

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2006 COMMENCING 7.45pm

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

ATTENDANCE:

L Ellis, Asst Clerk

2006/39

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor P Neville (other commitments), I Skidmore (holiday) and R Findlay, Clerk (holiday)

2006/40

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th MARCH 2006:

St Mary's New Church House - It was reported that Councillor Blackburn had spoken to Mr Swift, the Church Warden to arrange a meeting where it is hoped they will be in a position to respond to our concerns.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) – Advice from NALC is still awaited. It was reported that Government funding for PCSO's had been agreed. Council agreed that a discussion should be held at the next Council meeting in May with a possible invitation being extended to Inspector Hart for him to present to Council.

2006/41

PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The agenda for the Annual Assembly was discussed. The Chairman will present his report of the previous year to the assembly. It was thought that refreshments should be served to those attending after question time.

Council discussed who should be invited, names will be forwarded to the Clerk for invitations to be prepared. It is hoped that a number of the associations attending would be able to give a presentation informally on their group's work, this could be towards the end of the evening.

2006/42

WELWYN WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk to seek expert advice and arrange for a survey to be carried out to ascertain the cost of cleaning and improving the condition of the lettering on the war memorial. The survey then to be referred to the Allotments, Cemetery and General Purposes Committee for them to report back to Council with their proposals for the next budget.

2006/43

VISIT TO THE FRYTHE:

The Clerk to approach the Frythe to arrange an invitation for Council to visit their site. The Clerk to advise the Natural History Society, who have a visit planned, that Dr Ober is the Council's nominated Tree Warden. requesting they include Dr Ober in their visit.

2006/44

WELWYN FESTIVAL – PARISH COUNCIL STAND:

It was suggested that the theme for the stand could be 'Cleaner Welwyn Week – we are listening, moving forward and not backward'. This would be an opportunity to ask for volunteers to help on the dates arranged for the clean-up.

Photographs could be displayed on the stands showing the work carried out by the Committees also information on the work of the newly set-up Working Parties.

Light refreshments and promotional items could be offered to those visiting the stands.

2006/45 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES:

a) Planning Committee 4th April

The draft minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that the Committee had discussed their renaming to Planning and Licensing Committee. The Council support this suggestion and recommend that this should be carried forward to a future Council meeting.

The Clerk is still awaiting a response from the Planning Department on a number of planning issues raised with them. The Clerk to pursue the matter.

b) Leisure Facilities Committee 11th April

The draft minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that the Christmas lights would not be used for Welwyn Festival week as they have again been returned to the supplier due to a number of the lights being broken. The Clerk to write to the shop keepers to advise them that bunting will be used in their place.

The Youth Shelter opening took place on Thursday 13th April. It was reported that the shelter had been vandalised on a number of occasions. The Clerk has written to the suppliers regarding the quality of the shelter.

c) Allots.Cem & Gen Purposes Committee 18th April

The draft minutes were presented to Full Council for information.

It was reported that a debate on the renaming of the Committee had commenced and that further discussions will take place at their next meeting in May.

d) Finance Committee 25th April

The Finance Committee will report back to Council, in discussion with the Clerk on the value of payments P11A-3511 and P16-3516 which refer to the high level of servicing costs for the Council's Land Rover and Ransome ride-on mower . Consideration should be given to replacing the Land Rover.

It was reported that due to the recent vandalism that the Clerk should prepare a summary of the overall cost for the year for information purposes.

It was agreed that the HAPTC/NALC Annual Subscription should be paid for the current year and this would be an agenda item at the next Council meeting in May.

The Council unanimously agreed that a grant of £350 should be awarded to Welwyn Film Record Society, this represents 50% of the cost of a new projector that they wish to purchase. The Clerk to request that the Society ensures that the Council receive all updated films.

The payments for April of **£11,474.09**, salaries were also agreed and approved by Full Council.

e) Youth Working Party

Cllr Roper reported that the Working Party had merged with the Parish Plan Working Party and would reconvene shortly.

f) Cleaner Welwyn Week

It was reported that the working party had met for a third time. A tour of Welwyn village took place to identify problem areas. A poster has been designed advertising the events together with a letter to residents and businesses. It was agreed that three dates be scheduled:

- Ø **Mon 26 June – Litter pick**
- Ø **Wed 28 June – Grounds of the Civic Centre**
- Ø **Thur 29 June – High Street car park and river**

It was suggested that a mini planting of the flowers beds at the Civic Centre should be carried out on 25th and 26th May which is prior to the visit of the French Twinning Association.

2006/46 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:

None.

2006/47 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.

**2006/48 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:
STAFFING**

The Council supported the Clerk in the management of the staff and will accept the Clerk’s proposals regarding staffing matters. Councillors Benson, Blackburn and Roper will have a follow up meeting with the Clerk shortly.

2006/49 CLOSE OF MEETING:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....2006