

A meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council was held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 27th June 2001 at 7.15 p.m.

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mrs. S. Davies	Mrs. C. Dinnin
	Mr. V. Dunhill	Mr. D. Filer
	Mr. I. Knight	Mrs. H. McCash
	Mr. J. Meischke	
Police:	PC John Ivens (until 8 pm)	Inspector Shirley Godman (until 8 pm)
Public:	Mrs. Maureen Monk (until 8 pm)	

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Clark.

2 Update on policing matters by P.C. Ivens

Mr. Poulton welcomed PC John Ivens and Inspector Shirley Godman to the meeting. PC Ivens last attended a Parish Council meeting on the 15th November 2000.

PC Ivens said that a research officer had reviewed the crime statistics for Watton-at-Stone for the period November 2000 to May 2001. 15 incidents of damage, 7 youth-nuisance issues and 5 assaults were reported. Most of these incidents took place between midnight and 2 am, in locations throughout the village. However, no incidents were reported on a Friday evenings.

Since 1st May 11 further incidents have been reported.

PC Ivens said that the Community Hall had suffered badly due to vandalism; there have also been arrests for drink-associated incidents, assaults and damage to properties. Vandals took a scaffolding pole from the building site in the High Street (i.e. the former garage site) and damaged fixtures and fittings to the new properties. Youngsters were also spotted by Police Officers in the garages of the new homes. The parents of these youngsters were notified in writing of what had occurred.

On Monday 25th June a meeting was held between the Police, EHDC and Chrysalis (a drug prevention organisation). Refer to item 4 f, Specific Items - Report on meeting held on 25th June between Police, EHDC and Chrysalis (on page 4 of these minutes).

Until recently, only traffic police could use speed guns. Currently, all officers are being trained to use this equipment so that they can carry-out random checks whilst out on patrol.

Mr. Meischke said that there is a lot of Police evidence in the weekday mornings, but none when it is needed in the evening.

Inspector Godman said that the system for policing this area is being changed. The divisions for this area are being restructured and reduced from 9 to 3. It is hoped that the public will see a benefit from the changes in the way things are policed. The Police will liaise more with local people and organisations (i.e. Parish Councils) so that patrol officers can cover problem areas at the appropriate times. Inspector Godman said that she was responsible for sending out patrol cars and had no knowledge of the weekday morning visits to Watton-at-Stone.

PC Ivens agreed to come and talk to the Parish Council at its meeting to be held on the 3rd October 2001 at 7.00 p.m.

- PC Ivens, Inspector Godman and Mrs. Monk left the meeting.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th May 2001**

Mrs. McCash proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Stock seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

b) Review of actions

- **Write to Hertford Police and British Telecom re telephone box at Station Road/ Glebe Close**
This action point has been completed.
- **Contact PC Ivens**
This action point has been completed.
- **Try and find another method of removing graffiti from dog-waste bin in Church Walk**
Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Meischke had completed this action point.
- **Write to Railtrack again re broken fence at railway bridge in Church Lane**

Mr. Poulton said that despite requesting the urgent repair of the wooden fence by the railway bridge leading to Church Lane, the work had not been carried-out to date.

After discussion, it was agreed to write again to Railtrack requesting the urgent repair of this fencing. Also, informing them that the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council will hold Railtrack personally responsible if any child or person is killed or injured as a result of gaining access through this section of broken fencing.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Give copy of unapproved minutes of Parish Council monthly meetings to the editor of the Parish Magazine**

This action point has been completed.

- **Sign licence for temporary access across the land known as the “Old Cottage Site” at Watton Green**

This action point has been completed.

- **Attend EHDC meeting on New Constitution & give report at next Parish Council meeting**

Mr. Poulton, Mr. Filer and the Clerk attended the meeting.

This item to be discussed under item 4 e, EHDC – Constitution (on page 4 of these minutes).

- **Renew Cornhill Insurance Policy and increase the cover for dog-waste bins from three to six**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to Maureen Monk asking her to repair the fence**

This action point has been completed.

- **Carry-out the MPPA & sports equipment in Main Hall six-monthly check**

This item to be discussed under item 5 a, Sub-Committees - Community Hall Trustees (on pages 5, 6 & 7 of these minutes).

- **Identify damaged areas of the surface of the MPPA**

This action point has been completed.

- **Arrange for a replacement notice board to be made for MPPA**

Mr. Meischke said that the notice had been ordered and delivery is expected before the weekend.

- **Contact Jono Meischke re artwork for the Watton Green information board**

This action point has been completed.

- **Instruct Michael Stanley to cut the grass at Watton Green**

This item to be discussed under item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee (on page 6 of these minutes).

- **Confirm the Lammas grass cutting schedule and advise Michael Stanley accordingly**

This item to be discussed under item 5 a, Environment Sub-Committee (on page 7 of these minutes).

- **Write to EHDC re plans for 50 Great Innings North**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re plans for 18 Lammas Road**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to EHDC re plans for Whempstead Road**

This action point has been completed.

- **Write to Michael Meacher MP and our local MP re Landfill Tax Credit Scheme**

This action point has been completed.

- **Send copy of GBS’s letter re proposed tree works at Willowdene to Landscape Officer at EHDC**

This action point has been completed.

- **Send copy of Environment Agency letter re culverts in Mill Lane to Ron Jack at EH Highways Partnership**

This action point has been completed.

The Clerk verbally asked Mr. Jack to contact Mr. Poulton to arrange a site meeting. Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Jack had not yet spoken to him on the subject. The Clerk to chase Mr. Jack accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Write to The Royal British Legion**

This action point has been completed.

- **Arrange to sign ferreting licenses with Mr. Adams**

This action point has been completed.

- **Notify school of request for strimming and hedge cutting works**

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Clark had completed this action point.

Mrs. McCash said that she had noted today that half of the work requested had been carried-out.

- **Write to EH highways Partnership requesting sign post pointing towards the Community Hall and Sportsfield**

This action point has been completed.

The sign is expected to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

c) Action points outstanding for more than two months

None.

4 Specific Items

a) Housing-Needs Survey

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of the results of the housing-needs survey. It was agreed that the layout of the results should be changed to include the questions originally asked. Copies of the results are then to be displayed on all the notice boards within the village.

See attached

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton said that we have today received the EHDC district plan. One piece of land has been identified for development in Watton-at-Stone. This is the HCC-owned land on the side of Station Road opposite to Moorymead Close. This land does not include the small field used by the school as a football pitch. The five other sites previously identified have been withdrawn from the plan until at least the year 2011.

The current plan for the HCC land is to build 30 dwellings on the site (9 of which will be affordable housing) by 2006. A further 55 houses and 17 affordable houses will be built up to 2011.

b) Grass verges – monthly inspection

It was agreed that the condition of grass verges in the village were good.

However, the verge between the Waggon and Horses and the bridge over the River Beane is overgrown and causing visibility problems for drivers as they exit the village. Mr. Poulton said that EH Highways Partnership only schedule strimming work to be carried-out once a year at this point.

It was agreed that because of the potential visibility hazards, Jeff Skidmore be asked to add this area to his grass cutting schedule for Watton-at-Stone.

Action: J. Allsop

This item to remain on the agenda until the end of the 2001 grass-cutting season.

Agenda: 7/01

Mr. Stock reported that two dead/dying trees had been cut down and removed from Hazeldell (I.e. one on the opposite side of the road to number 90 and the other on the opposite side of the road to number 41 Hazeldell). He reminded Parish Councillors that it is our policy to have dead trees replaced and therefore said that we must write to Ron Jack (EH Highways Department) asking him to confirm that he will be replacing these trees during the autumn/winter-planting season. This was agreed.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

c) Heathmount School – Community work for village carried out on 18th and 19th June

Mr. Poulton reported that children from Heath Mount School had carried-out a litterpick in Watton-at-Stone. They had also cleared out the external cupboard at the Community Hall. Many villagers commented on the good quality of the work they carried-out and their exemplary behaviour. Mr. Poulton has written a letter of thanks to Mrs. Greer of Heathmount School.

Mr. Poulton said he is planning to meet with Mrs. Greer in the autumn to set up a schedule for pupils to visit the village to perform voluntary tasks on a regular basis. He then asked Parish Councillors to contact him with any ideas for work that could be done.

Action: All Parish Councillors

d) Playground equipment

Mrs. Davies presented a large illustration of the piece of equipment she is proposing that we purchase for the sportsfield play area. The equipment, which is made by Wicksteed Leisure, comprises a climbing structure and a slide. Wicksteed Leisure, who made a site visit to take measurements, has supplied a quotation for siting the unit on the existing area of concrete adjacent to the current play equipment. The quotation also includes the laying of a new concrete base and safety-surface below the unit, the removal of the present slide, to make-good the existing safety-surface and then install a couple of small spring, sit-on, pieces of equipment.

Mrs. Davies said that the quotation received from Wicksteed Leisure includes some items that we do not require (i.e. additional safety fencing during installation) and therefore a new quotation was being sort.

However, Mrs. Davies said that the total expenditure should be in the region of £12,500.

Funds already raised are £6,000 from the Parish Council, plus an additional £250 from Camstead Homes.

Mrs. Davies will be submitting an application to EHDC to raise funds to equal this amount. **Action: S. Davies**

Mr. Meischke and Mr. Knight showed concern that the position of the new piece of equipment may interfere with the football pitch. They agreed to check the site and contact Mrs. Davies accordingly.

Action: I. Knight/J. Meischke

Mr. Stock said that Mrs. Freeman had now purchased the seat that we agreed could be sited on the sportsfield in memory of her grandparents.

He agreed to contact Mrs. Freeman and ask her if she would be willing to site the seat close to the new play area (and therefore delay its installation until the work has been completed).

Action: D. Stock

This item to remain on the agenda.

Agenda: 07/01

e) EHDC – Constitution

Mr. Poulton, Mr. Filer and the Clerk attended a meeting on the 31st May 2001 about the New Constitution for EHDC. This meeting was poorly attended, with approximately 20 people present.

Government Legislation has required EHDC to change the way in which it is run. EHDC chose to adopt the “leader and 6 cabinet members” option because they think it is the best model. (Mr. Poulton has been elected as one of the 6 cabinet members.) The leader and cabinet will be responsible for all decision making within the EHDC. There will also be four scrutiny committees, which will advise the leader and cabinet members on their decision-making and keep tabs on what they are doing. The scrutiny committees are only advisory and cannot make any decisions on their own. Area forums are also being set up and East Hertfordshire will be divided into three (possibly 4) areas. Together, Parish Councils will elect a total of three representatives onto each forum. These representatives will need to report back to the other Parish Councils in their area.

Mr. Poulton said that the leader and cabinet are made up of members of the majority political party within EHDC. On this occasion, the Chair of one of the scrutiny committees has been given to a member of the opposition party. Additional staff will have to be appointed for this new system, which will in turn mean increased rates. It is envisaged that the new system will lead to quicker and better decisions being made.

f) Report on meeting held on 25th June between Police, EHDC and Chrysalis

Mr. Poulton said that the meeting was between the Police, EHDC and Chrysalis (a drug prevention organisation) and members of the public (including some of the youngsters of the village).

Chrysalis gave a talk and slide show on drugs and their effects. Parents are very concerned about drug taking in the village and felt that one particular resident of Watton-at-Stone was responsible for the main supply of drugs in the village. PC Ivens was urged to arrest this person (further details were given to him after the meeting).

The youngsters said that there is nothing for them to do in the village and they are in need of a simple meeting place with a television etc., so that they can get away from their parents. They also felt the need to talk to adults about problems they cannot always discuss at home. Sergeant John Burton had been of particular help to youngsters when he walked the streets of Watton-at-Stone on a regular basis, because he listened to their problems. He is greatly missed by them.

It was agreed that as a starting point, the youngsters need the Youth Club to be set up again. Hopefully this should be moving forward with a view to being re-opened in September 2001 (see item 8, Reports from other Organisations - Watton-at-Stone Youth Club, on page 11 of these minutes).

It was agreed to send letters of thanks to PC Ivens, EHDC and Chrysalis for attending the meeting and also to Mrs. Turner who instigated the meeting.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop

Mr. Poulton ended by saying that the meeting was very successful and positive.

It was agreed to put Policing issues on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in September so that Parish Councillors can recap on what is happening in the village before they meet with PC Ivens in October.

Agenda: 09/01

5 Reports

a) Sub-Committees

Budget & Finance

Mrs. McCash reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

- **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. All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of the accounts.

Mrs. Davies proposed that Mr. Poulton sign the audited accounts for the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

A copy of the signed accounts to be sent to McCash and Hay.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Co-operative Bank accounts**

Mrs. McCash reported that due to an error by the Clerk, the Parish Council current account with the Co-operative Bank had gone overdrawn. Subsequently, the Co-operative Bank has charged us £36 for an unauthorised overdraft for the period 8th – 13th June 2001 and an additional £1.29 in interest charges (making a total of £37.29). The Clerk offered to pay for these charges, but Parish Councillors unanimously agreed not to accept the Clerk's offer.

The Clerk said that she had unfortunately allowed the Parish Council current account to go overdrawn about six months ago, which is the first time since she became Clerk over eight years ago.

Mrs. McCash said that the Parish Council could adopt one of two options. The first would be to open an automatic sweep from deposit account to current account or visa versa. There would be a quarterly charge of £25 for this service and an instant access deposit account would need to be opened to operate the sweep, plus retaining our higher rate deposit accounts. The second is to set up a pass-number for the telephone banking for business service. This will allow the Clerk access to bank balances, order statements etc.

The Parish Council resolved that:

1. We agree to use the Co-operative Bank P.L.C ('the Bank') Business Customer Services ('the service') subject to the Bank's standard terms and conditions of use of the service, a copy of which was produced at the meeting.
2. The Parish Council shall nominate the Clerk (Mrs. Miranda Jane Allsop) as their nominated person when using the Service, or such other persons as may be advised to the Bank in writing from time to time by person authorised to instruct the Bank under our general mandate.
3. In all other respects our mandate with the bank will continue unaffected.

The Clerk to instruct the Co-operative Bank accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Poulton reported on the following items concerning the Community Hall Trustees.

- **Verbal report on meeting held on 27th June 2001**

All Parish Councillors present were given a copy of the minutes of the Community Hall Trustees meeting held on 27th June 2001.

Mr. Poulton went through the recommendations of the meeting as follows.

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

The audit of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001 was approved under Budget & Finance Sub-Committee (see pages 4 & 5 of these minutes)

- **Official Opening of MPPA**

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).

- **Play equipment**

The Parish Council transfers the financial management of the play area to the Community Hall Trustees and retains the £6,000 of Parish Council funds loaned to the MPPA project to put towards new play equipment for the sportsfield play area.

Mr. Filer proposed that the recommendations of the Community Hall Trustees be accepted. Mrs. Davies seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **MPPA & Community Hall equipment - six monthly check**

The Trustees carried-out the six-monthly check at the end of their meeting on the 26th June 2001, the result of which is as follows.

Comment [C1]:

Note that:

- **U** indicates that urgent (i.e. immediate) action is required
- **S** indicates that action is required soon
- **W** indicates that action can wait

MPPA

Area	Check	OK	Needs Attention	Comments (if any)
Hard surface	Is it free of:			Fence needs re-painting. Put in budget for 2001/2002.
	• Holes	4		
	• Cracks	4		
	• Litter/debris	4		
	• Weeds	4		
• Moss etc.	4			
Court marking	4			
Kicker boards	Are they:			
	• Secure	4		
	• Graffiti-free	4		
	• Graffiti-free	4		
	• In good condition.	4		
	Check for:			
	• Protruding nails	4		
	• Protruding screws	4		
	• Splinters/cracks	4		
	• Missing nails/screws	4		
	Are the gates free of graffiti, loose/missing nails/screws, cracks and splinters	4		
	Do the gates open, close and lock	4		
Tennis posts	Condition	4		
Tennis nets	Condition	4		
Flood lights	Are the lamps in contact with the trees	4		
	Are the lamp posts in good order and free of graffiti	4		
Wire fence	Is the wire mesh:			
	• Secured to posts	4		
	• Free of cuts/breaks	4		
	• In good condition	4		
	Is the metal-work (e.g. posts, etc.) secure and in good condition	4		
	Are the gates in good condition	4		
Do the gates open, close and lock	4			
Notice board	Is it:			
	• Legible	4		
	• Free of graffiti	4		
	• Secure	4		
	• Free of damage	4		
Boundary	Is it:			
	• Free of litter	4		
	• In need of a cut	4		
	• Free of problem	4		
				Hedge needs cutting soon. In hand with Nick Whitehead

Play Area				
Slide	Condition of:			
	• Hand rail			
General/additional comments (if any): -				

Community Hall

Area	Check	OK	Needs Attention	Comments (if any)
2 Benches	Condition			
Badminton/ short tennis posts *	Condition	4		
Badminton posts *	Condition	4		
Badminton net	Condition	4		
Short-tennis net	Condition	4		
Netball posts	Condition	4		
Netball nets	Condition	4		
Sports floor	Condition	4		
Floor markings	Condition	4		
External toilets	Condition	4		
Internal toilets	Condition	4		
Showers	Condition	4		
Kitchen	Condition	4		
First Aid box	Contents			
General/additional comments (if any):				
Pavilion floor needs cleaning.				

• **Pavilion floor**

Instruct Mrs. Bewley to clean pavilion floor before Community Service and Official Opening of MPPA.

Action: J. Allsop

Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Meischke reported on the following item concerning the Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee.

• **MPPA**

Mr. Meischke said that the painting of the MPPA had been carried-out and the MPPA surfacing project is now therefore complete.

The official opening of the MPPA is to take place on Sunday 1st July, following the Community Hall service on the sportsfield.

Environment

Mr. Stock reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

• **Watton Green**

- Mr. Stock said that although Michael Stanley had been instructed to cut the grass at Watton Green he had not carried-out the work to date. The Clerk contacted him again today and he promised to carry-out the work by the end of this week. If this does not happen Mr. Stock to chase Mr. Stanley accordingly.

Action: D. Stock

- Jono Meischke had made some changes to his original draft of the artwork for the Watton Green information board, as requested. After reviewing the changes, it was decided that a plan view of site would be uninteresting. Mr. Don Chandler has been asked to paint a perspective view of Watton Green. Jono Meischke is also going to make improvements to his perspective view of Watton Green. It is hoped that these will be available for Parish Councillors to review during the Parish Council meeting in July.

Mr. Filer complained that the information board seemed to be taking a long time to complete. In response, Mr. Stock explained that progress had depended on other people/organisations (e.g. CMS) and we had experienced delays caused by staff changes and workload.

• **Wooden footbridge over River Beane at southern-end of village**

Non-slip treads have now been fixed to the existing timber deck planks of the bridge.

• **Lammas**

Mr. Dunhill said that the Lammas grass-cutting agreement with MAFF states that the grass is cut twice a year and on the third year is cut on one occasion only.

This year is the third year of this cycle and therefore the grass will only be cut once this year, sometime after the 15th July, to fall-in-line with the agreement.

Mrs. Davies asked if the footpath between Walkern Road and the Lammas could be cut back because it is badly overgrown. Mr. Dunhill said that the path in question is not an official right of way. After discussion, it was agreed not to ask the landowner to cut back the path.

• **PPP**

Mr. Dunhill said that he has the following new signs to erect.

Status	Legend
Footpath	Watton House ¹ / ₂
Bridleway	Bulls Green 1 ¹ / ₂
Bridleway	Bypass ¹ / ₄

Action: V. Dunhill

b) Sportsfield

i) Report

Mrs. Davies carried-out the sportsfield report on the 27th June, the result of which is as follows.

• **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Needs rain?
Litter	Clear.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	Dog-waste in litter bin by horses field in use and maintained.
Netball posts	OK.
General	Grass needs strimming by bench – horses field. Part of barbed-wire fence removed, tape across broken top rail.

• **Children’s Playground:**

Condition of surface	Needs repairing one end of see saw and edge.
Litter/Litter bin	Full – no bag.
Large swings	Seats.
Small swings	Bird droppings need cleaning off seats.
See-Saw	Rude graffiti.
Slide	OK.
Comments	No litter or fouling. Wire fence along hedge needs making good.

• **Community Hall:**

General Condition	Mud thrown at windows.
Litter bin	Bag? In use.
Car Park	OK.
General	Ladies loo – no loo roll!

• **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	OK. Boot scraper in use!
Boundary Fencing	OK.
Tennis nets	OK.
Litter	No bag?
General	Broken paving slab on path. Hoops.

• **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	Good.
Surfaces	Good – except chewing gum by swings.
Litter	None.
Dog-waste bin and fouling	None.
Comments	-

• **Allotments Area:**

Access	Good.
Condition of paths between Allotments	Good.
Condition of Allotments	Very good.
Cultivation	

Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	Very overgrown.
Litter	None.
Comments	'Dogs on leads' sign requested.
• Culverts on Mill Lane	
Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	Some by bench near Mill Lane.
Dog-fouling	Some.
Comments	Footpaths – only partially strimmed impeding access.

• Salt bins

Perrywood Lane	-
Great Innings	-
Station Road	-
Moorymead Close	-
Hazeldell	-
Garages between Glebe	-
Closer & Rectory Lane	-

• Dog-waste bins

Footpath 17	4
Sportsfield	4
Church Walk	4
Walkern Road	4
Station Road	4
High Street (by Memorial)	4
Great Innings	4
Mill Lane	4
General Comments:	All in use and serviced.

• Outside toilets

Mr. Poulton said that toilet rolls are no longer provided for the outside toilets. When they were provided in the past, youngsters used to through the paper all over the car park and surrounding areas.

• Graffiti

Mr. Poulton will try and remove the graffiti from the see-saw.

Action: N. Poulton

• Dogs on lead sign

It was agreed to purchase a dogs on lead sign and erect it at the entrance to the allotments.

Action: J. Allsop

• Culverts in Mill Lane

Mrs. Davies said that there was evidence of fire making at the entrance to the culverts.

• Salt bins

Mr. Poulton reported that due to public outcry, HCC are to provide, maintain and fill the salt bins in Hertfordshire again. They will be taking back the ownership of the salt bins in Watton-at-Stone and therefore there is no further need for the Parish Council to check them monthly.

The Clerk to remove salt bins from the report book.

Action: J. Allsop

6 Planning

a) Applications

i) 15 High Street

Erection of conservatory

Parish Councillors viewed the plans for this application.

It was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop

ii) 24 Rivershill

Single-storey and double-storey extension to rear with one and a half side extension

Mr. Poulton said that a recent application had been refused (see item 6 b i). One of the grounds for refusal is that it would result in the loss of the existing spacing between dwellings, which is characteristic of the street scene.

Mr. Dunhill said that 24 Rivershill was one of the few remaining properties that had not had two-storey rear and side extensions along this stretch of Rivershill and he could not understand the justifications for refusal.

Parish Councillors discussed this and studied the plans for this application.

It was agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

Action: J. Allsop

b) Decisions

i) 24 Rivershill

Two-storey rear and side extension

-EHDC permission refused

ii Great Innings

4 no. 2 bedroom houses, 2 no. 1 bedroom houses, 4 no. 3 bedroom houses with access road - Amended plans

-EHDC permission granted

iii 122 High Street

First floor side extension; carport to side; single storey rear and side extension

-EHDC permission granted

iv 18 Lammas Road

Single-storey front extension

This item was placed on the agenda in error.

7 Correspondence received

a) DETR – Landfill Tax credit scheme

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter dated, 31st May, from Ian Dalton (Policy Advisor, in the Waste Strategy Division of the DETR).

‘Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. It has been passed to me, as I am responsible for issues concerning the scheme within the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions.

In the Waste Strategy 2000 the Government announced the intention to use the scheme to deliver an increase in recycling, particularly of household waste. This was followed by the Budget 2001 statement that the Government will shortly be challenging the waste industry to meet demanding targets to allocate a greater proportion of tax credits towards sustainable waste management projects, especially projects which promote recycling. In the longer term the Government is attracted to replacing the scheme, in whole or in part, with a public spending programme.

However, no other decisions have been made on the future of the scheme but I can assure you that we will fully consider all the implications of any possible changes to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme for bodies such as that which you represent.’

b) Groundwork Trust – grant for MPPA

As reported on under item 5 a, Community Hall Trustees (on page 5 of these minutes) SQ Environmental Trust Limited (Groundwork Trust) has agreed to grant-aid £6,000 towards the MPPA resurfacing project.

c) Mrs. West – telephone box at Station Road/ Glebe Close

Mr. Poulton read out a letter (dated 30th May) from Mrs. West of 10 Glebe Close concerning the vandalism of the telephone box at Glebe Close. Mrs. West has asked if the telephone box can be removed because it has been subjected to a lot of vandalism recently. She says that youngsters tend to congregate in and around it and it does not appear to be used much.

After discussion, it was agreed to write to Mrs. West telling her about the successful meeting that took place on Monday 25th between the Police, EHDC and Chrysalis (a drug prevention organisation) and reassuring her that the parents of troublesome youngsters are taking their children in hand and we hope to see a significant reduction in vandalism in the village. Also, that we will not be asking British Telecom to remove the telephone box at Station Road/ Glebe Close.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop

d) EHDC – Conifer trees at Willowdene, Mill Lane

EHDC has copied us with their letter (dated 7th June) to GBS Estates concerning the conifer trees at Willowdene. Mr. Poulton said that EHDC has agreed to the tree work requested, which must be carried-out within one year of the consent, or a new application needs to be sought.

Mr. Stock reminded Parish Councillors why the Parish Council had assisted GBS Estates in obtaining permission for the tree work from EHDC. We had received a number of complaints about the subject trees because they are overhanging the footpath and causing people to walk into the road. This is of particular concern because of young children going to the Scout Hut. GBS Estates were asked to arrange to have the overhanging branches of the conifer trees cut back as soon as possible, and subsequently asked us to obtain permission from EHDC for them to do so. Since then GBS Estates has decided that additional work is required to the conifer trees, which resulted in EHDC letter of the 7th June.

e) EHDC – Annual playground inspection

EHDC has written (letter dated 11th June) inviting the Parish Council to have its annual playground inspection undertaken by RoSPA under the direction of EHDC. Mr. Poulton said that EHDC provided this service for the Parish Council last year.

It was agreed by all that we accept EHDC’s offer to have our playground inspection arranged by them.

EHDC to be notified accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

8 Reports from other Organisations

• Watton-at-Stone Youth Club

Mrs. Dinnin reported that Jeanette Williams does not wish to retain the funds for the Watton-at-Stone Youth Club. In her letter of 3rd November 2000, she informed us that the Youth Club had £350.94 in its current account and £550.90 in its business deposit account.

It was agreed to write to Mrs. Williams informing her that the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council is willing to hold the funds for the Watton-at-Stone Youth Club.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

Mrs. Davies said that a young man who lives in School Lane is willing to run the Youth Club and had approached her on the subject. He is very enthusiastic and feels that the Youth Club should be open on a daily basis, but has been told that we need to take things one-step at a time. He is currently having police checks carried out on him. Mrs. Davies said that an open meeting has been arranged for 9th July at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall for anyone who is interested in getting involved in the running of the Youth Club.

Mrs. Davies said that although she is happy to help get the Youth Club restarted and running again, she does not want to get involved to the level she did before.

It is hoped that the Youth Club will be reopened by September.

• Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall

Mr. Dinnin said that the Memorial Hall Management Committee had decided to turn the porch at the front of the hall into a storage area. They are also trying to obtain new garage doors for the storage area at the back of the hall.

9 Accounts/Correspondence

Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

Petty Cash

Receipts

None

Payments

Mercury paper 17 – weeks	11.39
50 stamps	13.50
2 padlocks	<u>5.98</u>
	<u>30.87</u>

Cheques required

Jeff Skidmore	To install 2 boot scrapers	141.00
D. R. Monk	War Memorial maintenance 1/1 – 30/6/2001	62.50
Cannon Contracts	Weed kill cleavers on the Lammas	105.75
Diocesan Board	Allotment rent for half-year	300.00
EHDC	Emptying of dog-waste bins - 1/4/01–31/03/02	183.72
Don Chandler	18 hours litterpicking	90.00
J. Allsop	June salary	473.20
	Telephone calls – April, May and June	78.58
		<u>551.78</u>

1464.75

Cheques received

None

Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

Petty Cash

Receipts

V. Dunhill – Main Hall hire	5.00
Mr. Howell – Pavilion hire	<u>21.00</u>
	<u>26.00</u>

Payments

Don Chandler – 6 hours work	<u>30.00</u>
	<u>30.00</u>

Cheques required

Business Gas		98.24
Stevenage Glass	To replace two broken panes of glass	168.50
McCash and Hay	Annual audit fee	84.60
Stevenage Glass	To replace one broken panes of glass (at roof level)	116.55
Mrs. C. Bewley	32 hours work	<u>168.00</u>
		<u>635.89</u>

Cheques received

Mrs. Bambridge	Pavilion hire	24.00
Mrs. Gilbey	Main Hall hire	<u>65.00</u>
		<u>89.00</u>

Mrs. Dinnin proposed that the accounts be paid, Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

10 Chairman's / Clerk's Report

- **Letter from Mr. Lamb**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter from Mr. Lamb (a senior citizen of 85 Great Innings South) concerning the making of dens opposite his bungalow. Mr. Lamb is reluctant to speak directly to the youngsters for fear of what might happen to his (or his neighbours) gardens and cars etc.

It was agreed to send a copy of Mr. Lamb's letter to Graham Johnson at Stort Valley Housing Association. Also, to write to Mr. Lamb urging him to report any problems to the Police and give him the telephone number of PC Ivens. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop**

- **Letter from Don Chandler**

Don Chandler has requested the use of the Pavilion facilities so that he and members of his Art Club can paint the views from the Community Hall. It was agreed that in view of all the extra work that Don does we should not charge him on this occasion.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Apologies for absence**

Mr. Poulton said that he is going away on holiday from the 21st July until the 25th August and gave his apologies for absence from the July meeting. Mr. Stock will therefore take the chair at the July meeting.

Mr. Meischke also gave his apologies for absence from the July Parish Council meeting.

- **The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.**

- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 25th July 2001.**