

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chariman) Mr. J. Meischke (Vice-Chairman)  
 Mr. C. Clark Mrs. C. Dinnin  
 Mr. I. Harris Mr. I. Knight  
 Mrs. H. McCash Mr. M. Smith  
 Mr. D. Stock The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

Police: Police Inspector Diane Wilson, PC Andy Woodward, PCSO Paul Weston and PC Heather Kenwright (all until 1930)

Mr. Poulton welcomed Police Inspector Diane Wilson, PC Andy Woodward, PCSO Paul Weston and PC Heather Kenwright to the meeting.

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Filer.

### 2 Public Participation

None.

### 3 Declaration of Interests

Mr. Harris declared a personal interest in item 8 a i, Planning Application – 23 High Street (Mr. Harris lives opposite the property involved).

Mr. Knight declared a personal interest in item 8 a ii, Planning Application – Land adjacent to 14 Beane Road (Mr. Knight lives adjacent to the property involved).

Mrs. Dinnin declared a personal interest in item 8 a ii, Planning Application – Land adjacent to 14 Beane Road (Mrs. Dinnin lives in the same road as the property involved).

Although she is not covered by the code of conduct, the Clerk declared a personal interest in 8 a ii, Planning Application – Land adjacent to 14 Beane Road (The Clerk lives in the same road as the property involved).

Mr. Poulton declared a personal interest in item 11 e, Correspondence received – Letters re proposed application for a single-storey extension to the front entrance of Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School (Mr. Poulton lives in the vicinity of Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School).

### 4 Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Mr. Poulton had two additional urgent items.

- **Planning application for Land adjacent to 14 Beane Road**  
This item to be discussed under 8 a ii, planning applications.
- **Letter from Monk-Hartley**  
This item to be discussed under 11 i, Correspondence received – Monk- Hartley re 7 Rectory Lane.

### 5 Police Inspector Diane Wilson

Inspector Wilson gave a brief history of her policing experience, which started in the West Midlands where she was a front-line-sergeant for seven years.

Her current motivation is to focus on crime reduction with the key being to make people feel secure in the environment in which they live and work.

She said she had had some excellent feed-back on the two police officers who cover this area, namely, PC Woodward and PCSO Weston.

### 6 Report from P C Andy Woodwood re policing matters

Mr. Poulton invited PC Woodward and PCSO Weston to report on policing matters involving the village.

PC Woodward said that PC Kenwright was shadowing him on his duties.

There were 42 reported crimes for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007, 4 of which were recorded in the last month. The detection rate is over 25%. 44 crimes were recorded in the same period last year.

PC Woodward confirmed that (as requested) there will be extra police presence in the village during the school summer-holidays, especially in the area of the Community Hall.

PC Woodward and PCSO Weston are pleased with the way the new Youth Club, i.e. Watton Youth Drop Inn, is working.

## 7 Minutes of the last meeting

### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007**  
Mr. Stock proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.  
Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

### b) Review of actions

- **Chase PCSO Weston re meeting with Police Inspector Diane Wilson:** completed.
- **Chase dog-waste bin order for Watton Green**  
The delivery of the dog-waste bin is expected the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- **On receipt Install dog-waste bin on Watton Green**  
On receipt, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Smith to install the bin. **Action: N. Poulton/M. Smith**
- **Give a key to Ladies outside toilet to the Allotment & Garden Association:** completed.
- **Write to planning department re 45 Rivershill:** completed.
- **Write to planning department re 27 High Street:** completed.
- **Send amendments to Village Directory to the Clerk by 25<sup>th</sup> May:** completed.
- **Contact all organisations listed in the current Village Directory**  
Refer to item 9 a, Specific items - Village Directory.
- **Install seat adjacent to the swings on the sportsfield play area:** completed.
- **Contact Vernon Dunhill re running of the Watton-at-Stone web site:** completed.
- **Contact Vernon Dunhill and Andrew Buxton re Google Earth link to web site:** completed.
- **Install notice board on the wall of the Community Hall:** completed.
- **Install notice board to replace exiting board at Whempstead**  
Because the current Whempstead notice board is in excellent condition, it was agreed to look for an alternative location for the new notice board (which was funded by the Beane Valley Children's Centre)  
It was agreed to investigate possible sites. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**
- **Invite Dominic Long to speak at the Parish Council meeting in June**  
Because the Police were invited to attend this meeting, Dominic Long has been invited to speak at the September Parish Council meeting.  
Mr. Clark said that Lisa Mannall, Headteacher at Watton Primary School, is leaving at the end of the summer term and her replacement has not yet been appointed. Dominic Long will be the acting head from September 2007 until a new appointment is made. The Beane Valley Children's Centre will be appointing a new head to take Dominic Long's place.
- **Collect audited Parish Council accounts from Jim Morrissey:** completed.  
Refer to item 10 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - Internal audit of Parish Council accounts by Jim Morrissey and external audit by Lubbock and Fine.
- **Take the Community Hall accounts to McCash and Hay for the annual audit:** completed.  
Refer to item 10 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - External audit of Community Hall accounts by McCash and Hay.
- **Transfer funds to Community Hall account and open new COIF account**  
Refer to item 10 a, Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - Deposit accounts and COIF.
- **Inspect the Lammas gate and fix hinges so that the gate cannot be removed:** completed.
- **Have two additional keys to the Lammas gate cut:** completed.  
The Clerk has given one key to Mr. Poulton and will pass the other key to Mrs. Dinnin. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Repair bridge onto the Lammas:** completed.
- **Liaise with Tim Clark re strimming work required at land at Rivershill:** completed and the work has been done.
- **Inspect 'camp' site on the Lammas bank:** completed.
- **Ask Fred Burnell to provide a quotation to remove 'camp' on Lammas bank**  
Mr. Burnell was unable to remove the camp but A. G. and R. P. Stanley cleared the site for £35.
- **Produce and laminate signs re the disposal of nappies:** completed.
- **Submit completed Parish-Paths Partnership End-of-Year Return:** completed.
- **E-mail Sarah Wallace and Becky Hankin re application for a grant:** completed.  
Mr. Poulton was able to secure a grant of £50 for Sarah Wallace and Becky Hankin from an East Herts Council fund he manages.

- **Liaise with Conservation Society re possible transfer of funds**  
Mr. Stock said that the public meeting to discuss disbanding the Society is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.  
As previously reported, the Conservation Society would like to transfer its funds to the Parish Council for use on appropriate projects. The Parish Council accepted the Conservation Society's terms during its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006.  
Mr. Stock has prepared a formal agreement for this to happen and will pursue the matter further with the Conservation Society. **Action: D. Stock**
- **Attend Oliver Heald's (MP) surgery on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July**  
Mr. Knight said that it was no longer appropriate to discuss the issue of indiscriminate flood-warning letters and the unsatisfactory response from the Environment Agency. However, he would be attending Oliver Heald's surgery to discuss issues related to the River Beane.
- **Write Parish News report:** completed.
- **Write to all candidates who put their names forward for co-option:** completed.
- **Arrange for Mr. Harris to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** completed.

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

- **Chase Allianz Cornhill and AON Limited re insurance policies**  
This item is on-going. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Ensure that goal mouths are re-seeded**  
Mr. Harris accompanied Mr. Filer when he did the monthly village-report and noted that additional re-seeding work is required to the goal mouths. Mr. Knight to ask that the Sports and Social Club to do extra re-seeding as necessary. **Action: I. Knight**

**8 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 23 High Street (3/07/0930/FP/SD)**

Garage conversion, loft conversion, new front porch, raised rear roof height and rear dormer window  
This application is further to the one refused in April 2007.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that the Parish Council strongly objects to the above application for the following reasons.

- It is an over-development of site.
- The aesthetic of the proposed development is not in keeping with the adjoining property.
- The proposed development is not in keeping with the area or the properties within it.
- The Parish Council is concerned about traffic movement in this area especially because the driveway of 23 High Street is in a close proximity to two bus stops. **Action: J. Allsop**

**ii) Land adjacent, 14 Beane Road, Watton-at-Stone, Herts SG14 3RG (3/07/1160/FP/SD)**

New three bedroom house

Mr. Poulton said that this application was received at East Herts Council today and the Clerk's son had collected the plans direct from the Council Offices in Hertford so that they could be discussed by the full Parish Council.

Planning permission to build a five-bedroom house was refused in April 2004 and permission to build a four-bedroom dwelling was refused in October 2004.

Mr. Knight clarified certain aspects of the current application and agreed to show the plans to the residents affected by the application in both Beane Road and Walkern Road.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to EHDC informing them that the Parish Council strongly objects to the above application for the following reasons.

- It is an inappropriate level of development in an area of special restraint.
- Because of the restricted access in and out of the site.
- It is not in keeping with the area or the properties within it. **Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Decisions**

**i) 45 Rivershill (3/07/0697/FP/JS)**

Single storey rear extension, garage conversion and internal alterations

- East Herts Council permission granted

## 9 Specific items

### a) Village Directory

Mr. Clark said that he would e-mail the Clerk the name and contact number for the new Chairman of Governors. **Action: C. Clark**

The Clerk said that the Village Directory will be ready for distribution as an insert in the July edition of the Parish News. **Action: J. Allsop**

### b) Meeting with Hertfordshire Highways 20th June

Raj Goutam and Ian Bishop (Hertfordshire Highways) will meet with Parish Councillors on Wednesday 20th June at 1000 in the Community Hall car park and then tour the village looking at issues outstanding (listed below) and any new issues that arise. **Action: Parish Councillors**

- Blocked drains in the High Street, Church Lane and School Lane
- White lining in School Lane
- Resurfacing of School Lane
- Overgrown shrubbery on the left hand side verge of Walkern Road as you leave the village
- Hedge trimming by the Waggon and Horses Public House
- Position of the Walkern Road sign posts entering the village
- Tree planting in Hazeldell
- H-bar marking opposite the Memorial Hall
- Site of salt bin on Walkern Road/Beane Road

Mr. Clark to e-mail Mr. Poulton with details of Highways issues in Whempstead. **Action: C. Clark**

### c) Appointment of Representatives to other Organisations - Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group

Mr. Harris and Mr. Stock were duly appointed.

Watton-at-Stone Scout and Guide Group to be notified in writing. **Action: J. Allsop**

### d) Emergency Plan

This item to be deferred to the July Parish Council. **Agenda: 07/07**

### e) Good Citizenship trophy and the Cup for Outstanding Effort

The Clerk to arrange for both to be engraved and for two keep-sake versions to be purchased.

**Action: J. Allsop**

Mr. Poulton to present the trophies during the Community Service on 1<sup>st</sup> July. **Action: N. Poulton**

### f) Addition to Parish Council Information Pack concerning communications

All Parish Councillors present at the meeting were issued with a sheet containing the following text.

#### Parish Council Letters and E-mails

All letters written by Parish Councillors must be on the Parish Council's headed paper and sent out via, and using, the Clerk's address (i.e. that of the Council's office). This ensures that the Clerk is aware of, and keeps a record of, all written Parish-Council communications. All formal communications with third-parties and external agencies must be via this method.

In situations where a Parish Councillor communicates with someone on Council business via e-mail instead of the telephone (e.g. as part of work-in-progress), the following disclaimer must be used and inserted above the message itself.

#### 'Important

This e-mail is confidential and intended for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed.

Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council.'

Parish Councillors were asked to insert the sheet in their Parish Council Information Pack and destroy the sheet titled E-mails.

## 10 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

Mr. Poulton read from Mr. Filer's report on the following items.

- **Internal audit of Parish Council accounts by Jim Morrissey and external audit by Lubbock and Fine**

Jim Morrissey has carried out the audit of the Parish Council Accounts. He found these in order but made a few minor comments.

- a. The claim for VAT rebate on the notice boards purchased by the school was not valid.
- b. Jim Morrissey queried what the view of H. M. Customs and Excise will be on the way we dealt with the purchase of the Electronic Scoreboard re our claim for a VAT rebate.
- c. There were a number of items omitted from the 2007/08 Asset Register.
  - 3 dog waste bins £1531
  - 30 rubbish bins £1522
  - Sportsfield bench seat £1133
  - Gates and fences £6015 (reduced to £1500 on 2007/08)
  - Photocopier £1116
  - Strimmer £350.

It was agreed to write to Jim Morrissey informing him of the following.

- The Clerk has issued a revised invoice to Watton Primary School, which does not show a VAT element.
- The VAT element has been successfully claimed back from H. M. Customs and Excise for both the notice boards and the electronic scoreboard.
- The Parish Council's policy re the claiming back of the VAT on the electronic scoreboard is in-line with the practice we have carried-out in the past.
- The Parish Council has decided not insure the 3 dog-waste bins, the 30 rubbish bins or the strimmer and therefore these items have been removed from the Asset Register.
- The photocopy machine has been transferred to the Community Hall insurance policy and therefore is included under its Asset Register.
- The sportsfield bench-seat is included on the Asset Register under the title:  
Lamp-posts, street furniture etc. – 16 seats £8000.
- Gates and fences – the value of cover for this item had included the brick wall adjacent to the Community Hall. However, when the wall was damaged and we tried to claim for the damage, it was discovered that this item was not included in the Parish Council policy (although the value of cover was sufficient) but was covered on the Community Hall insurance policy. **Action: D. Filer**

Jim Morrissey completed and signed sections 1 and 4 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 (all Parish Councillors have been given a copy of the completed Annual Return).

Mrs. McCash proposed that the accounts, detailed in section 1 and the Statement of Assurance, detailed in section 2 of the Annual Return, be approved by the Parish Council and that the Chairman and the Clerk sign the Annual Return. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Poulton and the Clerk duly signed the Annual Return and the Statement of Assurance.

After the public inspection period (which ends on 18<sup>h</sup> June), the Clerk to return all relevant documentation to Lubbock Fine by 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **External audit of Community Hall accounts by McCash and Hay**

The audit of the Community Hall accounts has been done by McCash and Hay and everything is in order. In his report, Mr. Filer thanked the Clerk for her good work on both accounts.

Mr. Meischke proposed that Mr. Poulton sign the audited accounts for the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall. Mrs. Dinnin 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**

- **Deposit accounts and COIF**

The transfer of funds from the Alliance and Leicester deposit account to the current account should be complete within the next few days. When this is confirmed the new COIF account can be opened.

## Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for the repair of the safety-surface**

The damage to the surface at the side of the run-off to the slide on the multi-play equipment has become a safety issue. Wicksteed Leisure inspected the damage and submitted a quotation of £1484.70 (plus VAT) to replace 15 m<sup>2</sup> of safety-surface.

Because this is a safety issue, Mr. Poulton obtained permission to accept the quotation prior to this meeting from six Parish Councillors (via e-mail). Subsequently, the Clerk asked Wicksteed Leisure Limited to do the work as soon as possible. Parish Councillors agreed with this decision.

Mr. Poulton said that he had secured the area with tape to stop it being used. Mr. Harris said that because of liability issues if someone be injured, we should contact our insurers to make them aware of the situation. It was agreed to contact Allianz accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **East Herts Council –grant application**

A grant application of £740 to cover half the cost of replacing the safety-surface has been submitted to East Herts Council.

- **External decoration**

Two quotations have been received to for the following work.

Window, doors and frames on the Church-side wall of the Community Hall, facing the sportsfield only:  
Clean and lightly rub down and apply two coats of Sadolin Extra

- Robert Adams £240
- Mick Taylor - £300

Mr. Poulton proposed that Robert Adam’s quotation be accepted. Mr. Stock seconded the motion and all present were in favour. **Action: J. Allsop**

- **No-smoking signs**

Mr. Knight has laminated the official ‘No-Smoking signs’ to be put up in the Community Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. **Action: N. Poulton**

- **Guttering**

The low-level guttering on the car-park side of the Community Hall keeps getting damaged, partly because of vandalism and partly due to footballs being kicked onto the roof. If the guttering is not replaced, then the fascia boards will rot and this would affect the stability of the roof.

Two quotations have been obtained for replacing the plastic guttering with cast iron (on the car-park side only).

- David Bunyan £1290 (plus VAT)
- City Roofing Contractors £985 (including a two-year guarantee)

Mr. Poulton said that he was hopeful that Circle Anglia would give us a grant towards the cost.

If we are successful in securing funding, Mr. Poulton proposed that we accept City Roofing’s quotation. Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **External Toilets**

Mr. Poulton and Alan Bunyan cleared a blockage in the Ladies and Gents external toilet. Mr. Poulton said that it had been some time since this has had to be done.

Currently, toilet paper is not available in the external toilets. After discussion, it was agreed to supply this again but on a trial basis. Rosemary Brown to be instructed accordingly. **Action: J. Meischke**

## Recreation & Amenities

Mr. Knight reported on the following items concerning the Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee.

- **Tennis Court**

On receipt of a letter from Alison Tinniswood (County Archaeologist) concerning the archaeological survey and the implications regarding changing the orientation of the court by 90%, the application for a new Tennis Court can be submitted to the planning department at East Herts Council.

- **Proposed extension of the sportsfield**

We are waiting for a response from the Diocesan Board before this item can progress further.

## Environment

Mrs. Dinnin reported on the following items concerning the Environment Sub-Committee.

- **Grass cutting on the Watton Green and the Lammas**

Mr. Smith will cut the grass during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Action: M. Smith**

- **Dead Poplar trees on the Lammas**

Mrs. Dinnin said that the two dead Poplar trees on the Lammas are an eye-saw and, if there is any money in the budget, they should be cut down. She agreed to contact Adam Welch for a quotation for cutting both trees down and either leaving the material on site or removing it. **Action: C. Dinnin**

Mr. Poulton said that Brenda Marshall, whose garden overlooks the dead trees, may be willing to assist with the cost of their removal.

In response to a concern raised by Mr. Harris, Mr. Stock explained that it was the policy of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council to replace lost trees wherever possible.

Mr. Smith also agreed to obtain an additional quotation for the removal of both Poplar trees.

**Action: M. Smith**

## b) Routine reports

- i) **Fire-alarm test**

The fire-alarm was tested before the start of the meeting.

- ii) **Monthly village-report**

Mr. Filer completed this report with Mr. Harris on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:**
  - Condition of grass Good condition.
  - Litter OK.
  - Dog fouling OK.
  - General Some re-seeding in goal mouths.
- **Children's Play Area:**
  - Condition of surface Good. One area repaired.
  - Litter/Litterbin Empty.
  - Large swings One swing – chains around top.
  - 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 Burning of grass – gas BBQ?
  - Fun Box OK.
- **Community Hall:**
  - General Condition (Exterior) Mud on top windows.
  - Litterbin Empty.
  - Car Park Empty.
  - General -
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**
  - Surface Good.
  - Boundary Fencing Good.
  - Tennis nets Good.
  - Litter No litter
  - General Generally good condition.
- **Great Innings Play Area:**
  - Equipment OK – one swing missing.
  - Surfaces Good.
  - Litter No litter.
  - Dog fouling None.
  - Trees One new tree has died.
  - Comments Good condition overall.
- **Allotments Area:**
  - Access OK.
  - Condition of paths between Allotments Good.
  - Condition of Allotments under cultivation Some are overgrown – new hirings.
  - Condition of Allotments not under cultivation OK.
  - Litter No litter.
  - Comments Non cultivation a problem.
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**
  - Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts No rubbish.
  - Dog-fouling OK.
  - Comments Very overgrown.
- **Salt bins**
  - Perrywood Lane Full.
  - Entrance to Great Innings Full.
  - Great Innings South – outside number 93 Full.
  - Station Road Full.
  - Moorymead Close (2) Full.
  - Hazeldell Full.
  - Footpath 17 Full.
- **Dog-waste bins**
  - Footpath 17 OK.
  - Sportsfield OK.
  - Church Walk No lid on dog-bin.
  - Walkern Road Lid missing.

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|---|-----|
| Station Road  | OK. |
| High Street (by Memorial)   | OK. |
| Great Innings   | OK. |
| Mill Lane   | OK. |
| Opposite 5 School Lane  | OK. |
| • <b>War Memorial</b>   |     |
| Comments  | OK. |
| • <b>Ornate Village Sign</b>  |     |
| Comments  | OK. |
| Post  | OK. |
| • <b>Re-seeding in goal mouths</b>  |     |
| Refer to item 7 c, Actions outstanding for more than two months - Ensure that goal mouths are re-seeded.  |     |
| • <b>Allotments</b>   |     |
| It was agreed to ask Phil Moore to identify which allotments are not being cultivated by tenants so that we can write to them accordingly. <b>Action: J. Allsop</b> |     |
| <b>iii) Weekly sportsfield-report and action</b>  |     |
| There was nothing to report from Ted Brown's weekly inspections.  |     |

## 11 Correspondence received

### a) Garden Party hosted by Chairman of East Herts Council on Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

Mr. Harris and guest will be attending the Garden Party on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Action: I. Harris**

### b) HAPTC – Training for Parish Councillors

HAPTC are running training workshops informing Councillors what their role is, the role of the Council, Clerk and Chairman. It covers Code of Conduct duties, powers and procedures. The cost to non-HAPTC members is £40 per delegate.

No Parish Councillors present at the meeting expressed an interest in attending the workshops.

### c) East Herts Council – Re-tender for grounds maintenance contract

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May) from Cliff Cardoza (Head of Environmental Services, East Herts Council).

'East Herts Council are currently in the process of re-tendering our Grounds Maintenance Contract.

This provides us with an opportunity to review our current arrangements and the way in which we work with Town and Parish Councils for Grounds Maintenance.

There are some parcels of land and public open spaces owned by Town and Parish Councils that we maintain on their behalf. There are also areas owned by East Herts Council that Town and Parish Councils choose to maintain themselves in order to achieve a particular standard. If you are satisfied with the current arrangements, you need take no action as we will continue to honour our commitments in this regard. If you would like to change these arrangements or to discuss with us some alternative options or proposals we will be happy to talk to you.

In these circumstances, please write or e-mail the Environmental Service Department of the Council and mark for the attention of the Business Development and Support Manager or e-mail [jean.petrie@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jean.petrie@eastherts.gov.uk).'

Parish Councillors agreed that they were happy with the current arrangements. No action required.

### d) East of England - Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation in the East of England - Public Consultation

Mr. Poulton attended the public consultation on 6<sup>th</sup> June and has put the related literature on circulation.

### e) Letters re proposed application for a single-storey extension to the front entrance of Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School

Mr. Poulton left the meeting while this item was discussed.

Mr. Meischke read out two letters concerning the proposed application, copies of which are attached to these minutes. **See attached**

The letters are from:

- Kevin Steptoe, Head of Planning and Building Control at East Herts Council (dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007)
- Jenny Roberts – Planning & systems Support Officer at HCC (dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007).

Mr. Clark went through the details of the proposals. He said that in his opinion the application would not increase traffic in the area.

It was agreed that Mr. Clark should represent the Parish Council at the site meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July, with members of the HCC Development Control Committee. **Action: C. Clark**  
 Mr. Poulton returned to the meeting.

**f) GO-East re proposed changes consultation**

This item was put on the agenda in error.

**g) Public Exhibition in Benington on the 7th July re the potential development of wind turbines in Benington**

The Bott Family from Benington wants to install three wind-turbines on their land and are holding a public information day on 7<sup>th</sup> July between 1100 and 1600. The exhibition will include details of the proposed layout, photomontages of the turbines, results of the noise-assessment survey and information about the on-going wildlife surveys. As part of the consultation, they are arranging to visit a wind farm in Kettering which has turbines of a similar size to those proposed. There will be an opportunity to book a place on this visit during the information day. Mr. Poulton urged Parish Councillors to attend.

**h) Mr. R. Adams re rabbits**

Mr. Poulton read the following letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June from Bob Adams.

‘Please find enclosed figures for the amount of rabbits and rats despatched on the following areas of parish land.

	Rabbits	Rats
Lammas	89	3
Lammas paddock	64	0
Watton Green	12	1
Allotments	9	3

**i) Monk-Hartley Builders re 7 Rectory Lane**

Mr. Poulton read out a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> June from Mr. Monk-Hartley requesting permission to erect scaffolding adjacent to the public footpath at 7 Rectory Lane, which he believed to be Parish Council land.

It was agreed to write to tell Mr. Monk-Harley that the land in question belongs to Hertfordshire Highways and that we are forwarding a copy of his letter to them.

The Clerk to act accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**12 Reports from other Organisations**

• **Watton-at-Stone Conservation Society**

Refer to item 7 b, Review of Actions - Liaise with Conservation Society re possible transfer of funds

• **Watton-at-Stone Primary School**

Mr. Clark reported that interviews took place in May for a replacement Headteacher but no appointment was made. A further round of interviews will take place shortly, because of the timescales involved they will not be able to commence work at the beginning of the school year (i.e. September 2007). Dominic Long (Deputy Headteacher) will stand in as Headteacher until an appointment is made.

• **Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club**

The Watton-at-Stone Sports and Social Club is holding its fun day on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Parish Councillors were asked to support the event.

• **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch**

Mrs. McCash said that Chief Constable Frank Whiteley has agreed to attend the next meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch coordinators in September.

• **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association**

Mr. Meischke reported that the following re-elections were made during the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

- Phil Moore - Chairman
- Bob Thurlow - Treasurer
- Linda Thurlow - Secretary

Roger Green has agreed to prepare an accurate map of the allotment area.

The Allotment and Garden Association have requested that the Parish Council place a notice in the Parish News advertising allotment vacancies.

The next meeting of the Allotment and Garden Association is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. **Action: J. Allsop**

### 13 Items for Parish News

The following items to be sent to the Editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the next issue.

- Allotment vacancies
- Issuing of the Village Directory
- Policing Matters

The Clerk to write the entry accordingly.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Meeting dates**

Some Parish Councillors expressed a difficulty in concentrating during this meeting because of the excessive amount of noise created by the Watton Youth Drop Inn. It was therefore suggested that the Parish Council should change the day on which it meets.

The Clerk to give all Parish Councillors a table of dates starting from September 2007 through to April 2008.

**Action: J. Allsop**

All Parish Councillors to complete the table and return it to the Clerk prior to the July meeting.

**Action: Parish Councillors**

### 14 Accounts

**Watton-at-Stone Parish Council**

**Petty Cash**

**Receipts**

None

**Payments**

Staples – 5 reams of copy paper

10.99

10.99

**Cheques required**

CPRE	Annual Subscription	27.00
Fred Burnell	To remove badger carcass	30.00
Ted Brown	Strimming around sportsfield and MPPA	70.00
Ted Brown	Reinstate litter bin on sportsfield	28.49
J. Allsop	April salary	559.05
J. Allsop	Phone calls to 03/04/07	25.00
Frank Cooper & Son	Sportsfield grass cut	130.42
Ted Brown	32 hours litterpick	224.00
Ted Brown	Woodland clearance work at Watton Green	<u>210.00</u>
		<u>1303.96</u>

**Cheques received**

None

**Watton-at-Stone Community Hall**

**Petty Cash**

**Receipts**

**Payments**

Jim Keen – Main hall hire	30.00	None
Desmond Raynor	28.00	
Watton Dots & Tots – Pavilion hire	<u>56.00</u>	
	<u>114.00</u>	

**Cheques required**

Rosemary Brown	24 hours cleaning	144.00
G. Smith	Window cleaning	56.00
J. Phillips	Opening toilets from 14.03.07 to 20.04.07	38.00
David Bunyan	To check water heater, repair door and floor	205.33
Rosemary Brown	24 hours cleaning	<u>156.00</u>
		<u>599.33</u>

Mrs. McCash proposed that the Parish Council approve the above payments. Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

- **The meeting closed at 2045.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007.**