

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL  
**Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING 23 July 2009**

Meeting held on **Thursday 23rd July 2009** at Hertsmere Borough Council Civic Offices, Borehamwood, starting at 19:30 hours.

PRESENT: Councillors: P Strack, Mayor (Chairman), A Mitchell, Deputy Mayor  
K Bright, E Butler, R Butler, H David, G Franklin, P Hedges,  
S Parnell, F Turner  
in attendance: Joel Charin, Town Clerk  
Ben Simon, Leisure and Entertainments Advisor  
also present: Martine Eni, Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Towns  
Association  
2 members of the public

**The Meeting began with a minutes silence in memory of former Councillor Bryan Stanley, who passed away on Sunday 19 July 2009**

Cllr. S Parnell paid tribute to Bryan Stanley as principled and true to his roots, always respected for his honesty, wisdom and understanding.

Cllr. G Franklin paid tribute to Bryan Stanley as a real friend to the town and everyone regardless of their politics; he was an inspiration and Cllr. G Franklin expressed the hope that people in the community will follow Bryan Stanley's example.

The Mayor echoed these sentiments and the thoughts of all are with Eileen Stanley at this time.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. J Heywood, Cllr. M Heywood and Cllr. P Swallow.

**2 PRESENTATION BY BOREHAMWOOD AND ELSTREE TWIN TOWNS ASSOCIATION**

Martine Eni, Chair of Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA), explained that for some time the association had been dormant but held a successful French night last October attended by 210 people and an equally successful German night in April 2009. The Association wishes to reach out to the community, schools in particular, by organising exchanges and events. The support given to recent events shows a high level of interest exists within the area, with each event leading to a 20% increase in membership.

The next event is an evening of classical music in September -Three Divas - performed by locally based professional musicians and designed to showcase what is best in the town. A three course meal catered by a professional chef is included in the price and it is hoped to attract 250 people. Martine Eni asked the Town Council to help promote the event and to sell tickets.

Exchange trips are being planned for next year and regular French and German language conversation meetings are already active at the Ibis Hotel; on the last Tuesday of the month for French conversation and the last Thursday of the month for German conversation, 15:30-17:30 hours; all welcome.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. G Franklin declared an interest in voucher 32 of the circulated payment schedule.

Cllr. E Butler declared an interest in the grant application made by The Vibe Youth Project and took no part in the discussions.

**4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>TH</sup> March 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.

**5 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.

**6i ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

**6ii REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Standards Board - Cllr. F Turner reported that there has been no meeting since the last Council meeting.

Elstree and Borehamwood Museum - Cllr F Turner reported that the recent history walk was very successful and saw an increase in numbers over the previous year.

Community Action Hertsmere - Cllr F Turner reported that Community Action Hertsmere is participating in a new community project based in the Cowley Hill area.

Brookside Boys' Club - Cllr. E Butler reported that the Girls' Club have moved out to temporary accommodation. The Girls' Club is waiting to see if it has been awarded any grants. Cllr Butler will report back to Council once the situation is clearer; meanwhile he had requested a copy of the constitution and accounts.

Aldenham County Park - The Mayor reported that there has been no meeting to report; the next meeting will be in September.

Three Ways Community Centre - Cllr. P Hedges reported that whilst progress has been slow, the community centre is making progress in resolving its main problems.

Mencap - Cllr P Hedges reported that more activities are to be arranged for those aged in their twenties and early thirties. Also, the theatre group and summer playground groups are to be expanded.

Elstree, Borehamwood and District Community Association - The Mayor asked to be informed of the next meeting.

Cllr. K Bright requested that she be able to step back from the Crime Reduction Group; Cllr. S Parnell was nominated to take her place.

**6iii REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

There was no report from the Leader of the Council.

**7 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Cllr. G Franklin asked for draft minutes of committee meetings to be circulated to Council so that members did not have to wait long periods until ratification at the next meeting of each committee; this was **agreed**.

General Management Committee	2 April 2009
Festival Committee	14 April 2009
Entertainments Committee	16 April 2009
Environment and Planning Committee	6 April 2009
Environment and Planning Committee	14 May 2009

Referring to the disused allotment site at Stapleton Rd, mentioned in minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee, Cllr. G Franklin explained that changes to the school curriculum made years ago meant that schools became unable to spend time for educational purposes at the former allotment site, as originally envisaged when the site was briefly used as a nature and conservation area. Cllr. G Franklin stated that he was aware of a long standing agreement to look after the trees. Also, it will be necessary to ascertain who would be responsible for costs if the bridal path is fenced off.

Cllr. G Franklin suggested that any draft commercial lease should be considered by the full Council before any final decision is made regarding the Stapleton Rd site.

## 8 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the following meetings were received and noted:

Transport and Road Safety Forum	4 February 2009
Youth Council	1 April 2009
Youth Council	6 May 2009

Referring to an unscheduled meeting of the Youth Council during a Festival event, Cllr. R Butler asked that all Youth Council members be notified in advance of any meetings and of any cancelled meetings.

## 9 REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported receipt of the draft internal audit report for the year 2008-9, with its conclusion that "in the areas examined, the Council has effective systems in place to ensure that transactions are free from material misstatement and are reported accurately in the Statement of Accounts for 2008-09." There are six minor recommendations and the auditors "are pleased to record that there are no significant concerns requiring members' attention at present."

Cllr. E Butler asked the Clerk for an update on the dispute with Sinclair Builders. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received that day from Sinclair Builders asking if the cheque sent to them a few months ago could be banked as part payment; the Clerk had replied immediately by fax that the cheque could only be banked as full and final settlement.

## 10 REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENTS ADVISOR

Ben Simon reported on the various events of the Civic Festival fortnight.

With regard to the issue of Festival Programme deliveries to houses, Cllr. P Hedges stated that complaints are made every year; non-deliveries were negligible when considering the numbers that are delivered. Often a complaint is made though somebody else in the household had thrown away a delivered programme. It was **agreed** to consider the matter further at the next Festival Committee.

In response to a query from Cllr. R Butler about the removal of the Town Council notice board in Tesco, Ben Simon explained that he was aware of the issue and was investigating.

Ben Simon explained that the Elstree Screen Heritage Group has £4-500 available for film plaques and asked for up to £3,000 for a ceremony unveiling of a memorial plaque to Alfred Hitchcock. This was unanimously **approved**, though the Clerk reminded Council that it was not yet known if the Festival was within budget and that £5k of funding for plaque unveilings had been cut in the cost cutting review of the budget in February 2009.

Cllr. F Turner congratulated Ben Simon on his comprehensive report and all councillors extended their thanks to Ben Simon for his hard work in producing an enjoyable and successful Festival.

Asked about progress towards Borehamwood FM, Ben Simon replied that he had invited their representatives to visit him in the Council offices but had received no response and that progress towards the radio station may have halted.

**11 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The grant request from the Vibe Youth Project for £500 was approved unanimously.

The grant request from the Cricket Club for £2,000 towards electrical work was agreed unanimously, subject to the proviso that the Club's facilities be made available to local youth and other groups.

The Clerk mentioned the receipt of grant applications too late for consideration by this Council meeting and that he hoped to review and improve the grant application form and the grant process.

**12 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The following Schedule of Accounts were **confirmed**:

General Account:

Date	Voucher No's	Total Payments
28/04/09	025-031	2,050.45
05/05/09	032-039	4,149.70
12/05/09	040-048	11,641.98
21/05/09	049-055	5,089.35
22/05/09	056-068	1,016.00
28/05/09	069-084	5,281.59
06/06/09	085-097	15,010.52
10/06/09	098-103	12,012.66
18/06/09	104-109	3,597.60
22/06/09	110-121	3,545.41

**13 FURTHER ACCOUNTS**

No further accounts were circulated.

**CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 21:10 hours.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....

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