

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in The Parish Centre, Lockleys Drive, Welwyn.

on 31st March 2009

This commenced AT 7.45 PM

7.30- 7.45pm PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No members of the public arrived to speak to the Council.

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor J Blackburn and Councillors M Benson, S Butler, I Colpitts, C Hukin, L McLusky, P Neville and I Skidmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: R Findlay, Clerk, J Lewis, Office Administrator and Messrs R McKay and R Richmond, Candidates for co-option to the Council

2009/030 WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 7.45pm.

2009/031 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr H Ober (Other Commitments)

2009/032 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

None

2009/033 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2009. Subject to the correction of a typographical error in Minute 2009/025- "Cllr L Mclusky" was corrected to "Cllr L McLusky" – it was **AGREED** that the Minutes were a true and accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman.

2009/034 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 24TH FEBRUARY 2009.

Minute 2009/026. Cllr Skidmore reported that the Highways Agency and CDA had established a budget, that traffic monitoring equipment has been installed in Welwyn Village and that an assessment would be due in early June 2009.

2009/035 VACANCY- OAKLANDS/MARDLEY HEATH WARD, COUNCILLOR'S VACANCY. The Clerk reported that following the resignation of Cllr L Page a vacancy now existed in this ward that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council had been advised and posters were on display in the Council's notice boards. The Chairman thanked former Cllr Page for his service to the Council with particular reference to his work on the Planning & Licensing Committee.

2009/036 APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION OF WELWYN WARD COUNCILLOR. The Clerk reported she had received two applications for this vacancy from Mr R McKay and Mr R Richmond. Both applicants addressed the Council.

Mr R McKay, Mr R Richmond and the Office Administrator withdrew from the meeting at this juncture

The Council held a ballot.

Mr R McKay, Mr R Richmond and the Office Administrator re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

The Chairman announced that Mr R McKay had been co-opted as Welwyn Ward Councillor. Cllr McKay signed his Declaration of Office with the Clerk.

2009/037 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Planning & Licensing Committee. Cllr Hukin, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report on the meeting held on 3rd March 2009 and answered questions.

Leisure & Open Spaces Committee. Cllr Benson, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on 10th March 2009 and answered questions.

Proposition made by Cllr Benson " **The Council is not in a position to lease the Whitehill Centre to any organisation**". **CARRIED** 8 votes for, 1 abstention.

- 2009/038** **WHBC CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS.** Proposition made by Cllr Skidmore **"The Council adopts this document and instructed the Clerk to represent the Council's comments to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council"**. **CARRIED.** 8 votes for, 1 abstention.
- 2009/039** **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER – Partnership Funding – Incentivised Scheme (2007/2008).** Cllr Colpitts presented a paper to the Council about the cost implications of funding an additional PCSO for the Parish. He reported that each PCSO costs £28,500 per annum and that any funding provided by the Council would be matched by Hertfordshire Constabulary. **Proposition** made by Cllr Colpitts **"The Council holds a Public Meeting before October 2009 to consult the electorate on the possible funding of a Police Community Support Officer for Welwyn Parish."** **CARRIED** 7 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.
- 2009/040** **LONDON TRAVEL WATCH- TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS.** The Chairman reported that the original proposal by First Capital Connect to close Welwyn North station ticket office hours had been recently amended to the office being open between 6.30am and 1.30pm and 3.00pm and 7.00pm each weekday.
- 2009/041** **MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN-SITE SELECTION METHODOLOGY CONSULTATION.** The Chairman referred to a recent document issued by Hertfordshire County Council. Cllr Neville commented that he supported the document's comment on "Sterilisation" – point no. 8.
- 2009/042** **CLERK'S ANNUAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP REPORT.** The Clerk presented the meeting with her report and highlighted the role of the new internal auditor and that depreciation of assets now had to be at "fair value". **Proposition** made by Cllr Skidmore **"The Council adopts a *de-minimis* level of £1,000.00 for listing assets"** **CARRIED** 6 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention.
The Clerk reported the changes in procedure regarding the reporting of monthly income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets: the Council would now only vote to approve unbudgeted items of expenditure. The Clerk reported that Councillors would continue to receive monthly print-outs of income and expenditure. The Clerk is to confirm this.
- 2009/043** **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT.** Councillors were asked to email any comments to the Clerk by 1st April 2009. The Clerk advised that she would now include details of the new Councillor and the forthcoming Public Meeting to discuss funding a new PSCO.
- 2009/044** **CLOSE OF MEETING.** The Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 9.34pm.

Signed:..... Chairman of the Council

Date: 28th April 2009.