

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Present: Mr. Nigel Poulton (Chairman) Mr. John. Meischke  
 Mr. Ian Knight Mr. David Stock  
 Mr. Michael Smith The Clerk (Mrs. Jane Allsop)

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence: None.

**2 Minutes and report of meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record during the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

**3 School Lane update**

Mr. Poulton said that Harry Slater’s letter and petition concerning traffic movement in School Lane was discussed by Hertfordshire Highways on 6<sup>th</sup> June and it was agreed that no action should be taken.

For benefit of Mr. Stock, Mr. Poulton explained that Mr. Slater was requesting the following traffic-calming measurers.

- One way system
- speed bumps
- slow painted on asphalt.
- signage improved (old folk warning triangles)
- blind bend sign

Mr. Poulton said he did get Hertfordshire Highways to agree to paint some ‘slow’ signage on the highway adjacent to the old club house (1 School Lane).

**4 Hiring of Pavilion by Watton at Stone Cricket Club**

Mr. Poulton said that on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Cricket Club played a match on the sportsfield without informing the Clerk. They were using the kitchen facilities to make Cricket teas when the Watton Youth Drop Inn volunteers arrived to set up. The volunteers presumed that there had been a double-booking at the Community Hall and left the premises.

Mrs. Dinnin met with the cricketers on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and explained to them about the Watton Youth Drop Inn regular term-time booking on Wednesday evenings. The cricketers have apologised for not confirming this booking with the Clerk. It appears that when the Watton Youth Drop Inn volunteers arrived at the Community Hall to set up, they saw a lady in the kitchen making tea. No tables had been set up in the pavilion, wires then appear to have got crossed in that the volunteers assumed that the cricketers were going to have tea in the Pavilion, whereas the lady preparing the pot of tea said if she'd been asked to leave the kitchen she would have done so.

The Cricket Club has been reminded that they must always confirm their fixtures with the Clerk, even if it does not involve the use of the Community Hall facilities.

**5 Pavilion blinds – fitting and grant update**

As reported at the April Parish Council meeting, Ashley Blinds satisfactorily fitted a complete new set of blinds on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April. This was following the fiasco of ill fitting and mismatching blinds fitted on 25<sup>th</sup> February and their failure to rectify the problem on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

There has been a bonus to come out of the problems with the fitting of the new blinds, Mr. Poulton managed to persuade Richard Webb (Ashley Blinds) to install two of the blinds, originally fitted in the Pavilion on 25<sup>th</sup> February, in the meeting room at no cost to the Community Hall. In addition, a small privacy blind was later fitted to the Main Hall door that leads to the changing room. This was also at no extra cost.

**6 Cleaning of area around Cricket Club Shed**

Mr. Knight said that he and Ted Brown had removed the rubbish from around the Cricket shed.

**Note:** A cheque for £25 has been received from the Cricket Club in payment of the work done by Ted Brown.

**7 Barrier from School Lane to sports field**

As agreed at the June Parish Council meeting, a post and rail type barrier to be erected across the sportsfield entrance onto School Lane.

Mr. Smith has the old steel supports for the goal posts and will make a post and rail style barrier with this material. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Smith will install the barrier before the July Parish Council meeting.

**Action: M. Smith/N. Poulton**

## 8 Replace glass panels in the main door

Brian Bunyan has done an excellent job of replacing the bottom sections of glass in the main door with hardwood panels.

## 9 Painting the Play Equipment

Mr. Poulton said that if the Glaxo Smith Klein team of volunteer workers are unable to paint the play equipment on the sportsfield, then a provision should be included in the 2012/13 budget.

This item to be placed on the October Trustees agenda so that a request can be made to the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee, if the painting work has not been completed.

**Agenda: 10/11**

## 10 Brushes for the Boot Scrapers

Mr. Knight said he has started to remove the old brushes so that new ones can be fitted. This work will be completed by September, before the start of the football season.

**Action: I. Knight**

## 11 Fire equipment inspection

Mr. Poulton said that in mid-June, whilst on holiday in the USA, he was contacted by Herts Fire Protection Limited asking if they could carry-out the annual fire equipment service. This work was not due until 6<sup>th</sup> July and the Clerk contacted them asking them to arrange a date with Mr. Poulton on his return to England at the beginning on July.

To date, Mr. Poulton has not been contacted by Herts Fire Protection Limited. The Clerk to chase.

**Action: J. Allsop**

**Note:** Herts Fire Protection Limited carried out the fire equipment inspection on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## 12 Additional cleaning in the changing rooms and adjoining corridor

Rebecca Evans has done an excellent job of cleaning the large changing rooms. Mr. Poulton to find out if she is wants to clean the corridor and small changing room.

**Action: N. Poulton**

## 13 Condition of Oak tree in Sportsfield

Mr. Poulton said that the Landscape Officers at East Herts Council are not officially allowed to report on trees in the private domain and the Oak tree on the sportsfield comes into that category. This Oak tree however, is covered by a TPO (tree preservation order) and should any tree surgery be required, permission needs to be sort from East Herts Council.

At the January 2011 Trustees meeting, Mr. Poulton reported that David Smith, a tree surgeon who helps at Watton Youth Drop Inn, had informed him that that the Oak tree on the sportsfield, to the right of the MPPA looking from the Community Hall, has a disease called Ganoderma Resinaceum which is a form of fungus. Mr. Poulton e-mailed the Clerk on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and asked her to write to Malcolm Amey (Landscape Officer, East Herts Council) informing him of this and asking him to check the tree and let us know what action needs to be taken.

Malcolm Amey verbally told Mr. Poulton that the Oak tree on the sportsfield does have a fungal infection, but it is not in immediate danger however, the Parish Council should monitor the tree on a regular basis.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council instructs a local Arboricultural consultant to inspect the Oak tree on the sportsfield.

The Clerk to obtain the names of local Arboricultural consultant.

**Action J Allsop**

## 14 Outside storage cupboard

Bryan Bunyan has done the best job he can in repairing the broken catch on the external cupboard doors.

## 15 Chairman/Trustees report

- **Sewage**

Mr. Poulton e-mailed all Parish Councillors on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July informing them that there was another blockage of the sewer system in the sportsfield. East Herts Council gave the owners of the properties serving this sewer, 48 hours notice on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July to take action otherwise East Herts would instruct contractors to clear the drain and invoice the owners accordingly.

Mr. Poulton said that he, East Herts Council and the contractor were on site on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July clearing up the mess from the blocked drain. The sewer has been cleaned of all debris and a camera has shown where the problems lie. Hopefully all the works carried out will now mean that this sewer run will not block again.

- The meeting closed at 1425.