

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

PRESENT: Councillor Miss K P Darby

Councillors Mrs H P Durbin, Mrs A Emsley, Mrs B S Haddock J C Hedley, Mrs S Newton, Mr N Wilson and Mrs B M Wrangles.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P A Ruffles
Mrs N L Villa, Town Clerk
Ms T Carpenter
North Road Plotolders Group
Mudlarks Community Allotment Group

230. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D R Poole and R A K Radford

231. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H Durbin	Personal	Item 6(g) Holy Trinity Ashes Gdn
	Prejudicial	Item 6(d) and 11 Mudlarks
Cllr Mrs B Haddock	Personal	Item 6(d) and 11 Mudlarks
Cllr Mrs S Newton	Personal	Item 6(d) and 11 Mudlarks
Cllr N Wilson	Personal	Item 6(d) and 11 Mudlarks
Cllr Mrs B Wrangles	Personal	Item 6 Allotments
Cllr P Ruffles	Personal	Item 9 Community Grants Herts Disability Support Group

232. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009 were approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

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

The Committee received an updated Action Sheet.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Action Sheet be received and noted

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

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

Note: It was RESOLVED that agenda items 6 (d) and 11 be moved to the front of the agenda.

235. ALLOTMENTS - MUDLARKS

Note: Having previously declared a prejudicial interest, Cllr Mrs H Durbin left the Robing Room prior to the discussion on items 235 and 236.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report be noted.

236. MUDLARKS

The Committee received a report detailing the background of the Mudlarks Community Project along with draft minutes from the last meeting of the Mudlarks Working Group, in which discussions had taken place in order to satisfactorily resolve the Council's concerns regarding the proposal to place a large shed at the Cromwell Road allotments.

It was confirmed that the Working Group was in receipt of a police report confirming that there were no concerns regarding vandalism in the area and the shed was fitted with shutters to prevent damage to the glass. The Working Group was also in receipt of the business plan. Mudlarks had further confirmed that it was committed to adhering to the full terms of the planning criteria and that in the event of the project ceasing the land would revert back to its previous position.

The Committee also received an assurance from the Chairman of the Working Group that the two temporary sheds currently in situ would be removed following the installation of the new shed.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee approves the revised membership of the Working Group.
- b) The Committee considers the recommendation of the Mudlarks Working Group to grant permission for the proposed shed
- c) The Committee delegates authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Working Group to finalise the Heads of Lease.

Cllr Mrs B Wrangles wished it to be recorded that she abstained from the vote.

237. ALLOTMENTS – NORTH ROAD ALLOTMENTS SITE

The Committee received a written report from the Secretary of the North Road Plotolders Group.

The Group wished to extend its thanks to Cllr N Wilson for his support as its Councillor representative throughout the past year.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report from the North Road Plotolders Group be received and noted.

238. ALLOTMENT - STATISTICS

The Committee noted that the report detailing the latest statistics. The Allotment Officer was asked to monitor the allotment sites to ensure that plot holders were not covering their plots with plastic sheeting without any other cultivation.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The allotment statistics be received and noted.

239. ALLOTMENTS - MAINTENANCE

The Committee received a report which provided details of work completed across the allotments sites since the beginning of September 2009.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report on allotments maintenance be received and noted.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report on the statistics for burials and interment of ashes be noted.

241. CEMETERY AND CLOSED CHURCHYARD - MAINTENANCE

The Committee received a report detailing the maintenance which had taken place in the cemetery and Closed Churchyards.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report of the maintenance work programme for the Cemetery and Closed Churchyard be received and noted.

242. CEMETERY AND CLOSED CHURCHYARD – REVIEW OF CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Committee had received a report detailing proposed amendments to the current rules and regulations for the Cemetery. The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the rules and regulations had required some amendment following the Council's decision to adopt the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved, which required offering greater individuality and choice in respect to memorial design and size. The Committee was also advised that the grounds staff continued to sensitively monitor the planting and memorabilia on graves and ensured that items were removed in due course.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Committee approves the proposed amendments to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.
- (b) The Committee approves the proposal to have the document professionally printed at a cost of approximately £100 per annum.

243. REVISION OF CEMETERY FEES

The Committee received a report detailing a simplified scale of cemetery charges including proposed increases in line with the retail price index along with an additional increase to interment fees in order to go some way in reflecting the actual cost of grave digging.

An enquiry was made as to the future burial space available in the Cemetery. The Town Clerk estimated that there remained sufficient space for another fifty years and that the Government was considering proposals which would allow for burial spaces to be re-used, if and when required. This, however, would be a matter for future consideration as and when the Cemetery reached capacity.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Committee approves the revised scale of charges for implementation from 1 April 2010.

244. HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD ASHES GARDEN

The Committee received a report detailing a request from the Rector and Churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church for the Council to consider assuming the maintenance responsibility of the ashes garden in the Churchyard.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Committee approves the proposal to maintain the ashes garden at Holy Trinity Church at a cost of £1000 per annum with an additional reserve fund of £500 for plants.

245. GREEN FLAG INITIAL ASSESSMENT

The Committee had received a copy of the initial assessment of the Cemetery following a visit from a Green Flag Assessor. It was confirmed that the recommendations would be implemented prior to the Council submitting its formal application for Green Flag status in January 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report be noted

246. NATURAL BURIAL OF ASHES

The Committee had received a report detailing a proposal to consider the provision of a natural burial ground for ashes under the beech tree avenue at the Cemetery. The Committee was advised that several matters required investigation prior to such a proposal reaching fruition, including a tree survey, repairs to the pathway and a suitable method for tracing the location of the ashes.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Committee approves the proposal to investigate the provision of the natural 'woodland' burial of ashes under the beech tree avenue in the cemetery.
- (b) A report was brought back to the Committee with the results of the investigations.

**247. SUB-COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEES –
HERTFORD YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Minutes of the Hertford Youth Town Council meeting held on 1 February 2010 be received and noted.

248. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the following Community Grant applications.

The Committee considered the following applications and **RESOLVED** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Committee should incur the following expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of the area, or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Hertfordshire Disability Support Group was awarded £200 towards the general running costs of the group

249. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR 2009/10

The Committee received a report on the third quarter accounts for the Community Services Committee 2009/10.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The report be noted.

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