

**Wheathampstead Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
24 November 2016, 20.00h**

Present	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		G Clark	
		A Dante	
		D Davies	
		L Halford	
		S Haynes	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		P Wilby	
		P Woodhams	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	2

4875-16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brewster (SADC meeting) and E Habib (personal).

4876-16 Public Speaking

Mr Gentle was aware of the Parish Council's tree policy modelled on that of St Albans District Council. He wished to make Council aware of the problems caused in particular by sycamore seeds blown from adjacent and overhanging trees on Council owned land, in this instance Marford Field, which then germinated in his and neighbours' gardens and gutters. He asked that WPC revisit its policy in relation to the trees abounding Necton Road properties.

Mrs Jones on behalf of the Moat House residents advised that of the three initial designs for the Crinkle Crankle garden all residents preferred the formal design. They believed that a Victorian style formal garden would be very expensive to upkeep; they did not want a boules court. Concerns were raised about littering within the garden and the adjacent churchyard.

4877-16 Consideration to review tree strategy

Council considered whether in light of public demand (Minute 4876-16) the tree strategy needed reviewing. As this was within 6 months of approval Standing Order 7 applied, namely: A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 7 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer.

Seven councillors (councillors Dante, Davies, Halford, Haynes, Johnston, Shardlow and Wilby) gave notice that they wished to reconsider the tree strategy.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the tree Strategy be reconsidered in January 2017.

Resolved That the tree Strategy be reconsidered in January 2017.

4878-16 Crinkle Crankle Garden Design

Consideration was given to the design of the Crinkle Crankle Garden and location of a possible boules court. Three generic design types were considered but it was noted that elements of each may be incorporated elsewhere. The intention was to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding. Once agreed the garden designer would be approached to amend and bring a design for Council approval.

Councillor Shardlow proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed to accept a formal garden design with the understanding that Wheathampstead Parish Council would continue to consider options for a boules court.

Resolved To accept a formal garden design with the understanding that Wheathampstead Parish Council would continue to consider options for a boules court.

4879-16 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Clark declared an interest in Minute 4883-16 being a member of St Albans District Council Plans North Committee at which she would look afresh at any plans.

Councillor Dante declared an interest in Minute 4891-16 being a member of the Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club.

4880-16 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

4881-16 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:

Finance Committee	9 Nov 2016
Lights Up WG	31 Oct, 15 Nov 2016
Planning Committee	21 Nov 2016
Maintenance Committee	14 Nov 2016
Village Weekend WG	8 Nov 2016

Resolved	To receipt and adopt the draft minutes and notes of	
	Finance Committee	9 Nov 2016
	Lights Up WG	31 Oct, 15 Nov 2016
	Planning Committee	21 Nov 2016
	Maintenance Committee	14 Nov 2016
	Village Weekend WG	8 Nov 2016

4882-16 Neighbourhood Plan recommendations

Further to Minute 4842-16 it was noted that, following the sample trial of the Housing Needs Survey undertaken using random attendees at a U3A event, the survey had been reviewed and changes undertaken. It was hoped that this would be ready for distribution immediately after Christmas.

Resolved To note the report.

4883-16 Plans referred from Planning Committee – 5/2016/3011 Land to the rear of 15 to 17 Castle Rise

Consideration was given to the prior approval application 5/2016/3011 Land rear of 15 to 17 Castle Rise.

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Wilby, and it was agreed that the response to St Albans District Council Planning be:

Wheathampstead Parish Council is most concerned at the prior approval permission applied for at the top of Castle Rise, numbers 15 to 17.

We strongly object on the grounds that this is not part of a functioning agricultural holding and therefore does not meet the criteria for conversion. Also, we feel that the present agricultural buildings are not in a fit state to be converted into dwellings. We are therefore surprised to see this application in its present form, prior approval does not suit this case.

Resolved Wheathampstead Parish Council is most concerned at the prior approval permission applied for at the top of Castle Rise, numbers 15 to 17.

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4884-16 Review of draft facilities White Paper

Further to Minutes 4834-16 and 4844-16 it was reported that further consideration was to be given to the draft White Paper, an aide to discussion of the Council's estate and future requirements, by a working group on 2 November.

Resolved To note the report.

4885-16 Project and task review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed.

Resolved To note the report.

4886-16 Meetings timetable 2017

Councillors were asked to consider the meetings schedule for 2017 as circulated.

In light of the resignation of the Deputy Clerk, effective December 2016, the Clerk would have limited support for a number of months prior to a replacement being recruited and trained to manage meetings.

It was agreed that the January Finance Committee to consider the budget be brought forward from 23 to 9 January, scheduled committee meetings may be later amended and that working groups need not be formally minuted by the Clerk. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the timetable as amended for January Finance Committee be approved.

Resolved To approve the meetings timetable for 2017.

4887-16 Accounts for Payment and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to note the reports

Resolved To note the reports.

4888-16 Consultations

None considered at this meeting.

4889-16 Reports on training and meetings

Councillor Shardlow reported on a Symondshyde meeting attended on 21 November. The consultation period was now closed, the Planning Inspector would subsequently review evidence. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Wilby, and it was approved, that Councillor Shardlow speak on behalf of Wheathampstead Parish Council to the Planning Inspector regarding Symondshyde.

Resolved That Councillor Shardlow speak on behalf of Wheathampstead Parish Council to the Planning Inspector regarding Symondshyde.

4890-16 Exclusion of Press and Public

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

Resolved To exclude press and public.

4891-16 Tennis Club

Further to Minute 4815-16 the lease to the Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club was discussed. WLTC had requested that WPC maintain the fencing. It was also noted that a rent review was due in November 2017 and agreed that a land agent be engaged to assist with revaluation.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and it was agreed that Wheathampstead Parish Council be responsible for maintenance of the perimeter fence, and Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club responsible for maintenance of the courts. If WLTC wished they could at their expense, using the Council's contractor and appropriate attachment, borrow the ATP tractor at a (reviewable) cost of £20 per session.

Resolved

- 1 To advise WLTC that a rent review was due November 2017.**
- 2 To engage a land agent to review the rental levels.**
- 3 that Wheathampstead Parish Council be responsible for maintenance of the perimeter fence.**
- 4 That Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club be responsible for maintenance of the courts.**
- 5 If WLTC wished they could at their expense, using the Council's contractor and appropriate attachment, borrow the ATP tractor at a (reviewable) cost of £20 per session.**

4892-16 Readmission of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to readmit press and public.

Resolved To readmit press and public.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.15h.

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman