

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 28 September 2017 – 20:10

Present:	Councillors	P Woodhams	Chairman
		J Booth	
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		E Habib	
		L Haford	
		S Haynes	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	0

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman, Councillor Woodhams, took the Chair. He welcomed Councillor Booth to his first Parish Council meeting since co-option on 20 August. He further advised that a vacancy existed following the resignation of Councillor Dante. If an election were not called by close on 2 October then at its October meeting Council would discuss another councillor co-option.

5274-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor D Johnston (personal).

5275-17 Public Speaking

None.

5276-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5277-17 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 31 August and 20 September 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 31 August and 20 September 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5278-17 Minutes of Committee Meetings

Notes and minutes of working group and committee meetings had been circulated for information. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that these be received.

Resolved:

To receive the notes and minutes of the following meetings:

Planning Committee	31 Aug
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	4 Sept
Community Involvement Committee	11 Sept

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Personnel Committee **18 Sept**

Allotments Working Group **18 Sept**

5279-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

5280-17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Update

Further to Minute 5227-17 a 'Call for Sites' was being undertaken from 1 Sept for 6 weeks. An advert had been placed in the Public Notices in the Herts Advertiser and further publicised on the Council website, noticeboards and through local estate agents. The data from the Housing Needs surveys was being collated and analysed, the various sub groups had met and would report back to the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on 2 October.

Resolved:

To note the report

5281-17 S106 allocations

It was reported that Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements, were a mechanism which made a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable.

S106 agreements were negotiated with the Planning Authority, in our case usually St Albans DC (sometimes HCC eg for minerals plans). The rules on allocating and spending s106 monies were changing. SADC has asked town and parish councils in the district to identify and prioritise projects so they had a list to hand when the opportunity arose. A list of potential projects had been compiled by the District Council with a request that this be expanded and prioritised. This had been circulated some weeks previously.

Suggestions were made. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that this be further debated and agreed at the Community Involvement Committee on 16 October.

Resolved:

That this be further debated and agreed at the Community Involvement Committee on 16 October.

5282-17 Strategic Local Plan Update

It was reported that St Albans Strategic Local Plan (SLP) did not pass the 'duty to cooperate' test. A new local Plan needed to be agreed, identifying a greater housing need. This had ramifications for the Neighbourhood Plan. Reference was made to the presentation made to St Albans District Council Planning Policy Committee on 12 September.

Resolved:

To note the report.

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5283-17 Outdoor Gym

It was reported that a six piece Vario fit gym by Caloo worth £21,000 has been won as agreed at CI committee in June (Minute 5155-17) thanks to the efforts of Councillor Halford and events officer, Ellie Metherell. It was recommended that it be fitted onto grass matting, and that grass matting also be installed either end of the Table Tennis table. This should ease the wear on the grass and hopefully stop the baldness as currently by the table tennis table.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that grass matting be installed beneath the new gym equipment and by the table tennis table at a cost of £1,400.

Resolved:

To thank Councillor Halford and Ellie Metherell for their success in winning £21,000 gym equipment.

To install grass matting beneath the new gym equipment and by the table tennis table at a cost of £1,400.

5284-17 Members' Allowances

It was reported that it was a requirement of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that any Town or Parish Council which proposed to pay a parish basic allowance and/or a travelling and subsistence allowance to any of its members must refer its proposals to a parish remuneration panel for consideration and to have regard to any recommendations. St Albans District council had enquired whether an allowance scheme would be introduced for 2018-19.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Davies and it was agreed, that no basic allowances be paid. Travel allowances outside the parish could be claimed as per district council colleagues in 2018-19.

Resolved:

No basic allowance to be paid for 2018-19

Travel outside the parish may be claimed.

5285-17 1918 – 100th Anniversary commemoration

Consideration was given to ways to commemorate the end of the Great War. Wheathampstead's War had been commemorated in 2014 with a stage production involving many sections of the community. Various tentative suggestions for a permanent feature were considered. A meeting to expand and elaborate ideas was set for 27 October.

Resolved:

To note the report and consider a permanent commemorative feature in the Village

5286-17 Audited Accounts 2016-17

The Accounts for 2016-17 had been returned audited and certified under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. BDO, the

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external auditor had made no comment, there were no matters arising. Both Annual Return and Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been publicly displayed

Councillor Shardlow proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed to accept and approve the audited accounts.

Resolved:

To accept and approve the audited accounts for 2016-17

5287-17 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. The Clerk was to ask SADC/HCC to remove and replace the two dying cherry trees on Marford Road verges. It was noted that the Tennis Club had agreed to the rent review and that this was being incorporated into the revised lease from November 2017; WDPS had signage cleaning in hand; and district councillor Sandra Wood, with Gill Clark's assistance, would report to October Council regarding Sunday bus services.

Resolved:

To note the report and amended priorities.

5288-17 Accounts and Finance Reports

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

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5289-17 Consultations

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the update on the car park at Nomansland opposite West End Farm was supported.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Shardlow, and it was agreed that the consultation response on the Civil Aviation Authority's Post Implementation Review of changes to airspace structure, Brookmans Park RNAV1 be submitted to the CAA. An article to be included in the next Pump newsletter and a public information meeting held in mid November.

Resolved:

To support the car park proposals for the car park on Nomansland opposite West End Farm.

That the consultation response on the Civil Aviation Authority's Post Implementation Review of changes to airspace structure, Brookmans Park RNAV1 be submitted to the CAA.

To include an article on the CAA's PIR to airspace structure in the forthcoming Pump newsletter.

To hold a public information evening on airspace use in November.

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5290-17 Training and reports on training and meetings.

The Clerk's report on training and meetings had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk had attended the CIPFA SE Summer Conference which considered different approaches to workplace situations.

Councillor Clark attended a housing conference run by St Albans District Council.

Councillor Shardlow and the Clerk attended the Katherine Warington School section 10 consultation about the viability of funding the new school. The planning application to HCC was yet to be uploaded to the website thought went live 26 Sept to 31 October. It was agreed that a sub group comprising Councillors Halford, Reason and Shardlow, with County Councillor Brewster look in detail to bring a draft response to Council for approval.

Councillor Haynes and Johnston with the Clerk attended the St Albans and District Association of Local Councils meeting which included a presentation on the SLP. This also presented an opportunity to meet SADC's newly appointed parish engagement/liasion officer. The next meeting would look further at the role of the group.

The Clerk attended the Citizens Advice St Albans (CASTAD) AGM with presentations from a barrister on the Supreme Court's decision on Tribunal Fees, and a CAB researcher on the problems of implementation of Universal Credit.

Councillor Woodhams and the Clerk attended a meeting with Caloo, who were providing and installing the outdoor gym equipment which Council successfully won in their national competition.

Councillor Halford had opened the newly refurbished tennis courts and watched a coaching session on the tennis turf. She also attended the Scouts AGM and learnt of their camping experiences.

Councillor Shardlow attended a Save Symondshyde meeting, and advised that the group had successfully raised some £14,000.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:10

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman