

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 24th AUGUST 2009 AT
THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.45PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J Blackburn (Chairman) and Councillor A Blackett, C Hukin, R McKay, L McLusky, P Neville, H Ober and I Skidmore.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor M Benson, S Butler and I Colpitts

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No members of the public attended the meeting.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2009/105 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest

2009/106 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th JULY 2009

RESOLVED” that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27TH July 2009, be approved and signed”.

Unanimously agreed.

2009/107 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th JULY 2009

Minute 2009/090. Parish Plan Action Group’s production of “Everything Within”. A Senior Citizens Digest.

Councillor McLusky asked if the Council would be given the opportunity to view the above document prior to printing. The Chairman advised that Welwyn Parish Council’s name has been removed from the cover and replaced with the Parish Plan Action Group’s name therefore this was not a Parish Council owned document. The Chairman of the Parish Plan Action Group is looking at the final draft at the moment. Following discussion Councillor Skidmore agreed to request the Council be given the opportunity to look at the final draft prior to printing the document.

2009/108 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FUNDING A POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO)

Following discussion it was agreed that the Council will attend the Public Meeting with an open mind. Following the Public Meeting the Council will discuss this issue and make a decision whether to proceed with part funding of a PCSO for the Welwyn Parish, and one factor they will take into account is the outcome of the Public Meeting.

An article has been placed in the Herts Association of Parish and Town Council's (HAPTC) weekly news letter asking other Council's their experiences of funding or deciding not to fund a PCSO in their area. Tring Parish Council advised they had decided not to fund a PCSO. Details attached as **APPENDIX 1**

Councillor Benson had approached Codicote Parish Council who has funded a PCSO and a representative from the Council is willing to attend the Public Meeting to support this initiative.

It was agreed the format of the meeting would be as follows

- 1) Introduction and welcome from the Chairman, Councillor J Blackburn
- 2) A presentation from the Police
- 3) A presentation from a representative of Tring Parish Council who do not support this initiative
- 4) A presentation from Codicote Parish Council in support of this initiative
- 5) Question and answer session
- 6) Summarise and close the meeting by the Chairman

Woolmer Green Parish Council to be invited to attend the Public Meeting also.

The cost to the community per 'D' band property for funding a 50% share of a PCSO is £ 3.29 per annum which is 6p per week. The cost of funding a 25% share of a PCSO is £ 1.64 per annum or 3p per week. This information to be available for those who attend the Public Meeting.

To advertise this event it was agreed that

- a) The Welwyn Times editor be requested to include an article publicising this event.
- b) 1,500 leaflets be produced for delivery door to door. Councillor Skidmore to produce a list of routes.
- c) Notices to be placed on all Parish Council notice boards.
- d) Details also to be included on the Parish Web site and to be distributed via email by the Neighbourhood watch scheme.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Blackett and

RESOLVED that a Public Meeting to discuss funding a PCSO be held on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 commencing at 7.30pm".

Unanimously agreed.

2009/109

TRAFFIC FLOW AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN WELWYN VILLAGE

A notice advising of a temporary One Way: High Street and Church Street, Welwyn was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 1

Councillor McKay advised the one way system was introduced this morning and gave a power point presentation highlighting the routes in the village.

The one-way system starts at the car park opposite the Doctors Surgery in the High Street; from this point the High Street is one way going north, Church Street is one way up to Lockleys Drive also. Traffic remains two way in Mill Lane, Prospect Place, and Hertford Road, London Road etc. There are no other changes to traffic flows in the Village apart from the introduction of the one-way system.

Bus routes going south will not now turn into Church Street; instead buses will travel to the Clock roundabout, down the by-pass into Hertford Road. The temporary bus stop has been moved from Prospect Place, which would have been very difficult to use, to Hertford Road.

School coaches will now pick up and drop off children in Hertford Road and could use the Civic Centre car Park, which is the nearest parking facility. It was agreed that the closure of the car park until 9.30am in the morning be suspended for the time being. The road works proposed in Hertford Road are to commence in September however the one-way restrictions in Hertford Road will now not be imposed.

There is a meeting of the Traders on the 2nd September at the White Hart Public house which all Councillors are welcome to attend.

The Scaffolding is to stay in place in front of the Wellington Public House until January 2010, however as soon as the front wall is secure, narrower scaffolding will be erected which will enable the Codicote Road to be re-opened. Parking has been re-instated in the village and additional parking is to be introduced whilst the Bus Stop in Church Street for buses travelling south, is out of use.

The Council wished to record their thanks to Councillor B McKay for all the hard work he has undertaken to solve the problems being experienced in the village since the fire at the Wellington Public House.

The Chairman pointed out the introduction of a one-way system in the village was one proposal in the Parish Plan. If the one-way system proves to be successful consideration could be given to making this permanent.

2009/110 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning and Licensing Committee. Councillor C Hukin Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 3rd August 2009 and answered questions.

It was proposed that a three weekly cycle of Planning and Licensing Committee meetings be established, to ensure the Committee can respond to all planning applications in the Welwyn Parish. It is proposed that meetings would take place on Tuesday evenings. A Timetable of meetings was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 2.

It was proposed by Councillor Skidmore, seconded by Councillors Neville and

RESOLVED “that the decision to introduce a three weekly cycle of Planning and Licensing Committee meetings as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Agenda be delegated to the next meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee”.

Unanimously agreed

Leisure Facilities and Opens Spaces Committee. Councillor McLusky, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 10th August 2009, and answered questions.

2009/074 Welwyn Allotment Association (WAA). Following discussion it was agreed that the wording of the letters sent out to Allotment Plot Holders be re-looked at by the Committee.

2009/069 Waiting Room at the Cemetery. The Chairman, Councillor McLusky reported that a meeting had been held with Francesca Weal of Weal Architects, who had advised that the best option would be to demolish the building, leaving the base to put possibly a smaller open sided structure with seats and possibly planters. This to be discussed a the next Committee meeting.

2009/111 REPLACEMENT GOVERNOR FOR OAKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Councillor McLusky advised she had resigned as School Governor as she did not have the time to devote to this role. All Councillors were requested to advise the Chairman and the Acting Clerk if they are aware of anyone suitable to be nominated for this position.

2009/112 PROPOSED NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE WELWYN PARISH

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following item 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 Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

2009/113 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27th JULY 2009

RESOLVED” that the amended Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th July 2009 be approved and signed”.

2009/116 The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed.....Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

Dated 28th September 2009