

The WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL met in the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Vice Chair Mrs Wendy Camp, Councillors Mrs Jenny Miller, Neil Rogers and Paul Riddle and the Clerk.
CC Dr Roger Beeching, DC Mr Mike Newman and six members of the public.

APOLOGIES No apologies received.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 4th November 2014 had been circulated and were now approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Village Archives . No new development as the family ,presently away,have not commented on the deposit of the Arc hives at the School.

Village Sign. A year has now passed and the new sign is still awaited but is understood to be under construction with Ringways (Highways)

Nether Street Railings. It has been established in the recently published result of the Conservation Area study in 2012, that the Railings are protected by the conservation cover of the village.

However, after the efforts of the local residents to paint the railings in October , an accident had occurred when a Refuse Collection Vehicle had collided with the railings while trying to avoid a parked vehicle, causing 6m of railing and the supporting stanchion to be severely damaged. Concern was also that the retaining wall to the main road below might be damaged over which the small bank was overhanging. Local residents had taken photographs and the Manager of Veolia had visited the site within an hour of the accident. The event was reported to the Highway Authority (Ringways) who are responsible for the railings and the matter of insurance is being deal with between the two parties. The Highway Officer has reported that a suitable manufacturer is being consulted and is aware that the Parish is adamant that the railings are repaired as before (2005/6) to the Victorian standard.

Dog Bin. The package was delivered on 19th December but with Christmas arrangements and lack of the necessary workforce available, it was not until 9th January that it was discovered that the goods received were not as ordered and the ground anchor was not compatible with the Refuse Bin !

The Company when contacted, were very apologetic for their error in despatch and will be replacing the Bin with the one which was ordered ,but the Ground Anchor has to be retained by the Parish Council.

Twitchel Safety Railing. It is understood that the railings are ready to be installed as soon as financial arrangements have been settled.

Twitchel Flooding. There has been no response from the Housing Association with regard to concern about flooding in the vicinity of the four Elderly Peoples bungalows. .

Telephone Kiosk. A satisfactory use is still under discussion, but it is used for on a variety of occasions and the lighting is much appreciated.

For five years from 2010 ,ending in April 2015, BT have generously provided the lighting. The Parish Council decided to enquire whether after April, the lighting could remain as it is but with the Parish Council paying for the electricity.

Bell Lane Garage Area . No response has been received, either from East Herts Council Planning Office or the Ringways with regard to ownership of the site or the removal of the hedge from the garage area boundary.
 The houses had been built in the 1960 but the East Herts Council insisted they owned no land and suggested asking the Land Registry.
 In mid 2014, it was reported that two men had arrived and cut down the hedge, which included the Ash Paling boundary fence. Residents were concerned as children play football in the area which drops down onto the Ware Road.

- DC Newman noted the problem.

Footway Clearance. Levenage Lane to Daintrees and the Coalyard to the Laybys have been reported to Ringways for clearance. It was understood both would be inspected.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – 3rd March – Village Hall 7.15pm
 ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH following, commencing at 8.00pm

ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING – 24th March, Village Hall ,8.00pm

CORRESPONDENCE

Housing Needs Survey. Notification from East Herts Council of distribution of questionnaire – to be returned by 3rd December. No known recipients !

EHAPTC – meeting scheduled for 15th January . Chairman and Councillor Paul Riddle to attend.

Sport England - possible fitness programmes for the elderly being nationally considered.

Highway Training – Councillor Paul Riddle attended. Could be disparagement between Highways and District Council with regard to Litter Picker safety.

- DC Mike Newman noted.

Conservation Area completed report received.

PLANNING

3/14/2189/LB.	5 North View Cottages) Proposed Porch)	Parish Council had
3/14/2190/FP)	no objection
3/14/2191/FP	4 North View Cottages) Proposed Porch)	Parish Council had
3/14/2192/LB)	no objection
3/14/2007/LB	Replacement of single glazed windows in)	WITHDRAWN
	Style to match at School House.	

Neighbourhood Plan is a MUST for Small Councils .Assistance is available .

Chestnut Tree Cottage - Building was Listed on 19th September 1984, PC to notify East Herts Planners if it is thought any internal work is being done.
 The Forge was Class 1 as shop. (Flowers / Pet Food) The proposed use as Office development would be Class2 which is permitted.
 Owner must notify East Herts Council of date of commencement of House Agents Business.

REPORTS

CC Dr Roger Beeching said the Grant for the Playing Field equipment is awaited.
The new County Councillors' Community Budget begins from June.

A & E at Harlow Hospital are asking that minor complaints should not be not taken to the hospital.

Call 999 for an ambulance or visit a Pharmacist or your GP.

The 111 emergency system for out of hours surgeries doesn't work.

Minor injuries can be taken to St Albans City Hospital.

Walking and Cycling activities for Schools could be assisted by the County Council.

For Charity, an Elvis Night at £18 per ticket is coming shortly.

DC Mike Newman had no report so soon after the Christmas break.

Parish Paths Partnership

Bridleway 4. The fallen trees which had recently been reported had been inspected and will be removed as soon as possible . It is possible to pass along the Bridleway and therefore not a priority given the high winds and fallen trees in more urgent areas.

The kit for the second Kissing Gate is to be delivered on 22 January and will be put in place when CMS (Countryside Management Services) can raise a team of volunteer workers.

NR **Playing Field** - New Goal Posts have been ordered . Car Parking arrangements are to be Marshalled. A Quiz Night is planned for 18 April and a Barn Dance on 18th July.
The Boxing Day Hockey Match had not been so good as in previous years.

PR **Village Hall** – The financial report is healthy although a £2000 error had been discovered in the account due to an overpayment.
No events planned to date for 2015.
Committee members include : Chair Greg Prowse, Vice-Chair, Tim Holwell, Booking Secretary Linda James.
An Elvis Concert is being arranged.

Allotments. – Quiet through the winter months. Letters are to be sent to all allotment gardeners regarding the poor condition of some of the plots. As some of the plots are perhaps larger than wanted ,the Parish Council is offering a choice :- To reduce the number of plots held by one gardener , or whether they wish to retain a plot at all. A 'Blitz' was carried out at the end of the season and it was clear that some of the plots had/were receiving little, of any attention. The Annual meeting for Allotment Holders is set for 24th March.

Advertisements for vacant plots available may be put in Parish Magazine or in other local villages.

FINANCE

PRECEPT – Consideration was given to the amount likely to be needed from April 2015 to March 2016. With a variety of rising costs together with various Training courses open to New Councillors and a new Clerk ,possible work of a Neighbourhood Plan and fees for forthcoming elections in May, it was agreed to increase the amount requested in 1014/1015 by £3,000.00 , making a total of £8,500.00.

Cheques were signed as follows:-

Mrs J English.. Litter Picking..03/01/15 to 24/01/15.....	£105.76
" " " 31/01/15 to 21/02/15.....	£105.76
Caroline Parrott... 1 ½ hours x 2people.work in closed churchyard.....	£ 40.00.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

30 Benningfield Road - the owners had made a good job of repairing the vehicular access across the Green. A letter of thanks for their work would be sent.

Care of Seats on Benningfield Green.

Mr Jim Turner of 1 Benningfield Road will be cutting the grass on the greens again in 2015 and he was asked, and accepted, maintenance of the two seats on the Green which are the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain.

Felicity Cooper Seat in the Closed Churchyard is also due for maintenance and the Chairman is to ask Trevor Bales of 6 Nothview Cottages if he would be willing to do the work. A legacy of £500.00 was left to the Parish Council for maintenance of the seat.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman Jill Buck.....

Date.....3rd March 2015.....