

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

29 June 2017 – 20:00

Present:	Councillors	D Johnston	Chairman
		G Clark	
		D Davies	
		E Habib	
		S Haynes	
		T Reason	
		J Shardlow	
		J Warren	Clerk to the Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

5182-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Dante, L Halford and P Woodhams (personal).

5183-17 Public Speaking

Mrs Ireson circulated a report and spoke of her concerns about green ring-tailed parakeets living and breeding in Marshalls Heath Lane. Subject to no objection from the Parish Council, and at her own cost she wished to leaflet her neighbours.

Their increasing numbers and distribution was a cause of concern to both RSPB and HMWT, advice was for residents to stop feeding birds in their gardens for at least 3 weeks and keep food waste secure: the aim being to displace the parakeets who may seek ready food supplies elsewhere. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Natural England authorised their control under licence GL06.

Mrs Ireson was asked to submit an article for inclusion in the Pump newsletter to notify the wider Wheathampstead community.

5184-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

Councillor Dante declared a personal interest in Minute 5189-17 because of his employer's links to the aircraft industry. He did not take part in the debate.

5185-17 Minutes of Council

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 May 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 May 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5186-17 Minutes of Committee Meetings

None.

5187-17 Plans referred from Planning Committee

None.

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5188-17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Update

It was reported that the initial housing needs survey responses had been received and the data input. Analysis revealed a 20% return with age profile approximating that for the Village. However, a number of postcode areas were missing responses. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that 550 addresses be direct mailed with reply paid envelopes asking that a survey be returned if not previously completed.

Resolved:

To direct mail postcode areas where there had been a negligible return of housing needs survey responses.

5189-17 Consultations

The draft response to the CAA Airspace Design Guidance as circulated was discussed. Councillor Shardlow was thanked for her contribution. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the consultation response be approved and submitted.

Resolved:

To approve and submit the consultation response to the CAA on Airspace Design Guidance.

5190-17 Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

Further to Minute 5120-17 no election had been called following the notice of vacancy for a parish councillor upon the resignation of Councillor Brewster.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the process for co-option as circulated and previously used be adopted. The vacancy be advertised and nominees invited to present prior to September Council.

Resolved:

To advertise a vacancy for co-option, applicants to be invited to present themselves for co-option prior to September Council.

5191-17 Holcroft Springs – consideration of application for a Modification Order to amend the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way in Wheathampstead

Further to Minute 5172-17 the Chairman proposed and it was agreed that Wheathampstead Parish Council supported the implementation of a Public Right of Way around Holcroft Springs.

Resolved:

That Wheathampstead Parish Council supported the implementation of a Public Right of Way around Holcroft Springs.

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5192-17 Wheathampstead Champions Award

Further to Minute 5134-17 the Councillor Clark proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed that the Wheathampstead Champions Awards be launched. This was to recognise the efforts put in by volunteers on behalf of the community, be it looking after vulnerable residents, maintaining the open spaces, or organising village events. Village Groups to be asked to nominate individuals for the green award, the Parish Council to determine recipients for the gold award, these to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Further information would be available on the Council's website.

Resolved:

To instate a Wheathampstead Champions Award comprising 'green' and 'gold' award levels.

5193-17 Project and Task Review

The list of projects and tasks was discussed. Improved finance reports, instruction of an architect to advise on redesign of the Memorial Hall, registration of Parish Council owned land, obtaining credit card facilities and the Neighbourhood Plan were prioritised.

Resolved:

To note the report and amended priorities.

5194-17 Accounts and Finance Reports

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

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5195-17 Reports on training and meetings.

Councillor Shardlow reported on her attendance at the LADACAN and Save Symondshyde AGMs, both of which she found useful.

Councillor Clark reported that SADC had responded to local concerns expressed in the consultation about electric taxis in St Albans. Amongst these concerns was access to and availability of charge points and the perceived advantage non electric vehicles would have. Any timescale for installing charge points and requirement for all local taxis to be electric had been deferred.

She further reported that Oaklands College had been granted a zoo licence for wild animal husbandry and that she had attended licencing training.

The Clerk had circulated reports on the Herts Forward Conference which looked at how public agencies and local authorities could work together to develop preventative strategies, and the Public Sector Show which covered devolution, government led projects and their impact on local government, and an opportunity to source new suppliers through the Crown Commercial Services.

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Councillor Johnston had met with a subgroup of the Wheathampstead Warriors running group who hoped to mark up a grass running track if a bespoke one was not possible. Councillor Johnston had advised that the surface of the running track at Westminster Lodge had disintegrated and was prohibitively expensive to replace.

He had also, together with Councillor Shardlow, attended a meeting on aircraft noise.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:45

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman