

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE LEISURE FACILITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011  
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE WELWYN  
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor L McLusky (Chair) and Cllrs. M Benson,  
J Blackburn, S Butler, and B McKay.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** A. Pack (Clerk to the Council)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor I Colpitts

**2011/017      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**  
There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2011/018      MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

**RESOLVED** “that the Minutes of the Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 14<sup>TH</sup> February 2011 be approved and signed”

**Unanimously agreed.**

**2011/019      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

There were no matters arising.

**2011/020      CIVIC CENTRE**

**Request for a concession.** The Goat Players wish to hire the Civic Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> November to stage a Pantomime and on the 20<sup>th</sup> November for a dress rehearsal. Details were circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 1. The cost at community rate for the two hires is £ 360. Details of the concession given to the Goat Players Last year were circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 2 Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Butler and

**RESOLVED** “that a donation of £ 250 be given to the Goat Players for their 2011 production.”

**Unanimously agreed.**

**2011/021      ST MARY’S CHURCH WALL**

An Archaeologist has been appointed by the Architect managing this project, to be on standby should they be required to attend the site, when bore holes are dug to ascertain what foundations the wall was built on. This cost is expected to be £ 265 for one day’s work however this could be considerably more depending on what is uncovered. Details circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 3

The Grave Digger the Council use has been appointed to dig the bore holes. Details were circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 4. Noted.

**2011/022 PARISH PLANTERS**

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC) has been advised the Council would like to site the planters as follows:

- Two at the top of the entrance steps to the Civic Centre:
- The third in Lockleys Drive, near the bungalows:

A map marking the location of each planter has been sent to WHBC. Response awaited.

**2011/023 WELWYN & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB RENT REVIEW**

Following advice from Crane and Staples Solicitors the arbitration process was suspended and a letter was sent to the trustees of the Bowls Club by the Solicitor. Copy of the letter was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 5. A response was received from the Welwyn and District Bowls Club, a copy was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 6.

Following a review of the three reports from Brown and Lee Chartered Surveyors, Crane and Staples Solicitors suggested the Council consider obtaining an independent valuation from a member of RICs or consider offering a 50% grant on the existing valuation for the five year rental period upon receipt of the Welwyn and District Bowls Club's last audited accounts and membership by post code. The Chair advised that the Council's Solicitor have written to the Welwyn and District Bowls Club requesting they advise whether they wish to accept the Council's offer. If no response is received within the stated time scale then a second valuation will be obtained.

**2011/024 SPECIAL EXPENDITURE ON LOCAL NATURE RESERVES IN THE WELWYN PARISH**

WHBC advised special expenditure on Local Nature Reserves in Danesbury, Singlers Marsh and Mardley Heath for the 2011/2012 year is £ 15,930. WHBC has been requested to provide details of the costs of maintaining the Local Nature Reserves and the long term management plans for these areas as there has been no management of trees in Mardley Wood, South of Heath Road, for at least eight years. WHBC's future management plans for this area were requested. Response circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 7. Following discussion it was agreed to write to WHBC's Landscape and Ecology Officer requesting that Welwyn Parish Council be part of the consultation process to enable the Council to be involved in the management of the area.

**2011/025 WHITEHILL PLAY AREA**

The Whitehill Play area was officially opened by Grant Shapps MP on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011. A Press Release was issued, circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 8, and the event was covered by the Welwyn and Hatfield Times. The Chairman John Blackburn reported the event was a great success, attended by the Mayor of Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council, County Councillor Richard Smith, Borough Councillor Mandy Perkins and more than 150 people. Exhibitions were mounted in the Whitehill Centre by users of the facility and the Welwyn Playground Support Group (WPSG) launched an appeal for the Ottway Walk Play area. Mr Mike Pendock of

Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete UK who donated £ 20,000 to the Whitehill Play Area Project , was delighted with the project and with the opening ceremony which was attended by representative from so m any community groups coming together to achieve a fantastic local facility.

Isabel Worsley who set up the Playground Support Group and has acted as Chair throughout the fund raising process presented the Chairman Councillor Blackburn with a cheque for £ 39,000, which added to the Parish Council's contribution, funded the £ 53,000 playground refurbishment? The WPSG also consulted with children from St Mary's School and parents who helped design the play area which encourages imaginary play and provides a challenge to children in the under 8 year old age group. There is also equipment suitable for the disabled to ensure the area is inclusive of the needs of the whole community.

Welwyn Hatfield Sports and Physical Activity Alliance organised some sports activities in the small hall and on the playing field.

The Whitehill Play area was opened for the launch Ceremony and was kept open for the weekend. The area was then closed to enable ground works to be completed and for further work to the equipment. It is hoped the area will be open in the next few weeks.

It was noted for future opening ceremonies a portable microphone should be available. Councillor McLusky thanked the Clerk and her staff for their hard work in organising this ceremony.

**2011/026 LITTERPICKING AND GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2012**

A Specification was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 9  
Three tenders to complete the above contact were circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 10

It was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Benson and

**RESOLVED** "that the tender from J Reed to complete the Litter picking and Grass Cutting Contract 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, at an annual cost of £ 8380 be accepted".

**Unanimously agreed.**

**2011/027 PROPOSED WAITING RESPRCTIONS IN OTTWAY WALK**

Following a request from St Mary's School Governing Body to consider installing yellow lines from the emergency school gate to the Sports and Social Club to prevent parents parking in this area during school drop off and pick up times, advice was sought from National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Their response was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 11.

Following discussion it was agreed to initially write to St Mary's School explaining the problem and requesting people driving children to school and collecting children at the end of the school day do not park in Ottway Walk between the Sports and Social Club and the emergency exit from the school.

**2011/028 PROPOSED SPONSORSHIP OF A DOG BIN ON SINGLERS MARSH**

Councillor Skidmore requested the Committee considers sponsoring the installation of a Dog Bin on Singlers Marsh at a cost of £ 260.16. Once installed the management of the bin would be undertaken by WHBC. WHBC has no plans to install any bins in this area. Following discussion it was noted that there are already three dog bins in this area, Councillor McKay agreed to discuss the problem with Police Constable (PC) Ben Satchfield about how to enforce dog owners to pick up after their dogs

**2011/029 CLEANER VILLAGES WEEK 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2011**

It was reported that Cleaner Villages Week will take place during the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and that inspection parties will meet as follows:-

- Digswell. Councillor Butler to arrange a working party before the growing season is underway.
- Oaklands/Mardley Heath. Councillor McLusky advised that she reports problems to the 'Up Your Street' web site as they occur throughout the year and issues are usually resolved within twenty four hours.
- Welwyn Village. Councillor Blackburn will lead a group on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 commencing at 7.00pm from the Parish Centre.

Councillor McKay requested commercial properties in Church Street be requested to provide a sand bucket for cigarette butts which presently are just dropped on the ground. Councillor McKay would provide the Clerk with a list of offending properties.

**2011/030 WELWYN ALLOTMENTS**

The first Allotment Inspection will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011 commencing at 11am from the Parish Centre.

**2011/031 CLOSE OF MEETING.**

The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm

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

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011