

The Widford Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. Due to the letting of the adjoining room for a Keep Fit class, the meeting was accompanied by Music which made it necessary to talk a little louder than usual. However, the business of the meeting was satisfactorily conducted.

#### PRESENT

Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Vice Chairman Mrs Wendy Camp, Councillor Paul Riddle and the Clerk.

C C Dr Roger Beeching and six members of the public also attended this meeting.

APOLOGIES had been received from District Councillor Mr Mike Newman Councillor Mrs Jenny Miller away on holiday and Councillor Neil Rogers away on business.

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on July 1<sup>st</sup> and a meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> July had been circulated and were now approved as true records.

MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Village Sign. There is still no sign of the missing sign so it was decided to ask for a replacement. A photograph of the remaining sign will be forwarded to Ringways for a quotation. We were delighted and very grateful to CC Beeching when he offered to pay for the replacement from his Highway Budget.

Village Archives – No further action to date. Waiting for information and decision from the family of Mrs Smith with regard to their mothers collection which had been passed to the Parish Council for safe keeping in July 2009, but is subject to further discussion by the family as there is no Legal Document making the Parish Council 'The Owners'.

The Parish Council has deposited some items not included in the in Smith collection in the School building to enable the much needed Grant to School to be received.

Dog Refuse Bins - It was not known how effective the sticker notices reminding members of the public to clear up after their dogs when out walking have been. No comments have been received.

Once again the installation of a Refuse Bin is being considered for installation near the Bus Shelter outside Priory Farm. There is an existing post holding a Litter Bin and a suggestion was made that a Dog Bin could be hung on the same post. Cost of installation would be £167.52 and emptying through the year £154.00, 1 weekly through the winter and twice weekly through the summer.

Further investigation to be given to this.

Footpath 18 – The Twitchel. The Countryside Management Officer had sent a quotation of £628.00 to CC Beeching. This is the cost involved for installation of a hand rail at the Beningfield Road end of the Twitchel where the ground slopes and becomes slippery in inclement weather.

Once again, we are indebted to CC Beeching who will pay for the railing from his Community Budget.

Telephone Kiosk – The proposal to use it as a lending library had not been acceptable to the owners of Porch Cottage even though it has been confirmed that the box stands completely within highway land. (The footpath). More thought to be given to its use.

MATTER ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 8<sup>TH</sup> July

Draft Countryside Parish/Town HCC Charter – had been considered and a response returned on 29 July as follows.....

1 continued.....

The General Purposes Committee resolved the response with regard to working relationships which are taken very seriously, Localism, that the government policy must be reflected by County, District and Parish Councils, Principals- Parish Councils need to demonstrate that they are effective so as to be seen as legitimate within the general community, must listen to concerns and worries of people

Within the area.

A Parish/Town Council conference every 6 months is an excellent idea.

Collaborative Working to improve communication and processes needed. It is felt that local issues identified by smaller rural Parish Councils are not given sufficient weight and District Councils apply standards which are developed and adopted for much larger towns.

We look forward to reviewing the Draft Appendix in due course.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. 4th November 2014 - Village Hall, 8.00pm

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Hertfordshire CC.in June, launched a Public Consultation on changes being suggested to Hertfordshire's household waste recycling centres ('tips' or 'dumps'). A new Contractor has been appointed with a view to make substantial savings over the next four years across all the services and they have been asked to suggest ways of saving £750,000 per year while still reducing waste, improving rates of reuse and recycling and maintaining a reliable service for residents.

The key suggested changes, which could save at least £6 million over the next eight years are:-

- Permanent closure of Hoddesdon and Elstree – reducing the number of centres from 17 to 15.
- Change the remaining 15 sites from a seven day week to a five day a week service, with weekly closures (except the small site at Buntingford)
- Changing the opening times, with all sites opening from 8am to 4pm all year (except the small site at Buntingford)

In order to generate as many responses as possible from Local residents, this article was placed in the Parish Magazine and hopefully, many will have responded. The Parish Council Had serious concerns that the changes could lead to Fly Tipping which would not be acceptable.

Hertfordshire C C – Changes to Bus Service and funding.

The Public Transport system is very poor in the village with no service on a Sunday and limited service on a Saturday, the last bus through the Village at 6.30pm. Evening services are very restrictive for local people, especially teenagers, attending functions in the town unless they drive or could be driven by car.

Under the proposed changes, Widford service 351 is not listed among the services affected.

#### PLANNING

3/14/1187/FP Priory Farm. New Vehicular access off unmade farm track.

The Parish Council was concerned that this could lead to further development, and conflict with increased traffic movements at the recently allowed development for six residential units and the junction with the main road.

3/14/1429 Westbury .Bell Lane, Retrospective – Erection of 1.8m high fence.

Parish Council concerned at loss of hedge and impaired visibility on to Ware Road,

3/14/1531/FP 9 Benningfield Road – Retrospective – use of domestic premises for Childcare.

Parish Council had no objection.

3/14/1549/FP Porch Cottage – 2 storey Rear Extension and front garden wall.  
(Previous planning application in 2013 had been refused).  
Under consideration by Parish Council.

#### REPORTS

CC. Dr R Beeching Reference to his Locality Budget included donations made from his allocated £10,000 fund, £3,500 of which had gone to Ware, and a number of smaller amounts to a variety of causes such as a new hedge for allotments, Training and Supervision of parent volunteers for home visits to improve outcome for vulnerable children, replacing outdated computers for the Samaritans (Ware), and projects for young people.

Widford is very grateful to Dr Beeching who has offered a sum of £628.00 from his 2014/15 budget to pay for the Handrail to be placed on Fp18 (The Twitchel).

A Highways Locality Budget of £90,000 is also used for such things as sign replacements, and safety measures but does not include pot holes. From the 2013/14 budget, Widford was able to replace a road sign in Nether Street for £250.00. The 2015/16 Budget includes roadway improvements to Bell Lane for a sum of £13,500.

There is also a report on Street Lighting, which tells of tests being carried on ageing street lights of columns throughout the county which will be replaced or cut down. To date 133 have been replaced and 275 cut down awaiting replacement.

Reference was made to The 100 Parishes document which has recently been put on Widford's Web – 100 Parishes in Essex and Herts around Stansted Airport which is now on going and a Charity – can be found on <http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk/>.

BH Parish Paths Partnership

Fp 7. The new Kissing Gate was put in place on 15 August, replacing a very dangerous stile. A letter to Mr Julian Pawle has resulted in his consent by telephone to the Clerk to replace the stile on the north side of Mary's Field (from Nether Street to Footpath 7) with a similar wooden Kissing Gate.

The work was done and will be done, by the County Council with Volunteer workforce. A sum of £350.00 has been received from Groundwork Hertfordshire/County Council which it appears will cover the cost of both stiles. The account has not been received.

NR Playing Field – No report to date – next meeting scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> September.

PR Village Hall – Bookings seem to be going well – Concern at cost of Electricity Bill = £1000.00  
The Annual Charity Ride arrangement went very well (London/Cambridge), Various things to be done,

Fund raising – March a Beat n'ic Concert is booked.

Project – the Green Room

Next meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> September.

WC Allotments – The broken entrance gate had been repaired by Mr and Mrs Miller.

The large Ash tree on the right as you enter the allotments is to be trimmed – quotation waited from Michael Gilmore.

All rents have been collected, Paths are in good order, various plots need cutting back.

Unfortunately Lewis Hosier now has another job and is unable to give extra time to the maintenance of the allotments. He has done good work but will have to be replaced.

The proposal to reposition the bonfire area may need a contractor to help.

A Committee meeting was held on site on 14 July and in general the allotments are running smoothly.

## FINANCE

Recei ved.

New Homes Bonus 2014.....	£1368.00
Licence for Vehicle Access, 30 Benningfield Road.....	£ 286.00
Grant from Groundwork Hertfordshire for new kissing gates.....	£ 350.00

## PAYMENTS

M B Hollylee)....reimbursement for removal of Tree debris,benningfield Gr.£	25.00
).....reimbursement Allotment Work 5 hours at £10.00ph.....£	50.00
Playing Field – 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Annual Grant for Grass/Hedge cutting.....£	500.00
Jim Turner..Grass Cutting Benningfield Green.....(3).....£	83.33
Mrs C Parrott..Grass/Maintenance,Closed Churchyard.....(3).....	£ 224.00
Mrs J English..... Litter...16/08 to 06/09.....£	105.76
Mrs J English.....Litter...13/09 to 04/10.....£	105.76
BDO LLP.....Audit Fee ..Year End 31 March 2014....(inc: VAT).....£	54.00

The Annual Audit had been completed at a cost of £45.00 + £9.00 VAT.

Minor comment:- that Boxes 1 and 8 should agree otherwise no problems

Accepted at this meeting.

## APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Mr Dave Gray, 16 Hunsdon Road, Widford has agreed to be appointed for the year.

He replaces Mr David Binderfeld who has carried out the internal audit for the last

3 years but having removed from the village he suggested it would be more appropriate for a local auditor to be appointed.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pot Hole – Nether bStreet/B.1004 – reported and infilled within 24 hors.

Abbotts Lane – Deposit of dead rabbits pieces and small deer –  
Cleared by East Herts Environmental Department

Bell Lane – Garage Area 16 – 24. Hedge cut down including Ash Paling fence.  
Ringways notified -possibly their hedge (B.1004)

Overgrown Willow Tree 8 – 16 Hunsdon Road.  
Ringways responsibility. (Grass cutting East Herts).

Overgrown Footways.

Abbotts Lane to Parish Boundary south (Gas Works)

Daintrees to Abbots

Coal Yard frontage and footway to Layby.

East Herts/Ringways to be asked to clear.

Pot Hole outside No 11 BellLane – to be reported.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mrs J Buck

Date.....4<sup>th</sup> November 2014....