

# WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2006 COMMENCING 7.45

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor J Roper, Councillors M Benson, J Blackburn, A Burnapp, S Butler, C Hukin, P Neville, I Skidmore and I Wheeler

**ATTENDANCE:**

R Leeming, Clerk, L Ellis, Asst Clerk and one member of the public

**2006/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors C Passmore (holiday) and M Rowland (holiday)

**2006/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2006:**

It was reported that the minutes state that the precept for the 2006/2007 budget represents a cost of £43, which is the average cost per household.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting were amended and then agreed as accurate, the Chairman then signed the minutes.

**2006/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2006:**

Heritage Week :

- Ø Discussions have been held with Jon Green from the Planning and Amenity Group. Due to the tight timescales in preparing for Heritage Week it was agreed that it would not administratively be possible to participate this year.

The Council are fully supportive of Heritage Week and will work towards planning and agreeing dates early for the event in 2007. The Clerk is to write a letter of thanks to Malcolm Cowan of English Heritage.

St Mary's New Church House :

- Ø A meeting has been held with the Church Warden and the Project's Architect, the meeting was constructive. We were advised that strong engineering principles were being followed. They would reassure us at every completion that procedures and the work were completed satisfactorily.

**2006/17 PARKING IN WELWYN:**

It was reported that parking restrictions are being ignored and cars are being parked illegally causing road safety and access issues. It was suggested that parking attendants should visit the area regularly. The Clerk has written to the District Council and is awaiting their response. The Road Safety Committee is currently reviewing issues. Further debate will take place at the March meeting.

**2006/18 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO):**

The Council will discuss this item at the March meeting, where they may need to consider budgetary implications. Before any decisions are made we should be fully informed of all the facts. The Clerk reported that we are awaiting advice from The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on the issue of PCSO's.

**2006/19**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

The Chairman suggested that consideration could be given to the current structure of our Committee system, although there were merits attached to this system it was agreed that the Council should look at the Committee names and amend them so that they reflect what areas they cover.

**2006/20**

**CLEANER VILLAGE WEEK:**

Cleaner Village Week is an excellent suggestion from Cllr Passmore, The Council recommend that this item be referred to the Leisure Committee where a Working Party would be set-up to discuss the arrangements required for this project.

**2006/21**

**SCOUTS HEADQUARTERS, SECTION 106 AGREEMENT:**

The Clerk reported that the Agreement has now been signed

**2006/22**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES:**

**a) Planning Committee 7<sup>th</sup> February**

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that a discussion took place regarding the proposed new lighting to be installed in Hobbs Hill.

**b) Leisure Facilities Committee 14<sup>th</sup> February**

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

A meeting has recently been held to discuss Cobb Lane Common. The Clerk reported that advice from NALC was still awaited.

Congratulations to all involved in resolving the position regarding the piece of land in Ottway Walk where a pedestrian crossing will be introduced.

It was suggested to form a Working Party to discuss the upgrading of the Civic Centre which would include the Clerk.

**c) Allots.Cem & Gen Purposes Committee 21<sup>st</sup> February**

The minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that the relationship between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council continues to be excellent.

**d) Finance Committee 28<sup>th</sup> February**

A quotation for a fire alarm system at the Civic Centre had been considered and it was agreed that further quotations be sought.

It was recommended that the SLCC fees should continue to be paid by the Council.

The payments for February of £24,766.20 were agreed and approved by Full Council.

**e) Youth Working Party**

Cllr Roper reported that the site for the youth shelter had been agreed and the installation work is scheduled to start during week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The Clerk has contacted the Welwyn Film Record Society to request that they record the work carried out which would show the area 'before and after'. Further publicity will be discussed by the Working Party.

2006/23

**REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:**

**Hosting of Twinning Association Reception :**

- Ø The Chairman will welcome the families to Welwyn at the Reception which will be held at the Civic Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Funding for the Reception will need to be requested by the Twinning Association in writing.

**Road Safety Committee :**

- Ø Hertfordshire Highways are responsible for road safety issues not the Parish Council. It was reported that a Road Safety meeting had been held recently where a 'hot spots' document was discussed. There were concerns at certain junctions and link roads. The sites were inspected by Hertfordshire Highways during rush hour, as no pedestrian incidents, accidents or other problems had been reported no action is to be taken.

It was reported that St.Michael's School in Woolmer Green have recently won a Road Safety Quiz. A trophy is to be presented to them at a later date.

2006/24

**COUNCILLOR'S WRITTEN REPORTS:**

It was reported to Council that Mrs Barbara Sopp has left the Council's employment. It is with regret that the Council accept her resignation. Barbara leaves due to ill health. The Council recognise her contribution during her many years as a dedicated member of staff.

2006/25

**COUNCIL'S SERVICE CONTRACTS:**

The Clerk will shortly issue draft papers and the Council are requested to respond with any comments. This item will be discussed at the March meeting.

**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.**

2006/26

**CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:**

(Arising from the February meeting of the Allots.Cem. & Gen.Purposes Committee):

Correspondence had again been received from the Solicitor. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman to re-visit the site. Following the visit they will notify the Clerk of any further action.

2006/13

**CLOSE OF MEETING:**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.06pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....2006

