

**ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008 at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, starting at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: H David (Chairman)  
R Butler, M Heywood, F Turner  
In attendance: Paul Welsh, Deputy Town Clerk

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

No apologies were Received and no substitutions made

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2008 were Approved and Signed as a true record

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr H David declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning applications TP/08/1125, TP/08/1178 and TP/08/1245, withdrawing from the considerations of those applications  
Cllr F Turner declared a personal interest in planning application TP/08/1178.

**4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FROM HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A total of 31 planning applications were considered with 3 objections raised, as attached list.

**5 DECIDED PLANNING APPLICATIONS FROM HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A list of decided applications received from Hertsmere Borough Council were Noted.

**6 REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

**A ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

In response to a letter of complaint from a member of the public and concerns expressed by our PCSO, a site meeting was organised at All Saints Churchyard with the Deputy Clerk, Cllr M Heywood and Cllr Mrs F Turner in attendance.

The complaint had been about the state of individual graves and our PCSO was concerned about a particular tree providing cover for drink and drug abuse.

The Town Council has been giving grants to maintain the cemetery since 1969 and became responsible for its upkeep when it was closed in 1980. Expenses incurred are currently reimbursed from a Section 106 agreement and Hertsmere Council grant.

The Town Council maintains the footpaths and grass verges but individual graves remain in the ownership of individuals. With closed cemeteries there is a 'grey area' as to our duty of care 'overriding' any individual ownership.

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MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008 Continued

Currently the Town Council receives £1,625 per year from Hertsmere and £1,575 from Forest Healthcare.

The Town Council is also responsible for the old closed churchyard at St Nicholas in Elstree which closed in 1882 and for which we became responsible in 1949.

Three contractors had been invited to submit quotes to raise the crown of the tree by 8 – 10 feet to resolve the problems highlighted by the PCSO.

It was **RESOLVED** that the quote from Gristwood and Toms of £265 plus VAT be accepted.

It was further Noted that the Herts Youth Justice Service had been written to in order to ascertain if they might consider the tidying up of untended graves as a project.

**B MELROSE ALLOTMENTS**

It was Reported that a site visit had taken place at Melrose allotments with Cllr F Turner, Cllr M Heywood and the Deputy Clerk in attendance. Discussions on site also took place with the Tenants Association Chairman, T Cunningham.

The inspection revealed that overall the Allotment was well kept and maintenance had improved considerably since the last visit. It was Noted that there were certain badly maintained plots and some dumped rubbish but since the site meeting the Handyman had removed several van loads of rubbish from the site.

Members at the site meeting also viewed the old gate and agreed it required replacing and three quotes had been obtained.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the quote of £950, inclusive of VAT, from Bespoke Metal Designs to remove the old gates and supply new suitable metal gates, including fixing, be Accepted.
- 2 that in liaison with the Tenants Association, badly maintained allotments be identified and letters be written to the relevant tenants giving them one month's notice unless they significantly improve their plots.

**C ALLUM LANE ALLOTMENTS**

A letter of complaint from William Sutton Homes regarding the state of the allotment site backing onto their property in Watling Street were Noted.

It was Agreed that a site visit for Members be arranged in September after the holiday period.

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MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008 continued

**D LEEMING ROAD PUBLIC SEATS**

It was Reported that two damaged seats in Leeming Road, due to complaints received from a member of the public and Hertsmere Council, had been inspected and deemed beyond economic repair. For Health and Safety reasons they were removed at a cost of £350 plus VAT.

It was Recommended not to replace the seats as it was considered there was sufficient existing alternative public seating.

**E FOOTPATHS**

The Deputy Clerk suggest, at some future date, consideration might be given to inspecting and publicising the public footpaths in the Parish in order to encourage greater use by the local residents.

It was Agreed that the first step should be to identify which agency is currently responsible for footpaths.

**F CLOSURE**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

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