

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT
THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
THAT COMMENCED AT 7.45PM.**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman) and Cllrs. M Benson, C Hukin, L McLusky, P Neville, H Ober, J Roper and I Skidmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: R Findlay (Clerk) and J Lewis (Office Administrator)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs S Butler (attending a meeting of the Digswell Residents Association), I Colpitts (illness) and L Page (holiday).

2008/106 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairman welcomed all present and declared the meeting open. He advised the meeting that there would be an additional urgent item added to the agenda which would be Part II, confidential business.

At this juncture, Cllr. Hukin arrived at 7.47pm

2008/107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

2008/108 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH AUGUST 2008 RESOLVED that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

2008/109 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH AUGUST 2008

Minute no. 2008/102 Cllr Neville asked whether Cllr Benson had re-worded the proposal to extend the wording for the co-option of non-Councillors onto the Council's Committees. Cllr Benson reported that she had not done this.

Minute no. 2008/104: NALC Consultation on Weekend Voting.

The Clerk reported she had received comments from four Councillors and that she collated a response which has forwarded to Ministry of Justice and copies to NALC and HAPTC. The Clerk reported that NALC has sent a copy of their response which she had received today and would circulate this to all Councillors.

2008/110 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Planning & Licensing

The Chairman, Cllr Hukin, presented a report of the meeting held on 2nd September 2008.

Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces

The Chairman, Cllr Benson, presented a report of the meeting held on 9th September 2008.

It was reported that a Tree Survey is to be done at the Cemetery with a view to a maintenance plan. The Clerk was congratulated for producing up-to-date details of approximate number of vacant spaces for burials and the Garden of Remembrance.

Finance

The Chairman, Cllr Skidmore, presented a report of the meeting held on 16th September 2008.

The Committee recommended the Council accepts the expenditure for the month of August 2008 of **£20,941.76 gross (£20,071.79 net)**.

RESOLVED carried unanimously. The Council accepts the expenditure for the month of August 2008 totalling **£20,941.76 gross (£20,071.79 net)**.

2008/111

ADVICE FROM NALC IN REGARDS TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS.

(Both proposals had been deferred from the August Council meeting).

PROPOSAL -Clerk to the Council.

It is proposed to adopt a new Standing Order to "Standing and Other Committees and Working Parties".

"That no more than six Councillors shall be members of any of the Council's Committees and Working Parties".

The Clerk referred the Council to the advice received from NALC regarding her proposal.

After discussion, the proposal was put to the vote:

FOR	6
AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	0

The proposal was carried.

(Deferred from the August Council meeting).

PROPOSAL - Cllr Hukin, Chairman of Planning & Licensing Committee.

The following proposal was withdrawn by Cllr. Hukin. And accepted by the Council.

"Subject to Full Council's approval, the Planning Committee may co-opt persons who in its opinion have useful knowledge about planning and licensing matters within the Parish and would aid its deliberations. The names of the persons proposed must be submitted for approval by Full Council. These co-opted persons may speak but not vote. In addition the Planning Committee may appoint an honorary advisor (such as a Parish Tree Warden) who may speak on matters within his speciality but not vote".

The Clerk and Cllr Hukin are to liaise to provide a new proposal to be included into Standing Orders in regard to co-option onto the Council's Committees for the October meeting.

2008/112

QUALITY PARISH STATUS.

The Clerk reported on progress being made on the Council achieving Quality Parish Status. She noted there had been changes in the criteria required and how the Council would have to meet the new requirements. She advised the Council that progress still had to be made in several areas. For example, publication of a quarterly newsletter, more work with voluntary groups within the Parish and consideration should be given to the introduction of Councillors' surgeries.

2008/113

PARISH PLAN UPDATE AND ACCOUNTS.

Cllr Skidmore, the Council's representative on the Parish Plan Steering Committee, reported on the Parish Plan and the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 19th June 2008.

