

UNAPPROVED DRAFT1

2. **Decision Notices.** As detailed in Appendix A below – for information only

3. **Other planning matters,** including items received too late for the agenda

1. Late planning applications:

3/22/0076/HH Andor, Slough Road: Remove rear conservatory. Loft conversion. Two storey rear extension and single storey side/rear extension; insert front rooflight.
RESOLVED: To object on the basis that there is no material difference to the previously refused application

Clerk

2. The consultation on the Gilston Development: No report

3. Noted: that the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 consultation runs from 6th January to 17th February.

22.08

Finance

1. **Treasurer's Report 2020-21 Accounts for 19th January 2022**

DS/Clerk

The account balances as at 7th January

Current Account balance	£ 348.19	
Deposit Account balance	£ 16,001.60	
Petty cash	£ 0.00	
Total	£ 16,349.79	

Accounts Reconciliation as at 07/01/2022

	Current Account	Deposit Account	Total
Actual bank balances	£348.19	£ 16,001.60	£ 16,349.79
Balance as per books			£ 16,349.79
Difference			£0.00
Cheques to pay in			£0.00
Scheduled payments			£0.00

The General Reserve at the end of the year is expected to be £4,532.21.

A new Section 106 request has been prepared in advance of the quotes for the work.

A request has been made to EHDC for the New Homes Bonus. As there hasn't been any response to date, the Forecast for the Playing Fields Development has been reduced accordingly.

Unanimously **RESOLVED: to approve the Treasurer's Accounts Report and Bank Reconciliation as at 7th January 2022**

2. **Payments (gross) All expenditure made under The General Power of Competence**

	Value	VAT incl
HWMH: Hall hire	12.00	
PWLB: Loan repayment	769.03	
Clerk Mileage	10.80	
Clerk Telephone and Home working	11.00	
Clerk stationery (paper and diary)	6.30	
HWAA: Grant	70.00	
AGA: hall hire	18.00	
Clerk: Salary November	255.88	
Color-Board: Litter Picking November	96.00	16.00
HWMH: Hall hire (29/12/21)	12.00	
HMRC: PAYE November	63.80	
Clerk: Salary December	224.91	
Color-Board: Litter Picking December	96.00	16.00
HWMH: Post Office subsidy	87.50	
HMRC: PAYE December	56.20	
Total (gross)	£ 1,789.42	
VAT included To be reclaimed under VAT Act 1994 (1), (3)		£ 32.00

Unanimously **RESOLVED: to approve all payments as per the Treasurer's report, including the Clerk's expenses**

DS/Clerk

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3. Budget and precept for 2022/23

A detailed budget proposal was put before the Council.

2022-2023 Accounts

Proposals were to:

- Increase the Precept from £12,950 to £15,000 (plus 16%);
- Increase for cutting the grass on the High Wych Playing Fields and Allen's Green by 10%. The charge has been constant for 4 years and is expected to increase;
- The New Homes Bonus will not be included;
- The rent for the Allotments to remain unchanged;
- The HAPTC/NALC fee will reduce from £419.13 to £413.32;
- The costs for the Clerk are expected to increase by 3%;
- A Jubilee Grant of £500 is proposed to be used for the local communities to hold celebration events. This amount to be split into £350 for High Wych and £150 for Allen's Green which is roughly the split between the number of residents on the Electoral Roll for the 2 entities;
- Allen's Green Association have asked for a grant of £1,000 for refurbishments and upgrades;
- A contingency amount of £2,428.95 to be included for unexpected expenses and a reasonable float.

Unanimously **RESOLVED: To approve the 2022/23 budget as presented and to set the precept at £15,000.** The presiding Chair, two councillors, and the Clerk signed the EHDC Precept Form.

Clerk

4. High Wych Lane fencing

Alternative options to fencing were considered. Cllr Gareth Emanuel recommended the opportunity for free hedging from the QGC initiative should be used to improve the boundary. It was agreed that he would look at the options available.

GE

Cllr Eric Buckmaster arrived at 8.50pm

22.09

1. Highways

1. Pavement parking in High Wych Lane.

The following report from Cllr Heather Nardone was received and discussed:

The school has confirmed the following numbers of students:

46 High Wych; 1 Allens Green. Total student numbers at the school is 231.

This means 185 students (80%) are not able to walk to school and need to be driven.

With the information above re the number of children who attend High Wych school, I feel this gives the Parish Council a clear understanding of the facilities required within this community to cater for those inhabitants.

The 46 High Wych children are of the age to attend the High Wych school and therefore of the age to be using the play equipment in the park.

The field was left for the use of the inhabitants of High Wych.

Twenty years ago there were 190 students at the school. The school has not expanded in terms of High Wych inhabitants. Expansion in numbers is a result of development in other areas.

Therefore the current size of the play area meets the needs of the number of inhabitants and does not need to be expanded onto other areas of the field, ie the other side of the public footpath as currently being proposed by the working group.

To increase the size of the play equipment area (to cater for visitors) is to decrease the use of open space and facilities for inhabitants of the village to whom the field was donated. This would also mean the play area can be fenced off and the public right of way left open for residents to use freely as they should be able to.

2. Overgrown hedges, update: The Manor of Groves has not yet fulfilled its undertaking to trim back its hedge on Bakers Lane. To be chased up.

Clerk

3. Speeding issues and temporary lifting of weight restrictions on High Wych Lane:

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Cllr Dave Smith reported that he had just raised the following with HCC:
*Heavy lorries are continuing to use High Wych Lane to access the building sites in West Road. This has increased over the past few days.
He had spoken to the J & R Haulage office and they promised to speak to their drivers and come back to him. They did say their drivers had been told to use the road.
There is mud on the road and delivery lorries are speeding.
He had stopped a Doherty lorry to double check that they aren't servicing another site within the restricted area but the driver confirmed that he was going to West Road.
Not only should they be keeping out of the restricted area but they should not be here close to school turning out time either.*

4. Winter salt provision by HCC. Update: The salt has been delivered. Cllr Heather Nardone requested that the new bright yellow salt bin be removed as it is inappropriate for the centre of the village. It was noted that someone has subsequently moved it to a different location. Cllr Eric Buckmaster was asked to look into the matter and to find out who ordered the new bin. HN
5. Highways work: Highways work information provided by Cllr Eric Buckmaster for various locations was noted.

2. Footpaths and other Public Rights of Way (PROW)

1. Modification Order for footpath near Broadfields, recording the continuation of the Footpath to the Public Rights of Way map: Ongoing, no update. TP
2. Footpath Broadfields to High Wych Lane: It is understood that Cllr Tom Payne has written to Clarion for confirmation of ownership. To be followed up at the March PC meeting. TP

3. Other Parish Matters

1. High Wych Memorial Hall and car park

1. Some minor incidents were reported to have taken place in the car park but nothing was caught on CCTV and there no ongoing action.
The Hall has a healthy financial position which will allow them to continue with their planned upgrades. Demand continues to be high in spite of the Covid situation.

2. Bus shelter

1. The situation with the emptying of the bin has improved and Cllr Dave Smith will continue to monitor the situation. No updates yet from EHDC with regard to the replacement. It was agreed to remove this from future agendas until there is something more to report. DS
2. Refurbishment needed. **RESOLVED: Cllr Stacey Butcher to make enquiries on possible refurbishment.** SB

3. Commemorative Village sign

Awaiting 20 year lease for the 4 square metres of land from EHDC. The wooden post has been ordered. DS

4. QEII Platinum Jubilee "Queen's Green Canopy" initiative

No update received on delivery of trees – to check with Cllr Tom Payne. TP

The High Wych Community Volunteers are planning to hold some form of celebration in June. No details available yet.

5. Railings by the zebra crossing

Cllr Heather Nardone requested that a maintenance schedule be set up for the railings. They should be painted the same colour as the lamp posts. It is understood that these belong to HCC. It was agreed that Cllr Gareth Emanuel ask Cllr Eric Buckmaster to check with HCC if the railings could be painted by the Parish Council. **RESOLVED: that the Parish Council paint the railings if approval is given by HCC.** GE

Other matters: Reported by Cllr Dave Smith

- Light up High Wych: Another successful community event.

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- Recognition of the Community Work carried out by Janet Bellingham: Pleased to report that Janet Bellingham was 'Highly Commended' for her community work at the Bishop's Stortford Independent awards ceremony.

22.10

1. Playing Fields and buildings

1. Harlow Theatre Company update
 1. No more refurbishment work has been done recently and the pavilion hasn't been used due to Covid.
 2. Lease renewal: A new 5 year lease has been drawn up at a further cost of £300 plus VAT. Final document being finalised. **DS/Clerk**
2. Play area
 1. New equipment and S106 funding: Work in progress. **KJ/DS**
 2. Minutes of the Playing Fields Working Group Meeting on 29th November were received.
 3. Monthly Play Area inspections: These need to be conducted. The Clerk agreed to ask Broadmead Leisure if they would undertake the inspections. **Clerk**

It was agreed to add monthly inspections to the new equipment specification. **KJ**

It was agreed to arrange for the annual RPII inspection via EHC when the invitation to participate is received. **KJ**
3. Black wooden gate
 1. Assessment of gate safety and action required: This was with Cllr Tom Payne to report. Cllr Heather Nardone again asked if a safety sign could be added to the gate. There is a potential H&S issue. **TP**
 2. Maintenance of entrance gate and fencing: Cllr Heather Nardone proposed that a quote be obtained from a handyman to refurbish the gate, fence and bus stop (under agenda item 22.09.3.2.2). To be funded from the 2022/23 budget. **HN**
RESOLVED: That the Clerk to place an order for the work up to a maximum of £1,000 **Clerk**
 4. Trustee appointments for the High Wych and Allen's Green charities: Cllrs Tom Payne and John Andreotti are trustees for High Wych. Cllr Tom Payne to clarify the Allen's Green trustee position with the Charity Commission. **TP**
2. Allotments
 - Half a plot becoming available with 2 people on the waiting list; **DS**
 - All rents received.

22.11

Correspondence: The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- HCC: re High Wych footpath issues (22.09.2.2)
- Parishioner: request for information re a planning decision
- HCC re problems caused by roadworks in Gilston Eastwick Road Pye Corner
- HCC: Notification of withdrawal of some Local Plan Minerals and Waste consultation documents.
- Late item: parishioner request for action to be taken on speeding traffic, especially in light of the recent fatal motor cycle accident. (22.12)

22.12

Late items and items for future agendas

1. Late items: Request for action to be taken on speeding traffic, especially in light of the recent fatal motor cycle accident. It was noted that no other vehicles were involved. There was a discussion with Cllr Eric Buckmaster that determined that the responsibility for accident memorial material being left at the accident site is the responsibility of HCC. Also discussed was whether an advisory 20mph could be implemented outside the school. It was noted that a request for the speed limit to be reviewed/reduced could result in the speed limit being increased. The Police & Crime Commissioner has made available two drivesafe vans that could be deployed on an advisory basis if there is a suitable location for them to be sited. Speeding and other incidents can be reported on the police Echo system or at the quarterly police meeting.

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2. Future agendas:
- To agree for someone to take on updating and adding parish information to the website. HN

22.13 Date and venue of next Meeting
Wednesday 16th March at 8pm in Allen's Green Village Hall. The Clerk to confirm availability of the hall. Clerk

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.41pm.

Signed.....

APPENDIX A

21.090.2 **21.090.2 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES for information only as at 11th November**

3/21/1783/HH	Wychways, High Wych Lane: Raise roof ridge	GRANTED
3/21/2492/HH	4 Trimms Green: Demolish rear extension and build replacement	REFUSED
3/21/1918/HH	Andor, Slough Road: Remove conservatory; add 2-storey rear extension	REFUSED
3/21/3035/FUL	Mountfitchet: Demolish dwelling and erect detached replacement.	Awaited
3/21/2998/LBC	Carters Barns: Variation of Condition 2, 3/19/2224/LBC. Convert barns into two dwellings	Awaited
3/21/2960/HH	Leaky Cauldron Corner: Detached cart lodge and home office.	Awaited
3/21/1944/FUL	Pole Hole Farm: Re-clad building, add windows	Awaited
3/21/1400/FUL	Sayes Park Farm: Change of use – barns to residential	Awaited
3/21/0824/FUL	Land at Leaky Cauldron Corner: Erect 4 No. 4-bed dwellings	Awaited
3/21/0360/HH & 0361/LBC	Sacombs Ash, Allens Green: Alterations to Grade II Listed building	Awaited
3/20/1665/HH	Sweetdews Barn APPEALED Ref 00003/REFUSE	Awaited
3/19/1046/FUL	Land adj to Fifth Avenue: Eastwick crossing and associated works	Awaited
E/19/0479/ENF	Bonneys Row: Enforcement investigation <i>Permitted Development</i>	CLOSED

APPENDIX B

County report for January 2022

£5000 in funding available for sustainable projects across Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council has teamed up with Crowdfunder to create the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund, providing up to £5,000 in funding for local projects that will contribute to tackling climate change.

Through the fund, the county council wishes to enable and inspire projects to be delivered that assist with one or more of its Sustainable Hertfordshire ambitions.

These ambitions include:

- To become a net zero greenhouse gas county before 2050
- To ensure communities are ready for future climates
- To improve wildlife across the county by 20 per cent by 2050
- To provide access to clean air for all by 2030

To qualify for funding, projects must be local to Hertfordshire and benefit people who live or work in the county. To apply for funding and see further eligibility criteria visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sustainablefund

Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for the Environment said:

"In order to achieve the targets we have set for the county as part of our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy we need to enable and inspire people across the county to take action against climate change."

Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair a 'storming' success

Hertfordshire County Council's first ever Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair proved to be a triumph as residents flocked to the event in their hundreds despite the wind and rain caused by Storm Arwen.

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Over 350 residents came to the event at County Hall, Hertford, where they were treated to an inspirational day of climate action thanks to over 50 exhibitors made up of county council services, local businesses, and climate organisations leading a mixture of talks, workshops, and activities.

The feedback from residents and exhibitors has been overwhelmingly positive, as people came away from the event better equipped with the knowledge and tools needed in the fight against climate change.

Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for the Environment said:

“Seeing so many of our residents giving up part of their weekend to find out more about the fight against climate change in Hertfordshire was really positive and shows a real desire to make a difference. We want to inspire our communities in Hertfordshire to take action against climate change, and the Eco-Fair is the kind of community engagement we need to achieve this.”

A recent report from the Department for Transport (DfT) into road conditions in England for the years ending March 2020 and 2021, has shown that roads in Hertfordshire are better than or equal to the national average.

The DfT statistical release, which has been produced annually since 2007/8, categorises roads into three categories, green (good condition), amber (work may be needed) and red (roads that should be considered for maintenance). It then considers the class of road, ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and unclassified.

The DfT statistics show the roads that should be considered for maintenance and so a lower percentage is better. In 2020 and 2021, the number of roads in England classified as red was 4% of ‘A’ roads, 6% of ‘B’ and ‘C’ roads and 17% of unclassified roads. In Hertfordshire, 3% of ‘A’ roads were classified as red, 6% of ‘B’ and ‘C’ roads and 12% of unclassified roads.

The quality of Hertfordshire’s roads reflects the proactive approach the county takes to planning repairs, and the investment made through the councils invest 2 improve (i2i) programme. The i2i 5 year plan, with the final year of investment taking place in 2022/23, has seen additional funding dedicated to local roads, with £29m committed to improve the unclassified network alone.

The unclassified network, which are primarily residential roads or country lanes, account for 63% of all Hertfordshire roads. At the start of the programme the figures for the unclassified network were at 16%, and now stand at 12%, making the Hertfordshire unclassified roads some of the best in the East of England.

The i2i ambition is to improve the unclassified road network by halving the percentage of roads that should be considered for maintenance. Last year the figures stood at 7%, and this year they are at 12%, with the national figures also going up from 15% to 17% as highway authorities delayed works and adjusted working practices during the pandemic. Although the figures have changed from last year, the county remains on the right track to meet the ambition of the i2i programme.

Hertfordshire’s Queen’s Green Canopy takes root with 36,000 trees to be planted in the next year

The first of over 36,000 trees have been planted as part of Hertfordshire County Council’s efforts in the Queen’s Green Canopy, a project which encourages people to ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’.

Currently just over 850 trees have been planted, including 100 trees at 43 Hertfordshire schools, as well as on highways verges across the county. The remaining 36,000 trees will be planted across a number of sites in Hertfordshire over the next 18 months.

This year’s planting includes a ‘statement’ site at County Hall, Hertford, where 27 trees were planted followed by a small ceremony during the Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair on Saturday 27 November.

In addition, an avenue of 30 lime trees at Aldenham Country Park make up the second ‘statement’ planting site, with 350 more trees planned for Aldenham next year as part of the park’s 100 Aker Wood.

New powers for Highways to enforce in ‘hot spots’ across Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council will be applying for new legal powers to issue penalty charge

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notices to motorists ignoring Highways restrictions across the county.

The Department for Transport announced in June that councils will be able to apply for the legal powers to use cameras to enforce moving traffic contraventions, such as ignoring no entry and one-way restrictions, driving in formal cycle lanes, or waiting in yellow box junctions.

Hertfordshire County Council intend to apply for these powers in the new year once legislation has been passed. The powers will also need to be agreed by cabinet and following public consultation. The council would look to initially trial them in locations that will improve connectivity, boost active travel, or reduce congestion when the legal process is complete, which is expected to be 2023. Some of the areas that will be considered by officers and then consulted on with residents will be places that could improve bus reliability, reduce congestion, or where roads are unsuitable for large vehicles. For example, in Bishops Stortford town centre where cars often wait in areas that are prohibited.

At the moment in England only local authorities in London can issue penalty charge notices (PCNs) for these types of traffic offences and gaining these additional legal powers will enable the county council to target difficult areas and support the police in their efforts to reduce traffic offences.

It is hoped that the legal powers will be available to local authorities in 2022, and as it will take time to consult, design, install and operate camera enforcement it is likely to be 2023 before camera enforcement starts in Hertfordshire.

Positive change for people the priority as innovation scheme in Hertfordshire gathers pace

With significant progress being made on the ground-breaking Hertfordshire Living Lab project, our county is showing clear signs of securing a more sustainable future.

Work on Hertfordshire County Council's pioneering Living Lab initiative, for which it received a Local Growth Fund grant of £748,000 from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), started in 2020 – the scheme is leading the way in ultimately creating 'smart' towns and cities across the UK. As well as Hertfordshire LEP, the County Council's other partners on the scheme include Ocado Group, BT and the University of Hertfordshire.

In simple terms, the project has seen Hatfield Business Park become a 'test-bed' for 'smart' living, with a variety of innovations being developed there as viable solutions to tasks and issues we all face in our everyday lives.

The Living Lab has and will continue to provide experimental services to residents, local workers and students such as the driverless delivery of goods, while people will have the opportunity to help to shape these innovative concepts through a dedicated digital engagement platform.

This cutting-edge innovation, which includes the use of drones and robots, is being developed to test the way in which technology can seamlessly interact to make life better for everyone. The Hatfield Business Park is a perfect location for these trials - being home to a range of private businesses, the university and residential properties.

In the last year, the project has created an environment for future mobility solutions to be trialled and tested on the ground. A number of traffic and weather sensors have been installed, at the business park, which provide live data, while a 'digital twin' model has been developed. Fed by this traffic and weather information, the model will enable testing to see how new technology could operate in various environments before it is potentially implemented elsewhere in the county.

Cole Green Way Geared Up for Cycling and Walking

A small group of members from Hertfordshire County Council gathered outside on Friday 17 December to celebrate the completion of a project to improve a popular local traffic-free route. The Cole Green Way – once the railway line between Welwyn Garden City and Hertford – has had a major makeover, thanks to funding from Sustrans and the county council.

Over the last three years the three miles of the route owned by the county council have been resurfaced. The improvements have provided a more attractive and user-friendly route for use by local walkers, cyclists and horse riders, while maintaining the rural character at its heart.

Walking and cycling charity Sustrans are custodians of The National Cycle Network which is a critical part of the UK's active travel infrastructure. At almost four miles long, the Cole Green Way

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forms part of the network and provides a valued connection between Welwyn Garden City and Hertford. Sustrans were able to support the project as part of their 'Paths for Everyone' review and a funding package from the Department for Transport to improve the network.

Eric Buckmaster, County Councillor
January 2022

COUNCILLOR ACTIONS ARISING

CLlr David Smith

- Make payments as approved
- Continue to follow up Section 106 funds for play area
- Ongoing check on bus shelter litter bin emptying
- HTC ongoing liaison and lease renewal
- Village sign: lease, post, erecting etc.
- Allotments

CLlr Tom Payne*

- QEII Jubilee tree initiative: quantity and location of trees
- Liaise with Sam Clark on Modification order for footpath and adoption of FP from Broadfields to High Wych being adopted by HCC
- Footpath from Broadfields to High Wych Lane: confirm ownership with Clarion
- Allens Green trustee position and status
- New play equipment Working Group
- Check safety of black PF wooden gate

CLlr John Andreotti*

- Continue to monitor Highways parking issues
- Car park matters
- New play equipment Working Group

CLlr Stacey Butcher*

- New play equipment Working Group
- Obtain quote for refurbishing the bus shelter

CLlr Keith Jordan*

- New Play Equipment Working Group
- follow up Section 106 funds for play area (with DA)

CLlr Heather Nardone*

- Report for Playing Field hedge and fence and fence refurbishment quotes
- New play equipment Working Group

CLlr Gareth Emanuel

- Look at options for planting Playing Field hedge
- Check with CLlr Eric Buckmaster whether HCC will allow the Parish Council to paint its fence beside the zebra crossing.

*CLlrs Tom Payne, John Andreotti, Stacey Butcher, Keith Jordan and Heather Nardone under delegated powers granted to the Clerk: Taking forward the new play area proposals.

Clerk

- Send planning comments as agreed
- Send precept form to EHC
- Governance document updates and revisions and new Code of Conduct – ongoing
- Follow up MOG cutting overgrown hedge, Bakers Lane