

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th MARCH 2006 COMMENCING 8.00

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

ATTENDANCE:

R Leeming, Clerk, L Ellis, Asst Clerk, Ian Colpitts (Parish Plan Steering Group), Andrew Brown (Welwyn Film Record Society) and one member of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP:

Ian Colpitts outlined to Council the work carried out on summarising the results of the recent questionnaire, he pointed out that a number of common themes had surfaced.

An action plan will shortly be delivered to all households in the Parish and a public meeting has been organised for Thursday 6th April 2006 at the Civic Centre to discuss the action plan. At the meeting it is hoped that volunteers will join numerous working parties where it is envisaged that they will research their chosen topic and report back to the Steering Group in October 2006. It is hoped that the Parish Plan Booklet will be published in early 2007. Mr Colpitts advised that the Steering Group would shortly try to identify additional funding sources.

b) WELWYN FILM RECORD SOCIETY:

Andrew Brown advised Council that the Society required money to purchase a video projector, the one currently in use is only on loan to the Society. He explained that they have funds for their editing work only. The Society have two film shows arranged for the Welwyn Festival Week in addition to shows elsewhere in the area. A sum of £700 is required to purchase the projector.

2006/28

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor I Wheeler (unavoidable delay)

2006/29

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2006:

It was reported that 2006/13 should be amended to read "2006/27". It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting were amended. It was then Resolved to sign the minutes as being correct and accurate.

2006/30

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 28th FEBRUARY 2006:

St Mary's New Church House:

- Ø A letter has been received from Mr Swift the Church Warden giving an update, the Clerk will respond shortly.

Parking in Welwyn:-

- Ø A response from the District Council is still awaited. It was reported however that a tour of Digswell had recently taken place and although parking has become an inconvenience in the area it is not a road safety issue.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO):

- Ø A letter was received from Woolmer Green Parish Council regarding joint funding of a PCSO. The Clerk has responded. This Council has not yet debated the matter. Advice from NALC is still awaited, the Clerk to pursue.

2006/31

PARISH PLAN:

The Council were updated on the financial position of the Parish Plan Steering Group. Funding had recently been received from Defra via the Parish Council. It was reported that the PPSG's finances were in a financially secure position. Councillors' were invited to attend the Public Meeting on 6th April 06.

The Youth Working Party are to continue.

The Council complimented the Parish Plan Steering Group for a professional presentation.

2006/32

WELWYN FESTIVAL – PARISH COUNCIL STAND:

A stand at the Welwyn Festival has been reserved for this year. Promotional items were being considered. The Council were asked for their ideas for a theme for the stand. The Chairman will write an article as an introduction to Welwyn Festival Week in the Church magazine.

It was agreed to get more people interested in local politics, the Council should advertise what is a Parish Council and what it does. The Clerk is preparing a "who does what" at the Parish Council, District Council and County Council level.

2006/33

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL'S (NALC) CONFERENCE:

The Clerk reported that the next NALC conference would be in Liverpool on 22nd – 24th September 06. It is hoped that one or two different Councillors would attend this year. The Clerk will issue papers for consideration.

2006/34

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES:

a) Planning Committee 7th March

The draft minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that a letter has been sent to District Council regarding the tree works in Woodland Way but to date no response has been received.

Parking in Welwyn will be discussed further at the next Planning Committee meeting.

b) Leisure Facilities Committee 14th March

The draft minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that Dr Ober did attend the Tree Warden Scheme meeting at District Council.

The Civic Centre Working Party had met and their membership and draft terms of

reference had been prepared. The Chairman of the Working Party will be selected at each of their next meetings. Dates are to be agreed.

A meeting of the Working Party for Cleaner Village Week have met and their draft terms of reference prepared. Councillor Wheeler has agreed to Chair the Working Party. Their next meeting will take place at the Pavilion on Thursday 30th March 2006.

The launching of the Youth Shelter at the playing fields is due to take place on Thursday 13th April 2006 at 4.30pm. Council were asked to provide names to the Parish Office as soon as possible of who should be invited to the launch.

c) Allots.Cem & Gen Purposes Committee 21st March

The draft 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.

There are currently 14 people on the waiting list for an allotment with no vacant plots.

d) Finance Committee 28th March

It was reported that the rent from the Clinic at the Civic Centre was still outstanding and that we were still due to receive VAT for January–March 2006.

The payments for March of **£17,703.06** were agreed and approved by Full Council.

e) Youth Working Party

Cllr Roper reported that a meeting would be held shortly. The Chairman thanked everyone on the Working Party for their help. The Clerk to prepare a press release and for invitations to be issued for the launching of the youth shelter.

2006/35 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:
None.

2006/36 COUNCILLOR'S WRITTEN REPORTS:
None.

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.

2006/37 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:
COUNCIL'S SERVICE CONTRACTS/NEW POSITION
The draft documents for the service contracts were discussed and accepted by Council. A fee was also agreed.

It was agreed that Council would forward their comments in writing to the Clerk on the documents provided for the new position of Handyperson.

(Arising from the March meeting of the Allots.Cem. & Gen.Purposes Committee):
The Clerk has written to the occupants and they have responded by telephone. The Clerk will meet them on site shortly.

2006/38

CLOSE OF MEETING:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.07pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....2006