

## Wheathampstead Parish Council

### Maintenance Committee 25 June 2018 19:30

Present: Councillors D Johnston Chairman  
L Halford  
S Haynes  
T Reason  
P Woodhams

J Warren Clerk to the Council  
Press 0  
Public 0

#### **5681-18 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors G Clark and T Ryan (personal).

#### **5682-18 Public Speaking**

None.

#### **5683-18 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

None.

#### **5684-18 Minutes of the Maintenance Committee of 14 May**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 be approved.

##### **Resolved:**

**To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 May 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

#### **5685-18 Terms of Reference**

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Halford, and it was agreed that the Committee Terms of Reference as circulated and amended be recommended for approval by Council.

##### **Resolved**

**That the Committee Terms of Reference as circulated and amended be recommended for approval by Council.**

#### **5686-18 Report of the Maintenance Contractor**

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

- Repair of benches by the tennis courts and picnic benches on East Meads
- Filling in of pot holes at the Old 16<sup>th</sup> Green car park
- hedge cutting.

## **Wheathampstead Parish Council**

It was reported that tractor access to Marford Fields was often impeded by vehicles parked on the access to the Scout Hut. Some were thought to belong to staff of the nursery school. This problem was compounded by the Thames Water hedge being very overgrown.

The arrival of an unauthorised traveller encampment on Butterfield Playing Fields/ nature Reserve on the evening of Friday 22 June was reported. Enforcement was being progressed, County, District and Parish councils and Hertfordshire Police working in partnership. Hertfordshire County Council, as landowner, had been able to swiftly begin the process of proving ownership.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the Clerk contact Thames Water and the Rainbow Nursery to seek assistance in improving tractor access.

### **Resolved:**

**To approve the tasks as recommended above.**

#### **5687-18 Work of Rangers, open spaces management**

The Rectory Copse Ranger reported that the vegetation by the path adjacent to the crinkle crinkle wall needed cutting back once more, and that the understory was becoming very overgrown.

The ranger for Bower Heath had reported unauthorised chain sawing.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that reports of unauthorised chain sawing at Bower Heath be investigated, and that Wheathampstead Open Space Volunteers be asked to tidy the understorey at Rectory Copse.

### **Resolved:**

- **To note the reports.**
- **To investigate the reports of unauthorised chain sawing at Bower Heath.**
- **To request that the Wheathampstead Open Space Volunteers be asked to tidy the understorey at Rectory Copse.**

#### **5688-18 Tree work and vegetation management.**

A resident's request had been received to alter the management of the Railway Sidings, that it is to regularly close-mow a swathe of grass near the path and to allow the remainder of the area to grow more naturally.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to manage the Railway Sidings as a meadow with clearly defined mown edges. The area to be fully mown, and arisings lifted, in the autumn prior to the station event.

Residents had requested that the trees opposite 7 Brocket View be pruned as they restricted light. The Chairman proposed, and it was

## **Wheathampstead Parish Council**

agreed to prune the ends of the lower branches of the London Plane tree so the lamps shone as designed onto the road.

Concerns had been raised about the maintenance of the verge along The Hill adjacent to the Four Limes including the 'dead' tree stump. Tree work had been undertaken as a joint venture between county, district and parish councils and volunteers with the undertaking that once complete residents would maintain it. The pollarded tree was clearly regenerating from its base. It was believed to be the last surviving lime after which the Four Limes were named. The tree would be reassessed in a year. Residents to be contacted regarding general maintenance and 'weed' control.

### **Resolved:**

- **To approve the mowing and tree work as specified.**
- **to reassess the remaining lime tree in a year's time.**

### **5689-18 Memorial Hall maintenance and refurbishment progress**

There were no specific items to report.

### **5690-18 Footpaths**

Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Reason, and it was agreed to request Hertfordshire County Council to hard top the part of FP67 which was subject to becoming very boggy and to repair or replace the fencing where the path ran adjacent to the Cory Wright Way. Residents whose Sheepcote Lane properties abounded FP73 to be asked to prune their hedges as the path's width was becoming severely restricted.

### **Resolved:**

- **To ask Hertfordshire County Council to hard top the part of FP67 which was subject to becoming very boggy and to repair or replace the fencing where the path ran adjacent to the Cory Wright Way.**
- **To request Sheepcote Lane residents whose properties abounded FP73 to prune their hedges.**

### **5691-18 Marford Football Pavilion.**

Further to Minutes 5551-18 and 5639-18 it was agreed to look holistically at the pavilion rather than the doors in isolation. The matter to be referred to a later meeting.

### **Resolved:**

**To defer to a later meeting.**

### **5692-18 Type one topping for entrances to the river**

The Meads Ranger's report on the river bank anti erosion project had been circulated. The loose gravel laid at the access points had been significantly depleted both by children and adults throwing stones, often for dogs, into the river, or taken in buckets and piled on the field creating problems whilst mowing. compacted Type One was recommended. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed, that the entry point

## **Wheathampstead Parish Council**

downstream and nearest the bridge and most depleted, be filled with compacted Type One.

**Resolved:**

**To fill the river entry point downstream and nearest the bridge with compacted Type One at a cost of £50.**

**5693-18 Use of Memorial Hall car park – 4 November 2018**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to approve the request that attendees at the Beech Hyde fireworks evening be permitted to park in the Memorial Hall car park free of charge, there being no hall bookings on Sunday 4 November.

**Resolved:**

**To approve the request that attendees of the Beech Hyde fireworks**

**5694-18 Field use request**

A request to use the field for a business start-up fitness class for mums and babies was considered. This was regarded as an exciting new venture. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to charge £20 per week to be reviewed after three months, after which the expectation was that business would be viable and then a more commercial rate would be charged.

**Resolved:**

**To approve charges for the use of the field for a start-up fitness class for mums and babies.**

**5695-18 Shelves for Tithe Barn garage**

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed to purchase 10 shelving sets at £45 +vat each for storage use in the Tithe barn garage.

**Resolved:**

**To purchase 10 sets of shelving at £45 +vat each for the Tithe Barn garage.**

**5696-18 Budget report**

**Resolved:**

**To note the report.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:10**

**Dated this                      day of                      2018**

**Chairman**