

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee
Held on Tuesday 14th April 2009 in the Parish Centre, Lockleys Drive, Welwyn
At 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr M Benson (Chairman)
Cllrs J Blackburn, S Butler, R McKay, L McLusky (Minutes)

In attendance: Cllr R McKay

2009/030 Apologies: R Findlay, Clerk (illness)
J Lewis (holiday)

2009/031 Declaration of Interests
None

2009/032 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April 2009. These were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

2009/033 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 10th March 2009

The White Horse. No update had been received from the Clerk regarding Legislation relating to Leylandi trees. Item to be placed on next Agenda.

Waiting Room at the Cemetery. Francesca Walkington expressed an interest in submitting ideas for the waiting room and will await further guidance from the Parish Council.

Allotment Inspection – 5th April 2009. In the absence of any notes a verbal report was accepted by the Chairman. – (see [Appendix no.1](#))

Dog Notice at the Allotment Entrance

Cllr McKay advised Councillors that this sign was being constantly removed and he had replaced it on a number of occasions. The notice was, in fact, ambiguous and Councillors felt it should read “**Dogs Not Allowed**” as opposed to the current wording “**Do not Walk Your Dogs....**” which was ambiguous.

2009/034 Allotments – Terms & Conditions
Councillors felt that no decision could be taken on the suggested wording within the Terms & Conditions without further clarification from the Clerk.

2009/035 Tree Works for Welwyn Cemetery and St Mary’s Churchyard
No further information was available to the Meeting in the absence of the Clerk. This should be placed on the next Agenda.

- 2009/036 Proposed Improvements by CMS to Mardley Heath**
The Committee had studied proposals presented to Cllr McLusky by Tony Bradford of Countryside Management Services for improving rights of way and signage on Mardley Heath to encourage people to enjoy the heath without feeling lost. To undertake this work CMS were seeking endorsement for their plan from both Welwyn Parish Council and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in order to obtain the necessary funding. The Committee were unanimous in their approval and would recommend it for Full Council endorsement at their next meeting.
- 2009/037 Fencing at Cemetery**
The Committee were unable to pursue this further in the absence of the Clerk. This should be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.
- 2009/038 Livestock on the Allotments**
Recent communications from NALC did not change the position of Welwyn Parish Council on the matter of livestock on the allotments as minuted to full Council on 31st March 09. The Committee requested that a letter to this effect be sent by the Clerk to the plot holder concerned and a letter of thanks to NALC.
- 2009/039 Close of Meeting**
The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:.....

Chairman, Leisure Facilities & Open Spaces Committee

Dated: 12th May 2009.

APPENDIX NO. 1 TO MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2009.
Allotment Inspection- 5th April 2009

Present: Cllrs M Benson, J Blackburn, S Butler, R McKay,

Chris Wright accompanied Councillors during the allotment inspection walkabout. It was agreed that the overall standard of the allotments was the highest yet seen at this time of the year. Concerns were raised about the structure in plot 0.05 in the orchard and the abundance of household and sanitary ware in evidence on the same plot. These porcelain fittings were inappropriate on an allotment.

It was noted that although the Leylandii had been trimmed within the garden of The White Horse, there had been no pruning on the allotment side (in the Orchard) where the fence was being pushed over by these trees. The pear tree continued to cause concern; it had broken down the allotment fence and children were climbing onto the fallen trunk and jumping into the allotment.

Councillors observed that the large plot had been split into three plots and the area had been considerably cleaned up with the exception of a clump of young trees which were serving no useful purpose and the Committee agreed that the Clerk would be asked to instruct John Quinton to remove these at the earliest opportunity.

It was noted that a new plot holder had put in tremendous effort on a previously unworked plot by making raised beds and it looked extremely professional and was a great improvement.

The Committee felt that letters to four plot holders should be sent asking why their plots had not been worked. A request would be made to the Clerk to this effect.

Concern was raised at the growth of structures on a number of plots along the main walkway. The size, bulk and proportion of structure to allotment size needed to be addressed. In particular, Plots W17A and W22B were much in evidence.

Francesca Walkington pointed out the narrowing of the central drive causing difficulty to vehicles entering the site. Councillors requested that plot boundaries be re-established and would bring this to the attention of the Clerk.

Councillors were delighted to see that the blue netting covering the large cage had been toned down, or replaced, by netting in keeping with the environment.