in Minute 3731-14 as owner of a stable yard.

Resolved To note the report

3729-14 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2014 be approved.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting

held on 31 July 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

3730-14 Minutes of Committee Meetings

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

Planning Committee	18 June, 15 July
Finance Committee	23 July
Maintenance Committee	28 July

Resolved	To receipt and adopt the draft Minutes of Planning Committee	18 June, 15 July
	Finance Committee	23 July
	Maintenance Committee	28 July

3731-14 Shed Request –Glebe South

A request had been received for an additional temporary wooden shed 12'x 12' on Glebe South Grazing field to store hay /straw for the winter. Councillors had acquainted themselves with the site. Councillor Begg proposed, seconded by Councillor Wilby, and it was agreed, that the request be refused. There was already sufficient construction on this Green Belt site and it was believed that additional building would exceed permitted development.

Resolved	To refuse the request for an additional building on this grazing site
-----------------	--

3732-14 Management of Artificial Turf Pitch

The new all-weather pitch was due for completion by September. Councillor Begg proposed, seconded by Councillor Brewster, and it was agreed, that Councillors Brewster and Haynes, with the Clerk, agree a pilot scheme to cover opening, closing, security, lighting and usage of the ATP.

Resolved	Councillors Brewster and Haynes, with the Clerk, to agree a pilot scheme to cover opening, closing, security, lighting and usage of the ATP.
-----------------	---

3733-14 Booking Fee Structure

It was noted that the booking fee structure for Council facilities particularly the Memorial Hall was complex. A comparison with local halls was to be made. A consistent policy for discounts for

regular hirers with reductions for the local community was suggested. For example, it was noted that on occasions the facilities were offered as support for a venture such as the Community World War I commemorations (Minute 3715-14) and the Wheathampstead Community Group's Christmas Sing-along. Councillor Johnston proposed, seconded by Councillor Begg, and it was agreed that in principal Wheathampstead Parish Council was in favour of an hourly booking fee. Proposals to be brought to a later Council meeting.

Councillor Reason Proposed, seconded by Councillor Begg, that the St Helen's Church fair committee be thanked for their email and assured that booking fees were to be kept low for local organisations, the Parish Council was not profit making and aimed to keep rates as low as possible. In relation to the Community Group Sing-along, this was supported by the Parish Council as a part of Christmas celebrations for the Village following on from Light Up.

- Resolved**
- 1 In principal Wheathampstead Parish Council was in favour of an hourly booking fee. Proposals to be brought to a later Council meeting.**
 - 2 To thank St Helen's Church Fair Committee for their email and advise that rates were kept low for local groups, support was given to the WCG sing-along as part of the Christmas celebrations.**

3734-14 Business Plan

The draft business plan to be finalised following feedback from the community had been circulated. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that it be adopted as a draft pending approval at the October Council meeting following consultation with community groups.

- Resolved**
- To adopt as draft the business plan pending its approval at October Council following community feedback.**

3735-14 VAT Report

A VAT report had been commissioned as WPC would exceed its VAT exemption threshold for 2014-15. Projections suggested that the 7 year average maintained the non VATable position. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the contents of the report be noted and that the consultant's services be reengaged annually.

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 That the consultant's services be reengaged annually.**

3736-14 Memorial Hall Walls

Councillor agreed the need to demolish the redundant ramp access to the north door and demolish and rebuild the north entrance library, three quotations to be obtained.

Resolved To note the report.

3737-14 Office IT provision

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Begg, and it was agreed that a networked small form factor computer be purchased at approximately £750 + delivery for use essentially by the office accounts administrator and maintenance contractor. This would be funded from the IT website budget head.

Resolved To approve the purchase of a small form factor pc for office use at approximately £750 plus delivery.

3738-14 Recording of Council meetings

It was reported that from August 2014 the rules regarding accountability and transparency for local government bodies including parish councils changed to embrace modern communication methods. This included permitting public recording of council meetings. Councillor Begg proposed seconded by Councillor Halford that the Clerk research how other councils were responding to the changes in legislation.

Resolved Clerk to research how other councils were responding to the changes in legislation.

3739-14 Review of Standing Orders

Councils' Standing Orders were based upon the NALC model and were last reviewed and adopted in January 2014. NALC had revised its model and it was recommended that WPC adopt SO based upon the newer model. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that this be delegated to the Clerk plus Councillors Clark and Johnston to produce a draft for adoption.

Resolved Clerk plus Councillors Clark and Johnston to produce a draft for adoption.

3740-14 Review of Financial Regulations

Councils' Financial Regulations were based upon the NALC

model and were last reviewed and adopted in January 2014. NALC had revised its model and it was recommended that WPC adopt Financial Regulations based upon the newer model. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that this be delegated to the Clerk plus Councillors Begg and Johnston to produce a draft for adoption.

Resolved Clerk plus Councillors Begg and Johnston to produce a draft for adoption.

3741-14 Sustainable Communities Act- support right to sell electricity proposal

Councillor Begg proposed, seconded by councillor Wilby, and it was agreed that in principal Wheathampstead Parish Council support Patchway Town Council's proposal:

"that the government gives Local Councils the right to sell electricity either by legislating to this effect itself or by giving support and , if necessary, adequate Parliamentary time for a Private Members Bill that gives Local Councils this right."

**Resolved That in principal Wheathampstead Parish Council support Patchway Town Council's proposal:
"that the government gives Local Councils the right to sell electricity either by legislating to this effect itself or by giving support and , if necessary, adequate Parliamentary time for a Private Members Bill that gives Local Councils this right."**

3742-14 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The list of accounts paid to August had been circulated and noted.

Resolved To note the reports

3743-14 Consultations, training and meetings

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Clerk respond on behalf of Council to the HCC Childrens' Centre Programme consultation.

Councillor Haynes would draft a response to the bus survey for consideration next Council

The Chairman reported on his meeting with the WLTC (with Clerk and Councillors Haynes and Reason). The Tennis Club had advised their coaches ran various extra curricula classes at the

local primary schools. They hoped to approach the LTA for funding for an improved court surface, working with the Parish Council.

Cllr Johnston had also met with Dave Boynton of the WWFC to consider a booking system both for the new ATP facility and the Memorial Hall. He was working with the Deputy Clerk.

Following the meeting convened by the Parish Council in the Memorial Hall preceding the High Street gas mains works, enabling WEB members, county staff and contractors to meet, work was well on schedule. WEB had reported their gratitude that disruption had been minimised and work well in hand. Councillors Clark and Halford reported on their enthusiasm also to engage with young people using social media.

Councillor Reason had attended a useful funding course run by the CDA. Land fill grants were explained as was the support through public survey. Various tips on funding sources were given.

Resolved To note the reports

3744-14 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to exclude the press and public, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

Resolved To exclude press and public

3745-14 Parish Council Asset

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that advice be sought from the land agent regarding rent and deposit.

Resolved To seek advice from the land agent regarding rent and deposit.

3746-14 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 22.30h.

Dated this day of 2014

Chairman