

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Highways & Public Transport Committee

Monday 15th December 2008

Present: Cllrs. N. D. Clements (Chairman), I. Begg, D. Hills, & G. Clark with apologies for late arrival 8.10pm

In attendance: Assistant Clerk, Mrs. I. Casper

The meeting started at 8pm

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

Cllr. Waterfield (work). The reasons for absence were accepted by the committee.

2) **To confirm the minutes of meeting 22nd July 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.

3) **Village Signage - WDPS**

This item deferred to the next meeting, which members of the WDPS will attend.

Cllr. Clark arrived 8.10pm

4) **Clamping Sign – Folly Fields**

The committee RESOLVED that the clamping sign at Folly Fields should remain in place. Action – Clerk to inform Mrs. Loch.

5) **Amwell Farm entrance track**

The Chairman updated members on the recent proposal by residents to tarmac the track at the entrance to Amwell Farm. This track is owned by Wheathampstead Parish Council. Originally the residents involved were going to fund this surfacing themselves. The residents then approached the Parish Council for funding, this was turned down. This item is now closed.

6) **Footway adjacent to 29 Garrard Way**

The Chairman informed members that this footway is very overgrown and has not been walked for 15/20 years. The Parish Council is not directly involved with this issue; it is a matter for the District Council and HCC. Cllr. Hills proposed that we have no objection to the footway being closed by County, seconded Cllr. Clements. Vote For 2 Against 0 abstentions 2.

The committee RESOLVED that they have no objection to this footway being closed.

7) **Erection of Sign at Abbott John Mews**

The Chairman reported that the District Council have this in hand and the sign should be in place soon.

8) **Necton Road - Update**

The Chairman updated members on the situation at Necton Road.

There had been a public meeting and highway engineers had put two proposals to residents to help resolve the problems in this area. The residents had not liked either solution. One idea had been to make Necton Road one way traffic on side 1 and two-way traffic on side 2. The Police Traffic Management Unit had vetoed this proposal. The outcome is that changes will be made to the yellow lining; this will help clear sight lines in the Conquerors Hill area.

Cllr. Begg asked the Chairman if residents were happy with this.

The Chairman believes HCC are going to correspond with residents, he will confirm this with Rupert Thacker.

9) **East Lane Car Park - Update**

The Chairman informed members that the Parish Council have been asking for over 10 years to lease the extra bit of land adjacent to the existing car park. This area of land is owned by District Council.

The District Council Car Park Working Party has been carrying out a survey of every car park in the district. Interim figures had been circulated to all members of the committee. The figures show that on one day in July 81 cars had parked – the car park has capacity for 88.

Cllr. Begg wanted to know the objective of the district wide car park survey.

The Chairman reported that the survey is taking place mainly to ascertain capacity/parking in St. Albans and Harpenden.

The committee then discussed the lack of parking in the village, especially with a view to the arrival of Tesco's.

The committee discussed the problems that might occur by putting more tarmac in the flood plain area, i.e. possible downstream flooding.

The committee RESOLVED that a letter goes to the District Council asking if the Parish Council can lease the land adjacent to the East Lane Car Park on a temporary basis, to be used for car parking, and that the Parish Council is aware of problems with run off and will take expert advice on this. Action Clerk.

The committee discussed the problem of overhanging trees causing sight line problems for drivers coming out from the area of East Lane flats.

The committee RESOLVED that a letter is sent to the District Council asking for the trees on their land to be cut back on safety grounds. Action Clerk.

10) **DRAFT for Village Plan**

The Chairman had circulated to all members of the committee a draft on highways issues for the Village Plan. (Copy attached).

Members went through the plan item by item and made some amendments and additions. Action – Cllr. Clements to update and circulate final draft to members.

During this item members discussed the Lorry Ban Zone, which is ineffective at the moment. Cllr. Clements informed members that the Highways Panel of which he is a member should come up with a solution to this ongoing problem. He will report any solution back to members. With these changes the committee approved the draft.

11) **Budget for 2009/2010**

The committee RESOLVED that the budget for the Highways and Public Transport Committee for 2009/2010 is £29,000. Budget sheet attached.

The committee RESOLVED that the seats with planting areas are to be restocked with winter plants. Action Clerk.

12) **Correspondence – (letters and e-mails not listed above)**

The Chairman reported that he had replied to an e-mail regarding incidents on Brewhouse Hill. The e-mail and his response had been circulated to all members of the committee.

13) **Christmas Lights**

Cllr. Clark said the Christmas Lights were wonderful this year.

Cllr. Hills reported that they were on 24 hours a day.

Action – Clerk to contact the Lighting Company and instruct them to re-set the timers.

14) **Date of next meeting**

The committee agreed the next meeting date - 10th February 2009, 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

