

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at 7.15 pm**

Present:	Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman)	Mr. D. Stock (Vice-Chairman)
	Mr. C. Clark	Mrs. S. Davies
	Mrs. C. Dinnin	Mr. V. Dunhill
	Mr. D. Filer	Mr. I. Knight
	Mrs. H. McCash	Mr. J. Meischke
Public:	Mr. E. Riddle	Mr. C. Stanley
	Mrs. M. Stanley	

Mr. Poulton said the following urgent items had been received after the agenda was published.

- i) Inspection of Hazeldell Footpaths – This item to be discussed under 5 g, Specific Items (on page 5 of these minutes).
- ii) Planning Application for the Old Coach House – This item to be discussed under 7 a vi), Planning Decision (on page 9 of these minutes).
- iii) Planning decision 118 Hazeldell – This item to be discussed under 7 c i, Planning Decision (on page 9 of these minutes).
- iv) CDA Invite – This item to be discussed under 8 m, Correspondence received (on page 11 of these minutes).
- v) CPRE – 2003 Hertfordshire’s Village of the Year competition - This item to be discussed under 8 n, Correspondence received (on page 11 of these minutes).
- vi) Criteria for admission to secondary school – This item to be discussed under 8 o, Correspondence received (on page 11 of these minutes).

Mr. Poulton said that he would take items 7 a i, Blue Hill Farm Land and buildings at High Elms Lane and 7 a ii, Land at Blue Hill Farm, High Elms Lane after item 4 c, Action points outstanding for more than two months (on page 4 of these minutes).

**1 Apologies for absence**

None.

**2 Declaration of Interests**

Mr. Filer declared an interest in item 7 b iii, Planning Appeal - Perrywood Lane - Erection of two houses and detached garages. Mr. Filer’s daughter owns an eighth of the land involved.

Mr. Filer will therefore leave the meeting when the item is discussed.

**3 Chairman's/Clerk's Report**

None.

**4 Minutes of the last meeting**

**a) Acceptance**

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

- Page 1, paragraph before item 1, Apologies for absence  
First line, first sentence.

Mr. Poulton said that there is one urgent item that it not on the agenda.  
should read

Mr. Poulton said that there is one urgent item that is not on the agenda.

- Page 11, final sentence, following item 11, Accounts/Correspondence  
Mrs. Davies left the meeting at 8.12 pm.  
should read:

Mrs. Davies left the meeting at 9.12 pm.

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

**b) Review of actions**

- **Include in article to the Parish News the amendments to village directory**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Update list of Parish Councillors in the Community Hall**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Carry-out further tidying of tree debris on Lammas**  
This action point is on-going and will be put on agenda for March 2003 (under Environment Sub-Committee) for a review of progress. **Agenda: 03/03**
- **Give Clerk name of contractor and write re submitting a quote for strim & mow in 2003**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Liase with Mrs. McCash to obtain the quotation from Mr. Mould for ornate village sign**  
This item to be discussed under 5 c, Specific Items - Ornate village sign (on page 5 of these minutes).
- **Chase progress on repair to damaged surface near barrier on footpath leading to Church Lane**  
Mrs. McCash said that she had been chasing this matter.  
This item to remain an action point. **Action: H. McCash**
- **Visit the allotments & write again to owners of 122 High Street if the trees have not been cut back**  
The Clerk visited the site and because the trees have not been cut back, she wrote again to the owners of 122 High Street. Mr. Dunhill and Mr. Meischke confirmed that the trees have still not been cut back. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the Parish Council site-meeting on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2003.  
**Action: Parish Councillors**
- **Give Clerk number of the wall-mounted streetlight over the Happy Garden takeaway**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Report street light out over Happy Garden takeaway**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Hertfordshire Highways re Walkern Road flooding**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Obtain insurance details for Parish Council**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Study insurance details for Parish Council and Community Hall**  
This item to be discussed under 6 a Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.  
**Note:** In error, this item was not raised under Budget & Finance Sub-Committee but was discussed at the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Trustees meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Mr. Filer attended the Trustees meeting to report on the insurance details.  
This item to be placed on the March agenda under Budget & Finance Sub-Committee. **Agenda: 03/03**
- **Complete and return precept forms**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Complete and copy to Parish Councillors 9-monthly statement of accounts**  
This action point has been completed.  
Refer it item 6 a, Budget & Finance Sub-Committee - 9-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall (on page 6 of these minutes).
- **Accept Sodexho's quotation for 2003 grass cut**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Contact Mrs. Ansell and Mark Lewis re unlocking duties at Community Hall**  
This item to be discussed under 6 a Community Hall Trustees - Opening and closing of toilets at Community Hall (on page 6 of these minutes).
- **Discuss how to display the byelaws on-site at Watton Green and the Lammas**  
Mr. Stock said that he and Mr. Meischke had spoken briefly about the display of the byelaws at Watton Green and the Lammas and will pursue the matter further during the site meeting on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2003. **Action: D. Stock/J. Meischke**
- **Arrange a date for site meetings on the allotment and the Lammas**  
This action point has been completed.  
The site meeting will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Parish Councillors to meet in the Glebe Court car park at 2 pm. **Action: All Parish Councillors**
- **Contact Fred Burnell re moles on sportsfield**  
This action point is outstanding. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **Inspect playarea re large swings that are padlocked together**  
This action point has been completed. Mr. Meischke has removed the padlock and the swings are now operational.
- **Write to EHDC re grass coming through matting on the Great Innings Playarea**  
This action point has been completed.  
The Clerk said that Trevor Waldock informed her that the grass is supposed to grow through the safety matting. The matting is of a similar type to that used on the bike ramps on the sportsfield.  
Mr. Filer said that the area is very slippery. Mr. Poulton reminded Parish Councillors that the Great Innings playarea is the responsibility of EHDC and that we have done more than is required by reporting the matter to them in the first instance.
- **Carry-out weekly reports**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Planning department re proposed High Mast at roundabout junction of, A602 & A119**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Hertfordshire Police Authority re priorities for policing Hertfordshire**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Give off-street parking survey to Parish Councillors who requested a copy**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Inform CDA that Mr. Poulton will attend their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003 at Benington Village Hall**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to appropriate parents about wooden ramp on Lammas**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Complete and return Go East survey-form**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write articles for February 2003 edition of the Parish News**  
This action point has been completed.
- **Write to Sycamore Residents Association**  
This action point has been completed.

**c) Action points outstanding for more than two months**

- **Write to licensing authority if unsuccessful with Allied Brewery**  
The Punch Pub Company, that leases the pubs out, has bought all of the Allied Brewery chain.  
The Clerk said that she had spoken to James Bryan (of the Punch Pub Company) on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2003 and he apologised for not responding sooner but had been away on holiday. He has asked his company solicitors to look at the lease for the Bull public house to establish whether or not the footpath adjacent to the garden is in their ownership. The Clerk said that Mr. Bryan had given her his contact address, office telephone number and his mobile telephone number.  
This action point to be removed from the agenda.  
The ownership of footpath adjacent to the Bull public house to remain on the agenda under Specific Items until the matter is resolved.
- **Install dog-fouling-penalty signs on allotments**  
This action point has been completed.
- **RoSPA playarea safety inspection – clarify certain points contained in the report**  
Mr. Meischke said that this item is on-going.  
He had spoken to Wicksteed Leisure about the safety-surface under the multi-play piece of equipment, which fails to meet the safety inspection standards required. Wicksteed Leisure will be attending a site meeting next week with Mr. Meischke, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock.  
This item to remain on the agenda under Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee until the matter has been resolved.

**Agenda: 03/03**

## 7 Planning

### a) Applications

#### i) Blue Hill Farm Land and buildings at High Elms Lane

Change of use of conversion of farm building into 4 no residential units and office and demolition of farmhouse

This item was discussed together with item ii below.

#### ii) Land at Blue Hill Farm, High Elms Lane

Erection of a replacement dwelling following demolition of existing farmhouse

Mr. Poulton said that he had a two-hour meeting with neighbours in High Elms Lane and Walkern Road. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, of 3 Blue Hill Farm Cottages, held the meeting at their home.

Residents were annoyed that the applicant, Mrs. P. Glover, sold her farmland but retained the house and farm buildings. Mike Smith, who bought the farmland then erected a barn and subsequently acquired planning permission for a mobile home, and subsequently for a permanent dwelling to replace the mobile home. The residents object to the applications because they consider it to be an over-development of the site and a highway issue. The proposed development would increase traffic at a dangerous junction, i.e. High Elms Lane and Walkern Road.

Parish Councillors studied the plans for both applications at Blue Hill Farm. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed to write to EHDC as follows.

#### Blue Hill Farm Land and buildings at High Elms Lane

The Parish Council objects to the above application for the following reasons.

1. Highways issue: the proposed development would increase traffic at a dangerous junction (i.e. Blue High Elms Lane/Walkern Road), especially with regard to the office accommodation.
2. The development is within the Metropolitan Green Belt.
3. This is an over development of the site, again, especially with regard to the office accommodation.

#### Land at Blue Hill Farm, High Elms Lane

The Parish Council objects to the above application for the following reasons.

1. The proposed dwelling would extend the curtilage of the development.
2. The development is within the Metropolitan Green Belt

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr and Mrs Stanley left the meeting.

## 5 Specific Items

### a) Meeting dates for the Civic Year 2003/2004

The following dates were agreed by Parish Councillors

- 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003
- 11<sup>th</sup> June 2003
- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2003
- 10<sup>th</sup> September 2003
- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003
- 12<sup>th</sup> November 2003
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003
- 14<sup>th</sup> January 2004
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004
- 14<sup>th</sup> April 2004

The Parish Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting (starting at 7.00 pm) and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

### b) Traffic-claiming in Whempstead

Mr. Clark said that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Clark to contact Danny Kyan (District Manger–East Herts at Hertfordshire Highways) to move the matter forward.

**Action: C. Clark**

**c) Ornate village sign**

Mrs. McCash said that Mr. Mould had still not produced the designs for the ornate village sign and she was very disappointed with his slow progress. Mrs. McCash said that she has urged Mr. Mould to produce the designs in time for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

**d) Ownership of footpath adjacent to Bull Public House**

This item was covered under 4 c, Action points outstanding for more than two months - Write to licensing authority if unsuccessful with Allied Brewery (on page 3 of these minutes).

**e) 117-121 High Street – new illuminated fascia sign**

Mr. Poulton reported that the illuminated fascia above the Happy Garden takeaway had been removed.

Mrs. Davies said that the shop fascia sign was also not in keeping with the area. In contrast, the Post Office had taken great care in the design of their shop fascia sign, which is in keeping with the village scene.

It was agreed to write to EHDC accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**f) Walkern Road – flooding**

Mrs. Dinnin said that, to date, there had been no response to her letter dated 29th January concerning the flooding of the Walkern Road. Mrs. Dinnin to chase this matter in a couple of weeks time. **Action: C. Dinnin**

**g) Inspection of Hazeldell Footpaths**

Mr. Stock said that at the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002 it was agreed that the subject of trip hazards on the footpaths in Hazeldell to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in February 2003.

He then said that the general condition of the footpaths in Hazeldell continues to be a major concern.

Hertfordshire Highways have agreed to put funding in the 2003/2004 budget for the re-surfacing of the Hazeldell footpaths. However, Mr. Poulton explained that Hertfordshire Highways would then prioritise each item included in the budget. If the Hazeldell footpaths are considered to be a low priority, they may not be resurfaced in the next financial year.

It was agreed to write to Danny Kyan (District Manger - East Herts at Hertfordshire Highways) asking him to put this item as a high priority.

**Action: D. Stock**

Mr. Stock also said that once the work is programmed, we should ask Hertfordshire Highways to contact Three Valleys Water to discuss how best to restore the Hazeldell footpaths to a good standard. He felt that it would be a lost opportunity if the footpaths were resurfaced around uneven water-main covers.

**6 Reports****a) Sub-Committees****Budget & Finance**

Mr. Filer reported on the following items concerning the Budget & Finance Sub-Committee.

- **Completion of audit of Parish Council accounts for the year 2001/2002 carried-out by Lubbock Fine**

Mr. Filer was pleased to report that Lubbock Fine had signed the annual return for the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002. Because no additional information was required, Lubbock Fine have submitted their invoice of £120 plus VAT, which is the minimum fee chargeable for the size of our Parish Council. Mr. Filer reminded Parish Councillors that this is the first year that the new lighter-touch audit has been done.

Mr. Filer proposed that Lubbock Fine's invoice be paid. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Appointment of an internal auditor for the Parish Council**

Mrs. McCash left the meeting while this item was discussed.

Mr. Filer said that he would like McCash and Hay to be appointed to do the internal audit for the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> march 2003, on the condition that Murray McCash performs the audit.

Mr. Poulton said that, because Mrs. McCash is a Parish Councillor, we should first seek the approval of the external auditors (Lubbock Fine) before we consider appointing McCash and Hay as our internal auditor. This was agreed.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mrs. McCash returned to the meeting.

- **9-monthly statement of accounts for the Parish Council and Community Hall**

Prior to the meeting, all Parish Councillors were given a copy of the 9-monthly statement of accounts for the period ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

Mr. Filer went through the expenditure and income. He said that he had checked through the figures and all items that have exceeded their budget figure this year have had extra amounts included in the budget for next year.

- **Quotations for strimming and mowing work for 2003**

Mr. Poulton said we had received the following two quotations for the strimming and mowing work (as detailed in the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2002).

D. R. Monk	£1640	using his own equipment
	£1600	using the Parish Council equipment
Adam Welch	£775	using his own equipment

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that we accept the quotation provided by Mr. Welch. It was also agreed that we may, if required, need to provide some support to Mr. Welch during his first year of this contract.

Mr. Filer formally proposed that the Parish Council accepts Mr. Welch's quotation. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Welch to be contacted accordingly and asked to provide a copy of his Public Liability insurance cover and to make contact with Mr. Meischke before the start of the contract. **Action: J. Allsop**

### Community Hall Trustees

Mr. Meischke reported on the following item concerning the Community Hall Trustees.

- **Opening and closing of toilets at Community Hall**

Mr. Meischke said that he had spoken to Mark Lewis and collected the key that he held to the Community Hall. He had also spoken to Mrs. V. Ansell, who was not interested in the opening and closing the toilets etc at the Community.

Mr. Meischke was pleased to report that John and Mary Philips (of 9 Hockerill) took over the opening and closing duties at the Community Hall two weeks ago. However, since they started these duties the toilets have been re-opened in the evening on two occasions. Mr. Meischke said that he has been unsuccessful in finding out who is re-opening the toilets.

### Recreation & Amenities

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

- **RoSPA – Playarea safety inspection**

This items to be discussed under 4 c, Action points outstanding for more than two months - RoSPA playarea safety inspection – clarify certain points contained in the report (on page 3 of these minutes).

- **Parish-Council-owned trimmer, mower and leaf blower**

Adam Welch has offered to buy the Parish Council's leaf blower for £45. He is the only contractor who has put in a bid for the equipment.

Because of this, it was agreed to put a notice in the Parish News inviting bids for the leaf blower and the petrol-driven mower. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

- **MPPA – condition of surface**

It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2002 that this item be placed on the agenda for February 2003 to review the condition of the MPPA surface re the need for a moss-kill or pressure-wash treatment.

After discussion, Parish Councillors agreed that no action was required at this time and the situation be reviewed again at the Parish Council meeting in October 2003. **Agenda: 10/03**

Mr. Meischke said that Doe Sport had sent us service agreements for the maintenance of the MPPA, and a price list for 2002. Their current charges for moss kill treatment is £275 per visit, and pressure washing is £620 for a single visit or £890 for 2 visits per annum.

Mr. Knight said that when Doe Sport resurfaced the MPPA last year, we were informed that no treatment to the MPPA would be required in the first year. In the second year, moss killing may be required and possibly pressure-washing. The surface would need to be examined at the time to decide what needed to be done.

This item to be placed on the agenda for October 2003. **Agenda: 10/2003**

**Environment**

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

- **Rabbits on Allotments**

Mr. Stock said that no further progress can be made on this item until we have had the site meeting on the allotments this Saturday, i.e. the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr. Stock to report on this item at the Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2003. **Action: D. Stock**

**b) Sportsfield**

**i) Report**

Mr. Dunhill carried-out the sportsfield report on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2003, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**

Condition of grass	Very soft and muddy.
Litter	None.
Dog fouling	In use/none.
Netball posts	OK.
General	-

- **Children’s Playground:**

Condition of surface	OK.
Litter/Litterbin	In use.
Large swings	OK.
Small swings	OK.
See-Saw	OK.
Rainbow multi-play and slide	OK.
Two spring sit-on	OK.
Teen shelter	OK.
General	-

- **Bike ramps area:**

Junior Jump	OK.
Double Ramp	OK.
Fun Box	OK.

- **Community Hall:**

General Condition (Exterior)	OK.
Litterbin	In use.
Car Park	OK.
General	Shrub area will need pruning soon.

- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**

Surface	Good.
Boundary Fencing	OK.
Tennis nets	OK.
Litter	None.
General	-

- **Great Innings Play Area:**

Equipment	OK.
Surfaces	Good.
Litter	None.
Dog fouling	None.
Comments	-

- **Allotments Area:**

Access	OK.
Condition of paths between Allotments	Good.
Condition of Allotments under cultivation	Good.
Condition of Allotments not under cultivation	No re-growth yet.
Litter	None.
Comments	OK.

- **Culverts on Mill Lane**

Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts	Water in culvert.
Dog-fouling	None.
Comments	-

- **Salt bins**
  - Perrywood Lane -
  - Entrance to Great Innings Full.
  - Great Innings South – outside number 93 Full.
  - Station Road Full.
  - Moorymead Close Full.
  - Hazeldell Full.
- **Dog-waste bins**
  - Footpath 17 In use.
  - Sportsfield In use.
  - Church Walk In use.
  - Walkern Road In use.
  - Station Road In use.
  - High Street (by Memorial) In use.
  - Great Innings In use.
  - Mill Lane In use.
- **General Comments**
  - Litterbin under arch on Great Innings North has been burnt.
  - Lammas: Wooden bike ramp moved, but dam on drainage ditch.
  - Most litterbins empty.
- **Shrubs by Community Hall**
  - Mr. Poulton to ask Ted Brown if he would be willing to prune the shrubs. **Action: N. Poulton**
- **Burnt litterbin on Great Innings South**
  - Mr. Poulton to inspect and if a new bin is required arrange for its purchase. **Action: N. Poulton**
- **Dam on Lammas drainage ditch**
  - Parish Councillors to inspect during their site visit on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2003. **Action: Parish Councillors**

## 7 Planning

### a) Applications

#### i) Blue Hill Farm Land and buildings at High Elms Lane

Change of use of conversion of farm building into 4 no residential units and office and demolition of farmhouse

This item was discussed after item 4 c) Action points outstanding for more than two months (on page 4 of these minutes).

#### ii) Land at Blue Hill Farm, High Elms Lane

Erection of a replacement dwelling following demolition of existing farmhouse

This item was discussed after item 4 c) Action points outstanding for more than two months (on page 4 of these minutes).

#### iii) 33 Moorymead Close

Porch at front of property

Mr. Poulton said that he had spoken to the residents of the adjacent properties. Because no objections were raised and the application was in keeping with the street scene, Mr. Poulton had instructed the Clerk to write to the Planning Department stating that the Parish Council had no comment on this application.

Parish Councillors agreed with the decision.

#### iv) 6 Rivershill

Use of residential property for childminding/residential use

Parish Councillors discussed this application at length.

Mr. Filer proposed that we support the application. Mr. Stock proposed that we respond with no comment.

A vote was then held. Two Parish Councillors were in favour of supporting the application and seven were in favour of responding with no comment.

The Clerk to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**v) 2 Perrywood Lane**

1<sup>st</sup> floor extension and rear projection and internal alterations

Mr. Filer said that he visited the residents affected and they had no objections to the planning application.

Parish Councillors studied the plans and agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this application.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**vi) The Coach House**

Two storey extension and new garage

Parish Councillors studied the plans and agreed that Mr. Poulton should contact the neighbours and respond accordingly.

**Note:** After consultation with neighbours, the following response was sent to the planning department at EHDC.

‘The Parish Council objects to the above application for the following reasons.

1. The proposed extensions would be an over development of the site and would have a detrimental effect on this rural lane and on the neighbouring properties.
2. The site is within the conservation area and as such would require permission for the removal of any trees. It would appear, although not shown on the plans, that two trees would need to be removed. One a beech tree in the front garden to accommodate the proposed garage and the other a yew in the rear garden to accommodate the proposed garden room.

During a site inspection, the Parish Council noted that trees had already been removed. Please could officers inspect this site and ensure that no more trees are removed.

3. It also states that foul sewage would be disposed of via a septic tank. As far as the Parish Council is aware, this property is connected to the main sewer.
4. The Parish Council has been informed that all development on this site requires the permission of the Church Commissioners, has this been sought?
5. The existing building is currently connected to the Old Rectory and the proposed development requires separation and in so doing, would require the removal on an ancient roofline.

The Parish Council has been informed that the owners of the Old Rectory have not been consulted on the removal of the roof which connects their property to the Old Coach House.’

**b) Appeal**

Because his son no longer works for Mr. Skidmore, Mr. Clark did not need to declare an interest in items 7 b i, Agricultural Barn, Whempstead Road, Whempstead and ii, Dwelling house, Whempstead Road, Whempstead.

**i) Agricultural Barn, Whempstead Road, Whempstead**

Alteration and resubmission of existing application

Parish Councillors agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this appeal (i.e. the same response that was given to the EHDC planning department about the original application).

**Action: J. Allsop**

**ii) Dwelling house, Whempstead Road, Whempstead**

Alteration and resubmission of existing application

Parish Councillors agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this appeal (i.e. the same response that was given to the EHDC planning department about the original application).

**Action: J. Allsop**

**iii) Perrywood Lane**

Erection of two houses and detached garages

Mr. Poulton said that he had, in his capacity as a District Councillor, written to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the appeal.

Parish Councillors agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate informing them that the Parish Council has no comment on this appeal (i.e. the same response that was given to the EHDC planning department about the original application).

**Action: J. Allsop**

**c) Decisions**

**i) 118 Hazeldell**

Extension at first floor level

-EHDC permission granted

## 8 Correspondence received

### a) Hertfordshire Constabulary – Launch of Hertfordshire’s policing plan 2003/2004

Mr. Filer said he would try to attend the launch of Hertfordshire’s Policing Plan on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

Mr. Filer to inform Hertfordshire Police Authority accordingly and ask them to provide us with copies of any information relating to the launch.

**Action: D. Filer**

### b) HCC – Elected Regional Assemblies

This item has been on circulation, and most Parish Councillors made comments on the document.

Mr. Poulton summarised the comments and sent the following letter to Bill Ogley (Chief Executive at HCC).

Watton at Stone Parish Council thanks you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> January and for the opportunity to respond to your briefing notes on Elected Regional Assemblies.

The Parish Council would like to make the following comments:

- The Parish Council would not want to see any more devolvement away from Town and Parish Councils to the point that they do not exist, in fact we feel strongly that local issues must be made by locally elected members and those voices must be listened to when decisions are made.
- The Parish council would like to see a referendum undertaken on this issue so the views of the public are heard on the issue of an elected regional assembly.

### c) HCC – Land adjacent to 68 Hazeldell & Station Road

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> January from Ms. Valerie Weaver (Assistant District Manager at Hertfordshire Highways).

‘Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2002 regarding the above.

I will make arrangements for the area to be returned to grass and continue to be maintained. I will inform Mr. & Mrs. Chesterman of any decision and programme for undertaking the works.’

Mr. Stock said that he had noted that work had been done.

### d) HCC – Residual tree debris to highway verge following winter storms

Mr. Poulton read out a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January from Danny Kyan (District Manger at Hertfordshire Highways) asking the Parish Council to assist by informing them of any outstanding residual tree-debris clearance required to our highways. Mr. Poulton said that he had informed Danny Kyan of the areas involved and these have now all been cleared.

Mrs. Davies said that the crash barrier opposite at the bottom of Station Road has been damaged and one of its posts is protruding into the footpath and could cause injury, particularly to small children.

The Clerk to e-mail Valerie Weaver (at the Highways Partnership) asking her to arrange for the repair of the crash barrier as a matter of urgency.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### e) EHDC – re additional parish litterpicking

EHDC has written confirming that we will be receiving additional litterpicking funding for the year 2003/2004. Also it will not be necessary for us to apply for annual funding.

### f) HCC – Application for a modification order to add a bridleway in the Parish of Aston to the definitive map

Mr. Poulton said that HCC has asked the Parish Council to comment on the addition of this bridleway because it exits in our parish.

Mr. Poulton said that we had contacted Aston Parish Council and asked them for their views on the matter. Aston Parish Council informed us that they will be objecting because no one has walked this bridleway or claimed it as a public right of way for over fifty years.

It was agreed to support Aston Parish Council.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### g) Mr. Wilson – re his hedge that backs onto the sportsfield

Mr. Meischke said that he had received a response from Mr. Wilson concerning the damage to the sportsfield caused by contractors who gained unauthorised access whilst cutting back his hedge at Glebe House. Mr. Wilson apologised for the damage and enclosed a cheque for £20 to compensate the Parish Council for the inconvenience. In his letter, Mr. Wilson also asked if we could supply him with the names of any local reputable gardening contractors.

Mr. Meischke said that he discussed the matter with Mr. Poulton and sent the following response to Mr. Wilson.

'Thank you for your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

Although we are always pleased to receive money, we feel it would be unfair of us to accept your generosity in this instance and therefore we return your cheque with this letter.

Please note that we are looking into the cutting of the sportsfield side of your hedge.

I enclose a list of gardening contractors that the Parish Council use.'

It was agreed that the Parish Council get the sportsfield-side of Mr. Wilson's hedge cut at the same time as the sportsfield hedges are cut.

This item to be placed on the agenda for October when Mr. Whitehead will be instructed to carry-out the extra hedge cutting work.

**Agenda: 10/03**

**h) Walkern Parish Council – 2003 Inter Parish Conference**

Walkern Parish Council is hosting the 2003 Inter Parish Conference on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr. Poulton, Mr. Stock, Mrs. Dinnin and the Clerk to attend.

**Action: N. Poulton/D. Stock/C. Dinnin/J. Allsop**

**i) Braughing Parish Council – Parishes for rural environmental protection (PREP)**

Braughing Parish Council has arranged a meeting for 25<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the implications of the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport. Mr. Filer and Mr. Clark agreed to attend the meeting and give their report at the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action: D. Filer/C. Clark**

**j) EHDC – Concessionary Bus Permit – Bulk issue April 2003**

Mr. Poulton and the Clerk will issue bus permits at Glebe Court Saturday on 29<sup>th</sup> March between 9.30 – 11.30 am. Notices to be placed around the village accordingly.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop**

**k) Mr. Bateman – re Parish Council notice board sited at 103 High Street**

Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Bateman of 103 High Street had written to request that we remove the Parish Council notice board from the wall of his property and re-site it elsewhere. Mr. Poulton said that Mr. Knight had contacted Mr. Bateman to notify him that he would be removing the Church notice board for re-painting. Mr. Bateman asked Mr. Knight to arrange for the notice board to be re-sited elsewhere and subsequently asked the Parish Council to do the same.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to ask Mr. Summan if he would agree to the notice board being sited on the side-wall of the Post Office.

**Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

**l) Police Questionnaire**

Mr. Filer agreed to complete and return the police questionnaire.

**Action: D. Filer**

**m)CDA – Invite**

CDA has invited the Parish Council to attend the opening of its new offices on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11 am. Mr. Poulton said that he would attend.

**n) CPRE – 2003 Hertfordshire's Village of the Year competition**

Due to the amount of work involved and our previous experience of this event, the Parish Council did not enter Watton-at-Stone into the 2002 Hertfordshire's Village of the Year competition.

It was agreed to put this item on circulation and Mr. Poulton said that if any Parish Councillor was interested in completing and returning the forms they could do so.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**o) Criteria for admission to secondary school**

Mr. Poulton and Mrs. Davies have discussed the new criteria for admission to secondary school from Watton-at-Stone. The proposals are that, from autumn of 2003, any child from Watton-at-Stone who gains admission to Richard Hale School or Simon Balle School will be liable to pay the transport costs. Whereas any child going to Sele School would have their transport costs paid for (up to the leaving-age of sixteen).

Mrs. Davies agreed to investigate the implications of the transport issues further.

**Action: S. Davies**

Transport to schools to be placed on the agenda for the March 2003 meeting.

**Agenda: 3/03**

**9 Reports from other Organisations**

**• Crime and Disorder training opportunity**

Mr. Filer reported that he had attended one of the four Crime and Disorder training events arranged by EHDC for Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks. Only four attended out of a possible thirty places. District Councillor Headley Banks opened the evening and thanked the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Clerk for her efforts in arranging the training evenings. Also present were two instructors, provided by Crime Concern, two members of the police, and Will O'Neill and Paul Griffin from EHDC.

Mr. Poulton said that only nine were present on the training evening that he attended.

Mr. Filer said that it was a good evening, the training was very basic and based on crime and vandalism disorder.

The Clerk is due to attend the last of the Crime and Disorder training sessions on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## 10 Items for Parish News

Articles on the following items discussed by the Parish Council to be sent to the editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the next issue.

- Parish Council Meetings dates for the Civic Year 2003/2004
- Bulk issue of Concessionary Bus Permits
- 2003 Inter-Parish Conference

Mr. Filer to write the articles accordingly.

**Action: D. Filer**

## 11 Accounts/Correspondence

### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

#### Petty Cash

#### Receipts

None

#### Payments

Watton PCC - delivery of village directory

10.00

10.00

#### Cheques required

Boardmans Photocopying	Charges to 31.12.02	8.67
Ted Brown	12 hours litterpicking	63.00
Ted Brown	12 hours litterpicking	63.00
J. Allsop	February salary	491.82
St. Albans Diocesan Board	6 months allotment rent	300.00
Lubbock Fine	Audit fee for 2001/2002	141.00
Sodexo Land Technology	Grass cut – 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	360.45
Inland Revenue	Tax and NIC to 5/1/03	127.20
J. Allsop	NTL phone charges	32.28
		<u>1587.42</u>

#### Cheques received

EHDC	4 hours litterpicking	410.08
EHDC	Photocopying charges re Crime and Disorder Training	<u>10.00</u>
		<u>420.08</u>

### Watton-at-Stone Community

#### Hall

#### Petty Cash

#### Receipts

Mr. Keen – Main Hall	100.00	Mark Lewis – 9 days work	9.00
Barry Moor – Main Hall	30.00	VAT return 12/02	<u>85.56</u>
John Murphy	6.00		<u>94.56</u>
M. Overall – Pavilion hire	21.00		
Floodlighting to 05/01/03	<u>204.00</u>		
	<u>361.00</u>		

#### Cheques required

Doe Sport	Repair to fence work at MPPA	176.25
Three Valleys Water	Water charges	304.40
Watton PCC	Parish news advertisement	90.00
Christine Bewley	66 hours	<u>346.50</u>
		<u>917.15</u>

#### Cheques received

Badminton Club	Main Hall Hire	175.00
Bateman	Main Hall & pavilion	48.00
Mrs. Gilbey	Main Hall	75.00
Georgie Pay	Main Hall	<u>189.00</u>
		<u>487.00</u>

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

- **The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2003.**