

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 29th May 2008 at the Memorial Hall, Wheathampstead

Present: Cllrs. K. Stammers (Chairman), I. Begg, A. Brewster, J. Burgess, G. Clark, N. D. Clements, L. Hobden, N. Page, J. Turner, S. Walford & A. Waterfield

Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Hills who left after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

In Attendance: The Clerk, Mrs. B. Green

- 1) **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Clark declared an interest as she is on Plans North of the District Planning Authority. The way she votes at Parish Council will not necessarily be the way she votes at District Council.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes which had been circulated, were taken as read. Cllr. Turner proposed they be adopted, seconded Cllr. Clements. SO RESOLVED.
- 3) **Public Speaking**

Mr. Partington addressed members about the Parish Council's decision to fund a PCSO. He noticed from the minutes that the vote had been very close - 6 in favour 5 against. He called upon the Chairman to place a motion before the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity to advise Hertfordshire Constabulary that "this Parish Council will not renew PCSO funding unless and until the Constabulary provides clear evidence that this Parish has received and will continue to receive no less favourable treatment than any other parish within the Constabulary boundary". He said that this would demonstrate to the electorate that the Parish Council has obtained best value for money with the funding of the PCSO. Mr. Partington (who had raised this matter at the Annual Parish Meeting), left copies of his statement to be circulated to all members and reported that it would be made available to the press.

Cllr. Turner proposed that this statement would be brought up at the next Police Liaison Committee, seconded Cllr. Stammers. SO RESOLVED.

Donna Bigg – Guides has been restarted in the village and has been running for 18 months. The Group has been using the Scout Hut on a Friday evening but this facility will no longer be available after Christmas as the scouts will need it. The Kimpton Guides use the Kimpton Memorial Hall and go on hikes if the hall is in use. She asked whether the Parish Council had any ideas of alternative accommodation.

Rick Sanderson (WDPS) – Very concerned about the loading bay regarding the Tesco Express application, parking problems which will be caused if the application is approved. He thought that the barrier from East Lane to Brocket View could be opened up. The WDPS would like the Parish Council to take up the parking/unloading problems with the District Council planners.
- 4) **Nomansland Common** – Nothing further to report. Next meeting will be in July.
- 5) **Meads – Underground Cables** – Cllr. Page reported that the suggested area for the switch box has been slightly moved. It is just off the right of way to Wrights Field close to the sewage works. This will allow easy access for repairs. Trees and rubbish need to be cleared. Cllr. Page asked members to meet on Sunday morning 1st June, 9.45pm, to inspect the suggested area.

- 6) Hillyke Centre – Cllr. Brewster reported that Sherry Roberts is doing very well. A new name for the Lamer Fields building is being sought and unit is in need of painting. Youth workers are looking at running a summer scheme.
- 7) Luton Airport – New Flight Routes – The consultation period has now been extended to 19th June 2009. Telephone numbers where residents can complain regarding noisy aircraft will be published in the next Pump.
- 8) York Stone – This needs cleaning now – in particular the area near The Mill steps where the planters are and by Jessamine Garage. The Clerk was informed that the District Council is short staffed at the present time but once the department is organised the York Stone will be put on a schedule for cleaning.
- 9) Clerk's Salary – A representative has met the Clerk and will now meet members of the working party.
- 10) Village Sign – The new design is in hand.
- 11) Village Off-Licence – Cllr. Clark, as a District Councillor was asked to make representation to the planning department as to how this shop could be made safe from burglaries. It is far better to have a building in use than one which is empty.
- 12) CORRESPONDENCE
 - a) Letter from Mr. Rickard concerning the removal of the door from the Victorian letter box on The Hill. Clerk is in correspondence with the Post Office who are “looking into the matter”. Cllr. Clements proposed a letter be sent to the St. Albans District Council Conservation Department, seconded Cllr. Turner. SO RESOLVED.
 - b) Noted receipt of letter from KFH Property Ltd regarding land behind Cherry Trees Restaurant and their intention to submit a planning application to demolish the outbuildings and erect a 3-4 bed house.
 - c) Receipt of Grant application form from the police. This was passed to the Youth Committee.
 - d) Noted receipt of CPRE Hertfordshire Newsletter.
 - e) Noted receipt of letter from the Wheathampstead Cricket Club regarding a grant to help with equipment for the Colts. (This had already been agreed by the Youth Committee).
 - f) E-mails have been received from a gentleman living near Turin in Italy, enquiring as to whether the Parish Council would be interested in twinning with his small village. An article will be published in The Pump requesting feed back from readers.
 - g) Request for permission from the Scout Group, to let off fireworks on the Marford Field near the Scout Hut on 5th November 2008. This was unanimously agreed. The Scouts have a current Public Liability Insurance

Noted that the Community Trust Football Scheme will be restarting next week and a special Launch Event will be held here in the Hewitt Room on Thursday 5th June at 7pm. All members are invited.

Noted receipt of a letter from Mr. Adams regarding the 'balance sheet' given out at the Annual Parish Meeting and also the salaries of the office staff and Marford Road Safety. A letter of reply will be sent.

Clerk's Note: It was not a balance sheet presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, but an expenses and income list showing where the Parish Council spends and receives its money.

13) PLANNING

5/08/1008 67 The Hill – demolish garage and erect two storey side ext.

Note: This is in the Conservation Area.

Cllr. Turner proposed Recommend Refusal – would be overbearing on the street scene, seconded Cllr. Hobden. Vote For the proposal 6 against 4. CARRIED.

5/08/1131 Elephant & Castle PH – smoking shelter in adult garden.

Note: This is in a Conservation Area.

Cllr. Clements proposed No Objection, seconded Cllr. Begg. AGREED.

14) COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Village Day - 22nd April 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes (herewith) and they were accepted.

b) Rights of Way and Commons - 14th May 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes (herewith) and they were accepted.

The Chairman drew members attention to a Working Party at Marshalls Heath on 6th July at 10am to remove ragwort. He explained that this plant must be pulled out every year.

c) Planning Committee - 19th May 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes (herewith) which were adopted.

Members were very concerned that although they are hoping a Tesco Express will open in the village, not enough attention has been given to the unloading of delivery vehicles and the extra space needed for car parking.

It was proposed that the Parish Council approaches the District Council to request that a condition is imposed on any permission granted to ensure that Tesco fund the extension of the East Lane Car Park into the small area of land owned by the District Council. In addition we should ask that the off-loading situation be considered and also the cleaning of the shop front.

Cllr. Clements had prepared a detailed paper on this subject. The topic of delivery to the store must be ironed out. He wondered if the company had smaller delivery vehicles. He thought the Parish Council should ask Tesco to come to speak to them. Proposed Cllr. Clements, seconded Cllr. Turner that additional wording be added. "that the Highways Authority opens Brocket View to through traffic making the 50 metres from the High Street one way inward only". This was agreed unanimously.

d) Village Plan – 19th May 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes (herewith) which were accepted.

e) Memorial Management Committee – 20th May 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes (herewith). He explained that the quotations had been received for the roof repairs and although monies had been set aside in the budget, more would be needed to carry out the works (£60,100).

He therefore asked for £30,000 from reserves. Cllr. Turner strongly supported the proposal. The hall is a community asset and the roof repairs cannot be deferred again. Vote in favour – unanimous.

It was agreed unanimously that the Memorial Hall minutes be altered to read “There was a short list of two companies”.

e) Playing Fields Committee – 27th May 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes which were accepted.

The Tennis Club rent will be £1500 for the next five year.

The Club had paid for the resurfacing work on the courts as the Playing Fields committee had no money in its budget for this work. If the Parish Council had agreed to pay for the works it would have been able to claim the vat. Cllr. Begg proposed, seconded Cllr. Turner that the Parish Council repays the money to the Club over the next two years. Cllr Waterfield proposed an amendment, “that we repay the Tennis Club the sum they have spent on the paint and maintenance of the courts without vat, paying half in 2009 and half in 2010”. Cllr. Begg accepted the amendment, Vote in favour 10. CARRIED.

f) Report from Cllr. Clements

13th May HAPTC Plans Committee

Formalised responses previously agreed in principle on travellers etc.

28th May Parish Conference

This could be summarised as a talking shop about a talking shop.

What should replace the old Parish Liaison Committee.

(The old cannot be re-instated since the Council Leader can not lose face). The new conference will be held during the day (probably Fri 17th Oct) and will be chaired by The Mayor. It will have no powers but will have “influence”.

Topics covered and membership will be as before (so why change?).

There were no questions and the notes were accepted.

- 15) Consideration of the Council becoming a member of the Local Council Advisory Service. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council did not become a member as we would not benefit greatly, seconded Cllr. Turner. Vote 7 in favour of the proposal. Cllr. Clements abstained.
- 16) Headed Paper – Cllr. Page proposed that the words, “Charter Granted AD 1060” should be removed from all future printing of headed paper, seconded Cllr. Turner. Vote 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.
- 17) Accounts for payment – The following accounts were passed for payment. (Copy herewith).