

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 26th June 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. D. Stock
Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 14th February 2001

Mr. Meischke proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Knight seconded the motion, and Mr. Poulton was in favour.

3 Matter arising

Internal decorations

The internal decoration work has been completed.

4 Approval of the Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001

McCash and Hay have completed their audit of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001, which the Trustees viewed.

Recommendation: The Parish Council accepts the audit of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001

5 Grant for MPPA

SQ Environmental Trust Limited has agreed to grant-aid £6,000 towards the MPPA resurfacing project.

Mr. Poulton said that the whole MPPA resurfacing project had been carried-out with grant money and had not required any funding from the Parish Council (and therefore at no cost to rate payers).

The grants received are as follows:	Lottery	£3,225
	EHDC	£2,593
	SQ Environmental Trust	<u>£6,000</u>
	Total	<u>£11,818</u>

This amount excludes VAT, which is recoverable.

6 Opening of MPPA

The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday 1st July, following the Community Service. The Community Service is to be held at 10.30 am, therefore the anticipated time for the opening ceremony is between 11.30 am and 12 noon.

Mr. Poulton said that Nigel Copping (Vice-Chairman of EHDC) and Mrs. Betty Goble (SQ Environmental Trust Limited) have agreed to open the MPPA. They will also be attending the Community Service.

Mr. Poulton said that he had purchased a ribbon, which will be placed across the entrance to the MPPA. Nigel Copping and Betty Goble will cut this simultaneously during the opening ceremony.

Ian Vosper (Watton-at-Stone Tennis Club) will arrange for a small group of children to play tennis on the MPPA from about 11.30 pm.

The Trustees agreed that champagne, wine, soft drinks and ‘nibbles’ should be provided. Mr. Meischke said that he could provide the champagne and wine on a sale or return basis. Mr. Poulton could purchase the soft drinks and ‘nibbles’.

Recommendation: The Parish Council purchase champagne, wine, soft drinks and ‘nibbles’ for the opening ceremony (to be paid for from the budget provision for Chairman’s allowances).

The Trustees agreed that Roger Martin be asked to dedicate the MPPA following the Community Hall service.

Mr. Knight to contact Roger Martin accordingly.

Action: I. Knight

7 Six-monthly check

The Trustees will complete the six-monthly check at the end of the meeting and report to the Parish Council at their meeting on the 27th June 2001.

Mr. Poulton said that Fire Protection Services will be carrying-out their annual inspection of the fire equipment in the Community Hall tomorrow (27th June).

Keith Burgess will carry-out the electrical inspection next week and David Bunyan has been asked to inspect the gas equipment.

8 Water usage on the sportsfield

Mr. Poulton said that last year there had been very little water usage on the sportsfield because of the wet weather. However, due to the recent dry conditions, this year the usage has increased dramatically.

It was agreed to continue with the present system of reading the sportsfield water meter and charging the Sports and Social Club accordingly. The Clerk will also continue to claim sewage rebate on the water used on the sportsfield.

9 Vandalism

The Community Hall has been subjected to more vandalism. Two windows were broken at the end of May and one of the roof windows in the Main Hall was broken on 6th June.

Mr. Poulton reported that a meeting had taken place last night at the Community Hall between the Police (PC John Ivens), EHDC and Chrysalis (a drug prevention organisation) to discuss the problems that we are experiencing in the village. Thirty members of the public attended, 14 of which were children. Mr. Poulton said that he and PC Ivens would report further during the Parish Council's meeting tomorrow.

10 Play equipment

As previously agreed, the £6,000 of Parish Council funds loaned to this project will not be returned to our reserves but shall be put towards new play equipment for the sportsfield play area.

Mr. Poulton suggested that the Community Hall Trustees take on the financial management of the play area. This would enable all VAT to be reclaimed on any equipment purchased. Also, it would improve the chances of being awarded grants for additional play equipment (i.e. because it is often considered that small charities are less likely to raise funds than Parish Council, who can do so by raising their precept).

The Trustees agreed that it would be a financial advantage for the play area to be managed by the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Trustees. However, the Parish Council would retain the land on which the play area stands.

Recommendation: The Parish Council transfers the financial management of the play area to the Community Hall Trustees.

If the Parish Council agrees that the financial management of the play area can be transferred to the Community Hall Trustees, then the £6,000 will remain in the Community Hall accounts.

11 Any other business

None.

- **The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.**
- **The date for the next Community Hall Trustees meeting is Tuesday 4th September 2001 at 7.30 p.m.**