

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2010 AT

THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN

WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.45PM

PRESENT: Councillor P Neville (Vice Chairman) and Councillors I Colpitts, C Hukin, B McKay, L McLusky and I Skidmore

IN ATTENDANCE: A Pack (Clerk to the Council)

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Blackburn, M Benson, A Blackett and S Butler.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Two members of the public were in attendance

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2010/112 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

2010/113 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th August 2010 be approved and signed.

Unanimously agreed.

2010/114 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2010.

Minute Number 2010/107 Proposed Parking Survey Councillor Skidmore advised the design team had finalised the survey however, were unable to add a question asking for information from individual motorists, as this would have increased costs. The Parish Plan Action Group is to undertake a survey of businesses which will feed into the proposed parking survey, however this will not be part of the official survey. The Clerk to apply for £ 2,000 towards the cost of the survey from Herts County Councillor Richard Smith's Locality Budget.

2010/115 CASUAL VACANCY

A notice was posted advertising a Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of Dr. Ober. As during the statutory period no election was called, the Council are able to Co-opt a parishioner to fill this vacancy. No applications have been received to date. Councillors to discuss the Casual Vacancy with interested parishioners.

2010/116 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces. . Councillor L McLusky, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of meeting held on the 9th August 2010 and answered questions.

Planning and Licencing. . Councillor C Hukin Chairman of the Committee, presented reports of meetings held on the 10th and 31st August 2010 and answered questions. At a meeting of the Planning and Licencing Committee held in January, the Committee had objected to the proposed erection of a barrier at Danesbury Park Road. The owner of Danesbury Hill House has erected notices which incorrectly state there is no right of way for the public to use Danesbury Park Road. The Council to request Hertfordshire County Council remove these notices and erect a sign at the entrance to Danesbury Park Road advising this is a public highway. It was also noted that an entrance to the nature service had been closed with the use of barbed wire by North Hertfordshire District Council. This entrance had been marked as an official entrance to the nature reserve by Countryside Management Services (CMS) who had also constructed steps to make access easier for pedestrian use. The Clerk to write to CMS requesting confirmation that this entrance is an official right of way into the nature reserve.

Finance. Councillor I Skidmore, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 20th September 2010 and answered questions.

2010/117

PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS IN WELWYN.

A report from Councillor McKay was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 1. A quotation to repair the collapsed drains system of the toilets was tabled and is attached as **APPENDIX 1**

The public toilets were provided and managed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC) until the 1980's when due to spending cuts WHBC proposed to close the toilets. Welwyn Parish Council decided at this point to manage this facility and WHBC passed the free hold of the toilet plot to WPC.

Councillor McKay advised he had monitored use of the toilets and in a two hour period only one person used the facilities. Following discussion it was agreed to investigate use of toilet facilities by the public at business premises in the town, with a possible financial incentive from the Council. Councillor McKay offered to approach businesses in the village to discuss possible use of their facilities by the public. Following discussion it was agreed an introductory letter should be given to the businesses who are to be approached. Councillor McKay to draft a letter and forward this to the Clerk prior to visiting businesses.

It was proposed by Councillor McKay, seconded by Councillor McLusky and

RESOLVED "that the Council explore the possible use of toilet facilities for the public at commercial properties in the village".

Unanimously agreed

2010/118

CIVIC CENTRE

The Civic Centre re-opened to the public Wednesday 1st September 2010. All public areas of the Civic Centre were completed however some additional work is being undertaken in the non public areas.

The Cost Report Number 5 was circulated with the Finance Committee Agenda as Appendix 7. Minutes of contract meetings to be included on the Leisure Facilities and Open Spaces Committee Agenda.

The Council to consider whether to hold an official opening ceremony of the newly refurbished Civic Centre.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Skidmore, seconded by Councillor Colpitts and

RESOLVED “that

a) an official opening ceremony of the recently refurbished Civic Centre be arranged”.

b) A Working Party be formed to organise the event.

c) Councillors Colpitts, McLusky and Skidmore be elected to serve on the Working Party

Unanimously agreed

It was agreed existing users of Council facilities be invited to the event as well as previous hirers, community groups, commercial catering organisations, the Police, the Welwyn Film Society etc.

2010/119

TO CONSIDER REGISTERING LAND AS A ‘VILLAGE GREEN’ IN DIGSWELL

A report by Councillor Neville was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 2

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Skidmore and

RESOLVED “that the Council apply to register the land above the railway tunnel in Digswell as a village green”.

Unanimously agreed

2010/120

FORMER CLOCK MOTEL SITE

To consider the implications to local Health Care, Doctors Surgeries etc of having a Care Home on this site.

A Report by Councillor Skidmore was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 3

A report by Councillor Blackett was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 4

It was reported that a further application has been received for a 50 bed hotel and a residential Nursing Care Home on the former Clock Motel site however this application has not, as yet, been considered by the Planning Committee. The Council however in debating this application will be considering the well being of the parish and the general social impact development of this site may have on the local and wider area. The Council may, in considering this matter, come to a different conclusion to the Planning and Licencing Committee.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hukin, seconded by Councillor Skidmore and

RESOLVED “that the Council are in favour of a new Nursing Care home and would not, in principle, oppose the provision of a Nursing Care Home on the former Clock Motel site”.

Vote: 5 For

1 abstention

The motion was carried.

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.

2010/121 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING (EXEMPT BUSINESS) HELD ON THE 19th AUGUST 2010.

RESOLVED” that the Minutes of the Council meeting (Exempt Business) held on the 19th August 2010 be approved and signed”.

Unanimously agreed.

2010/123 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

25TH October 2010.