

Wheathampstead Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council: Julia Warren

22 September 2015

To Members of the Committee **Cllrs G Clark, A Dante, L Halford, S Haynes, D Johnston, T Reason, J Shardlow, P Woodhams**

Other councillors for information
Notice of Meeting

You are hereby summoned to a **Meeting of the Maintenance Committee** to be held in the **Hewitt Room** on **Monday at 28 September 2015 at 7.30pm.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julia Warren', is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Julia Warren
Clerk to the Council

Agenda

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Speaking**
- 3 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
- 4 Minutes of Maintenance Committee meeting of 20 July 2015**
- 5 Report from Maintenance Contractor**
Detail of works undertaken, feedback on any issues encountered and ideas
- 6 Work of rangers, open spaces management**
Ranger reports and working groups
- 7 Friends of Station sidings - proposal**
Consideration of proposals brought as a public item to the July meeting.
Recommendation from friends group – no mowing from 2016 season
- 8 Treework and vegetation management**
Recommendation to remove some of the huge laurel adjacent and obstructing the Mead Hall cost estimate £675-£900
To approve purchase and planting of a rowan tree on the station platform bank, Station Road, as part of tree planning conditions post felling of sycamore, estimate £100
Update on other tree and vegetation works.
- 9 Melissa Field**
To report the unauthorised vehicular access to the field, now blocked by concrete agglomerate.
Reports have also been received from adjacent horse field tenant of

unauthorised access by fishermen and damage to fence and electric fence which has permitted horses to escape onto the Lower Luton Road. This is extremely dangerous both for the animals and for traffic. The tenant requested that the fence boundary be mown to delineate it from Melissa

There have been several incidents of unauthorised fishing here – effectively net trawling the river and indiscriminately removing all fish caught. There are concerns that fish populations are being effected.
The Environment Agency enforcement team, working with the police, have undertaken number of night time evening patrols

Recommendation: That temporary signage advising no vehicular access and removal of fish be made permanent

That the mowing regime for Melisa specifically additional boundary edge clearance be considered

10 Devil's Dyke

Report of meeting with Rights of Way officer on 28 Sept

11 Criminal Damage, vandalism etc

To report that various acts of theft and criminal damage have occurred, bench seats been taken from the picnic benches on the Meads, tennis club fence vandalised and graffiti. The Maintenance contractor cleaned the graffiti to the Marford path and youth shelter and has been asked to replace the wooden picnic bench seats. Following a visit with the police it is confirmed that all seats were tampered with. Localised CCTV was considered

12 Archery request

Recommendation to approve the Archery club's request to replace their storage hut.

13 Play areas

To report that the Maintenance Contractor has been asked to refill woodchip at Rectory Meadows and that the toddler swing seat at Maltings Drive has been decommissioned as unsafe. It is anticipated that the entire play area will soon be refurbished, cost of new seat approx. £130

Recommendation – to CI committee that consultation on new play area at Maltings Drive, funded by s106 from Development Centre, be undertaken. A seat be purchased which following refurbishment may be kept as a spare

14 Marford Pavilion

Recommendation: to note that the Maintenance contractor was asked at the end of August to make good and paint the window frames before winter set in

15 Memorial Hall

Update on maintenance works including painting, plumbing and wasps.

16 Bench request

Recommendation to approve the request to install a commemorative bench on the Meads. Details to be delegated to Clerk and Chairman

17 Consideration of Maintenance Contractor contract

Contract period near conclusion

18 Open Spaces Signage

Awaiting report from Cllr Shardlow

19 Budget Review