

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Rights of Ways and Common Committee

Tuesday 16th December 2008

Present: Cllrs. N. Page (Chairman), J. Burgess, D. Hills, S. Walford, A. Waterfield and K. Stammers with apologies for late arrival 8.15pm

In Attendance: Assistant Clerk, Mrs. I. Casper

1) **To receive and accept apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

2) **To confirm the minutes of committee meeting 9th September 2008**

RESOLVED that the minutes, which had been previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman updated members on the actions from the minutes.

Waddling Lane – this item is going forward slowly.

The horse hop will be installed by our contractor imminently. The next step will be to erect bollards on the footpath.

All scheduled hedge cutting has been done.

The track to the scout hut has been sprayed and cutting of car park area has stopped, will be resumed in 2009.

The trees at the Development Centre - the Chairman discussed TPO's with the District Council Officer when fencing was put around the site, the trees have not been marked.

Turners Hall Farm – A contractor is installing a motorbike inhibitor.

Wood Edge is ongoing, awaiting an updated quotation from Hartons.

Cllr. Stammers arrived 8.15pm.

3) **Proposed change of name of committee to Environment Committee**

The Chairman opened the discussion regarding the change of name of this committee. This idea had been discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, the name 'Rights of Way and Commons' is looked on as old fashioned and its brief may not be understood by parishioners. This committee was originally called 'footpaths'. The name was changed to stop confusion with the Highways committee, over the definition of footpaths and footways.

Members then discussed all aspects of the meaning of the term 'environment', and what terms of reference the committee would cover, the change must be defined. The Parish Council does not have a committee that covers green policies, recycling and pollution, these items could be incorporated into the objectives of an Environment Committee.

The Chairman proposed that the name of this committee be changed to the 'Environment Committee'

Vote For 3 Against 2 Abstentions 1

RESOLVED that the name of the Rights of Way and Commons Committee be changed to 'Environment Committee'.

RESOLVED that committee members check the committee's objectives and discuss changes/additions at the next committee meeting. Terms of reference of the Environment Committee to be defined before the Annual Parish Meeting.

4) **To consider the budget for 2009/2010**

The Chairman circulated a document showing the proposed budget for 2009/2010.

4) continued.....

Members discussed each item.

The Chairman made a proposal for item 8 (list attached)

The Chairman proposed – that this committee is sympathetic to the principle of collaborating with District Council on the appointment of a Warden to be responsible for Nomansland and Commons within Wheathampstead Parish.

Vote For 3 Against 3.

The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED that item 8, the joint appointment with St. Albans District Council of a Warden to look after Nomansland Common and the Wheathampstead Parish Council's Common and Open Spaces remains in the budget for 2009/2010.

The committee then approved the budget for 2009/2010. (Budget sheet attached).

5) **To confirm the date of the next meeting**

Confirmed that the next meeting is to take place on 24th February 2009.