

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2006 COMMENCING 7.45

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor J Roper, Councillors M Benson, J Blackburn, C Hukin, P Neville, C Passmore, M Rowland, I Skidmore and I Wheeler

ATTENDANCE:

R Leeming, Clerk, L Ellis, Asst Clerk, Malcolm Cowan (English Heritage) and four members of the public

2006/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Councillor A Burnapp (holiday)

2006/02 ENGLISH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS PRESENTATION:
Malcolm Cowan from English Heritage presented to the Council information on the forthcoming open days planned for 7th – 10th September 2006. He suggested that if the Council wished to be involved in the event that early discussion was necessary in order for information to be placed in the advertising leaflet. This item to be discussed further at the February Leisure Committee meeting.

2006/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th DECEMBER 2005:
It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting were accurate and correct, the Chairman then signed the minutes.

2006/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13th DECEMBER 2005:
No matters arising.

2006/05 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR:
The three candidates were invited to give a five minute presentation to the Council where they could provide a brief resume of their experiences. A secret ballot took place in accordance with the Council's Standing Order No.9A. There was a majority vote and the successful candidate was Mrs Shirley Butler. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Butler to the Council, thanked the other two candidates for their interest in the position and for attending the meeting and also explained that they should stand at the next Local Elections being held in 2007.

2006/06 DISABLED ACCESS, PLAYING FIELDS, OTTWAY WALK:
The Council discussed the letter received recently from Welwyn and Hatfield Adult Care Services regarding the request to install a hand rail along the sloping path at the playing fields. The Clerk to provide an estimate of cost and review the Disability Act. The item has been referred to the Leisure Committee for their consideration.

2006/07 BUDGET 2006/2007:
The proposed final budget for 2006/07 was reviewed by Council, the figure of £250,346 is a 3% decrease from the current year. The Precept of £152,346 represents a cost of £43 per household over the year. The Finance Committee recommended to Council that the

proposed budget be accepted. The Council agreed that the Precept be set at £152,356.
The Chairman gave thanks to the Chairman of Finance.

2006/08

ST MARY'S NEW CHURCH HOUSE PROJECT:

The Clerk outlined to Council the correspondence between the Parish Council and the Church Warden regarding the work being carried out on the new Church House Project. The Clerk to invite the Church Warden, John Swift to attend a meeting with the Chairman, Cllr Roper and the Clerk at the Parish Office week commencing 6th February 2006 in order to discuss his recent letter in more depth.

2006/09

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES:

a) Planning Committee 3rd January

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

b) Leisure Facilities Committee 10th January

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

Cllr Benson gave a brief summary of the walkabout that was carried out at the Civic Centre. The Clerk updated the Council on the work that has been completed at the Civic Centre following the visit. We should review the arrangements for car parking at the Civic Centre to ensure that the barrier is in place when the facility is not in use. It was recommended that further walkabouts would be held at other sites during the year.

The Clerk reported to Council that the Solicitor has confirmed that the small section of land in Ottway Walk is the property of Welwyn Parish Council

c) Allots.Cem & Gen Purposes Committee 17th January

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

The Clerk reported that the hedging along the riverbank would be planted by the Head Groundsman with sponsorship of £100 towards the cost of the hedging donated by Mrs Cole. It was recommended that the new plants should be protected with plastic tubing.

d) Finance Committee 31 January

The payments for January of £12,309.99 were agreed and approved by Full Council.

e) Youth Working Party

Cllr Roper reported that following the second drop-in centre a template had been produced on the ideas received from the youths on the type of shelter they would like. The Working Party reviewed the four quotes which had been received. It was agreed that Monster Play Systems should provide the youth shelter. The work is due to commence at the beginning of March. The Council recommended that following installation of the shelter that it should be launched with suitable publicity. The Council thanked Cllrs Benson, Blackburn and Roper for all their work on this project.

2006/10 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:**
Cllr Blackburn reported that he had accepted the position of School Governor at Tenterfield School. He has recently had a tour of the School and is shortly to receive a training session.

2006/11 **COUNCILLOR'S WRITTEN REPORTS:**
None received.

2006/12 **REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICY:**

Under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

The Clerk requested that the Council should consider the policy on the use of Pyrotechnics in our buildings.

Where an activity would require any licence the hirer should approach Welwyn Parish Council before approaching any other authority.

This item is to be referred to the Leisure Committee where the hire agreement will be discussed and amendments agreed.

2006/13 **CLOSE OF MEETING:**
The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....2006