

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 27th JULY 2009 AT
THE PARISH CENTRE LOCKLEYS DRIVE WELWYN
WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.45PM**

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

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

APOLOGIES: None were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the public attended the meeting.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2009/095 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor Neville declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 2009/098 Planning and Licencing Minutes, item number N6/2009/1190/TP

2009/096 TRAFFIC FLOW AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN WELWYN VILLAGE

RESOLVED "that the above item be moved to the start of the Agenda to enable Mr Kelvin Dean, who chaired the local traders Traffic Management meeting to participate in the debate of this issue.

Unanimously agreed.

Report by Councillor B McKay of a Traffic Management Meeting held in the White Hart Hotel was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 3.

Councillor McKay reported that the absence of parking was the worst problem, if parking and the flow of through traffic can be restored in the Village, the loss of trade, which many businesses are suffering through the restricted parking and the introduction of traffic lights, which create long queues of traffic, could be corrected. One solution would be to introduce, as an emergency measure, a temporary one way system which would enable the traffic lights to be removed. Hertfordshire Highways have advised they are considering a north to south one way system, as data they have of traffic flows in the village indicates larger volumes of traffic travel north to south through the High Street. Local Traders would prefer a south to north one way system, which they consider, would encourage people to visit the village. The north to south one way system would also include Mill Lane which is unnecessary as Mill Lane is not affected by traffic problems caused by the Wellington Public House reconstruction works and this would further deter visitors to the village.

If an emergency one way system is introduced, then traffic calming measures should also be introduced for a temporary period also. The south to north one way system would include the High Street, Church Street and the Codicote Road. A meeting is scheduled with the Assistant District Manager of the Mid West Herts Area of Hertfordshire Highways on Tuesday, 4th August commencing at 10am and this item is on the Agenda for discussion. Supporting paperwork has been sent to The Assistant District manager. Councillor McKay reiterated that this is an emergency and needs urgent attention.

Following discussion it was considered a temporary speed restriction should also be introduced. It was noted that the Civic Centre car park is often full by 9am by people parking who are not using the Civic Centre Facilities. The Council to consider closing the gate and only opening it at 9.30am each day.

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

RESOLVED that the Council support the temporary introduction, as a matter of urgency, a south to north one way system as proposed by the people who work and live in the village".

Unanimously agreed

Once a one way system has been introduced this should increase the amount of parking available in the village. Also traders should be encouraged to park in places visitors to the village would not be aware of, such as behind the Charity shop, in the grounds of the Grange etc.

At 8.05pm the Chairman proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable Mr. Dean to discuss this issue with the Council

Unanimously agreed

Standing Orders were re-instated at 8.10pm.

It was noted that due to the extensive damage to the Wellington, it had been necessary to erect scaffolding which would hold up the wall of the Wellington whose internal wooden supports had been badly damaged, which is why the scaffolding comes out so far from the building. However it was agreed that Hertfordshire Highways should be encouraged to tidy up this area and to re-look at the pedestrian route which could be improved.

The introduction of decorative artwork on the scaffolding could improve the look of the village and temporary signage should be installed advising that the village is still open for business. A banner could be erected on the bridge.

The Council to work closely with the Committee of Retailers to resolve the temporary problems being experienced in the Village.

Councillor McKay advised he would spearhead contacting businesses to request they park in out of the way spots around the village if the Council wished. This offer was fully supported.

It was proposed by Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Benson and

RESOLVED "that the Acting Clerk be given the authority to make any decision required on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chairman".

Unanimously agreed

The Chairman requested all Councillors to forward any other suggestions to the Acting Clerk.

2009/097 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th JUNE 2009

Minute 2009/087 Change to "Councillor Benson was elected Chairman of the Meeting..."

RESOLVED" that the amended Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 29th June 2009, be approved and signed".

Unanimously agreed.

2009/098 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th JUNE 2009

Minute 2009/090. Parish Plan Action Group's production of "Everything within" a Senior Citizens Digest. Councillor McLusky asked if Councillors would have an opportunity to proof read the Digest before it goes to press. Councillor Butler agreed to send a draft copy to all Councillors and requested any alterations be notified to her as soon as possible. The document is to go to press in one week's time.

2009/099 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning and Licensing Committee. Councillor C Hukin Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 6th July 2009 and answered questions.

Leisure Facilities and Opens Spaces Committee. Councillor McLusky, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 13th July 2009, and answered questions.

Finance Committee. Councillor I Skidmore Chairman of the Committee, presented a report of the meeting held on the 20th July 2009 and answered questions.

Councillor Benson requested that details of each income and expenditure item during the month be presented to each Council meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that the Acting Clerk would prepare a list of income and expenditure each month and email this to all Councillors. Any Councillor who has a query to contact the Acting Clerk. This process to be reviewed in a few months time.

2009/100 TO SIGN THE BANK MANDATE FORM

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

RESOLVED "that the Council

- a) appointed Barclays Bank PLC as the Council's bankers

- b) Accept the terms of Barclays Customer Agreement and confirm such acceptance to the Bank by completing the banks form of Appointment of Bankers.
- c) The Council authorise any individual named in section 2 (an authorised person) either individually or, if relevant, with other authorised person(s) in accordance with Section 3 to
 - Enter into any other agreements with the Bank (including banking facility agreements and indemnities) which they consider to be in the interest of the Council from time to time
 - Give instructions concerning the operation of the Council's bank accounts and otherwise communicate with the Bank in each case in writing or verbally, in accordance with Customer Agreement and
 - Register the Council for the Bank's computer and telephone banking services

The Council noted that the Bank is entitled to act on all instructions given by a User in accordance with the correct security procedures until the Council notifies the appropriate computer or telephone banking service that the user is no longer authorised to act for it.

All Councillors and the Acting Clerk to sign the Bank Mandate forms.

Unanimously agreed

It was agreed that the Financial Regulations would ensure that only the Acting Clerk can contact the bank on the Councils behalf.

2009/101 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider grant applications from the following

Mr Tait requesting a concession on fees to hire the Civic Centre for the performance of a Pantomime, all proceeds to be donated to the Danesbury Hospital. A grant application form was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 1

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

RESOLVED that the Council give a grant of £ 140 to cover the hire of the Civic Centre on Sunday 29th November 2009 for the performance of a Pantomime from 11am to 7.00pm.

Unanimously agreed.

Welwyn and District Local History Society requesting £ 100 per year to support the continued operation of the Society. To cover the increased cost of speakers and hall hire fees. A grant application form was circulated with the Agenda as Appendix 2

It was proposed by Councillor Hukin, seconded by Councillor Skidmore and

RESOLVED” that a grant of £ 100 to support the continued operation of the Society in the 2009/2010 be given to the Welwyn and District Local History Society”.

Unanimously agreed

The Welwyn and District Local History Society be encouraged to look for other ways of generating funds to cover expenditure in future years. The Society to be offered the opportunity to put an advertisement on the Council’s Notice Boards to help them recruit new members.

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.

2009/102 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 29th JUNE 2009

RESOLVED” that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th June 2009 be approved and signed”.

2009/104 The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

Dated 24th August 2009