

## **Minutes of a Meeting of The Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee Held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in The Parish Centre at 7.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Magdalene Benson (Chairman), Cllrs John Roper, John Blackburn, Ian Colpitts, Linda McLusky (Minutes)

**2008/27 Apologies for Absence**  
Cllr Shirley Butler (holiday), Clerk, Rebecca Findlay, (Compassionate Leave).

**2008/28 Declaration of Interests**  
There were none.

**2008/29 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008**  
These were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

**2008/30 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

- (a) **Thames Water/Grills**  
On the Allotments Judging Walkabout on 6<sup>th</sup> July it was discovered that the pipe has been broken open on Parish Council land causing an extremely dangerous hazard. The Committee agreed that a site inspection by Thames Water be requested as a matter of urgency. A Parish Council representative and Council staff representative should also be present during the inspection. Cllr Blackburn would advise John Lewis and staff of the pipe's location on Wednesday 9 July 2008.

**2008/31 Allotments**

- (a) **Judging the plots**  
Judging took place on 6<sup>th</sup> July and the Committee agreed that standards were extremely high. Joint winners were Plots 3C and W34 and they would each receive a £40 voucher. The judges wished it noted that Plots 3A, 6B, 07, 10A, 12A, 21A and 29A were very highly commended. Worthy of note and highly commended were Plots 012 and 11A. Commendation for great effort went to Plots 6A, 013, W30B and W38A.
- (b) **Neglected Plots**  
It was noted that three neglected plots highlighted in the last inspection were now totally out of control and required immediate attention. Cllrs Blackburn and Roper offered to assist with the clearing of these allotments following advice from the Clerk on this matter.
- (c) **Fence Between Pub Garden and the Orchard Allotments**  
No action has been taken by the landlord to cut back the Leylandii which are pushing onto the fence.

**2008/32 Risk Assessment – Playground**  
The Committee recommends that the Clerk and Chairman of Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee meet to discuss the report and prepare an Action Plan with recommendations for the August Meeting.

**2008/33 Sport Turf Consulting**  
The Committee would like to thank the Groundsman for continuing to maintain a high standard which has resulted in a pleasing report following their inspection on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The Clerk would like Councillors to look at the issue of contractors and in-house work at the August Meeting when it would be placed on the Agenda.

- 2008/34 Churchyard Items**  
Three quotes for repair of the wall were awaited and should be available for assessment at the August Meeting when it will be on the Agenda.
- 2008/35 Cemetery Items**  
**(a) Tree Planting**  
Councillors agreed that the cemetery was looking particularly good but once again raised the matter of tree planting which they agreed should be scheduled for this Autumn.
- (b) Future Management**  
Cllr Roper would prepare a paper for discussion at the August Meeting.
- (c) Inspection**  
The Committee undertook to meet on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 at 7.00 pm for a cemetery inspection. Members of the Committee would appreciate a copy of the 2007 Inspection Report in advance of the scheduled inspection.
- 2008/36 Correspondence**  
**(a) Welwyn & District Bowls Club**  
Two letters had been sent to the Clerk. One was for information requesting Hertfordshire Highways to erect suitable signage to Ottways Walk as visitors to the Bowls Club have difficulty in finding it. The Committee would appreciate advice on what had happened to the Parish Council's request for signage.
- Their second letter was an enquiry to establish whether the Bowls Club could sub-let the premises to other community groups. The Committee was unanimous that this should not be allowed to happen.
- (b) J Hawkings – Welwyn High Street/Junction Mimram Place**  
The Committee fully supported their application to Hertfordshire Highways.
- (c) Parking Sign at the Civic Centre**  
The Chairman confirmed that this had in the past been minuted but could not recall when.
- 2008/37 Hire Fees**  
The Committee supported the Clerk's view that casual hirers be charged a deposit fee but for regular hirers the preferred approach would be to ask for a direct debit.
- 2008/38 Cleaner Villages Week**  
The Committee noted that thanks to the good efforts of Val Green, there would be no need to litter picks Welwyn Village this year. However, Digswell and Oaklands would be required to organise litter picks.
- 2008/39 Close of meeting**  
The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Signed..... Date.....2008  
Chairman of the Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces Committee