

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH AUGUST 2008
AT THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
THAT COMMENCED AT 7.45PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman), Vice Chairman, Councillor M Benson and Councillors, C Hukin, L McLusky, P Neville, H Ober, L Page, J Roper and I Skidmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: R Findlay (Clerk) and J Lewis (Office Administrator)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs S Butler (holiday) and I Colpitts (holiday).

2008/96 WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2008/97 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

2008/98 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH JULY 2008.

RESOLVED that Minute no. 2008/89 be amended to show that Cllr Butler and Cllr. Neville's names appear as having declared an interest and abstained from the discussion and voting.

RESOLVED that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

2008/99 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH JULY 2008.

2008/86 Special Expenses Meeting. The Clerk reported she would be requesting a meeting with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in due course.

2008/89 Co-option of non-Councillors. This matter was discussed under Agenda item no. 8

2008/90 Quality Parish Status. The Clerk reported that she had started working on the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk meet to discuss the criteria for the Council to achieve Quality Parish Status (QPS).

2008/100 SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF OFFICE FOR A NEW COUNCILLOR.

It was reported that Cllr Ober had already signed his declaration of office when he attended the last Finance Committee meeting. On behalf of the Council the Chairman welcomed Cllr Ober.

2008/101 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Planning & Licensing Committee. Cllr Hukin, Chairman of the Committee, reported to Council the meeting held on 5th August 2008 and answered questions.

Finance Committee. Cllr Skidmore, Chairman of the Committee, reported to Council the meeting held on 5th August 2008 and answered questions. He recommended that the expenditure for the month of **£27,374.03 gross (£26,824.47 net)** for July 2008, be accepted by Council.

RESOLVED that the Council accepts the Finance Committee's recommendation and agreed expenditure for the month of July 2008 totalling **£27,374.03 gross (£26,824.47 net).**

2008/101 PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL.

It was proposed to introduce into the Council's Standing Orders.

“That no more than six Councillors shall be members of any of the Council's committees and Working Parties.”

The Clerk explained the reason for this to Council. After a lengthy discussion the Clerk asked that the item be deferred until the next Council meeting so she could get clarification on some of the queries raised from NALC.

RESOLVED to defer until the next meeting of the Council.

2008/102 PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL

It was proposed to introduce into the Council's Standing Orders.

“Subject to Full Council's approval, the Planning Committee may co-opt persons who in its opinion have useful knowledge about planning and licensing matters within the Parish and would aid its deliberations. The names of the persons proposed must be submitted for approval by Full Council. These co-opted persons may speak but not vote. In addition the Planning Committee may appoint an honorary adviser (such as a Parish Tree Warden) who may speak on matters within his speciality but not vote.”

The Clerk asked that the item be deferred until the next Council meeting as the last proposal could have an impact on this proposal. The Clerk would also get clarification on some of the queries raised from NALC.

After lengthy discussion, Cllr. Benson agreed re-word the proposal to include all Committee's of the Council for the next meeting.

RESOLVED to defer until the next meeting of the Council.

2008/103 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL.

The Clerk reported that she would be attending all of the Committee meetings, if unfortunately she was unable, a temporary Clerk would be present. The Office Administrator will only be in attendance at full Council meetings to take the minutes.

2008/104 NALC CONSULTATION- Election Day, Weekend Voting.

Councillors were asked comment on the consultation and send their comments to the Clerk.

2008/105 CLOSE OF MEETING.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

Signed:.....Chairman.

Dated: 2008