

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE FACILITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2009
in the PARISH CENTRE
this commenced at 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Cllr. M. Benson and Councillors J. Blackburn, I. Colpitts, L. McLusky, and S. Butler.

IN ATTENDANCE: R. Findlay (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: All present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

2009/021 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr. J Blackburn declared a personal Interest in item 7 on the agenda, "Fees and Charges".

2009/022 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2009

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes are a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

2009/023 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 10TH FEBRUARY 2009

White Horse - Fencing: The Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with the owner of the Public House. He asked that the Council pay for half of the cost toward the cutting back of the Leylandi trees. He also asked that he be allowed to cut a hole in the fence so he is able to save the Pear Tree.

RESOLVED: as previously recorded. That the Leylandi & any nuisance trees be cut back. And the Clerk looks at the legislation in relation to 'Leylandi Trees' and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: The offending Pear tree be cut back to avoid any further damage to the Council's fencing.

Oak tree on the allotments: The Clerk reported that the Housing Association had admitted that the tree should not have been cut back without the Council's permission and also checking to see if there was a TPO. The Clerk was given the contact information of the contractor who cut back the tree to arrange for satisfactory works on the Oak Tree to be completed in accordance with the planning permission obtained.

Lighting and footpath clearance at Ottway Walk: In progress.

Village of the Year Competition: **RESOLVED**, the Council does not enter the competition this year.

Waiting Room at the Cemetery: **Resolved**, Local Architects be sought to look at the building and come up with some design ideas. The Chairman to contact Francessca Walkington and Adam Trigg was also suggested.

Allotment Inspection: Mr Wardley of the Allotment Association had asked if the Council would change the date of the inspection from 5th to 12th April '09

RESOLVED, due to the 12th April '09 being Easter Sunday, it was agreed to still have the inspection on Sunday 5th April '09

2009/024 TO FORWARD PLAN TREE WORKS FOR WELWYN CEMETERY AND ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD.

RESOLVED, the Clerk contacts Mr Grove to priorities the works to be done taking into account all Health and Safety issues. The Clerk can then to arrange the maintenance with Mr Grove within the allocated budget.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following items on the Agenda, the Chairman as this point excluded the public and accredited representatives of newspapers on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items.

2009/025 LIVESTOCK ON WELWYN ALLOTMENTS:

Advice had been received from NALC in response to the Clerks request for information.

RESOLVED, in relation to the advice from NALC, there was no reason to suggest the regulations change. The Council's regulation not to allow any livestock on the allotments still applies.

2009/026 FEES AND CHARGES.

At this juncture, Cllr. J. Blackburn declared a Personal Interest in the discussions relating to correspondence received from the Bright Stars School of Dance.

Correspondence received asking for a concession on the hire fees were discussed from:

- Bight Stars School of Dance who hire the White Hill Centre.
- Mothers and Toddlers who hire the Civic Centre.
- The Riding School for the Disabled who hire the Civic Centre and
- Welwyn Friendship Club who hire the Civic Centre.

RESOLVED, The Council do not give concession to people running businesses at the facilities. *(It was pointed out that some of the hirers technically already receive a concession because the Council does not change them the Commercial Rate).*

Concession will only be considered from Voluntary Groups, Charity Organisations and groups who have a constitution showing the amount of local involvement. The applications must be on the 'Grant Aid/Concession' form provided by the Parish Council to enable the Clerk to make informed decisions for concessions.

2009/027 1ST WELWYN SCOUTS PROPOSAL.

Correspondence received from 1st Welwyn Scouts was discussed by the Committee.

RESOLVED, to recommend this item goes to full Council for an endorsement that:

"The Council is not in a position to consider leasing the White Hill Centre to any organization".

2009/028 CEMETERY ISSUES.

Legal advice: The Clerk discussed a legal issue she needs clarifying by the Council's Solicitor and asked for permission to do so.

RESOLVED, the Clerk contacts the Solicitor for the legal advice.

Memorial: Correspondence had been received from Austins Memorials asking for clarification on whether a flat tablet could be placed on a grave at Welwyn Cemetery which already had a Headstone.

RESOLVED, in keeping with new Cemetery Regulations, this would not be allowed.

Horses in the Cemetery:

It was reported that some horses had escaped into the Cemetery; through broken fencing in the adjacent farmer's field but had since been removed by the owner of the horses. The Chairman of the Council, Cllr. J. Blackburn, had made a short statement when asked to comment by Welwyn Hatfield Times.

2009/029 CLOSE OF MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.16pm

Signed:.....

Chairman of the Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces Committee.

Date: