

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE LEISURE FACILITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE PARISH CENTRE
LOCKLEYS DRIVE WEL WYN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman) and Cllrs M Benson, S Butler,
H Hughes, L McLusky and J Roper

IN ATTENDANCE: J Lewis (Office Administrator)

APOLOGIES: R Findlay (Clerk to the Council) –(illness)and Cllr I Colpitts (who would
be late in arriving)

*Although the Clerk was absent from the meeting, she had prepared a written report which was circulated
before the start of the meeting.*

2007/123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

**2007/124 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH
OCTOBER 2007.**

These were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and signed by the
Chairman.

**2007/125 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2007.**

**Update on progress of actions from White Horse Public House and
24 Mill Lane.**

The Clerk reported she had written to the owner of the White Horse
but had not received a reply. She also reported that some pruning had been
done to the trees but this had not resolved the problem with the allotment
fence. She was asked to continue with a dialogue to get the matter resolved.
The Clerk was also asked to approach the owners of 24 Mill Lane and try to
get them to repair the boundary wall between their garden and the
Allotments.

Oak tree of allotments.

The Chairman reported that he and the Head Groundsman John Quinton
inspected the tree and had concluded that no further pruning could be done.
The Clerk was asked to write to the plot-holder concerned advising her that
no work could be justified but to offer her the facility to exchange plots at
the earliest opportunity.

War Memorial.

The Clerk reported that the cleaning work had been completed. The
Committee was pleased to note that the memorial had been cleaned in time
for Remembrance Sunday.

London Road.

The Chairman reported that the retaining wall repairs had now been
completed by Hertfordshire Highways.

Digswell Playing Fields.

The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and that Cllr P Neville would give a report to at the next meeting of Full Council.

Website.

The Clerk reported that progress was being made and that a mock-up of the new website should be shortly available.

2007/126 ALLOTMENT ITEMS RAISED BY THE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

There were none.

2007/127 ALLOTMENT ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk reported that there had been some problems regarding plot allocation but that this matter had been resolved.

The Clerk reported that invoices for 2008-2009 had been posted to plot-holders and that they had been advised that there may be an increase in rents once the Council's budget for 2008-2009 had been formalised.

The Clerk reported that a section of the allotment fencing in Lockleys Drive had been damaged by a Tesco vehicle and that a claim for repairs was being prepared and would be submitted in due course to Tesco's Insurers.

The Committee noted that the anti-vandal grills had not been installed by Thames Water to the sewage pipe adjacent to the allotments and crossing the river.

2007/128 KICKWALL

Cllr Roper reported on an inspection he had made of a kickwall in Halstead, Essex.

Cllr Colpitts joined the meeting at this juncture.

Cllr Roper was asked to inspect a kickwall at Knebworth and report to the next meeting of the Committee

2007/129 ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD.

The Chairman reported on a meeting with representatives of St Mary's Church.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk be asked to arrange the clearance of the undergrowth by the wall neighbouring the Rose & Crown public house, the north wall of the Churchyard neighbouring St Mary's Close, the small section of saplings adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance and the removal and killing of ivy plants climbing up the walls with a view to this area once cleared being added to the schedule for grass cutting done by the Council's contractors.

2007/130 HERITAGE POSTS UPDATE

Cllr Hughes presented notes of a meeting of the Heritage Posts Working Party held on 11th October 2007.

Cllr Hughes reported that there were as yet no firm recommendations from the Working Party.

2007/131 CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Nikki Dalgarno of St Mary's Court Residents regarding access to the Pavillion.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk obtain quotes for the installation of new steps, the installation of a ramp and improvements to the external lighting at the Pavillion in order that ease of access is improved.

The Clerk reported on a letter received from 1st Welwyn Scout Group. Cllr Roper reported that he had not previously discussed the matter with the Scout Group as stated in their letter but had advised them of the correct procedure in making their request via the Clerk.

It was **AGREED** to allow the free hiring of the Civic Centre by the 1st Welwyn Scout Group on 11th October 2008.

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Welwyn Bowls Club. The Clerk was asked to reply to Welwyn Bowls Club stating that the Council's new Working Party was in the process of being established with its terms of reference drawn up and agreed and once this had been done the Committee would expect the Working Party to be contacting all potential users of the sports and playing facilities at Ottway Walk. Meanwhile, the Clerk was to ask the Bowls Club whether they could inform her of any proposals they wished to make.

2007/132 CLOSE OF MEETING.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed:.....

Chairman, The Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee

Date: 22nd January 2008.