

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 24th JUNE 2008 AT
THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.45PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman) and Cllrs M Benson,
S Butler, I Colpitts, L McLusky, P Neville and J Roper.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors C. Hukin, L. Page and I. Skidmore.
R Findley absent due to compassionate leave

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

2008/66 OPENING OF MEETING: The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2008/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no Declarations of Interest made.

2008/68 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27th MAY 2008.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th May 2008 be approved and signed.

2008/69 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27th May 2008.

Minute no 2008/57. The Chairman advised that a meeting with Grant Shapps MP is to take place one Friday in September commencing at 4pm. Would all Councillors advise the Parish Office of their availability to attend this meeting? The Vice Chairman, Councillor Benson and Councillor Colpitts advised they could be available to attend a meeting 4pm onwards, any Friday in September.

Minute no 2008/60. The Principle Development Control Officer of the Borough Council has advised the planning application for the Welwyn Ford Garage is not being considered by their Planning Committee, as Officers have recommended refusal of the application on design and character grounds. The exact wording of which has yet to be finalised. The Planning Officers are to meet representatives of the applicant on Friday 27th June 2008 to try to resolve these issues. The application will then either be determined under delegated powers or withdrawn.

Minute no 2008/61. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Benson attended the Twinning Association dinner on the 6th June in place of the Chairman. Councillor Benson requested a letter be sent to the Twinning Association thanking them for all their hard work in preparing a very successful programme of events to welcome visitors from France. This was agreed.

2008/70 COUNCIL VACANCY UPDATE

Following the advertising of a Casual Vacancy on Welwyn Parish Council, the Borough Council has advised that a request to call an election to fill the Casual Vacancy has not been received. The Council can now proceed with the Co-option procedure. The Casual Vacancy will now be advertised in the Parish, requesting any interested candidates to contact the Clerk.

2008/71 PARISH BOUNDARY CHANGES

Residents in Oak Lodge, Digswell Lane advised their property is not included within the boundary of the Digswell ward on the Countryside Agency Map. Following discussion, the Chairman advised he will consult the full register of electors to check these people are included in the Digswell ward. If they are not included he will ask the Clerk to progress this matter.

2008/72 WELWYN FESTIVAL FUN DAY

The Chairman advised the Parish Council have booked one double stall at the Welwyn Festival Fun Day on Saturday 28th June from 1.15pm and requested volunteers to man the stall. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Benson, Councillors Roper, Benson and McLusky agreed to be available and will meet at the stall at 1.15pm.

The stall will consist of two tables, chairs, stands, photos, copies of the Parish Plan etc. As agreed a raffle will not be held this year. A gazebo is to be erected between 9 and 10am. On the Saturday morning.

Councillor Colpits advised he had booked a Mobile Police Station several months ago, however only this week had been informed that he would be required to find a driver for the vehicle. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is trying to organise this, however if unsuccessful, the Neighbourhood Watch information will not be on display. Following discussion it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Information could be displayed on the Parish Council stall. The Chairman and Councillor Roper had additional gazebos if required

2008/73 JUNE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES.

Planning and Licensing Committee. Cllr Hukin, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on 3rd June 2008, and answered questions.

Councillor Neville advised that a meeting is to be held in Ware next week to discuss the additional allocation of 10,000 new homes in the area and the possible infrastructure deficit. This is an Officer lead meeting being attended by Officers from Herts. County Council, Borough and District Councils from Hertfordshire, plus representative from the Health Authority, utility companies etc. Councillor Neville is to attend to represent Town and Parish Councils in the County in his role as a representative of the Herts. Association of Parish and Town Councils (HAPTC).

Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces Committee. Councillor Benson, Chairman of the Committee presented a report of the meeting held on the 10th June 2008, and answered questions.

Minute 2008/23 Cleaner Villages Week. Following discussion it was agreed to hold three separate walks to cover; 1) Oakland's and Mardley Hill, 2) Digswell and 3) Welwyn Village. The purpose of the walks is to identify areas of concern, such as pot holes, overgrown hedges, signs etc and to report these issues to the relevant authority. Residents are welcome to join Parish and Borough Councillors on the walks.

Oakland's and Mardley Hill Walk – Wednesday 2nd July commencing at 7p.m outside Oakland's shops. The walk will be lead by Councillor Linda McLusky

Digswell Walk – Monday 30th June commencing at 7pm. Outside the Cowper Arms. The walk will be lead by Councillor Shirley Butler.

Welwyn Village Walk – Monday 7th July commencing at 7pm in the High Street car park. The walk will be lead by Councillor Ian Colpitts.

The Parish Office to email all Borough Councillors advising the date and purpose of the walks and requesting the names of which Borough Councillors will be joining each walk.

A notice detailing the above walks to be displayed at the Welwyn Festival Fun Day on Saturday 28th June 2008, inviting any interested residents to join the walks or to notify Councillors or the Parish Office of any areas in the Parish requiring attention. Councillors at the Fun Day to also keep a record of residents concerns about any parish issues for investigation on the walks also.

Finance Committee. Cllr Neville, Vice Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on 17th June 2008 and answered questions.

List of Payments. Concern was expressed at the expense incurred purchasing a TV licence for the Parish Office. An Ex Councillor had donated a Television set to the Parish Office which is why a licence was required. Following discussion it was agreed this was an unacceptable expense, it was proposed by Councillor Benson, seconded by the Councillor Roper and

RESOLVED: that the Finance Committee do not include this as a budgeted item in the future.

Minute no 2008/018. Three Valleys Water Public Convenience water invoice. Councillor Roper advised that following investigation as to why an excess amount of water was being used in the public conveniences, the men's urinals which are set to automatically flush every 20 minutes had found to have been flushing every 20 seconds. This fault has now been repaired and is being monitored to ensure such a problem does not occur again. As an extra precaution the water supply to the toilets is now turned off each evening as the toilets close, and the meters for all the Parish Councils facilities are read every month to ensure the Council would be alerted to a future problem earlier.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Neville asked that the Council approve expenditure for the month of May totalling a gross expenditure of £ 35,728.17, net expenditure £ 33,901.08

RESOLVED: The Council accepted the gross expenditure of £ 35,728.17, net expenditure £ 33,901.08

A grant to Digswell Village Hall had been agreed at an earlier meeting however does not appear to have been awarded. The Parish Office to research this issue and include on the next Finance Committee Agenda for discussion.

2008/75 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: There were no reports from outside bodies.

2008/76 CLOSURE OF MEETING.

The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following items on the Agenda, the Chairman at 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.

2008/77 RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th May 2008 be approved and signed.

Signed:.....Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

Dated: 22nd July 2008.