

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Environment / Rights of Way & Commons  
Committee  
24 February 2009, 20.03h**

Present	Councillors:	N Page	Chairman
		A Brewster	
		J Burgess	
		D Hills	
		S Stammers	
		S Walford	
		A Waterfield	
		M Carter	P3 CMS
		Julia Warren	Parish Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

**111-09 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**

None – all present.

**112-09 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**113-09 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**114-09 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2009 were approved.

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2009 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**115-09 FENCING AT LONG MEADOW**

Mr Thompson of Welwyn Garden City emailing from campaigns. local had requested that Council review the barbed wire fence adjacent to the footpath at Long Meadow. He and his colleagues were unable to attend the meeting but had stated that it obstructed the view from a public bench.

This matter had been discussed at the 9 September 2008 Meeting

(Minute 1) at which Hertfordshire County Council footpaths officer, Countryside Management Service (CMS) representative, farmer/landowner and a complainant (K Cheetham) were present. Mr Carter confirmed that Mr Thompson had also contacted the CMS and Wildlife Trust recently.

The meeting of 9 September 2008 records, and this, **it** was reiterated on 24 February 2009, that voles are present in this stretch of river. Disturbance of the river banks would not be encouraged by environmental type groups, and landowners were not required to allow public access to other than designated parts, eg footpaths, of their land. Members did not believe that Mr Lamb, farmer and landowner of this land over which the footpath ran, was incorrect in constructing a wire fence on his own land; a fence which restricted access to the river bank but not visibility or obstruction to the footpath.

**Resolved: Clerk to write to Mr Thompson advising that the footpath ran over private land over which the farmer was entitled to restrict access, and that Wheathampstead Parish Council would be interested to hear the outcome of his varying lines of enquiry over this footpath fencing.**

#### **116-09 BUDGET 2009 -10**

A breakdown of the budget as requested to the Finance Committee in January and the approved budget from Council (Minute 42-09) had been circulated in order to agree a programme of works. The detail of this was deferred to next financial year.

Councillor Stammers suggested that a simple project planning tool/template be used. Councillor Burgess offered to assist with delivery. Mr Carter offered partnership working with CMS.

Use of the £1,000 CMS P3 grant for 2008-9 was discussed and the application completed and handed to Mr Carter.

**Resolved:**

- 1 To note the report and defer consideration of projects to 2009-10.**
- 2 To note the suggested use of a project planning tool.**
- 3 To thank and accept Councillor Burgess' offer of assistance with project delivery**
- 4 To thank and accept the offer to work with CMS.**
- 5 To submit a grant application to P3, for £1,000, towards the cost of a 1 metre wide hard surface path from Abbot John Mews to Mount Road .**

#### **117-09 ST ALBANS DISTRICT COUNCIL GREEN TRAVEL PLAN CONSULATION**

