

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Howard Morgan – Town Mayor  
Councillor Caron Juggins – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor Mike Alder Councillor Linda Mendez  
Councillor Linda Clark Councillor Sheila Jones  
Councillor Mick Clark Councillor Stan Laver-Walton  
Councillor Colin Croft Councillor Ron Wheeler  
Councillor Peter Heyman Councillor Margaret White  
Councillor Kim Langley

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)  
Paul Widdicombe (Deputy Town Clerk)

## 62. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dean Archer and Councillor Geoff Wiltshire.

Apologies for late arrival had been given by Councillor C. Juggins and Councillor R. Wheeler.

## 63. PRESENTATION BY C WALKER, WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL ON REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Members received a presentation on the refuse and recycling service in Welwyn Hatfield.

Since introduction of the new bins the Borough was now recycling 54% of its domestic waste and had gone from 10<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> positioned Borough in Hertfordshire for recycling rates. This had saved the Borough £300,000 in landfill tax fees and it was expected to receive £1m from the sale of recyclables.

Members noted that stricter standards were being introduced in the new year for brown bins. Members expressed concern that biodegradable bags were not accepted in the brown bin and Ms. Walker advised that this was because of the rate at which they biodegraded compared to the turnaround of brown bin materials into compost, which often left biodegradable bags still intact and unsuitable for use on farmers' fields.

Ms. Walker was asked to approach Asda and Tesco's and ask them to stock paper liners for kitchen caddies.

Members expressed a wish to see recycling of business waste and they were advised that this was a service being considered as a possibility for the future.

64. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

65. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

Councillor C. Juggins and Councillor R. Wheeler entered the meeting at 19:55.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

67. QUESTIONS

Councillor L. Mendez asked if some members had misunderstood comments she made in relation to youth and skate parks at the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September. She detailed her extensive links over the years with youth work in the town and advised that her only concern was the safeguarding of young people.

Councillor K. Langley advised that some members had expressed concern at their understanding of comments made by Cllr. Mendez and believed that the Labour Group Leader would be dealing with issues arising, however, this had not happened at the last Council meeting.

Councillor M. White, Leader of the Labour Group, advised that she had no concerns regarding Councillor L. Mendez's comments made at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September and had only learnt of some Member's views on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

The Mayor advised that Standing Order 9c stated that "every question shall be put and answered without discussion". He then closed discussion on this item and moved onto the next agenda item.

68. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**a) Planning Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The Minutes of the above Committee were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

**b) Leisure Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The Minutes of the above Committee were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

**c) Planning Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The Minutes of the above Committee were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

**d) Resources and Policy Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The Minutes of the above Committee were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

**69. AGENDA DISTRIBUTION**

Members considered cost-saving methods of distributing agenda and RESOLVED that paper agenda should be sent to Committee members with electronic copy going to all other members with the exception of Cllr S. Jones who would continue to receive paper copies.

(Action: Clerk)

**70. ON-STREET PARKING IN HATFIELD**

Members noted that the Borough Council were looking at resolving the parking issues in Hatfield. Vicky Hatfield, Borough Parking Services Team Leader would be producing a report in due course and the Town Council would be informed as soon as it was available.

Councillor K. Langley expressed her gratitude to the University for paying towards the double yellow lines in Bishops Rise.

**71. BLUE PLAQUE FOR BILL AND ROSE SALMON**

Members considered a blue plaque for Bill and Rose Salmon to be erected at or near Breaks Manor Youth Club.

RESOLVED that a blue plaque application be endorsed and Dr Lewis be requested to put forward suitable wording for the plaque.

72. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO OPEN THE HATFIELD COMMUNITY FREE SCHOOL ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT BRIARS LANE, HATFIELD, AL10 8ES

Members considered the consultation by Herts County Council and noted that it related only to the funding arrangements with the Department for Education.

RESOLVED that the funding arrangements be agreed.

(Action: Clerk)

73. S137 GRANTS 2011/12

Members noted that as the Council was no longer eligible for the Power of Well Being, all grant payments were made under s.137 Local Government Act 1972 and therefore required approval by the full Council.

RESOLVED that the following grant awards be approved.

Partnership Funding Budget - £7,000

	Requested	Grant	Balance Available
South Hatfield Fete	£810	£810	£6,190
Hatfield Heritage Vehicle Society	£1,693	£1,093	£5,097
The Ryde School PTA	£200	£200	£4,897
Birchwood Ave Primary School	£170	£170	£4,727
Oak View Primary School	£268	£268	£4,459
Green Lanes Primary School	£150	£150	£4,309
<b>Total awarded so far</b>		<b>£2,691</b>	

Community Activities Budget - £6,000

	Requested	Grant	Balance Available
Hatfield Youth F.C.	£1,800	0	£6,000
Green Lanes Allotment Association	£1,000	£1,000	£5,000
Hatfield Town FC	£1,000	£1,000	£4,000
AFC Hatfield Town FC	£500	£500	£3,500
De Havilland Bowls Club	£2,020	0	£3,500
Knebworth Sports Club	£200	0	£3,500
CVS	£746	£546	£2,954
2203 (Hatfield & de Havilland) Squadron	£436	£436	£2,518
Cruse Bereavement Care, Herts*	£1,100	£250	£2,268
Lemsford Youth FC	£3,000	0	£2,268
Lemsford FC	£2,004	£504	£1,764
<b>Total awarded so far</b>		<b>£4,236</b>	

\*Cruse - £250 to train a volunteer in Hatfield

74. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members considered a request from Old Hatfield Residents' Association to provide some lights for a tree in the Square.

Members noted that there were also shopping parades at Hilltop and Birchwood where the Council could consider providing Christmas Lights.

RESOLVED that;

- i) Old Hatfield Residents' Association be advised that there was not sufficient time to consider putting up lights in the Old Town this year;
- ii) The Clerk bring forward estimates for providing Christmas lights in all four shopping areas of the Town.

(Action: Clerk)

75. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Members considered the report of officers and noted the 4.4% increase in fees by NALC.

RESOLVED that notice be given to the Herts. Association of Parish and Town Councils of this Council's intention to withdraw from Membership on 1 April 2012.

(Action: Clerk)

76. MEMBERS' SURGERIES

Councillor M. Alder requested that Members consider holding surgeries at Birchwood Leisure Centre, the Jim McDonald Centre or at the Farmers' Market.

The Clerk advised that the Borough Council would not give permission for surgeries to be held on Farmers Market days but may be willing to let the Town Council have a surgery on any other Saturday in the market.

Members had some concerns, however, recognised Councillor M. Alder enthusiasm for the service.

RESOLVED that The Clubroom be used one day per month by Councillor M. Alder and any other Councillor who wished to attend, to hold surgeries for the public and this be reviewed after 6 months as to its effectiveness.

(Action: Clerk)

Closure: 20.34

Mayor