

## **WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>. JANUARY 2007 AT THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN.**

**Present:** Councillor J. Roper (Chairman) Councillors M. Benson, J. Blackburn,  
A. Burnap, S. Butler, P. Neville, C. Passmore and I. Skidmore.

**In attendance:** J. Lewis (Temporary Office Administrator)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.35pm

**Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor M. Rowland (illness)  
and The Clerk R. Findlay (illness)

The Chairman noted that this extraordinary meeting of the Council had been called to agree the budget for the year 2007-2008 and set the precept for the year 2007-2008, the precept having to be then notified to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council by 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2007.

#### **Budget for 2007-2008.**

Councillor Skidmore, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the proposed budget for the year 2007-2008. The Finance Committee recommended that the Council set a precept for the year 2007-2008 of £152,198.00 (One hundred and fifty two thousand, one hundred and ninety eight pounds exactly) – this figure would be a 0.01% reduction on the precept for the year 2006-2007.

Councillor Skidmore reported that this precept figure provided an extra £4,000.00 for the budget use over the original proposal. The Finance Committee recommended the budget item for election expenses be increased by £1,000.00 to £1,400.00, that the item earmarked for the Buildings fund be increased from £4,000.00 to £6,000.00 and that the earmarked funds for Machinery be increased from £3,000.00 to £4,000.00.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the sum budgeted for the Parish Guide is decreased by £1,000.00 and that the sum budgeted for Legal costs is increased by £1,000.00.

The Finance Committee also advised the Council on the written report from Councillor Neville regarding a proposal from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council that Special Expenses might become due to the Parish in regard of Danesbury, Singler's Marsh, the Digswell Playing Fields and "Community Centres" – the Council however having no knowledge of buildings described in the last item.

Councillor Neville was requested to draft a reply to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council resisting their proposal but suggesting good faith negotiations between the Parish Council and the Borough Council with the objective of the Parish taking over management and maintenance of these sites.

The Chairman noted that the Council needed to establish annual reviews of its leases, rents, hire charges and provisions for good maintenance of our properties. He also reminded all Councillors that it was the role of all Committees and Working Parties to develop the budget through the year and note competitive hirers of halls and facilities such as the new Church Hall and Woolmer Green Parish rooms.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Skidmore, the Finance Committee and the Clerk for all their hard work in preparing the budget and accounts especially during the past year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm