

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

PRESENT: Cllr P Ruffles, in the Chair

PRESENT P Boyle, Mrs S Dunkley, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S Newton and Mrs S
Rutland-Barsby

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr A Stevenson (Part of meeting)
Ms Tricia Carpenter – Civic Administration Manager
Miss Jackie Haynes – Customer Services Officer

443. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr Downs (Personal Commitment) and Cllr Cousins (Personal Commitment)

444. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

445. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2015 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chairman was authorised to sign same.

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

Youth Council – The Committee were advised that the process of finalising recommendations for proposals to schools are almost complete. These will include the history of the Youth Town Council and a proposal for its future development. A report will be submitted to the Community Services Committee in due course.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The action sheet be noted.

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

None.

448. 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.

The Committee commented that the statistics looked positive and were pleased with the overall high letting rate. However the Committee raised its concerns in respect of the number of vacant plots at Hertingfordbury and marketing strategies were discussed.

The Committee were advised that on the issue of Allotment maintenance that two notices had been ordered and installed on the gate reminding the public that there was 'No Right of Way' through the site.

Bees – The Committee heard that in response to the consultation there had been just two responses. Both suggested further measures, including the request that the Council write also to Cromwell Road residents whose gardens back onto where the bees will be situated.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The allotment statistics and maintenance details be received and noted.

The council would contact Mr Brian Giddings, Editor, Hertingfordbury Parish Magazine, in respect of advertising plot vacancies.

The Committee agreed that the Allotment Officer formalise references in writing and ensure that the applicant substantiate the validity of the applicant's qualification in addition to checking her relationship with the Bee Keeping Association and an emergency mentor (as Hertford & Ware Bee Keepers would not be available to deal with a swarm unless the applicant were a member). The applicant's nominated emergency contact mentors details would be kept on record as a safeguarding measure.

449. ALLOTMENTS – MUDLARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Committee received a report from Mudlarks regarding the recent activities of the project.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

450. NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the North Road Plotters' Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report and agrees that the Plotholder Group's Minutes are not included in future agendas.

The open site near the gazebo is an appropriate place for a single oak sapling to be planted.

451. LOVELY GRUB GARDEN

The Committee received a report outlining the recent activities of the Lovely Grub Garden

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report and applauds the reported continuing effort to engage with local families and young people.

452. 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.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee **notes** the report

453. CEMETERY FEES

The Committee received a report outlining proposed burial fees for the year commencing 1 April 2016

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **approves** the proposed zero percent increase in its burial fees for 2016/17

454. FINANCE - THIRD QUARTER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16

The Committee received a report detailing the income and expenditure figures for the third quarter 2015/16.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee **notes** the third quarter income and expenditure to 31st December 2015.

The meeting closed at 20.00