

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS, CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20th JUNE 2006 IN THE PARISH CENTRE, COMMENCING 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor J Blackburn and Councillors S Butler, J Roper and I Skidmore

APOLOGIES: Councillor M Benson (other commitments) and Chris Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Findlay (Clerk), Lorraine Ellis (Asst Clerk) and John Wardley (Allotment Association)

2006/45 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

It was proposed by Cllr Skidmore and seconded by Cllr Roper that Cllr Blackburn continues to be Chairman for 2006/2007. This was agreed **UNANAMOUSLY.**

2006/46 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

It was proposed by Cllr Roper and seconded by Cllr Butler that Cllr Skidmore be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2006/2007. This was agreed **UNANAMOUSLY.**

2006/47 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2006:

The minutes of the meeting, having been reviewed at Full Council on 30TH May 2006 were taken as read and duly signed by the Chairman at this meeting.

2006/48 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Progress on planting at 'pipe' at the Allotments

The Clerk reported that she has written to the plot holders regarding garden waste being left on the allotment side of the river. This will be cleared away shortly and the planting completed.

Banding exercise

The Clerk will be meeting Chris Wright in July to discuss the banding exercise.

Pet Cemetery

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made to date, this item will reappear on the agenda when further research has been completed.

St Mary's Church Project

The Committee and the Clerk met recently on site with the Vicar, the Church Warden and the Architect. The meeting was informative and constructive. Afterward the meeting there was a conducted tour of the Churchyard.

Churchyard wall

The Clerk will liaise with the Site Manager and agree a suitable date in August for our contractors to commence the removal of the debris from the churchyard wall area.

Cleaning of War Memorial

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Royal British Legion for their advice on cleaning the war memorial. Their recommendation was to contact a memorial specialist who would have the relevant expertise, the Clerk has written to Austin Memorials and is awaiting a response.

It was suggested that if major works were undertaken on the war memorial that consideration could be given to adding additional names of local people from other wars and to correct the miss-spelling of a name currently on the memorial.

2006/49

ALLOTMENT ITEMS RAISED BY THE ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMITTEE:

The Allotment Association reported that a wheelbarrow and a fork had recently been stolen from a plot at the allotments, the theft has been reported to the police who are investigating the incident.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the judging of the allotments will take place on Sunday 23rd July 2006, the Clerk has written to all the plot holders advising them of the forthcoming judging.

The Association reported that during Festival Week they had two tables at the street market and were successful in selling their plants and raised £175.

2006/50

CEMETERY ITEMS:

Inspection of the Cemetery

It was reported that the upkeep of the Cemetery was excellent although some weeding was required at the entrance. It was agreed that if possible chemicals should not be used as weed control. Consideration could be given for volunteers involved in Cleaner Welwyn Week to assist in weeding at the Cemetery and clearing in the wooded area.

During the inspection it was noted that in the old section one headstone had to be laid to the ground for safety reasons and that a further two stones were tilting. The names on the headstones are:-

- Clement-Smith
- Foster
- Kingham

It was noted that the new lock on the cemetery gate had only been primed and not painted, the Clerk will arrange for it to be painted.

The Chairman and the Clerk had recently met with residents of Ellesfield regarding the play equipment in the wooded area, the meeting was very satisfactory and the residents volunteered to remove the play equipment including the tree house. The Chairman will inspect the site and report back to the Committee.

The residents have requested they retain that part of the land which belongs to the Council but that it should still remain the property of the Council. The Clerk is awaiting a response from the Solicitor who is currently preparing the necessary legal document. The residents have now informed the Clerk that they are selling the house.

2006/51

CHURCHYARD ITEMS:

The Clerk reported that the Church were creating a living record of the inhabitants of Welwyn by donating a tile for the new Church House – ‘Raise the Roof’ – write your name in history. The Clerk requested that Council should consider purchasing a square metre and Councillors to be invited to sign a tile. The request will be on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

Signed.....Chairman
(Allotments, Cemetery and Churchyard Committee)

Date:.....2006