

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Hall

Present: Mr G Jellicoe (in the chair), Mr I Allen, Mr H Palmer, Mrs S Bromley-Allen, Mr T King, Mr G Matthias, Mrs D Field, Mr G Barber

Apologies: Mr I Brand,

Not present: Mr A Shield, Mrs L Langley

In attendance: Mr A Howe, Mr M Skilbeck, Mr G Wilson

- 279 There were no declarations of interest. It was noted that Councillors Barber, Field and Bromley-Allen are the Parish Council representatives on the Committee of the Witchford Playing Fields Association.
- 280 Mr Andy Howe, the Chairman of the Village Hall Steering Group presented a report prepared by the group following the publication of the facilities audit which was completed in October. The steering group agreed with the conclusions and recommendations of this audit in that the village hall could be used more effectively. They believed that there should be a goal to turn the hall into a "flagship community centre" including making improvements for existing users, such as the football clubs, and attracting new users and making stronger ties with other existing groups within the village.
- 281 The Steering Group recommended that the Parish Council re-entered discussions with the WPFA into the transfer of assets to the Parish Council. Discussions took place into current arrangements and possibilities for better use of the site in the future,
- 282 The Parish Council was concerned that all villagers should be consulted in any plans to change the ownership of the WPFA facilities and it was confirmed that a public meeting would need to be held if it was agreed to move forward with this proposal.
- 283 Various models which could be employed to manage any future committee should these proposals go ahead were discussed. The importance of links with the present WPFA committee, the Social Club, users of the hall and other village organisations was stressed.
- 284 It was resolved:
- i that the Parish Council should re-enter discussions with Witchford Playing Fields Association with a view to the transfer of assets to the Parish Council
 - ii that the available section 106 funds be set aside for development of the village hall
 - iii to investigate using external resources to ensure that the options for additional grant funding are fully evaluated
 - iv to engage with all affected village organisations during planning and consultation
 - v to assess the potential village hall improvement schemes
- 285 It was further resolved that the clerk should contact the Playing Fields Association and the Social Club to advise them of the content of this meeting and to ask, if they are willing, that they attend a meeting to discuss the issues raised. It was resolved to ask the Village Hall Steering Group to continue to attempt to take this issue forward.

286 The next Parish Council meeting will be on 3rd March 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

Signed: Chairman

Date: