

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE FACILITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2008
AT THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: R Findlay (Clerk), J Lewis (Office Administrator)
Mrs Wonacott and her daughter .

APOLOGIES: Cllr I Colpitts (other commitments).

Before the Chairman opened the meeting he invited Mrs Wanocott and her daughter to address the Committee with her concerns.

The Chairman then thanked them both then opened the meeting.

2008/01 OPENING OF MEETING.

The Chairman welcomed all present and declared the meeting open.

2008/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

2008/03 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2007.

Subject to an amendment of the word 'her' to 'he' in Minute no. 2007/128 the minutes were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

At this Juncture Cllr Benson joined the meeting.

2008/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2007

- **24 Mill Lane.** It was reported that new residents had recently moved into this property and she had written to them regarding the damaged wall by the allotments but had not yet received a reply.
- **Anti-Vandal Grills.** It was reported that she had contacted Thames Water asking for a progress report on this matter and had been advised that they still had the installation of the grills on the sewerage pipe by the allotments under consideration. Thames Water has agreed to notify the Clerk once a decision had been made.
- **Tesco lorry damage to allotment fencing.** It was reported that the damaged fencing had been repaired and the cost met by Tesco's insurers.
- **St Mary's Churchyard clearance.** There was an agenda item later in the meeting on this subject so the matter arising was dealt with at that juncture.
- **Pavilion steps, disabled ramp and lighting.** The Clerk reported she had received a quotation for improvements to the steps. She advised the meeting that the Pavilion already had disabled access. She also reported that improvements to the lighting had been made.

Following a discussion on the existing disabled access provision the Chairman advised the meeting that he would visit the site before the next meeting and discuss this matter further with the Clerk.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will have funding available for the 13 Wards. Help with Disabled access could be funded through the scheme.

Councillors were asked to send the Clerk any suggestions on possible improvements to Parish facilities on which applications for funding from the Borough might be made.

- **Welwyn Bowls Club.** The Clerk reported that she had written to the Club but had not yet received a reply.

2008/05 CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from Mrs Wonacott.

The Committee considered the letter received from Mrs Wonacott regarding a recent outbreak of vandalism at her home adjacent to the Spinney at the Ottway Walk, playing fields.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk be asked to arrange a meeting between the ward Police Constable, the local Police Community Support Officer and the Chairman, Cllr Roper and the Clerk with the purpose of seeking possible steps that might prevent future outbreaks of vandalism.

At this juncture, Mrs Wonacott and her daughter then left the meeting.

2008/06 ALLOTMENT ITEMS

Items raised by the Allotment Association:

The Clerk reported she had received correspondence from Chris Wright, the Chairman of the Allotments Association.

The Association is holding its Annual Judging awards presentation on Friday 22nd February 2008 at 8.00pm. The Clerk was asked to remind award winners to attend this ceremony to enable them to be presented with their certificates.

The Committee nominated two dates for formal inspections of the allotments and it was **AGREED**, Sunday 30th March 2008 and Sunday 14th September 2008 starting at 11.30am.

The Association was happy with the allocation of skips during 2007 and requested a similar arrangement for 2008. The Clerk is contact the Association and agrees dates

The Association advised the Committee it intends taking a stall at the street market held during Welwyn Festival week 2008 but that the allotments will not be open to the public this year.

The Council was reminded that the Associations Annual General Meeting will be held on 22nd February 2008 at the Parish Centre at 8pm.

Items raised by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that there was currently one vacant plot which has currently being offered to the next person on the waiting list. It was reported there are presently 6 persons on the waiting list.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that plot rents for 2009-2010 needed to be agreed.

AGREED that all plot rents for 2009-2010 year be increased by £1.00.

The Clerk reported that the plot-holder for W18B had contacted her asking that a tree on this plot be pruned as it was over-shadowing the plot and the roots taking moisture from the ground. The Chairman and the Clerk are to inspect the tree and report back to the Committee.

2008/07 ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD.

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Peter Lee; Chairman of the Fabric Action Group for St Mary's Church, regarding the clearance of weeds and saplings from the Churchyard and repairs to the boundary wall by the Rose & Crown public house garden.

The Chairman reported that someone had cleared some of the weeds and saplings from the Churchyard and part of the North Wall but that further clearance work was still needed. This needs to be completed before the boundary wall (to the Rose & Crown) can be examined by a suitable expert.

The Clerk reported that a tree survey in the Churchyard was currently being prepared and that the clearing of the Churchyard was currently being arranged.

The Clerk expressed her concerns with persons carrying out clearance work due to the Council being responsible for the Churchyard as there are Health & Safety issues.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Church asking them to advise her of any such work they proposed to do and seeking consent before allowing work to commence.

The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation of £1,350.00 from Williams and Son for the clearance of the remaining weeds and saplings from the Churchyard. She advised the Committee that she has accepted the quotation and instructed the contractor to commence work as soon as possible.

2008/08 REGISTERING OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND.

The Clerk told the committee she had received correspondence from Crane & Staples asking if they should proceed with the registering of the Parish Council's land.

AGREED, the Clerk instruct Crane & Staples to proceed.

At this juncture the Clerk told the Committee she would be looking at the leases for the Tennis, Bowls and Sports and Social Clubs and report back at the next meeting.

2008/09 DISGWELL PLAYING FIELDS REPORT. It was **AGREED** to defer discussion of this matter to the next meeting as this was reported at Full Council.

2008/10 KICKWALL. The Clerk reported that she had checked with "Real" and the quotation was still valid. It had already been agreed at a previous meeting that the Kick Wall would be placed on the playing field as the pictures received with the quotation. The Clerk asked if "Real" are to proceed with the installation.

This was put to the vote.

FOR: 3
AGAINST: 1
ABSTAINED: 2.

The vote was **CARRIED**.

2008/11 WELWYN BOWLS CLUB.

The Clerk reported that the Club had written advising of its intention to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The proposed change was therefore noted the Committee.

2008/12 SCOUT HQ LEASE. There was nothing further to report on this item.

2008/13 HERITAGE POST WORKING PARTY REPORT.

Cllr Hughes reported on a meeting of the Working Party on 26th November 2007>

The Clerk reminded the Committee that the Working Party was agreed at a previous meeting.

She mentioned that the Working Party had been advised of what a Working Parties remit is and that this has been completely disregarded.

At a previous meeting Committee member were expressing their concerns about the validity of a Heritage sign in Digswell and Oaklands and it was expressed that they were not needed.

At that meeting the Clerk again advised the Committee on the procedures, which the Working Party had not taken into account

She also reminded the Committee:

1. They had not agreed that the Working Party should continue.
2. No "Terms of Reference" has been agreed.
3. The Working Party was only to meet to see if it was realistic to continue.

The Clerk advised the Committee that no recommendations should be accepted by the Working Party.

The Committee should agree if the Working Party should continue as no recommendation has been put forward.

Cllr. Hughes verbally said he disagreed with the Clerk and implied that the Clerk was deceiving the Committee and had not previously mentioned any of the above.

The Clerk responded, and told the Committee she was offended at Cllr. Hughes remarks and asked that it be recorded in the Minutes, as it had already been confirmed, in this meeting, by some members that the Clerk did give the Council the said advice.

PROPOSAL. That the Committee continues with the Heritage Working Party.

This was put to the vote.

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 4
ABSTAINED: 0

The Vote was LOST. Therefore, the Heritage Working Party was dissolved.

2008/14 CLOSURE OF MEETING. The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 9.12pm.

Signed:.....Chairman, Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee.

Dated: