

The ANNUAL MEETING of WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10th May 2011 commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Dr Ian Brett Chairman, Mrs Jill Buck, Vice-Chairman, Councillors Mrs Wendy Camp, Mrs Frances Luck and the Clerk.

Police Liaison Officer David Kitching and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES had been received from our new Councillor Mrs Jennifer Miller, following the unopposed elections on 5 May, as she was attending a previously arranged engagement.

CC Dr Roger Beeching and DC Mr Mike Newman were also absent as they were both attending an Induction evening, also following elections on 5 May. Congratulations on their return to Office, especially to Mr Newman who had been returned with the highest number of votes in the Ward.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the Councillors present. The Code of Conduct had been adopted by the Parish Council at a meeting in March 2002.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

From the Chair, nominations were invited. Dr Ian Brett was proposed by Mrs Buck, seconded by Mrs Camp and agreed.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs J Buck was proposed by Mrs Luck, seconded by Mrs Camp and agreed.

ELECTION OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was proposed and agreed that All Councillors serve on this committee,

ELECTION TO THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE (2/3 members. One must take the Chair)

Dr Ian Brett and Mrs Camp agreed to continue on this committee.

ELECTION TO THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE (1 member)

Mrs Luck agreed to continue on this committee.

ELECTION TO THE PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE (1 member)

Mrs Buck agreed to continue on this committee.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE UPKEEP OF THE NEW CHURCHYARD

A sum of £150.00 had been given for the last two years.

It was agreed to contribute the same amount, £150.00, for this year.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Alan Wiffen who had filled this post for several years had been unable to carry out the Audit this year and at short notice, Mr David Binfeld had kindly carried out the work. It was proposed that he should be asked if he would be willing to help in 2012.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Date..5 July 2011

Chairman

An ORDINARY Meeting of the Parish Council followed the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2011 commencing at 8.15pm.

PRESENT

Dr Ian Brett, Chairman, Mrs J Buck Vice Chair, and Councillors Mrs Camp and Mrs Luck.
Police Liaison Officer David Kitching and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES had been received from Councillor Mrs J Miller, CC Dr Roger Beaching and DC Mr Mike Newman.

MINUTES of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 29 March 2011 had been circulated and were now approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING from the Ordinary Meeting.

Signs at Lambs Garden

In order to stop commercial vehicles turning into the cul-de-sac, the East Herts Council had been asked to review the existing signs on each side of the access road, put in place in 1968 and replace them with a modern one that clearly indicates a cul-de-sac.

One new one has been put in but unfortunately on the south side of the access instead of on the north side where it would have been more effective ! The Clerk had spoken to the East Herts Council and it is understood that further action is to be taken to amend the problem.

Conservation Area Survey

The Parish Council was notified by East Herts Council that a survey of the Conservation Area was to be carried out by Mr Bosworth in February. He came in February and was seen in the Village for most of the day. He telephoned the Clerk saying he would like to meet the Parish Councillors within a fortnight but nothing had been heard since.

The Clerk asked the East Herts Council for information and was told for this meeting that the report was still being studied, there was little to report, possibly a little tweaking, but no further information was forthcoming. It is understood that a report by East Herts Council will be issued in due course.

Proposed meeting with HCC Countryside Management Team

This has yet to take place and the surface of BOAT 22 is a subject for discussion at that meeting.

Audit Changes

From April 6th 2011, no Parish Clerk can be self employed but has to be Employed by the Parish Council which then involves PAYE and NIC. As the Clerk is only paid Annually in March, this does not take effect until 2012 and to comply with the Law, this has to be set up during the year.

There were no matters arising from the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH. The letter to the owner of Ives Cottage regarding parking on the footway appears to have been effective and the owner of the vehicle parked facing the oncoming traffic at Wheelwrights is something the Police cannot intervene on.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) East Herts Rural Conference takes place on 15 September at Datchworth Village Hall.
- b) Stansted Airport Community Trust Grant -not applicable to Parish Councils. Other groups have recently benefitted and are therefore not eligible this time.
- c) Local Government update no 138 .

REPORTS

County Councillor Beeching - although not present had sent a written report although there was not a lot to report due to Bank Holidays, Easter and Elections that have slowed everything up considerably. However, HCC Scrutiny Panel will be looking at the following subjects : Health Visitors, Fostering, Herts Safeguarding Children's Board, Mental Health Treatment.

Veolia have been appointed to provide an alternative to land fill for non recyclable waste This should save £500million over the next 30 years. Subject to Planning permission, the site will be at New Barnfield, South Hatfield. At present 48% of waste is recycled. This could increase to 75% if ISO Ktonnes is sent for recycling. One black bag of waste generates enough power to run a light bulb for 24 hours.

reports continued. DK

Police Report

A Speed check carried out in Hunsdon had found only one driver exceeding the acceptable limit and the driver had come from Widford 11 The Highway Department are carrying out their own speed checks.

From the Locality Meeting it has been established that the police department will remain unchanged.

Widford is very quiet regarding Crime through the last two months - recording 1 Burglary, 1 non residential Burglary and one Drug problem.

Speed is the worst problem.

IB Parish Paths Partnership

Bench seats have been painted to preserve and some strimming has been done.

FpU.Widford Churchyard.

A letter has been sent to the Diocesan Office of St Albans confirming our acceptance of their proposal to nominate the church path as a Permissive Path through to Fp 17.

RBP18

A letter sent to the Definitive Map Officer regarding the amendment to the Statement of the Public Rights of Way to extend the 6m wide route through the Sewerage Works and on to join Pegs Lane, how is it to be surfaced, how maintained, how to prevent mechanised vehicles using it.

JB Playing Field

Copy of the Playing Field Insurance document. Total cost £310 received .From the Playing Field Annual Meeting, copies of the minutes and the audited accounts also to come to the Parish Council and Return to go to the Chanties Commission.

FL Village Hall

Accounts in good order - a balance of £20,000. Good money is made from the Tuesday Teas. The function for the Royal Wedding on 29th April had been good - the Television screen had been affordable by a grant from the County Council Locality Budget, but it had not been expected to be a fund raiser

The collection had realised £175.00 which had been donated to the Help for Heroes.

General improvements to curtaining, acoustics and staging could be made.

IB Allotments

The Annual Meeting on 3rd May had been attended by fourteen gardeners, The Committee this year has the Parish Council Chairman and Councillor Mrs Camp and three members of the allotment holders. The allotments are doing well and we have opened out to Much Hadham, Hunsdon and Wareside as there were vacancies . The Orchard is in great shape. The fees increase by £5.00 to cover maintenance of the common paths. We start with a balance of £1305.00.

FINANCE

The Audited Accounts were approved at this meeting and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Cheques were signed for:-

AoN Annual Insurance.....	£ 608.82
Local Council Update..Annual Subscription	£ 70,.00
Village Hall Fees.....7 meetings .April 2010 to March	£ 63.00
Contribution to upkeep of the New Churchyard	£ 150.00
Luke English, Litter, 23/4/11 to 14/5/11	£ 76.32
Jim Turner, Grass Cutting,Benningfield Green + £1.00 for petrol	£ 84.33 (1 of 3)
First half of Annual Grant to Playing Field (£1,000.00)	£ 500.00

continued.

M B Hollylee..Reimbursement for>

Water to allots to 4 March.....£ 6.71)£ 292.00
Additional work.Parish Survey£127.50)
Grass Cutting Old Churchyard.....£81.67) 1 of 3)
Litter Picker 26/3/2011-16/4/2011£ 76.32)

Litter Picker 21/5/2011 to 11/6/2011 £76.32

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Litter Picker

For many months it has been noticed by several people that the nominated litter picker has not been seen doing the work which is being done by his parents !! As it was known that he also has another job as helper at the White Horse Public House at Wareside, he is no longer at school and subject to limited hours, it was suggested that there may be another young person who could benefit from the Litter Picking work which the Parish does for the District Council from whom an annual grant is received for the work.

Consideration will be given to writing to the family regarding termination of the contract and placing an advertisement in the July issue of the Parish News Magazine. Although the job is not necessarily for young people, it has been the policy of the Parish Council to encourage teenagers to take on the task.

Bus Shelter

The bus shelter is in need of a coat of paint and all the unsightly advertisements removed, is the opinion of Councillor Mrs Camp, agreed by all. It was decided to remove all advertisement, most of which are from outside the village, treat it with paint and put a notice up forbidding all future advertisements.

Village Pond

Project is on the move ! Vegetation has been hauled out and awaits a north wind before it can be Safely fired.

Parish Plan

Still on going - more work has been done to make it a user friendly document. A date cannot yet be set but hopefully by July an open meeting will be organised.

It was suggested from the floor that it could become part of the East Herts Councils' Local Development Framework!

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th July 2011 Village Hall, 8.00pm.

QUESTION TIME

There were no questions and the meeting terminated at 9.25pm

Chairman

Date.... 5th July2011.