

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
HELD ON  
THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009.**

**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE PROSPECT PLACE WELWYN WHICH  
COMMENCED AT 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr J Blackburn and Vice Chairman, Cllr M Benson and Cllrs S Butler, I Colpitts, L McLusky, H Ober and I Skidmore

**IN ATTENDANCE** A S Pack (Acting Clerk to the Council)  
J Lewis (Admin Assistant)  
Hertfordshire County Councillor (HCC) R Smith  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Councillors (WHBC) M Perkins, H Hughes, C Storer and S Markiewicz,  
PC S Deal  
And the following members of the public

D Perkins	G Turbitt	C Conway	B Turner
C Thompson	R Uffen	B Oxley	R Brett
C Hassall	G Evans	J Roper	C Roper
E Donker	J Green	C Green	B Brett
S Kyriakides	J Timpson	V Harris	A Blackett
D Hammond	D Norther	G Sealey	J Quinton
D Wilson			

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs C Hukin, B McKay and P Neville  
J Crag

**WELCOME** The Chairman of the Council welcomed everyone present and opened the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2008**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008, circulated to all in attendance, were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman

**Unanimously Agreed,**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2008**

It was noted that Borough Councillor Mandy Perkins was present at the Annual Assembly meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

**CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2008/09**

The Chairman OF Welwyn Parish Council, Councillor J Blackburn presented a report of the Councils activities during the 2008/09 year. Attached as **APPENDIX 1**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council's Finance Committee,  
Councillor I Skidmore, presented the Financial Report for 2008/09,  
attached as **APPENDIX 2**

## PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF WELWYN AND HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL (WHBC) MR CHRIS CONWAY

Mr Conway gave a brief outline of the changes to the Planning system which have been introduced Countrywide. The District Plan has now been replaced by the Local Development Framework which sets out the core strategy of the Council, which sets the framework for Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Following Government guidance the East of England Plan (EEP) was developed and the public were consulted on the Issues and Options Document. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) challenged the plan as it proposed that 10,000 houses should be built in the Welwyn Hatfield District over the next ten years, which WHBC considered to be too high. On Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> May, the High Court quashed the East of England Plan because the process used was incorrect however no judgement has been received as yet.

WHBC now are working towards a housing target that is feasible within the constraints of the Green Belt boundaries, a plan which it fit for purpose. Building 5,800 in the Borough could be attained without the need to release green belt land for the period 2011 – 2026.

The challenge is how to retain the open spaces within and around our communities, building the infrastructure required to support increased housing whilst retaining civic pride and social responsibility, balanced with environmental issues such as climate change.

The Chairman thanked Mr Conway for his very interesting and informative talk.

## OPEN FORUM (PART ONE) QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The Chairman then invited questions from members of the public

### **Mr. Barry Northall ( Resident of the Parish)**

Although there has been debate about housing allocation and jobs, we do not hear about the infrastructure which would be required to support increased housing and jobs. Is this being considered?

Council's response

Mr Conway advised that no study has been undertaken in this area which already has an infrastructure deficit. This is the plank of WHBC argument. How is the required infrastructure to be delivered? The sewerage capacity alone is not sufficient for the future. This is being researched at the moment to establish what is required and who will fund the necessary works.

**Councillor John Blackburn**

Has there been any further development of plans for the old Godfrey Davies site?

Mr Conway advised that the site is still under discussion and there is no scheme in place as yet.

**Mrs Storey (Resident of the Parish)**

With the reduced service to the public at the QE 2 Hospital in Welwyn Garden City, if taken ill during the rush hour, it would be very difficult to reach the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. Are there any plans to improve this?

Council's response Mr Conway advised that there are presently no plans to widen the A1 motorway, although it is being proposed that at peak times the hard shoulder of the A1 may be used, however this part of the motorway is not designed to withstand continuous traffic. There are no plans presently to address this envisaged problem.

**Mr Barry Northrop (Resident of the Parish)**

The rubbish collection in the centre of the village is not as effective as it could be. Although he welcomed the efforts made could this be improved?

Council's Response The Chairman advised as WHBC undertake this task, he would advise them of this issue. The Parish and Borough Councillors walk the area once a year and bring areas of concern to the relevant authority.

During the year a resident started a Village Clean Up Group. Every fourth Saturday of the month the group meet and clean up the village. The Parish Council provide the necessary equipment and the group are always keen to attract more volunteers.

**Mrs. V. Harris (Resident of the Parish)**

Wished to highlight the dangers of through traffic in Robbery Bottom Lane. The lane is very narrow and vehicles are travelling at times at very high speeds. Are there any steps that can be taken to introduce speed bumps to slow the traffic down?

Council's response The Chairman advised this could be brought to the Highway Agency's attention as an area for investigation. Borough Councillor Mandy Perkins suggested residents in the area consider presenting a petition, with at least 30 signatures on, to the Joint Highways Panel, whose membership has Borough and County Councillors and representatives from the Police. The Panel debate issues of concern to residents. Their next meeting is in July. County Councillor Richard Smith advised that it is also helpful to provide supporting evidence, photographs etc. The Police also can provide help as they have a duty in law to advise HCC of areas of concern on the highway.

**Mr. Derek Hammond (Resident of the Parish)**

Reported that there is considerable inconsiderate parking in school Lane, which is dangerous near the junction. Can anything be done to alleviate this problem?

Council's response      The Chairman advised he would pass this concern onto WHBC and the Police for investigation.

**Ms S Kyriakides (Resident of the Parish)**

Concerned that vehicles are parking on double yellow lines outside the Tesco Store in the centre of the village causing considerable problems. Can the Police enforce the parking restrictions in place in this area?

Council's response      PC Deal advised that there is not enough police presence in the Village to enforce the parking regulations. It would be very helpful if residents would report every incident of illegal parking to the Police as this would raise this as a black spot, which would attract a greater Police presence.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council have been asked by the Police to fund the employment of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), a Public meeting is to be arranged later in the year to discuss this issue with parishioners.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for 20 minutes for light refreshments*

**Mr J Thompson (Resident of the Parish)**

Concerned at the escalating incidents of fly tipping in the Danesbury area. Plus a large crane was parked in Church Street which created difficulties.

Councillor's response      Borough Councillor Mandy Perkins requested residents to report these incidents as soon as possible on phone number **01707 357000** With regard to the crane parked in Church Street, these incidents should be reported to the police.

**PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Jon Green gave a progress report on the Parish Plan attached as **APPENDIX 3**

**The Chairman introduced users of the Council's facilities who each gave a 5 minute presentation to the Assembly**

**PRESENTATIONS      Mr Richard Smith - Herts County Councillor for Welwyn**

Councillor Smith reiterated the point that residents should report any incidents of concern, which break the law to the Police to ensure an area of great concern becomes a 'hot spot' and receives greater attention from the Police. Councillor Smith outlined areas of expenditure the County Council would be undertaking in the year. Councillor Smith advised the Parish Council to apply to the County Council for a grant towards the cost of funding a PCSO if the community wished to proceed this way.

**Mr. G Cubitt: Welwyn Friendship Over 60s Club**

Mr Cubitt encouraged new members to consider joining this very vibrant club, which offers many activities to suit the differing requirements of members, plus the Club organises outings to places

of interest throughout the year. Younger or older members are very welcome to join. The Club meets at the Civic Centre every Monday afternoon.

**Mr Raymond Uffen: Welwyn Natural History Society**

Mr Uffen provided information that described the activities of the Society attached as **APPENDIX 4**

The Welwyn Natural History Society role is widely concerned about the environment that effects wildlife, the river Mimram in particular. The viability of the Mimram and chalk streams in Hertfordshire. The club welcome visitors who are charged £ 2 per head to cover the costs of excellent speakers. The next meeting is the last Wednesday in June and the talk is entitled ‘ A new Hardwood Forest’

**Mrs Beverley Turner: Welwyn Wailers**

The Welwyn Wailers are a local amateur singing and dancing group who put on an Old Time Musical type show annually in February. The show runs for four nights over two weekends at the Civic Centre. The Welwyn Wailers aim is to raise money for local charities. The group started in 1974 and raised £ 250 that year, their last show however raised a staggering £ 8,200 and over the years they have raised over £ 100,000 for local causes. The group are willing to be involved in community life and have performed for many local groups.

**Ms Vicki Harris: Cercle Francais de Mid Herts**

The group have been meeting for the past 40 years and meet in the Civic Centre. Members are from far and wide and the programme is very varied covering French culture, wine, fruit juice, pate, French cheese etc. Fees are reasonable and the group meet the second Friday of each month at 7.45pm.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked all of the presenters for their very vibrant and interesting presentation, HCC and WHBC for their attendance and much appreciated presentations and PC Deal for his valued advice on the issues raised.

The meeting closed at 10.03pm.