

# WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006 IN THE PARISH CENTRE, COMMENCING 7.30pm

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**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor M Benson and Councillors, S Butler, J Roper and I Skidmore

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor, J Blackburn (Personal).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Rebecca Findlay (Clerk), John Wardley (Allotments Association).

**2006/71**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

As the Chairman was unable to attend tonight's meeting it was agreed the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. M. Benson take the chair.

**2006/72**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006:**

It was agreed to amend the minute no. 2006/64 (Allotment Banding). Committee agreed to erase:

*"...although it was agreed that there should nevertheless be a valuation of a sample of these measurements, and..."*

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting were then an accurate and correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**2006/73**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006:**

War Memorial: It was agreed the Clerk meet with Cllr. Blackburn to look at possible funding for renovation works.

The Clerk also reported that the Remembrance box will be placed and the tidying up of the memorial will be completed a week before Remembrance Sunday.

**2006/74**

**ALLOTMENT ITEMS RAISED BY THE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION:**

The Clerk reported that the Banding Exercise will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr Wardley thanked the Committee and the Clerk and asked that he be kept informed.

Mr Wardley reported that there were concerns that plot W6A needs to be worked. The Clerk agreed to contact the plot holder.

It was reported that the treasurer of the Allotments Association had married and her name was now, Mrs Sandra Brixton.

Mr Wardley asked the Committee about the policy on Poly Tunnels. The Council's policy is that no large poly tunnels can be erected on any of the plots. The next Allotment Association AGM is to be held in February 2007; Mr Wardley invited the Committee to attend.

Mr Wardley thanked the Committee and then left the meeting.

Chairman's initials.....

**EXEMPT BUSINESS:**

***That 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 items 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.***

**2006/75**

**ALLOTMENT BANDING:**

The Clerk had prepared papers for the Committee Members regarding the Banding Exercise. (Copies of the documents are held in the Confidential File in the Clerks Office).

This was discussed at length by the Committee. It was agreed to accept the information and banding document and that after presentation to full Council, should they agree, it was suggested that the Clerk and the Chairman, Cllr. Blackburn meet with Chris Wright and John Wardley to explain the Council's decision. It was also agreed that letters to all the plot holders explaining the new banding system and of their bands relating to plot sizes should be sent by the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Committee that there are two plots which have become available one is ready to be re-let to the next person on the waiting list which was plot W14A. The other vacant plot is W41 which the Clerk informed was a large plot and suggested due to there being 14 people on the waiting list, this plot could be split into two. It was agreed that the plot be split in two and also agreed to aim to reduce the size of the larger plots once they had become available again for rental.

It was agreed to hold the next Allotments, Cemetery and Churchyard Committee in the Small Hall at the Civic Centre to allow any plot holders to address the Committee regarding the banding exercise.

The Chairman, Cllr Benson explained how this issue had been carried on for many years and that the Clerk be congratulated for the positive way she has dealt with the issue. The Chairman also thanked Cllr, Butler for the part she playing in helping the Clerk during this exercise.

**2006/76**

**CEMETERY ITEMS:**

Cllr Butler shared with the Committee the information she had gained in her research regarding Woodland Burials, Green Burials and Pet Cemeteries.

In relation to Pet Cemeteries it was reported that there would be much legislation involved and there was not a demand for the service.

Regarding Woodland Burials and Green Burials it was agreed that the Committee could look at the possibility of families scattering their loved ones ashes within the wooded area of the Cemetery and a Memorial Wall being erected. It was agreed to consider this as a possible Budget item for 2007/2008

It was also agreed that the Clerk look again at the Council's regulations regarding the Garden of Remembrance and to have "Garden of Remembrance Policy" as an agenda item for the next meeting. Copies of the current policy are to be sent to members of the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr. Butler was thanked for all her work and bringing the information to the attention of the Committee.

Chairman's initials.....

**2006/77**

**CHURCHYARD ITEMS:**

It was again reported that the Churchyard wall has not yet been cleared. The Clerk reported this was due to the Foreman and Williams & Sons not yet having reached a convenient date for the contractor to be allowed on sight. The Clerk will contact John Swift for an update on the situation and remind him of the Council's urgency in this matter.

**2006/78**

**BUDGET WISH LIST 2007/2008:**

It was discussed by the Committee and agreed that there were a few items to go forward once quotes have been received for the work regarding the Churchyard wall. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllr Blackburn and the Chairman of Finance.

**CLOSE OF MEETING:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10pm

Signed.....

**Chairman of the Leisure facilities and Open Spaces Committee**

**Date: 21<sup>ST</sup> November 2006**

Chairman's initials.....