

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE, HERTFORD**

PRESENT The Mayor, Councillor Miss Chantal Geall, in the Chair at the start of the meeting

Councillors P Boyle, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S Newton, P Ruffles, R Willis and N Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms T Carpenter, Civic Administration Manager

37. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor N Wilson was elected Chairman for the forthcoming Civic Year. The Chairman then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

38. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor P Ruffles was elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming Civic Year.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors P Moore (Previous engagement) D Poole (Unwell) and M McCormick (Work Commitment)

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

41. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2014 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chairman was authorised to sign same.

42. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Allotment Showcasing/Open Day

The Committee was advised that a press release would be issued shortly to confirm the Allotment Open Day as 6 July 2014. All allotment sites will be open to the public between 2-4pm, with Mudlarks providing

refreshments at Cromwell Road, along with the Lovely Grub Garden at Sele Road. The Bee Garden at Hertingfordbury would also be open. The Mayor agreed to visit some of the sites during the open afternoon, and members of the Committee were requested to attend as many sites as possible.

Parking, Bramfield Road

Cllr Ruffles confirmed that an objection had been received to the planned parking restrictions adjacent to the entrance to the Cemetery after the close of the Consultation period. The objection was still likely to be considered and once the concerns had been addressed it was hoped that the restrictions could be implemented reasonably quickly.

Bluecoats Flower Beds

It was confirmed that the Bluecoats flowerbeds had recently benefitted from £8500 worth of improvements, however the maintenance regime still appeared to be inappropriate and the weed growth was extending beyond the growth of the new shrubs. It was requested that East Herts Council be approached to ascertain the details of the maintenance regime that had been implemented.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The action sheet be noted.

43. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

44. ALLOTMENTS – STATISTICS AND MAINTENANCE

The Committee received a report detailing the latest statistics for the Council's allotment sites, and also maintenance work which had been carried out on the sites.

It was noted that there continued to be a few vacancies on Cromwell Road and at Hertingfordbury. The reason for the number of vacancies as Hertingfordbury was due to individuals moving house or not renewing the tenancy at the end of the year. There had however been a rumour that tenants had been concerned both by the disruption caused by the recent building work of the adjacent new development and a fear that the Council would give up the allotment site for development. The Committee was clear that this was not an option that the Council would either consider or pursue and it was requested that a notice be placed on the noticeboard to reassure tenants that the land would not be developed.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The allotment statistics and maintenance details be received and noted.

45. ALLOTMENTS – MUDLARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Committee received a report from Mudlarks regarding the recent activities of the project. The Committee wished to publicly acknowledge the work carried out by Mudlarks at St Leonard's Garden and confirmed that a large number of compliments had been received from members of the public at the beauty of the garden. It was however felt that some modification could be made to increase the winter maintenance regime of the garden to possibly three weekly or twice monthly.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

46. NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

The Committee received a report regarding the recent activities of the North Road Plotolders Group which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

47. LOVELY GRUB GARDEN

The Committee received a report of the work of the Lovely Grub Garden.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

48. CEMETERY AND CLOSED CHURCHYARDS - STATISTICS FOR BURIALS AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

The Committee received a report outlining the recent burials and interment of ashes statistics at the Cemetery along with details of the maintenance work programme. The Mayor reported that she visited the Cemetery regularly and wished to place on record that she felt that the Cemetery looked very professional, was well maintained, with good signage.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

49. SUB COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEES

Hertford Youth Town Council

The Committee had received copies of the minutes of the Youth Town Council meetings held on 26 February, 26 March and 7 May 2014.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the minutes of the Youth Town Council held on 26 February, 26 March and 7 May 2014.

50. FINANCE - END OF YEAR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2013/14

The Committee received a report detailing the end of year income and expenditure for the Community Services Committee 2013/14

It was noted that the Committee had finished the year with a favourable variance of £52,770.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee notes the end of year income and expenditure to 31 March 2014
- b) The Committee **recommends** to the Finance, Policy and Administrative Committee that £5000 of the unspent budget for ledger code 5240 (Churchyard Maintenance) be added to the current budget provision 5342 (Repairs to memorials) for 2013/14

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.