

## Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008

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

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Harris.

### 2 Public Participation

None.

### 3 Declaration of Interests

None.

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

- **Land off Station Road**

Prior to the meeting Ruth Grey, of Vincent and Gorbings, gave a presentation to Parish Councillors on the draft plans for the development of the HCC land adjacent to Station Road.

A public exhibition of the plans will be held at Watton Primary School on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, from 1530 to 1930.

The Parish Council will have a final presentation of the plans prior to its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Note:** The date for the final presentation is now Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 1930 in the Community Hall.

The presentation will be followed by the scheduled meeting of the Community Hall Trustees.

Mr. Poulton had one additional item for this meeting.

- **Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Taylor of Beane Cottage, Walkern Road**

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter from Mr. and Mrs. Taylor

**Re: Land between Beane Cottage and Bridge at river edge**

Further to my telephone call to you recently regarding the above, we have produced a sketch plan enclosed along with four photographs showing this area of bank beside the bridge on the North End. As we discussed, David and I would like to request the Parish Council to consider us for the transfer of the bank area of the Parish Council land, this is between your better kept tree and shrub area and the river edge beside the bridge at Walkern Road.

If it is agreed, we would clear the bramble and weeds to create a kept grass area along the river edge with a sloping bank a small distance back to continue with the theme we have created with our own garden. As seen from the photographs it is now encroaching into one of the arches, which could inhibit the river flow and now needs attention.

We will agree to maintain the trees and shrubs on the Parish land, which will in the near future need attention. We have refurbished the seat in memory of Bob Ansell earlier this year and will replace it if and when needed. If this request were to be agreed, we will donate £500 to the Parish fund and pay for the legal cost for the transfer of the bank.

I look forward to hearing from you.'

Mr. Stock felt that we must continue to retain all of the land we own so as to protect it for the benefit of the Parish. Mr. Filer suggested that we could consider renting the small area of land in question to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. After much discussion, Mr. Stock proposed that we retain our ownership of the land but offer it for rent. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour

It was agreed to write to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor informing them that the main reason why the small plot of land by the bridge had been left uncultivated is to stop youngsters gaining access to the river at this point and also to give some form of security to their property. Also, that the Parish Council was not prepared to sell this parcel of land but would consider renting it. If this course of action was acceptable, it would be possible for them to fence-off the area for the duration of the rental period.

Parish Councillors also agreed that we continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the adjacent area of land.

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

## 5 Minutes of the last meeting

### a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008**  
Mrs. McCash proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mrs. Dinnin seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.
- **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008**  
Page 2 item 5 b, Review of action – Write to Allianz re Parish Council insurance policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> line of final paragraph.  
‘out’ should read ‘our’.  
Mrs. McCash proposed that the minutes as amended be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Filer seconded the motion and all present at that meeting were in favour.

### b) Review of actions

- **Make flower festival grant-cheque payable to Mrs. Abel Smith**  
Mrs. McCash notified the Clerk that the cheque needs to be made payable to Watton-at-Stone PCC and not to Mrs. Abel Smith. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **Write to Allianz re the Parish Council’s insurance policy**  
Mr. Filer wrote to Allianz on 8<sup>th</sup> July as follows.  
‘I am writing on behalf of Watton-at-Stone Parish Council following a letter from Mrs. Harris dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in response to my letter of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 regarding Watton-at-Stone Parish Council policy No 11/ac/5274013.  
The Parish Council discussed the reply from Mrs. Harris at it’s last meeting and has asked me to emphasise to you that as a public body and in accordance with local government regulations we do need to go out for competitive bids for this insurance.  
We therefore wish to give you notice that we do not wish to accept any further extension of the Long Term Undertaking (LUT) after 2010 and therefore do not wish this to be referred to on the appropriate invoices sent out to us by Allianz.  
We would wish to reserve any rights we have in this situation.  
Could you please acknowledge receipt of this letter.’  
No response has been received to date.
- **Write to Adam Welch re flowerbed maintenance: completed.**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Flowerbed maintenance.
- **Chase Hugh McAlpine (Stonemason) re War Memorial cleaning and repair work**  
Hugh McAlpine (Stonemason) is behind with jobs due to the weather conditions but hopes to work on the War Memorial in the 3rd week during August. He sincerely apologies for the delay.
- **Write to planning department re 77 Hazeldell (3/08/0842/FP/MC): completed.**
- **Invite Andrew Bott & a member of the Stop Benington Wind Farm Action Group to give presentations at the Special Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July: completed.**
- **Chase Herts Fire Protection re annual fire inspection check: completed.**  
Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Fire equipment - Annual safety inspections.
- **Inspect nettles in Watton woods and take action as necessary**  
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Smith inspected the nettles and Mr. Smith agreed to supply weedkiller for Mr. Filer to apply to the weeds. Mr. Filer has administered the first application, which has killed some of the nettles. Mr. Smith has recommended that the best time for the weedkiller to be applied is in late spring.
- **Write to Adam Welch asking him to provide a quotation to cut down two trees on the Lammas: completed.**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee – Lammas – Trees.
- **Cut back the nettles by the gate and the steps to the Lammas bank: completed.**
- **Write to Adam Welch re flowerbed maintenance**  
Refer to item 8 a, Environment Sub-Committee - Flowerbed Maintenance
- **Inspect the ‘Jack Turner’ bench**  
Mr. Poulton and Mr. Smith inspected the bench and then spoke to Jack Turner’s son, who has agreed to arrange for his Father’s memorial bench seat to be repaired.
- **Ask the Cricket Club to clear the debris from around the Cricket shed, plus the wire netting**  
Mr. Knight said that the Cricket Club has agreed to clear the debris.

- **Ask Rosemary Brown to renew the toilet paper in the ladies toilets**  
Mr. Poulton replaced the paper in the toilets and generally tidied them up.
- **Inspect bird lime on bench on sportsfield**  
Mr. Poulton removed the bird lime.
- **Inspect the graffiti on the bike ramps to see if it can be removed**  
Mr. Poulton has removed the majority of the graffiti but was unable to remove it all.
- **Send all Parish Councillors a copy of the planning decision for 14 Beane Road: completed.**
- **Ask East Herts Council to arrange for the annual inspection of the playground equipment on the sportsfield: completed.**
- **Inform Andrew Anastasiou (Out2Play Summer Playscheme) that he can use MPPA facilities: completed.**
- **Attend East Herts Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the Local Development Framework**  
Refer to item 7 e, Specific items - Report on East Herts Council Local Development Framework meeting.
- **Inspect demolished fence on the far side of Watton Green and take action as necessary**  
Mr. Poulton, Mr. Smith and Mr. Filer inspected the demolished section of fencing and agreed to take no action.
- **Inspect unused area of the allotments to see how best it can be cleared**  
Mr. Meischke, Mr. Smith and Mr. Michael Freeman inspected the unused area of the allotments and agreed that it needs to be cleared of weeds and inspected again. Blue Bury Contractors have submitted a quotation of £200 to clear the weeds and Parish Councillors agreed that we accept this quotation.  
Mr. Smith to proceed accordingly. **Action: M. Smith**
- **Write Parish News entry**  
Because we were too late for an entry in the Parish News an insert was produced and distributed with the Parish News. The BSWW Parish News charged £17.95, including £10 delivery, for photocopying the insert (excluding any paper which the Parish Council provided).

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

- **Inspect the kicker boards on the Church Walk side of the MPPA**  
Mr. Knight said that some remedial work had been done to the kicker boards.

**6 Planning**

**a) Applications**

**i) 55 Rivershill (3/08/0980/FP/LH)**

Demolish part of existing conservatory and extension to provide additional bedroom

Mr. Meischke has studied the plans for this application, which does not affect the neighbouring residents, and said it will not increase the overall footprint of this ground floor flat.

Parish Councillors looked at the plans and agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that they have no comment on the application. **Action: J. Allsop**

**ii) 6, Newmans Court, Watton At Stone, Herts, SG14 3TN (3/08/1192/FP/MC)**

Insertion of single door (external) in place of existing window, and formation of steps externally.

Because there are two applications related to the proposal, one for planning permission and the seconded for listed-building planning consent, the two applications were discussed together (refer to item 7 a iii, 6, Newmans Court).

Mr. Poulton read out Mr. Harris report on the application.

‘I visited this site. I spoke initially to the owner, Philip Scott, in order to obtain a better understanding of his application. It is merely to turn an existing window into a door. On the large plans I have ringed and marked the existing and proposed “development.”

I suspect this requires permission because it is a listed building.

There are no neighbours who can see the new door. Whilst I understand under the protocol the aim is to visit the immediate neighbours in this case I did not consider it necessary to call on anyone else which I trust is acceptable in the circumstances.

That point aside it is perhaps early to canvass neighbours’ views given that the application has not yet been advertised although I appreciate considering this application at such an early stage may have been because we do not now meet until September.

For my part I can see no problem with this simple and small variation to the building and my recommendation to the Council is that we do not offer any comment on this application.’

Parish Councillors agreed to write to East Herts Council informing them that they have no comment on either of the applications. **Action: J. Allsop**

**iii) 6, Newmans Court, Watton At Stone, Herts, SG14 3TN (3/08/1193/LB/MC)**

Insertion of single door (external) in place of existing window, and formation of steps externally  
Refer to item above.

**b) Decisions**

**i) 39b High Street**

Front wall, piers and railings (retrospective) -East Herts Council Permission granted

**ii) 77 Hazeldell (3/08/0842/FP/MC)**

Single storey front extension with 2 no. new windows to front -East Herts Council Permission granted

**iii) 1-3 Mill Lane (3/08/0679/FP/HS)**

Extension to roof and refurbishment of existing building to provide 3 no. self contained commercial units with associated car parking and landscaping -East Herts Council Permission granted

**7 Specific items**

**a) Village Directory**

At the request of Mr. Stock, the Clerk e-mailed all Parish Councillors the following Website Working-Group Review.

During our discussions on the purpose, scope and content of the new website we felt that it may be a good time to review the current Village Directory in the same way. So, after due deliberation we came to the conclusion that there are 3 main options for consideration with regard to the future of the directory.

**Option 1: Do nothing and leave the Village Directory as it is**

We consider this to be unacceptable because the scope and content of the directory is very difficult to explain and defend. Questions arise about why certain ‘commercial’ entries are included and others not. There does not appear to be any logic to the current directory and thus its purpose is not clear.

**Option 2: Adopt a very basic Village Directory**

This would simply be a list of the ‘contact’ information contained within the various areas of the new website, i.e. a ‘download’ in effect (no more and no less). Subsequently, each can be checked against the other to ensure that information is up-to-date.

Because the website is to be controlled as a strictly non-commercial entity, this means that the directory automatically becomes the same. Obviously this is advantageous.

Also, although restricted, this option does give all parishioners (in particular those without a PC) easy access to the contact-information held within the website.

**Option 3: Expand the scope of the Village Directory Recommended**

This would be a simple ‘single-line entry’ list of local organisations, clubs, companies and individuals (and their contact details) compiled by the Parish Council for the benefit of the parishioners of Watton-at-Stone.

Inclusion in the directory would be on the basis that the listed party provides a ‘service’ (whether commercial, voluntary or otherwise) to the local community. We see no reason to exclude ‘local services’ from the directory.

It would be made clear that inclusion in the directory does not signify that the Parish Council makes any recommendation as to the service offered or of the party or organisation listed. Also it would be clear that the directory had been compiled in good faith and that no legal liability can be accepted for any information therein.

It would be a matter for anyone wishing to use this information to make their own enquiries and satisfy themselves as to the reliability and competence of any provider listed.

After discussion, Parish Councillors voted with a show of hands on the three difference options.

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Option 1:	2	6
Option 2:	0	9
Option 3:	7	1

It was agreed to place a notice in the Parish News stating that the Parish Council is considering the possibility of expanding the scope of the current Village Directory to include more local people/companies who can serve the parishioners of Whempstead and Watton-at-Stone. **Action: D. Stock**

A copy of the notice is also to be displayed on our notice boards. **Action: J. Allsop**

**b) Update from Website Working-Group**

Mr. Stock gave Parish Councillors the opportunity to see a hardcopy of what he had produced to date.

He said that he had completed approximately 80% of the proposed contents, but progress had now slowed down significantly.

Currently:

- Information is awaited from Mr. Clark re ‘Whempstead’ and ‘Education’
- Mr. Harris is to write ‘Village of Watton-at-Stone History’
- Information is awaited from Mr. Harris re ‘Healthcare’ (However, Mrs. McCash is to speak to Mr. Harris because she feels that she may be better able to move this item forward)
- Mr. Stock is currently writing ‘Village of Watton-at-Stone: Life Today’
- There is no progress on ‘Public Footpaths’ or ‘Maps’
- Mr. Stock has given the Scouts and Guides templates for their section in ‘Recreation’ and ‘Village Halls’ (and chased with no result)
- Information is awaited from Mrs. McCash re ‘Neighbourhood Watch’
- Information is awaited from Maurice Gordon re ‘Peacemakers’ (Mr. Stock has chased this without result)
- The ‘Village Directory’ and Gallery’ are both items outstanding.

If we remove the ‘Village Directory’, ‘Gallery’, ‘Public Footpaths’ and ‘Maps’ from the list of items outstanding, then the figure for items completed becomes 85%.

If the input promised by the Scouts and Guides and Maurice Gordon is not received, their entries will be listed as ‘information not available’.

We are now in a good position to move to the next stage to get this new website on-line.

Mr. Stock to meet with Peter Allsop accordingly.

**Action: D. Stock**

**c) Awarding of the Good Citizenship trophy and the Cup for Outstanding Effort**

Mr. Poulton reported that these trophies were awarded during the Community Hall service on Sunday 6th July.

- The Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Good Citizenship Award was presented to Rebekah Buxton.
- The Watton-at-Stone Parish Council Outstanding Effort Award was presented to Samuel Baudrey.

**d) Overgrown hedges in the village**

Mrs. McCash said that the Church Walk hedge is overgrown with nettles and the section of footpath beyond Church Walk, adjacent to the Horses field that exits onto Church Lane, is almost blocked. This section of hedge is the responsibility of the Church.

Mrs. Dinnin said she was in receipt of an e-mail from the Clerk about these hedges and Adam Welch would be cutting back the nettles. The recent heavy rain has pulled the nettles down so they encroach onto the footpath.

Mr. Knight said that the Clerk had contacted him about the Church hedge and he was arranging for it to be cut back.

**Action: I. Knight**

Mrs. McCash said that the Watton Primary School hedge running along the footpath at the end of Glebe Close towards Church Lane is badly overgrown. Mr. Clark agreed to contact the school to get the hedge cut.

**Action: C. Clark**

The hedge at the back of the George and Dragon Pub is also in a very bad state. Parish Councillors discussed the subject of this hedge and agreed, because of the problems encountered in the past, they pass any written complaint received onto Hertfordshire Highways.

**e) Report on East Herts Council Local Development Framework meeting**

Mr. Filer said that he and Mr. Smith had attended the Local Development Framework (LDF) meeting in Bishop's Stortford on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008. He reported that the East Herts Local Plan was being replaced by a new Planning System based on a new East of England plan, referred to as Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which sets out the development strategy for the region in terms of Housing, Jobs, Transport and Environment. This RSS would lead to an extra 12,000 houses in East Herts District in the addition to those already planned.

East Herts Council was charged with producing a Strategic Plan in the form of an LDF. This LDF would be split into a whole series of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Documents (SPDs). These documents would eventually form an overall plan for the District and this plan would be subject to Independent Examination by a Government Inspector to prove that it was 'Justified and Effective'.

It was expected that final adoption of the plan would be by 2011 and that Town and Parish Councils would play an effective part in its formation by setting out their vision and aspirations in the form of Town and Parish Council plans.

It was pointed out to the presenters that parishes such as Watton-at-Stone had very limited resources and therefore any meaningful parish plans would be very difficult to produce.

Mr. Poulton said that the Community Agency for Hertfordshire could give the Parish Council a presentation of what is involved in producing a Parish Council plan. It was agreed that we should do so. **Action: J. Allsop**

## 8 Reports

### a) Sub-Committees

#### Budget & Finance

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

- **Monthly accounts**

#### Watton-at-Stone Parish Council

##### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Village Guide

1.00  
1.00

##### Payments

Recorded delivery postage re Annual return

0.72  
0.72

##### Cheques required

St. Albans Diocesan Board

Allotment rent – ½ year

300.00

Frank Cooper & son

Sportsfield grass cutting

183.30

Blue Bury Contractors

Grass cutting and weed killing

857.75

Ted Brown

32 hours litterpicking

232.00

J. Allsop

Concord Trophies

52.17

J. Allsop

July salary

585.08

J. Allsop

Phone charges April, May, June and July

75.80

J. Allsop

2 large-size cartridges for printer

139.23

2425.33

##### Cheques received

Sports and Social Club

¼ annual rent

300.00

East Herts Council

Annual litterpick grant

1170.37

1470.37

#### Watton-at-Stone Community Hall

##### Petty Cash

##### Receipts

Floodlighting to 17/06/08

45.00

Jim Keen – Main hall hire in April

80.00

##### Payments

Rosemary Brown – 6 hours cleaning

42.00

Watton Dots & Tots – Pavilion hire

56.00

Rosemary Brown – 6 hours cleaning

42.00

Carla Beach Main Hall & Pavilion

67.50

84.00

Claire Seeley

39.00

287.50

##### Cheques required

H. M. Customs & Excise

Vat return 05/08

100.98

Rosemary Brown

12 hours cleaning

84.00

184.98

##### Cheques received

River Beane Restoration Assoc

Pavilion hire

14.00

Sports and Social Club

¼ annual rent

300.00

Mrs. Bainton

Main Hall and Pavilion hire

56.00

Badminton Club

Main Hall hire

144.00

514.00

Mr. Filer proposed that the Parish Council approves the above payments. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

Mr. Smith said that the Blue Bury Contractor's invoice represented more than half the annual quotation for grass cutting because additional work was carried out. However, the rest of the seasons grass cutting will cost less because the Parish Council is no longer tied to the restraints of the Stewardship Scheme. The Lammas grass will only require flail-cutting once or twice this season and will not need to have the additional cost of the grass cuttings being removed from site, and thus remain within budget.

- **Quarterly accounts**

Mr. Filer went through the expenditure and income items for the Parish Council and the Community Hall accounts. He explained that the first-quarter accounts are not a good reflection of 25% of the year's income and expenditure. For example, the Precept is paid twice a year, representing 50% of the total income and seasonal expenditure items such as grass cutting do not occur during the winter months. Having said that, when taking these figures into account, the accounts do make a good representation of the quarter period for the year.

Because the bank statements for this period will not be received for several weeks, these accounts are draft statements only.

### Community Hall Trustees

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

- **Minutes and report on meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

All Parish Councillors were given a copy of the minutes of the Trustees meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 prior to this meeting.

Mr. Stock proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Mr. Meischke seconded the motion and Mr. Poulton and Mr. Knight were in favour. Mr. Poulton signed the minutes.

- **Hire agreement**

The Trustees have altered the Community Hall hire agreement to incorporate the following text in clause 7.

‘Those hirers who are provided with a key to the internal store cupboard must not use any of the equipment stored therein without prior consent of the owners of that equipment.’

- **Acoustics for Main Hall**

East Herts Council has awarded the Community Hall Trustees a grant of £1,265 towards the price of installing acoustic panels in the Main Hall.

Mr. Filer proposed that we accept Mr. Eddie Turner’s (Prism Displays) quotation for installing acoustic panels in the Main Hall. Mrs. McCash seconded the motion and all present were in favour.

**Action: N. Poulton**

- **Vertical Blinds in the Pavilion**

The plastic fittings on the bottom of the blinds are suffering from heat damage due to the sun. Mr. Poulton is meeting with Sunstopper Blinds on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July to discuss options for replacing the plastic fittings with a heat-resistant material (e.g. metal).

**Action: N. Poulton**

- **Annual safety-inspections**

- **Fire equipment**

Herts Fire Protection did the annual inspection of the fire equipment on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

We will need to include £300 in the budget for 2009/10 to cover the cost of replacing two of our existing fire extinguishes because they only have a ten-year life.

**Agenda: B & F**

- **Heating inspection**

Mr. Poulton to meet with a James Turner Limited for the annual inspection of the boiler/heating system on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Action: N. Poulton**

- **Electrical inspection.**

Keith Burgess to be instructed to do the electrical inspection in September.

**Action: J. Allsop**

### Recreation & Amenities

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

- **MPPA Floodlighting**

Mr. Knight is still waiting for the floodlighting contractors to get back to him.

- **Playing field**

There is no progress on this item. Mr. Knight had hoped that he would by now know the Glebe Committee’s decision re our request to lease additional land for sporting facilities. He phoned the Diocesan Board a week ago and they indicated that we would hear from them during this week.

### Environment

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

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

The grass cutting has been done and both areas are looking lovely.

Mr. Smith said that now the Stewardship Scheme on the July has expired we no longer need to stick to their stringent rules on grass cutting. He therefore recommended that only one or two flail-cuts are required this season without the need for the cuttings to be removed from site.

- **Trees on Lammas**

Mr. Poulton e-mailed all Parish Councillors with a copy of Adam Welch's quotation of £570 to remove the two trees on the Lammas riverbank overhanging the garden of 20 Lammas Road. Parish Councillors approved the quotation and the trees have been removed.

Mrs. Dinnin said that she had inspected the other trees on the Lammas riverbank and more work is required. The Parish Council needs to prepare a plan to maintain the trees along the riverbank before they become very large and expensive to cut down.

**Action: C. Dinnin**

This item to be included in the budget for 2009/10.

**Agenda: B & F**

- **Flowerbed Maintenance**

Adam Welch has completed the flowerbed maintenance and they are now looking really good.

**b) Routine reports**

- i) **Fire-alarm test**

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

- ii) **Monthly village-report**

Mrs. McCash completed this report on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008, the result of which is as follows.

- **Sportsfield:** Jack Turner bench still in need of repair.  
 Condition of grass Good. (What is happening to goal area?)  
 Litter Some.  
 Dog fouling None.  
 General Good.
- **Children's Play Area:**  
 Condition of surface Good.  
 Litter/Litterbin Some.  
 Large swings Good.  
 Small swings Good.  
 See-Saw Good.  
 Rainbow multi-play and slide Good.  
 Two spring sit-on Good.  
 Teen shelter Good. (Some litter.)  
 General Good.
- **Bike ramps area:**  
 Junior Jump Good.}  
 Double Ramp Good.} (Some litter all around.)  
 Fun Box Good.}
- **Community Hall:**  
 General Condition (Exterior) Good.  
 Litterbin Full.  
 Car Park Good. (Some litter.)  
 General Good.
- **Multi-Purpose Play Area:**  
 Surface Good.  
 Boundary Fencing Good.  
 Tennis nets Both good.  
 Litter Some litter on far side from gate.  
 General Good.
- **Great Innings Play Area:**  
 Equipment Good.  
 Surfaces Good.  
 Litter Quite a lot.  
 Dog fouling None.  
 Trees Good.  
 Comments -
- **Allotments Area:**  
 Access Good. Gate was locked.  
 Condition of paths between Allotments Good.  
 Condition of Allotments under cultivation Very good.  
 Condition of Allotments not under cultivation Not good needs strimming.  
 Litter None.  
 Comments All very good and tidy.
- **Culverts on Mill Lane**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Litter and rubbish in and around Culverts   | None.                                    |
| Dog-fouling   | A little.                                |
| Comments  | Very overgrown with weeds and nettles.   |
| • <b>Salt bins</b>  |  |
| Perrywood Lane  | Over half 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. Also a bit of rubbish in the area. |
| Beane Road  | Over half full.                          |
| • <b>Dog-waste bins</b>   |  |
| Footpath 17   | Good. (A bit full) lid missing.          |
| Sportsfield   | Good.                                    |
| Church Walk   | Lid missing.                             |
| Walkern Road  | Good.                                    |
| Station Road  | Good.                                    |
| High Street (by Memorial)   | Good.                                    |
| Great Innings   | Good.                                    |
| Mill Lane   | Good. (A bit full).                      |
| Opposite 5 School Lane  | Good.                                    |
| • <b>War Memorial</b>   |  |
| Comments  | Bin full.                                |
| • <b>Ornate Village Sign</b>  |  |
| Comments  | Good.                                    |
| Post  | Good.                                    |
| • <b>Cradle swing-seat</b>  |  |
| Mrs. Dinnin said that the cradle swing-seat at the sportsfield play area is very squeaky.   |  |
| It was agreed to wait for the report on the annual inspection of the playground equipment on the sportsfield, which is due to be done soon, before taking any action. |  |
| • <b>Great Innings play area</b>  |  |
| Note: Mrs. McCash did the inspection of the Great Innings play area after this meeting.   |  |

**iii) Weekly sportsfield-report and action**

Nothing to report.

**9 Correspondence received**

**a) East Herts Council – Community Capital Grants 2008/09**

Refer to item 8 a, Community Hall Trustees - Acoustics for Main Hall.

**b) Aston Parish Council re Benington Wind Farm**

Mr. Poulton e-mailed all Parish Councillors copies of the letters from Aston Parish Council re its survey form, public meeting and subsequent letter of objection to the Benington Wind Farm application. .

**c) Post office closures in Hertfordshire**

Mr. Poulton e-mailed all Parish Councillors on 9<sup>th</sup> July as follows.

‘As you are no doubt aware the Post Office are consulting on post office closures.

The list of possible post office closures for this area can now be viewed on [www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk)

I'm delighted to inform you the Watton at Stone post office is NOT on the list for possible closure but Bramfield and Benington are, although Benington has been temporarily closed for some time.’

**d) Planning consent for 14 Beane Road**

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail from Susie Defoe dated 14<sup>th</sup> July.

‘I am sorry I was on annual leave, the letters I have received and your Parish letter also.

As regards the condition they were attached to ensure that the construction works would be accommodated on the site at 14 Beane Road, it is a common condition to apply and would be functioned by the Enforcement Officers at EHDC if there was a problem, and maybe Herts Highways if the impact affected the exit of Beane Road onto the main Road.

Beane Road is a public highway, the drive to the house and site at 14 Beane Road is a Private Road over which they have no authority however.

It is usually the contractors that facilitate the problems and the Enforcement Officers would have a word with them and the applicant about using the space within the site.

There is the fact that a lorry might not be able to access the site so there is a reasonable approach to loading and unloading provision which is a short term delay. The constant parking by contractors in front of drives or blocking access or parking on pavements would be unacceptable and would be addressed.

On balance it is expected that just as when other properties in the road had building works extensions over recent years there is a certain aspect of noise disturbance and additional activity, but these do not last long and if managed sensibly should not impact unduly on the neighbouring properties or the access of the road.

Please don't hesitate to contact me further for advice if you need clarification.'

Copies of this e-mail to be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Oakman and Mr. Knight.

**Action: J. Allsop**

No further action is required.

#### e) **Oliver Heald MP re CCTV**

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail from Oliver Heald MP dated 8<sup>th</sup> July.

'I was recently at the Communications Centre for the Hertfordshire Police at Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City and was very interest in the way in which telephone calls to the Police can be matched with CCTV footage while an incident is in progress. I found this an important innovation and something which might be of help with communities' CCTV. It was also interesting to see the way in which the map and grid reference are used to locate individuals who are in the more rural parts of my Constituency. The Communications Centre is apparently very happy to take visits from Parish and Town Council and Community Groups and if you think this would be useful the contact there is Andrew Cook, whose e-mail address is as follows. Andrew.cook@herts.pnn.police.uk.'

### 10 **Village organisations**

- **Watton Youth Drop Inn:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone School Governors:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at- Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Stone Pre-School Playgroup:** Nothing to report.
- **Watton-at-Stone Scout & Guide Group:** Nothing to report.

- **Watton-at-Stone Sports & Social Club**

Mr. Smith said that the Ladies football Team would like to install a small removable strategy-board in the changing rooms at the Community Hall. Plastic hooks would be fitted to the wall for the strategy-board to hang from. The Parish Council agreed to their request.

Mr. Smith has already informed the Ladies Football Team that unless he informed them to the contrary they could proceed with the installation.

- **Vehicular access from School Lane onto the high Street**

Mr. Smith reported that an ambulance visiting Glebe Court was unable to exit School Lane because of a parked car near the entrance. Some Parish Councillors expressed a view that this section of School Lane should be one-way only.

- **Police Authority:** Nothing to report.
- **River Beane Restoration Association:** Nothing to report.

### 11 **Items for Parish News**

The following item to be sent to the Editor of the Parish News for inclusion in the September issue.

- Village Directory re feasibility survey. **Action: Website Working Group**
- Report on the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July. **Action: J. Allsop**
- **The meeting closed at 21.25.**
- **The date for the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008.**