

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Parish Council Meeting  
28 April 2016, 19.30h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston G Clark A Dante D Davies E Habib L Halford S Haynes T Reason P Woodhams	Chairman
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		J Thornton	HCC RoW officer
		Press	0
		Public	8

**4629-16 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster and J Shardlow.

**4630-16 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

Councillor Johnston declared a personal interest in Minute 432-16 knowing John Stocker who opposed the permissive bridleway.. Councillors Reason and Davies declared a personal interest in Minute 4635/6-16 being neighbours

**4631-16 Public Speaking**

Nick Gorringe referred to his letter previously circulated which objected to the proposal to reclassify footpath 27 as a permissive bridleway. His concerns included safety, security and intrusion of privacy. Residents questioned the consultation process and motives for the change of use.

Peter Evans, on behalf of the owner of Amwell Farm advised that the costs of the upgraded permissive bridleway would be borne by Amwell Farm. Horses had accessed the fields to the north of the farm for many years through the farmyard. The permissive bridleway was supported by HCC Rights of Way. The problem with the electric cables was the tree branches which touched them rather than buried cables.

Lynn Myland, representing the British Horse Society, St Albans Access Forum and Hertfordshire Local Access Forum spoke in support of a permissive bridleway. The BHS saw no conflict for users and the path was to be of sufficient width. There was a national campaign to encourage horses off the roads onto

bridleways and avoid injury and death. The LAF through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) was looking to upgrade footpaths to multi user paths.

Rhona Whiteman of St Albans Cycling Campaign spoke of the health benefits of cycling and desire for a traffic free route between Sandridge and Wheathampstead.

Sean Wakeman, recently burgled, expressed concern for additional vehicular access to the area.

Andy Charles supported widening to improve access for cyclists and pushchairs but expressed concerns about parking on the Amwell Track.

Julian Thornton confirmed that the permissive bridleway had been an unsolicited offer which aligned well with County policy to improve links through and between settlements. The proposed 4m wide path met the Hertfordshire standards for bridleways so was acceptable for horses, cycles and pedestrians. The owners of the land could at any point permit public access but entering a permissive agreement was beneficial to both parties. Assurances were given that the intention was for a removable/lockable bollard allowing emergency and maintenance vehicle access only.

#### **4632-16 Amwell bridleway**

At Minute 4631-16 Councillors were asked to reconsider the decision on 31 March, Minute 4596-16 supporting a permissive bridleway. Standing Order 11a required a special motion bearing the signatures of seven councils to revisit the decision. This was not forthcoming. The resolution (to approve in principal the idea of a *permissive bridleway*, subject to negotiation. Vehicular access was specifically not approved) stood. There was no further debate.

#### **4633-16 Minutes of Council**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 31 March 2016 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 31 March 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

#### **4634-16 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:

Community Involvement  
Committee

18 April 2016

Planning Committee	26 April 2016
Neighbourhood Plan SG	4 April 2016
Nomansland Joint Committee	14 January 2016

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of</b>
	<b>Community Involvement Committee</b>
	<b>18 April 2016</b>
	<b>Planning Committee</b>
	<b>26 April 2016</b>
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan SG</b>
	<b>4 April 2016</b>
	<b>Nomansland Joint Committee</b>
	<b>14 January 2016</b>

#### **4635-16 Request to improve drainage on common land adjacent to 8 Cherry Tree Lane**

It was noted that HCC/Ringway had scheduled works to build a holding ditch on the west side of Cherry Tree Lane. The owner of number 8 Cherry Tree lane had requested permission to build a soakaway on Council owned common land between his home and the road which he anticipated would alleviate some of the drainage problems including flooding to the lower lying land.

Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed that the homeowner should use his own land, rather than Council owned land, if he wished to install a soakaway.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that in principal it would be acceptable for him to install a 'drain' from Council land to his soakaway. Details to be agreed.

- Resolved**
- 1 That the homeowner should use his own land, rather than Council owned land, if he wished to install a soakaway.**
  - 2 That in principal it would be acceptable for him to install a 'drain' from Council land to his soakaway. Details to be agreed.**

#### **4636-16 Easement Cherry Tree Lane**

Consideration was given to formalising agreements to use Council land with the owner of 8 Cherry Tree Lane. This would benefit both parties giving security of future tenure to the homeowner. He would need to seek professional advice to draw up an agreement. It was thought an easement was probably most appropriate.

Councillor Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that Wheathampstead Parish Council enter into negotiations with the homeowner to formalise the agreement.

- Resolved**
- That Wheathampstead Parish Council enter into negotiations with the homeowner to formalise the agreement.**

**4637-16 Access Bower Heath**

It was noted that a number of issues regarding access to Council land had arisen in recent months. Councillor Clark proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed that professional advice be sought.

**Resolved That professional advice be sought.**

**4638-16 Review of Risk Toolkit**

As agreed at Minute 4593-16 risk toolkit had been amended and circulated. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Dante, and it was agreed that the Risk Toolkit be approved and adopted.

**Resolved That the Risk Toolkit be approved and adopted**

**4639-16 Bus timetable changes**

Representations had been received from a number of local residents about bus timetable changes. HCC transport network planning had advised that some services were subsidised by the County Council, others run commercially. In respect of the Centrebus 366 service HCC had been supporting some of the earlier and later journeys on this service with the majority being provided on a commercial basis. Following a review Centrebus decided that the Luton – Welwyn Garden City section was no longer sustainable. Luton Council supported no bus services so any subsidy would be entirely from Hertfordshire. HCC decided against funding a reduced service given that most of the communities en route had access to other towns on Saturdays and with tight budgets this was not a priority.

Changes to the Uno 657 retiming impacted on school children. It was noted that schools require students to be registered. Registration records remain on the student's file and indeed may be shared with UCAS and future employers to evidence their ability to regularly attend school and on time. The retiming of service 657 had resulted in students arriving too early for school (and not allowed on the premises) or registered as arriving late with the significant impact this could potentially cause. HCC advised that changes may have been effected to allow additional waiting in St Albans to allow for delays caused by traffic congestion; the enforcement team would carry out a check on buses running towards Harpenden at school time after the start of term to see if any were being left behind.

It was also noted that Wheathampstead did not have a secondary school thus many school children were reliant on public transport. The Parish Council supported good transport links to neighbouring

settlements.

Councillor Clark proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Uno Buses urging them to reconsider the weekday morning bus timing. This would enable current passengers to use the service to arrive at school on time and maintain the commercial viability of the service.

**Resolved**                    **That the Clerk write to Uno Buses urging them to reconsider the weekday morning bus timing. This would enable current passengers to use the service to arrive at school on time and maintain the commercial viability of the service.**

**4640-16 Hertfordshire Pension Fund (Local Government Pension Scheme) pooling arrangements**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that Wheathampstead Parish Council should stay in the pooling arrangements for the Hertfordshire Pension Fund (LGPS). The Parish Council was aware of its liabilities under the Scheme and confirmed that it would abide by the policies and procedures of the scheme.

**Resolved**                    **That Wheathampstead Parish Council should stay in the pooling arrangements for the Hertfordshire Pension Fund (LGPS). The Parish Council was aware of its liabilities under the Scheme and confirmed that it would abide by the policies and procedures of the scheme.**

**4641-16 Land Registration**

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies and it was agreed that all unregistered Council land be registered, budget £2,500. Any additional expenditure should be brought back to Council for approval

**Resolved**                    **To register all unregistered Council land, budget £2,500..**

**4642-16 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the reports

**Resolved**                    **To note the reports**

**4643-16 Consultations**

None

**4644-16 Reports on training and meetings**

Written reports from the Clerk and councillors on meetings and conferences attended had been circulated and were noted.

The Chairman had attended the St Albans and District Association of Local Councils meeting on 19 April. This covered government changes to the planning system, closure of St Albans Tourist Information Centre, District Council contract changes from Amey to Veolia for recycling and Urbaser for public toilets; and a reminder regarding health and safety for events organisers following the bouncy castle fatality in Harlow

The Clerk had attended a presentation on Beauty in my Back Yard (BIMBY) hosted by Look! St Albans on 25 April. This provided a number of useful ideas and tools for the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Councillors Johnston and Haynes with the Clerk attended a meeting regarding CCTV which would cover the Memorial Hall, its car park and the ATP.

Councillor Woodhams had attended a meeting with a potential designer for the Crinkle Crankle garden following invitations to quote

Councillors Johnston and Woodhams with the Clerk attended a meeting regarding the development of Old School Drive with the managing agent dealing with the hand over from Persimmon. He was holding a residents' meeting on 23 May, which council representatives were welcome to join.

**Resolved            To note the reports**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.20h.**

**Dated this            day of            2016**

**Chairman**