

The meeting of the WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL on TUESDAY 8TH January 2013 was held at 8.00pm in Widford Village Hall.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

PRESENT

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

District Councillor Mr Mike Newman and seven members of the public.

APOLOGIES had been received from County Councillor Dr Roger Beeching

MINUTES of the meeting held on 13 November 2012 had been circulated and were now signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

EHPTCA meeting to be held on 10th January at Wallfields will be attended by Dr Brett. It is anticipated the meeting will be addressed by East Herts Planner Councillor Mike Carver ,but his recent illness may prevent him from attending this meeting.

Village Archives – There is no immediate possibility of housing the Archives on School premises. A new building is required by the school for its own use and would include space for the Village Archives but as yet, no planning permission has been sought for the building, the anticipated cost of which is between £10,000 to £15,000.

Footpath 17. Although the Secretary of State has already dismissed the appeal regarding the Church Path being made a designated County Footpath, the appellant has asked for a Public Enquiry to be held. This will take place over a three day period in April and will be held in the Village Hall.

New Boundaries

The Government proposals to change the Constituency Boundaries is still on an agenda.

Nether Street Railings – The post at the entrance to Nether Street from the village has not yet been replaced although Highways (now Ringway) are aware.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

5th March 2013 - Ordinary Meeting beginning at 7.15pm followed by The ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH at 8.00pm.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

EHC 2013/4 Corporate Strategic Plan and 2011/12 Annual Report. Any comments by 18th January.

Copy of the Annual Playing Field Minutes and Treasurers Accounts
'SCOOTERS' a scheme for assistance for 16+ to own a moped to travel to a work place.(Will be advertised through the Parish Magazine).

REPORTS

CC **CC Dr Roger Beeching** had advised the Chairman that all was quiet at County Council level at present.

DC **District Councillor Mr Newman** reported that work is on going with the District Plan, population forecast is being undertaken and the Council has a duty to co-operate with other Districts and work together in considering plans put forward in the Regional plan ,which as yet has still has to be abolished. District Councils are considered too small on their own and East Herts is working with Stevenage Borough Council whose first plan was rejected. It is possible that the County Council may be involved in the overall planning. The 10 Districts of Hertfordshire are all working together. Nothing to report otherwise – Harlow North is probably not any ones favourite. The Hunsdon Plateau is the Parish, not the aerodrome . It was not thought Councillor Mike Carvers' illness will delay the progress of the District Plan.

IB **Police Liaison Report.** Mr Kitching had not sent a report and it appears he was not an appointed representative and therefore could not be expected to attend meetings. Dr Brett reported on the Rural Police Locality Meeting that had been held in Scotts Barn on 5th December which was well attended. Mr Scott Findlay was thanked for heating in the barn. The new Police Commissioner ,David Lloyd was present and was interesting. D C Newman will be Police Liaison with our Parish Council, The Mobile Police Station which used to visit the villages has been recognised as a waste of money and will not continue. PSSO now work in Hunsdon and walk through the village frequently. Had not been noticed in Widford. Police resources should be devoted to crime. £220m allowance has been reduced to £180m. The Police Locality Meetings which are useful will be called by the Police.(DC Newman to confirm).

IB **Parish Paths Partnership.** FP.17. The posts for the railing at the Staircase from the churchyard gate had become unstable and metal posts have been put in to support the necessary posts.

Fp 18 adjacent to the Allotments . The weeds have been cleared from both sides of the footpath with the assistance of a young man working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award.

He will receive a letter of thanks for his voluntary work.

A tree fallen across RPB 18 to be reported for clearance.

Fp 18 – Lily Bridge – Grave concern at the safety of the bridge,the foundation of which is severely damaged by the recent heavy flow of water passing behind the corrugated sheet causing the bank to seriously erode. It is understood that the County Council has the necessary funding to carry out any work needed.

A letter stressing the urgency of attention to this problem will be sent to the County Council.

- JB **Playing Field** – Mrs Buck reported that a Special Meeting is scheduled to take place on 21 January when it is hoped to attract new members with new ideas onto the committee.
- FL **Village Hall** – The Christmas Show went very well resulting in a good financial result.
- JM **Allotments.** Nothing to report at present . Annual Meeting to be arranged in April.

PLANNING – Nothing new to report.

FINANCE

PRECEPT. The Parish Council returned the necessary form requesting a sum of £4,500.00 for 2013/14 .

Subsequently, a letter had been received from East Herts Council suggesting that the Parish Council may wish to re-consider the amount of precept required. It was agreed to write confirming the precept figure of £,4,500.00 still stands.

Cheques were signed as follows :-

Dr Ian Brett.....Expenses incurred from July to December 2012.....£ 350.56
 (Village Sign installation .Dan Stevenson.....£ 172.00)
 (Allotment water to October 2012.....£ 70.42)
 (Village Sign..Rose Bushes ..thanks to Achitect.....£ 59.96)
 (Assistance to install 2 new bench seats.....£ 40.00)
 (Petrol for Mower – Grass Cutting Benningfield Grn £ 8.18)

Litter Picker ..02.01..13 to 26.01.13.....£100.36
 Litter Picker 02.02.13 to 23.02.13.....£100.36

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

30 Benningfield Road.

Although the weather had been very wet, it was considered the vehicle access granted under licence to the house owners had been badly misused and unnecessary damage had been caused to the green.

The Chairman had contacted the owner with regard to making amends resulting in the owner agreeing to substitute the existing poor protection material with Grasscrete. A section 2sq.m would be put in place for inspection by the Chairman as soon as possible.

The Parish Council was also asked to trim a tree which was overhanging the property.

A large vehicle access at Chapel House directly onto the Hunsdon Road in a generally considered dangerous place had been referred to the District Council.

Chapel House already

has safe access to a garage and parking space across Common Land 238 .

- MN District Councillor Newman will make enquiries from the Enforcement Officer.

A Chevron Board on CL 238 has been destroyed, means unknown but suspected vehicle collision. Has been reported to Ringway. 17/12/12

Bollard opposite Rose Cottage (Ware Road) knocked out by Post Office Van. Also reported to Ringway 17/12/12.

Maple Cottage – Enquiries received from members of the public regarding the substantial building rear of the dilapidated bungalow, as to its use.
Owner to be contacted before any other action.

Hadham End. Building rear of the garage – previous known use, office.
It is understood the new owner will be making a planning application to return use to residential for elderly parents.

Pot Holes - In Bell Lane and Abbots Lane will be reported to Ringway for attention.
Dr Ian Brett

There were no questions from the floor. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Date....5th March 2013.....

Chairman.....

