

The Widford Parish Council meeting on 4th September 2012 took place in the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Dr Ian Brett, Vice-Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Councillors Mrs Wendy Camp, Mrs Frances Luck and Mrs Jenny Miller
County Councillor Dr Roger Beeching and nine members of the public.

APOLOGIES had been received from Police Liaison Officer Mr David Hitching whose wife was ill and District Councillor Mr Mike Newman.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2012 had been circulated.
A correction on Page 3 to the first entry of Finance section to correct the year 2012/13 from 2013/14 was made. The minutes were then approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Code of Conduct. The new document had been drawn up and circulated to all Councillors before adoption at this meeting.

It was noted that the East Herts Council had received queries regarding the need for disclosing pecuniary interests of spouses and that there was disquiet from other sources regarding the document.

EHAPTC meeting on 20th August had been attended by Dr Brett who reported that the East Herts Council had made progress with the Local Plan, some of which did not make very good hearing. The preferred options are now being sifted through and it appears that a new settlement, east of Ware might be considered which could increase Hunsdon up to 5,000 dwellings – and a revisit to the Maple Croft Development overthrown several years ago. A later phase will be considered, possibly west of Sawbridgeworth.

There is still a long way to go before a final decision is reached and Harlow North and Ware East may both be thrown out. The Published Plan is a long way ahead. The third option is to be published in November/December this year.

Village Archives. Councillor Mrs Jenny Miller had attended the School Governors meeting on 4th July and reported that the possibility of housing the Archives at the school had been enthusiastically accepted. It will be necessary for proper arrangements to be put in place before the transfer from the private dwelling is made.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

This will be held on the second Tuesday in the month, November 13th, 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE Very quiet through July and August.

.A decision on Fp 17 had resulted in the Secretary of State not allowing a request from the Ramblers Society for a public footpath to be shown on the definitive map passing through the consecrated land in ownership of the church.

Although a finger post at the Lychgate indicates the footpath passes along the church path, the designated map shows the Footpath commencing at the north west corner of the churchyard through a gate leading to the valley.

Walkers and dogs have always been welcome to walk along the church path to gain access to Footpath 17 and to this there is no change.

A letter received from a member of public asking for Dog Refuse Bins to be provided was read at the meeting, It was explained that this had been discussed on previous occasions and agreed

that the cost of providing a bin and emptying was too costly for the likely use it would receive. Dog owners who use plastic bags should be encouraged to take them home to put in their own black bins which is acceptable when the bags are sealed. Also in the same letter a query regarding the extent of Bridleway 10 was raised and this also had been raised before. It had been suggested that the track went beyond the Widford boundary towards Minges Farm (Much Hadham) which is not the case. The Widford boundary is the end of the Bridleway according to the County Council Footpath Officer. The Litter Picker was once again commented on because there had been no publicity of a vacancy which might have allowed a teenager to earn a few pounds. The Parish Council had considered the possibilities and decided the person chosen who had been doing the work on behalf of her son, was doing a good job and should be allowed to carry on.

REPORTS

CC Dr Roger Beeching, began –Six weeks summer – hope you all had a pleasant time off!

With regard to the Olympic Games, 13 of the Medal winners live in East Herts !

The County Council is awarding £2.2m for Broadband improvement to achieve up to 8.8mb.

Widford currently is in a 2.1mb area.

THE Parish Councils should write to the County Council regarding the need for improved Broadband.

Socially- Libraries are providing courses on Facebook and Twitter

The Locality Budget is available for suitable community projects.

Warning to put the telephone down if spurious telephone calls by a female voice with a Scottish accent purporting to be from the County Council calls , asking for personal details such as age and bank details.

Police report

The Liaison Officer was not present at this meeting but the Police Locality Meeting held in Hunsdon Village Hall on 24th August had been attended by Dr Ian Brett.

Speeding and Hare Coursing monitoring is continuing – The `squeeze` will be felt as the financial allowance if dropped from £220 to £180m over three years but it is hoped that numbers of Police will be kept up.

An extremely efficient Officer who had been working in this area has now been relocated to Watford and it is hoped that the level of Rural Policing he had achieved will be maintained. County Councillor Beeching was asked if he could enquire why the change in personnel had taken place.

The Police were asked to continue monitoring speeding through the villages once a month.

The Mobile Police Station which had visited villages on occasions for several years had not been seen in these villages for some time and apparently this service will suffer as part of the financial cut back.

IB Parish Paths Partnership

Not much progress recently. Some work has been done on Fp 18 and Br 12.

The date for the Annual Meeting with the County Rights of Way Officer has yet to be arranged, when we set a programme for the year.

JB Playing Field - Nothing to report

FL Village Hall

Thanks to CC Beeching for the Grant towards the doors for the mural in the Village Hall.

The attic has been cleared of rubbish – leaving more space for storage.

The Hall is continuing to attract more bookings.

The Annual London/Cambridge Bike Ride profits were much less this year, realising some £700.00 instead of previous amounts of £1,000.00. This appeared to be due to poor directional signage and an alternative refreshment venue elsewhere (unknown).

JM Allotments

A new Groundsman , Paul Prior has been employed replacing Dan Stephenson who resigned. It is understood he will require in excess of the payment made to the previous employee and arrangements are being discussed.

The Annual BBQ and Clear up date is scheduled for 6th October.

Plots 10 and 11 have already been sprayed twice by Paul Prior but the Plot holder has made no attempt to remove the glasshouse or fruit trees yet.

The outstanding rent for plot holder 25 ,Kate Garrett, appears to have given up without giving notice.

PLANNING

Decision Notice for:

3/12/0982/FP Single Storey side extension for Family Room at “Homefield” . CP 08/08/12

New Application.

3/12/1325/FP 5 new houses, convert existing barn to dwelling,. “Priory Farm”

Removal of existing barn, New Drive and Parking.

Comments:-Parish Council would welcome suitable development of this site but consider this proposal overdevelopment in accordance with the Local Plan and Conservation Area for Cat: 2 Villages.

FINANCE

The following cheques were signed:-

In advance of this meeting, a cheque for the Village Sign.....	£3088.80
Mr Jim Turner. Grass Cutting Benningfield Green, (3).....	£ 83.33
Mrs C Parrott. Grass Cutting, Closed Churchyard...(3).....	£ 128.00
Dr Ian Brett, Reimbursement for Allotments/Village Sign expenses.....	£ 206.00

A claim for VAT reimbursement has been made/awaited.....£ 715.00

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Chairman.....
Dr Ian Brett

Date.....13 November 2012.....