

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2008 AT
THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
THAT COMMENCED AT 7.45PM.**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman) and Cllrs. M Benson, I Colpitts, C Hukin, L McLusky, H Ober, J Roper and I Skidmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: R Findlay (Clerk), Terry Osbourne (WHBC, Chief Partnership and Performance Officer).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs S Butler (Weather conditions prevented attendance), P. Neville (Other commitments) and L Page (Other commitments).

PRESENTATION: *Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's Corporate and Community Plan*

Terry Osbourne addressed the Council before the opening of the Council meeting. He gave a presentation on the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's Corporate and Community Plan and the vision for Welwyn Hatfield for the period 2009/2010. Mr Osbourne added that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council had delivered 92% of their actions last year. Mr Osbourne was collecting the view of all Council's in the area in regard to issues such as:

- Crime, Anti Social Behaviour
- Cleaner, greener Welwyn Hatfield
- Housing
- Sense of Community
- Accountability

Mr Osbourne told members that there would be a workshop taking place mid November to the end of January '09 which would look at issues including, how you would promote a sustainable community and the environmental limits around our aspirations.

After discussion between the Council and Mr Osbourne, the Chairman thanked Mr Osbourne.

- 2008/117 OPENING OF MEETING**
The Chairman again welcomed all present and declared the Council meeting open at 8.22pm.
- 2008/118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
None
- 2008/119 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008**
RESOLVED, that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 2008/120 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008**
There were no matters arising.
- 2008/121 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**
Planning & Licensing
The Chairman, Cllr Hukin, presented a report of the last meeting and invited questions. It was reported that a public meeting concerning the application for houses to be built on the BP Garage site in Welwyn, is to be held on 1st December 2008. It is to be discussed at the next planning meeting who shall represent the Council at this meeting.

Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces

The Chairman, Cllr Benson, presented a report of the last meeting and invited questions. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the accurate recording of the lengthy meeting.

It was reported that the Japanese Knotweed in St. Mary's Churchyard had been treated by a qualified person.

Finance

The Chairman, Cllr Skidmore reported that no meeting had taken place of the Finance Committee as the meeting would not have been quorate. A special meeting of the Finance Committee was due to take place on 30th October 2008.

2008/122

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND DONATION FOR WREATHS.

The Clerk reported that four Wreaths had been received from the Royal British Legion. She had previously circulated correspondence received from Reverend Alan Winton giving details of the services for Remembrance Sunday at St. Mary's Church.

Present for the Welwyn ceremony would be the Chairman, Cllr. J. Blackburn, Vice Chair, Cllr. M. Benson and Cllrs. I. Colpitts, C. Hukin, L. McLusky and J. Roper.

It was agreed that Councillors meet at the Parish Centre at 10.45am and the Chairman would arrange a procession, leaving from the car park with the Scouts to St. Mary's Church.

Present for the Digswell ceremony would be Cllr. S. Butler and P. Neville.

All other Councillors and the Clerk gave their apologies as they had other commitments.

The wreaths for Welwyn Parish Council would be placed by the Chairman of the Council at the War Memorial in Welwyn; one of the Digswell Ward Councillors would place a wreath at the Digswell Memorial.

County Councillor, Richard Smith, on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and Borough Councillor, Mandy Perkins on behalf of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will place wreaths on Welwyn's War Memorial.

The Clerk acknowledged that as usual a donation had been sent to the Royal British Legion.

2008/123

PROPOSAL: ADDITION TO STANDING ORDERS.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Hukin, Chairman of the Planning and Licencing Committee, that the wording below be accepted by the Council and form part of the Council's Standing Orders.

This was seconded by Councillor I. Skidmore

"54a CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ONTO A COMMITTEE:

No more than four members of the public can be co-opted onto a Committee.

The period of continuance of a co-opted member of the public shall be from the date of its appointment by the Council/Committee until the next Annual Meeting of the Council. No retiring co-opted member of the public shall be entitled to remain a member of such body unless determined by the Council at their Annual meeting.

Co-opted members of the public shall have the right to attend and speak subject to the consent of the Chairman, but not to vote in any circumstances. Co-opted members must not remain present when the press and public are excluded from the meeting."

RESOLVED, the proposal was unanimously accepted and would be incorporated into the Council's Standing Orders.

2008/124

TREE ROOT RELATED CLAIMS.

A meeting is due to be held at WHBC on 03 November 2008. Cllr. Neville had registered his interest to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED, Councillors P. Neville and J. Roper attend.

2008/125

DONATIONS REQUESTS

The Clerk reminded the Council of the amount left in the present budget for Donations. The budget only allowed £1,000 for donations in the 2008/2009 budget (*Due to constraints on the Council's Finances due to the negotiations with WHBC over the Civic Centre rent*).

Donations already paid out this financial year are: Twinning Association - £500, Royal British Legion - £107 and Digswell Village Hall - £1,500 (*this from the Leisure Committee's budget*)

Requests had been received for donations from Welwyn United Charities and the Parish Plan Action Group.

Welwyn Hatfield Charities: Cllr. Hukin spoke on behalf of the Charity he explained what the Charity handed out donations to people in the community in need of assistance.

It was proposed that £200 be given as a donation: This was put to the vote:

FOR:	4
AGAINST:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The vote was carried. **RESOLVED**, £200 be donated to Welwyn United Charities.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr. I. Colpitts declared a personal interest in the next item under discussion and took no part in the discussion and voting.

Parish Plan Action Group: Cllr. Skidmore spoke on behalf of the Group. The group requested £200 to help with the publication of the Transport Leaflet; which is distributed to all households in Welwyn Parish. He explained that there was funding which could be claimed to the sum of £250 to help with the remaining cost.

It was proposed that £200 be given as a donation towards the Transport Leaflet and that the Parish Council Logo is incorporated onto the leaflet. This was put to the vote:

FOR:	6
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The vote was carried. **RESOLVED**, £200 be donated to the Parish Plan Action Group, for help with costs for the publication of the Transport Leaflet.

2008/126

PROPOSED VODAFONE BASE STATION

The Clerk reported that a planning application had now been received and the Planning and Licensing Committee would be discussing the application at their next meeting on 04 November 2008.

It was therefore, agreed not to discuss this item at this meeting and leave for the planning and Licensing Committee to discuss.

2008/127

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

None

2008/128 EXEMPT BUSINESS – PART II

ABUSE BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TOWARD AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNCIL.

The Chairman reminded all present that:

Under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

There were no press and members of the public present.

The Clerk reported that the solicitor had been instructed to send a letter of which the draft was agreed by the Clerk and Chairman of the Council. The letter again warned the member of the public involved that the Council would not tolerate this sort of this abuse to its employees and that further legal action would be taken if this behaviour continued.

No response has been received to date.

2008/129 CLOSE OF THE MEETING. The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

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

Date: 25th November 2008