

The WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL met in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 at 8.00pm.

#### PRESENT

Chairman Dr Ian Brett, Councillors Mrs Jenny Miller and Mrs Frances Luck, and the Clerk.  
Six members of the public'  
CC Dr Roger Beeching and DC Mr Mike Newman.

#### APOLOGIES

Vice-Chair Mrs Jill Buck Dealing with a Domestic Problem and  
Councillor Mrs Wendy Camp recovering from a minor operation.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July had been circulated and were now approved.

#### MATTERS ARISING

IB EHTPC last meeting on 25 July .Next meeting with EH Councillor Mike Carver,20<sup>th</sup> September

Signs at Chapel House.

A replacement Chevron Board has been placed on order in August and will be in place as soon as it is received by Ringway.

Unfortunately the request for a Concealed Access sign has not been granted. The Highway Engineer reported that the visibility elsewhere is less than available at Chapel House and similar signs have not been permitted. Therefore, a sign at Chapel House site is not considered necessary.

IB Lilley Bridge –

The land owner had been approached and has agreed to a suitable gate with self- closing mechanism being installed.

For this the Parish Council will receive the cost of the gate from Ground Maintenance and the gate will be installed by the Parish Council Chairman.

A misunderstanding has arisen by the County Council Footpath Officer in that a team of CMS Volunteers will put the gate in place,!

Police Commissioners 'Drive Safe Scheme

Despite many concerns expressed by residents regarding speeding through the village, the 'self-help' scheme put forward by the Police Commissioner will not be adopted by Widford. The scheme which would be controlled by the Parish Council required a minimum of ten residents to assist . The advertisement for volunteers was placed in the Parish Magazine but no results were forthcoming .

The Waggoners at Much Hadham

A second meeting held on 30 August had taken place regarding future development of the site. The previous proposal made by the Owners (who also own the Sow and Pigs at High Cross) were not acceptable. There was no knowledge of the outcome of the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Village Hall – 8.00pm

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Rural Fair Share Network – to safeguard and improve services in rural communities across England requires the return by 30<sup>th</sup> September of a pre- printed Petition signed by the Councillors and as many residents as possible and returned to The Chair of the Rural Fair Share Campaign, Graham Stuart MP at House of Commons,Rm 348,Portcullis House.London SW1A 0AA.

CDA Herts is supporting the Rural Services Network Fair Share Campaign.

*PROPOSED by the Chairman, agreed by both Councillors present to support the campaign.*

1 correspondence continued.....

Salt for Winter.

Hertfordshire County Council Highways once again offer self help to Parishes with a delivery of salt to be distributed by local people. This does not appear to be a scheme that would be reasonable to manage in the village and therefore no action will be taken.

Conservation Area Survey report notice of presentation to EH Executive Panel for initial consideration

Note: The late arrival at this meeting of CC Beeching and DC Newman was due to their attendance at the EH meeting, from which they were able to report that the report had been the first to receive approval. It was noted that the comments made by the Parish Council to the Draft Copy earlier had been included. It was also noted that grants would be possible in regard to some of the replacement fencing required by the report.

This has now to go to the Full Committee and a result is anticipated by 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Final approval will give wait to Planning and what is allowed.

## PLANNING

### Decisions

3/13/0649/OP	The Mount, Medcalf Hill. New Four Bed House and access.	R.06.08.13
3/13/0657/FP	Martlets – erection of new four bed dwelling.	R.24.06.13
3/13/0659/FP	Martlets-Demo: Garage, new build rear/side extension, porch/) Garage)	CP 31.07.13
3/13/0803/FP	Endways Cottage – New Orangery.....	CP.04.07.13
3/13/0818/LB	Nether Hall – Secondary Glazing	CP.20.08.13

### New Application

3/13/1306/FP 8 Daintrees – Rear Dormer Window.

## REPORTS

CC Beeching reported that:-

### Highways

£3M is planned to spend on Highway Maintenance on more than 350 sites this year, £2.5M resurfacing and most of preparation work for surface dressing and micro asphalt programmes.

Surface dressing started on 22 July and Micro Asphalt on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Bitumen binder on roads melts in hot weather but if stiffened becomes brittle in cold weather and breaks up. It is possible to treat the surface with gritters high grip grit.

If any Highway faults reported, make sure a job number is given and if no result within two weeks, contact CC Beeching.

### Superfast Broadband

Herts and Bucks contract with BT fibre broadband by end of March 2016 – speeds up to 80Mbps to 14,000 homes.

BT are giving £8.6M £4.15 from Government and the two Counties another £5M

Childrens' Centres survey reports 99% are very satisfactory - of 5232 centres 74% went once every two weeks.

Finance – Annual Savings so far identified are £163M, this is the fourth year that Council Tax has been frozen.

Schools – Increased places in Primary Schools by 561 last year. More to go working on east of the County now.

DC Mike Newman - made no report other than reference to the Conservation Area Survey above mentioned.

IB Parish Paths Partnership.  
The Parish Council could receive up to £1,000.00 per year for work on footpaths and from this amount the cost of the gate at Lilley Bridge will be funded. Details have to be returned together with a photograph to the Groundwork Team on completion of the work.

Steps at Footpath 17- refill to make safe is for the County Council to repair.

Bridleway 9 – A resident met a Refuse Truck using tis bridleway to gain access to The Stables bungalow. On being challenged, the driver said he had authorisation to drive along the track which forced the pedestrian to side step into the field.

It was pointed out that there is a notice that reads “Authorised Vehicles only” which is understood to relate to farm vehicles.

This matter to be confirmed with the East Herts Council Environmental Officer.

JB The Playing Field

A written report had been received from Mrs Buck which stated that the Committee would be meeting on 5 September at which the Policy on Contracts for regular users and for one-off events will be reviewed. Future users of the field will be asked for a contribution towards its upkeep – the exact sum will probably vary with the use. This is instead of leaving it to the discretion of the user as to whether or not a donation was made. The contract will mean that, should there be any damage to the pitch a claim could be made for restitution. New rubbish bins and better rubbish facilities for the two regular football teams are being provided.

The Charity Cricket Match went well but did leave some problems on the pitch, and although the Village Arts Festival is proposing to use the field as a Car Park, it will be more closely policed with members of the FOWC committee,

FL Village Hall

Possible costs of refurbishment could cost in the order of £8 to £9,000.00. Re-wiring is scheduled for the ceiling and the colour chosen for the curtains is Green. Bookings are now taken by Greg Prowse, Richard Bear is Treasurer. Pictures of the Diamond Jubilee gathering and others have been hung in the Committee room.

JM Allotments

Nigel English has kept the grass under control which appears to have lacked attention at present, due to a problem with the Strimmer.

There are still vacant plots - Stella Oliver (Hunsdon) is in touch and may have applicants from Hunsdon.

Apart from Plot 3, the rentee has been written to again ! all seems to be as well as can be expected.

#### FINANCE

Cheques signed as follows :-

Mrs C Parrott....Grass Cutting, including strimmiing (£56).....(3 rd payment).....	£184.00
Mr J Turner...Grass Cutting Benningfied Green.....(3 <sup>rd</sup> payment).....	£ 83.33
Nigel English....Ground Maintenance Allotments (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2payments).....	£ 65.00
Litter for four weeks 17/08/13 to 7/09/13.....	£103.20
Litter for four weeks 14/09/13 to 5/10/13.....	£103.20
Litter four weeks from 12/10/13 to/2/11/13.....	£103.20
2 <sup>nd</sup> half grant for grass cutting to Playing Field.....	£500.00

RECEIVED from E H Council .....New Homes Bonus.....£320.00

NB, It had been previously agreed that this money would be used for Capital expenses and in this case will be given to the Village School towards their project which will eventually provide a venue for the Village Archives, the total cost of which is believed to be in the region of £15,000.

Any Other Business

A Bollard outside Hillside Cottage had been dislodged when a large lorry had collided with a car . The bollard had been put back in position temporarily but is not considered safe and will be reported to Ringway for attention. Unfortunately the number of the Vehicle was not noted.

There was no other business but the Chairman said he had written a letter to the Clerk to declare his resignation, not only as Chairman but also from the Parish Council as from the end of this meeting.

The announcement met with stunned silence from the whole assembly.!

The Chairman went on to say he felt after six and a half years as Chairman and nine years on the Parish Council, it would seem the right time to stand down and make way for younger members with fresh ideas.

Although the Councillors had been notified of this course of action the day before this meeting, the full realisation of its impact had not been appreciated.

The letter continued with thanks to fellow Councillors for their tremendous support and friendship and to our trusted Clerk for all that has been done over these many years, and concluded with thanks to the residents of this lovely village ,for electing him to this office. It has been a privilege to serve.

Neither of the Councillors present or the Clerk felt able to respond to the Chairman but a member of the audience began to clap and others joined in.

There was no further business and the meeting terminated at 9.10pm.

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Date...5<sup>th</sup> November 2013.....