

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 28 June 2018 19:30

Present:	Councillors	T Reason	Chairman
		J Booth	
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		E Habib	
		L Halford	
		S Haynes	
		D Johnston	
		O McKenzie	
		R O'Brien	
		P Woodhams	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	5

5697-18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor T Ryan (personal).

5698-18 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Clark declared an interest in Minute 5699-18 because of her membership of Plans North, St Albans District Council, and would look at the matter afresh should these plans be discussed at Plans North.

5699-18 Plan 5/2018/1260 Land between the River Lea and Palmerston Drive – presentation and consideration

Mr Margereson on behalf of Jarvis presented the draft plans for the new development: the creation of nine, two bedroom apartments and nine, two bedroom, two, three bedroom and eight, four bedroom dwellings with new access from Palmerston Drive, associated parking, amenity space and landscaping. He explained that Jarvis had worked with the LFA and EA who now withdrew their previous objections, had consulted local residents so that these revised plans took into account many of their concerns. Previous plans were for 35 dwellings, now reduced to 28, were further from adjacent homes and outside the flood plain area. Jarvis believed that following consultation with the EA and Hertfordshire ecology and wildlife groups their concerns could be met by conditions put within any planning approval. It was noted however that the wildlife buffer strip was still slightly encroached upon by Plot 14.

Members of the public and councillors questioned the access to the Meads for site maintenance, particularly with large farming equipment. Removable bollards across the bridle way could be awkward and access via Palmerston Road rather than Mount Road may well be prohibitive because of parked vehicles.

The mix and type of housing was discussed, as was affordability. Concerns remained about the adequacy of parking provision albeit that it met current guidelines. Councillors believed that village

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residents were often more reliant on personal transport as public transport was limited.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that a recommendation of NO OBJECTION be made to St Albans District Council.

Wheathampstead Parish Council however asked that its concerns about the adequacy of the number of parking spaces given the number of bedrooms, and the incursion of Plot 14 into the wildlife buffer zone be noted.

Resolved:

That a Recommendation be made to St Albans District Council of NO OBJECTION.

However to note that Wheathampstead Parish Council asked that its concerns about the adequacy of the number of parking spaces given the number of bedrooms, and the incursion of Plot 14 into the wildlife buffer zone be noted.

5700-18 Public Speaking

Mr Begg spoke of the exciting opportunity the refurbishment/rebuild plans for the Memorial Hall presented. The building was centrally located with a beautiful vista and parking facilities. Now was the chance to once more create a building with future proofed facilities. Whilst it was currently somewhat tired, when built it provided a statement and monument for the village. He was keen to share his ideas, concerns and support future investment. He volunteered to participate as part of the working group on the project.

5701-18 Minutes of Council

Councillor McKenzie proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2018 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5702-18 Minutes of Committee Meetings

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

Annual Parish Meeting	16 May 2018
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	4 June 2018
Planning Committee	6 June 2018

Resolved:

To receipt and adopt the Committee minutes of:

Annual Parish Meeting	16 May 2018
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	4 June 2018
Planning Committee	6 June 2018

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5703-18 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group recommendations

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the process of evaluation of sites be approved. It was noted that the housing sub group were working on a document to explain the process so evaluation between sites was comparable.

Resolved:

To approve the process for evaluation of sites.

5704-18 Memorial Hall Working Group update and approval of recommendations

There being no notes for approval this was deferred. It was noted that the working group would reconsider its Terms of Reference and was commended to include Mr Begg as member (Minute 5700-18)

Resolved:

To defer to a later meeting.

5705-18 St Albans Museum

It was reported that an additional benefactors' board had become available, names could be added for a donation of £250. Councillor Booth proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed, that a space be reserved in the name of 'the residents of Wheathampstead'.

Resolved:

That a name space on the benefactors' board be reserved in the name of the residents of Wheathampstead.

5706-18 Committee Terms of Reference

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Maintenance Committee as circulated be approved and adopted.

Resolved:

To approve and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Maintenance Committee as circulated.

5707-18 Hirer damage deposits

It was reported that the conditions for letting the Memorial Hall included providing a damage deposit to be held against such issues as damage to property, alarm call outs etc. This applied to both regular and ad hoc hirers and was returnable once the facilities were no longer used and confirmed as left in an acceptable condition. Regular hirers were given the option to pay the deposit by instalments. Councillor Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnston, and it was agreed all such hirer deposits must be banked.

Resolved:

That all hirer deposits be banked.

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5708-18 Moat House

This item was deferred pending receipt of the residents' request.

5709-18 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. It was agreed to reinstate a working group for the Crinkle Crankle Garden/ Tithe Barn Yard and to meet the Wheathampstead Wanderers to discuss facilities particularly at Butterfield Playing Fields. It was noted that six councillors and the clerk intended to attend the GDPR training at St Albans District Council. Councillor Johnston proposed, seconded by Councillor Booth, and it was agreed, to present a further batch of Gold Award badges over Village Weekend.

Resolved:

- **To note the report and amended priorities.**
- **To present a further batch of Gold Award badges over Village Weekend.**

5710-18 Accounts and Finance Reports

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to note the reports.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5711-18 Consultations

Further to Minute 5675-18 councillors had met with highways representatives to discuss traffic management and interpret the consultation proposals for enhancements to the Codicote Road – Station Road- Lamer Lane- Lower Luton Road junction (ITP14052). As a result new proposals would be circulated.

Resolved:

To note re consideration of ITP14052 Codicote Road following discussions with Herts Highways.

5119-17 Reports on meetings and training

Further to Minute 5711-18 Councillors Clark, Halford, Haynes and Reason with the Clerk had met Highways officers on 19 June to discuss a variety of highway related matters including the Codicote Road junction proposals and highways locality works.

Councillor Reason has attended a consultation regarding a potential new incinerator development at Hyde. The Parish Council had received no notification of this development on its parish boundary with Central Bedfordshire.

Post meeting note Chiltern Green Energy had agreed to give a presentation to councillors prior to the July Council meeting.

5120-17 Unauthorised Traveller encampment

An unauthorised Traveller encampment had taken place at the Butterfield Road Nature Reserve/ Playing Fields site. Travellers arrived on Friday 22 June through the previously locked car park. Hertfordshire County Council as land owner had instigated legal

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proceedings next day. The various agencies – police, county, district and parish councils had worked together effectively and the visitors had been escorted out of county within the week.

There had been much consternation within the Wheathampstead community and concerns for further encampments. As an immediate measure, and following a security evaluation recommendations, the Chairman proposed and it was agreed that a ditch and bund be dug at Maltings Drive similar to that at various neighbouring open spaces including nearby Nomansland, cost up to £300. Subsequently the area would be grass seeded. Other areas were also discussed and suitable deterrents planned.

The clean-up operation of Butterfield was to be undertaken by specialist contractors. St Albans District Council's contractor had immediately set to litter picking the High Street. The Clerk was asked to thank them.

Resolved:

- **To note the report.**
- **To dig a ditch and bund at Maltings Drive, which would subsequently be grassed.**
- **To thank those involved including in the clean up operation.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:15

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman