

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Maintenance Committee 20 November 2017- 19:30

Present: Councillors T Reason Chairman
L Halford
S Haynes
P Woodhams
J Warren Clerk to the Council
Press 0
Public 2

5364-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors G Clark, J Booth, E Habib, D Johnston and O McKenzie (personal).

5365-17 Public Speaking

None.

5366-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5367-17 Minutes of the Maintenance Committee of 9 October

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 October 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5368-17 Report of the Maintenance Contractor

The Maintenance Contractor had reported that the following maintenance jobs had been completed:

Baxendale hedge
Ramp at East Meads bridge
Marford football pavilion down pipe
Forge gutter repaired and cleaned out
Parish footpaths grass cutting complete
Parish hedges cut
Flailing at Folly done but some tidying up to complete

Outstanding jobs included:

Loosefill top up for play areas
ELCP kerb
Bench and seat repairs

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The remainder of jobs from last month's meeting

He recommended that the back hedge at Cherry Tree Lane by the common land be cut and cleared of dumped garden rubbish, in the expectation that this would discourage further dumping.

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason, and it was agreed that the Maintenance Contractor be thanked for his clear and concise report, and that the hedge at Cherry Tree Lane be cut back and the garden rubbish cleared.

Resolved:

- **To thank the Maintenance Contractor for his clear and concise report**
- **To undertake works as recommended by the Maintenance Contractor.**

5369-17 Work of Rangers, open spaces management

The ranger for Rectory Copse reported that the brush piles had now been removed.

The Meads Ranger reported that the elders round the newly planted white poplars and field maples on the North Meads had been cut back, as had regrowth of holly in previously cleared areas. Additional mowing of the South Meads had been undertaken because of the weather. The Forge padlock had been replaced and keys issued to keyholders. The additional bin and regular volunteer litterpicks had significantly reduced the litter problem in this area. Three planks forming the table surface of one of the picnic benches had been stolen. This premeditated crime had been reported by the office to the police.

By arrangement with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Japanese visitors had visited the Meads to view the work along the river and at East Lane Car Park. Low-hanging branches had been pruned to reduce litter collection in the river. The Flood Consent forms for bank erosion works submitted by the office had been received by the Environment Agency.

Eddie Cornell had successfully persuaded the Environment Agency to clear the blockage of flotsam at the Mill boom.

Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency requesting more regular clearance of the Mill boom. The blockages caused by the flotsam which collected as a result of the weir improvements designed to reduce flooding were also very unsightly in the centre of the Village conservation area.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports..**
- **To write to the Environment Agency regarding the build up of debris in the Village centre conservation area and blocking the river at the Mill boom.**

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5370-17 Treework and vegetation management.

It was reported that Ringway would be removing the two dead/dying cherry trees on Marford Road, but that budget did not allow for replacement. Treework on the Hill near the Four Limes had been completed.

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed, that the two cherry trees on Marford Road be replaced subject to permission from the Highway Authority and budget provision.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports**
- **That the two cherry trees on Marford Road be replaced subject to permission from the Highway Authority and budget provision.**

5371-17 Heritage Trail leaflets

It was reported that supplies of Heritage Trail leaflets were all but gone. Amendments to the original document had been submitted

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed that 10,000 amended copies be reprinted at a cost of £1,651.

Resolved:

That 10,000 copies of amended Heritage Trail leaflets be reprinted at a cost of £1,651.

5372-17 Memorial Hall maintenance

Following the incident of the blocked sinks and taps being turned full on in the gents' toilets, resulting in flooding of the library corridor, library and toilets the police suggested CCTV images could have helped identify the perpetrators. The current CCTV, installed in 2008 was no longer fit for purpose. Images were unlikely to be helpful.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the outdated CCTV system covering the Memorial Hall was no longer fit for purpose . Councillor Haynes and the Clerk to investigate a replacement system for installation.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports.**
- **Councillor Haynes and the Clerk to investigate a replacement CCTV system for installation in the Memorial Hall**

5373-17 Rights of Way Clearance contracts

It was reported that Hertfordshire County Council was looking to outsource and tender for mowing and strimming of the Rights of Way. Wheathampstead Parish Council's contractor had expressed an interest in further information.

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The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that in principal the Parish Council supported further investigation of the contract terms.

Resolved:

In principal the Parish Council supported further investigation of the contract terms.

5374-17 Budget report

Noted.

5375-17 Budget items for 2018-19

A discussion of possible projects for budget consideration ensued including reprinting of wider walks and the countryside walks leaflets, CCTV, noticeboards, playgrade woodchip, UPVC replacement windows for the Marford Football Pavilion, items related to the new General Data Protection Regulations, posts/fence at Rectory Meadows and Maltings Drive.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:00

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman