

An Ordinary Meeting of the Widford Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 commencing at 7.15pm.

**PRESENT**

Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Vice-Chair Mrs Wendy Camp, Councillors Mrs Jenny Miller, Neil Rogers Paul Riddle and the Clerk.

Also in attendance District Councillor Mike Newman and five members of the public.

**APOLOGIES.** County Councillor DR Roger Beeching had been unable to attend this meeting.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 had been circulated and were now approved as a true record of the meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Village Archives.** A comprehensive Survey of the Archives had been presented to the Parish Council by Mrs Helen Giles who did not wish any remuneration for her work.

However, the Councillors were very pleased with the document and agreed a gift of £50.00 should be offered to Mrs Giles in appreciation of her work.

**Village Sign .** After a years absence, a new replacement sign has been put in place at the western entrance to the village near the church.

**Nether Street Railings.** The newly painted railings, subsequently damaged by a refuse vehicle is under repair by Ringways. A suitable foundry has to be found that enables the Victorian style railings and posts to be replaced in the original design.

It was noted that a similar accident several years ago took a year before replacement repairs was completed !

**Dog Bin.** After many months of investigation, a dog refuse bin was set in place at the entrance to Footpath 7 (Priory Farm entrance) on the grass verge. There had been a Highway objection due to maintenance problems for a bin t be installed on the verge until it was noted that similar bins in the next village of Hunsdon, had two bins placed within the highway on grass verges !

An additional cost of £155.00 was paid above the original cost of £247. 00 which had been the cost of the incorrect bin ordered. From March 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, the cost of emptying the bin is £15.62. The bin will be emptied 65 times a year, once a week from 1 September to 31 May, twice a week from 1 June to 30<sup>th</sup> August. All dog waste should be cleared within a 5m radius of the bin at each visit and the bin will be pressure washed at quarterly intervals through the year.

A bill for the installation by East Herts Council is still outstanding.

**The Twitchel Railings (Footpath 18).** The railings are still not in place although it was understood that

they are available but held back due to lack of payment. This to be put to CC Beeching who had kindly offered, and was thought to have paid, for the railings from his community budget.

**Twitchel Flooding.** The Anglian Housing Association had not reposednded to the enquiry as to ownership of the ditch which caused flooding.

It was decided to ask local assistance.

**Telephone Kiosk.** With regard to the Parish Councils' enquiry regarding continuation of light in the Kiosk after April 2015, the Council was delighted to receive BT assurance that the company would be responsible for lighting for the foreseeable future.

**Bell Lane Garage Area hedge.** No further information as to ownership of the land or who had removed the hedge and fencing. It was thought the estate had been built in 1968 but the current responsible owners had not been discovered.

**Footway Clearance along the B,180 Hunsdon Road,** from the village boundary near the Gasworks to Abbots Lane and from Levenage Lane to Daintrees reported to Ringways in October, had still not received attention.

A further attempt to get a clearance will be made.

**EHAPTC** – At the meeting on 15 January, the production of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. Brickendon Parish, another small village, had found 18 volunteers willing to help. There is to be a further review of Green Belt land. It was suggested that without a Neighbourhood Plan for which financial Grants would be available and which indicates Parish needs, developers could submit plans which would be likely to receive approval and may not be acceptable to the Parish. Extensive development at Buntingford recently was an example.

**Care of Seats.** Two seats on Benningfield Green will be maintained by Mr Jim Turner who already cuts the grass. Mr Turner has purchased the Stain for the work costing £7.79 and also the Petrol for the Mower £12.90 for the year for which he has been reimbursed. The Felicity Cooper Seat in the Closed Churchyard will be refurbished by Mr Trevor Bales for the cost of material required for the work.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** Due to Elections taking place on 7 May, the Newly elected Parish Council will meet on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. for the ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL for Election of Officers followed by an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council commencing at 8.15pm.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Stop Harlow North** information will be received via Facebook from now on. The Parish Council **agreed a donation of £50.00** should be sent to the Treasurer

**Local Council Boundary Commission** – Electoral Boundaries Review – mainly concerns Stevenage Area for limited Consultation.

**East Herts Citizen Advice Service** seek Local Group to assist with local sessions for advice due to poor Transport facilities.

This appears to be a company setting up in addition to the existing Citizens Advice Bureau and does not appear to be known to the Manager of the CAB. No Action.

**Local Council Update** – A useful monthly document drawing attention to current legislation which has proved useful for several years.

**It was agreed** to continue with the document at a cost of £75.00 for the year.

**It was agreed** to send Philip Poyser – 'Tag Rugby' at Widford School - Donation of £50.00 for equipment.

#### **PLANNING**

3/14/2189/FP	5 North View Cottages.	Porch.)	Permitted development.No application needed.
3/14/2190/LB	" "	" )	REFUSED.
3/14/2191/FP	4 North View Cottages	Porch)	REFUSED
3/14/2192/LB	" "	" )	2 continued.....

Chestnut Tree Cottage – On-line Housing Agency in the Forge - Opened for business on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

3/15/0031/LB School House – replacement single with double glazed windows.

Conditional Permission 24.02.15

## REPORTS

**Parish Paths Partnership-** Seat on Bridleway 10 (Green Lane) needs stabilising.

Footpath 7. Second Kissing Gate waiting CMS Volunteers to install – soon.

Bridleway 4 – Fallen Trees removed on 2 February.

**Playing Field** – There is a Recipient Agreement, new pop-up football nets and posts are in place, A suggestion for parking on the Green rear of Askells is being considered, Maybe Village Hall might share in cost of surfacing and use.

**Village Hall** – Fundraising going well . including bookings in place for Annual Bike Ride in July, Harvest Supper in September.  
Improvements to Heating Control with Indicators and Timers.

**Allotments** Due to some neglect of some of the gardens, letters have been sent to each plot holder to confirm whether they intend to keep the plots for the coming year. Positive responses have been received for 16 plots from but 7 replies are still outstanding.

Nigel English will be undertaking maintenance of the common areas and for this work, the Parish Council will be buying a suitable strimmer in line with requirements of the Parish Council Insurance .

The Notice Board on the allotment gardens has been damaged and is being repaired by ` a Nether Street resident'. For which many thanks.

The Orchard trees have been pruned by the donor – who has been thanked for his work.

The Ash Tree near the entrance gate has been cut by Clive Smith from Wareside at a cost of £180.00 including VAT.

The Water will be turned n on April.

The Annual Meeting of Allotment Holders will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.

## FINANCE

The following cheques were signed :-

Stop Harlow North – annual donation.....	£ 50.00
HAPTC – Annual Subscription due in March.....	£264.66
Wybone.....additional cost of Dog Refuse Bin.....	£155.42
HAPTC...Election Training ..Jill Buck.....	£ 35.00
Clive Smith – Tree Cutting on Allotments.....	£150.00+VAT.....£180.00
Emptying of Dog Bin 1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March.....	£ 13.02 +VAT £2.60.....£ 15.62
Litter Picker.....28/02 to 21/03.....	£105.76
Litter Picker.....28/03 to 18/04.....	£105.76
End of Year – Clerk’s Annual Salary.....	£960.00
HMRC... Tax on Clerk’s Salary.....	£240.00
Mrs Helen Giles—Gift for Village Archives Survey.....	£ 50.00
Philip Poyser—donation to Tag Rugby Team/equipment..Widford School.....	£ 50.00
Mrs Jill Buck...Reimbursement ..Dark Stain for seat in closed churchyard)£7.79)	
Petrol for mower –grass,Benningfield Road.	£12.96) £20.75
Mr R Foot (East Herts Council) Installation of Dog Refuse Bin	£75.00

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that update of Contracts for Grass Cutting in the Closed Churchyard and Benningfield Green are due.  
Maintenance of seats to be added to the contract for Benningfiels Green.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 8.00pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....12<sup>th</sup> May 2015.....