

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**BALDOCK and DISTRICT COMMITTEE
(Baldock, Arbury and Weston and Sandon Wards)**

**Meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall, Hitchin Street, Baldock
on 30 March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillors M.R.M. Muir (Chairman), I.J. Knighton (Vice Chairman),
Marilyn Kirkland and A.D. Young.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *David Scholes (Head of Planning and Building Control)
Terry Nickolls (Principal Engineer)
Barrie Jones (Head of Financial Services)
Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer)
Susanne Gow (Committee and Member Services Officer).*

ALSO PRESENT: *Nicholas Moss JP –North Herts Judiciary
Nicky Lawrence, Dean Sayer and Fran Neaby – Spotlight Drama
Academy
Andy Diplock – Baldock Cricket Club
Mick Camp – Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association*

Approx. 80 members of the public.

69. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

He reminded Members that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or personal interest, and they were required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest were to leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.

The Chairman also announced that there were two people registered to address the Baldock and District Committee: Mr Tony Turner would speak and also present a petition to the Committee on the problem of the dangerous junction of Station Road with the A505 at Odsey; and Mr Chris Sharp would address the Committee in Support of Residents' Car Parking in Baldock.

In addition, Mr Nicholas Moss JP would speak on the subject of Community Engagement and the Magistrates' Court.

Finally, the Chairman announced that a late grant application for Baldock Crusaders Netball Club would be tabled at the Meeting, following the grant applications already on the Agenda.

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been tendered to Committee Services by Cllrs S. Jarvis and M. E. Weeks.

71. MINUTES – 12 JANUARY 2009

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2009 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

72. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of any other business to this Committee Meeting.

73. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1) Mr Tony Turner, Chairman of the Steeple Morden Parish Council, presented a petition to the Chairman, containing 122 signatures. The petition was protesting against the dangerous junction of the A505 and Station Road at Odsey. Mr Turner pointed out the poor visibility in the area, especially in the hours of darkness, and stressed that the danger was increased by consistently speeding traffic at this junction. He revealed that Herts Highways had been consulted on the problems in this area, but their answers did not concur with those of the residents in the area. For example:

- Herts Highways state that speeding and the inconsiderate behaviour of the motorists using the junction are the major cause of the problem but the residents disagree, and strongly believe that the junction itself is the cause of the problem;
- The residents are adamant that one problem is the difficulty of turning at this awkward junction;
- Herts Highways believe that the speed cameras are a success in controlling speeding motorists, but Mr Turner revealed that this is inaccurate, as the average speed recorded at this junction is 68 mph;
- Mr Turner declared that when the road surface at the junction becomes slippery with rain and/or oil spills the junction becomes even more dangerous;
- Herts Highways state that all that is required in this area to solve the problem is the renewal of road markings and white lines, while the local residents believe this measure to be unnecessary

Mr Turner declared that there had already been one fatality at this junction, but a large number of motor vehicles had been damaged there. He and the signatories of the petition asked the Baldock and District Committee to refer the matter to the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel (NHHP-JMP) in an effort to get the junction layout changed to one that would ensure it was considerably safer for road users and residents.

The Chairman thanked Mr Turner for his presentation and opened the discussion on this junction. He stated that from the evidence of the content of Mr Turner's address and from their own local knowledge of the junction, he would ask that the Committee to join him in endorsing Mr Turner's comments and his request. The Baldock and District Committee agreed with the Chairman and Mr Turner, and one Member emphasised that this was a very dangerous junction. He stated that Ashwell Parish Council had already endorsed Mr Turner's comments.

The Chairman then proposed, and it was agreed, that the Baldock and District Committee refer the matter to the next meeting of the NHHP-JMP on 20 April 2009.

2) The Chairman then asked Mr Nicholas Moss JP to address the Committee on Community Engagement and the Magistrates' Court. He explained that the North Herts Judiciary hoped to introduce a new initiative, and needed to hear the concerns of the citizens at large about crime, which is why they were using the community engagement process of the Area Committees to meet, broadcast and listen to the community at large in North Hertfordshire. He wanted to find out people's worries about crime in general and what affected them in particular.

Mr Moss declared that justice aimed to be fair to everybody, and explained the work of the Courts, the sentencing process and the powers held by the Courts, and the cases they dealt with. He explained that a community sentence (now called "community payback") did not mean that the perpetrator "walked free", but had to face up to what they had done. He suggested:

- That the Baldock and District Committee and the general public offer suggestions as to sites where perpetrators can carry out their “community payback” (eg clearing litter from and tidying up cemeteries and graveyards);
- That where necessary, citizens should not shrink from attending Court to appear as witnesses, as this was extremely important and a key part of the prosecution (or defence) procedure for a trial. Justice is unable to work properly without witnesses;
- That the ordinary “man in the street” considered becoming a Justice of the Peace (JP). He explained that JPs come from all walks of life, and that there were six criteria which they had to satisfy before being appointed. He stated that he would encourage anybody who was interested to step forward.

Mr Moss then asked the Committee for their advice as to how he could get his message across to the residents of Baldock, and two suggested methods were: to rent a stall at the 2009 Baldock Fayre and distribute literature and speak to face-to-face with anybody interested; and to speak at some length and in more depth at a future public meeting in Baldock and District. The Committee would come back to Mr Moss and inform him in good time of a suitable meeting.

Mr Moss thanked the Chairman and Committee for allowing him to speak at their District Committee Meeting, and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance and his clear presentation.

- 3) Lastly, Mr Christopher Sharp addressed the Baldock and District Committee on the subject of Residents’ Car Parking in Baldock which, he claimed was getting harder. He stated that he had attended public meetings at which it was agreed that residents were entitled to have car parking spaces, but the general feeling of both the Baldock residents and himself, was that the priority appeared to be for traders and visitors to Baldock to be able to park easily.

Following the previous Baldock and District Committee Meeting on 12 January, when it was revealed that the actual number of residents requiring a residents’ car parking permit was not known by North Herts District Council officers and therefore could not be given to the Committee, Mr Sharp revealed that several residents had carried out their own survey, and that the number of residents who declared that they would require a permit was 41. Of this number, 29 worked from 9am to 5pm during the weekdays, and all those canvassed formed a cross-section of residents: old, young, etc. It was claimed that none of them had been officially canvassed by North Herts District Council.

Mr Sharp declared that Baldock was full of parked cars everyday and that these belonged to commuters, shoppers, workers and people passing through Baldock as well as residents. He stated that much of the town’s 2hr to 4hr parking orders could be used to ease the situation, and that all residents who required a car parking permit should be given one, and that there should be separate permits available for visitors to Baldock.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sharp for his address, and stated that this point would be raised and debated later on the evening’s Agenda.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Mr Turner, Mr Moss and Mr Sharp be thanked for their attendance at the Baldock and District Committee Meeting and for their presentations;
- 2) That either at an information stall at Baldock Fayre 2009 or at a future public forum held before a meeting of the Baldock and District Committee, Mr Moss be invited to interact with Baldock residents on the subject of Community Engagement and the Magistrates’ Court;

- 3) That the Baldock and District Committee supported the views expressed by Mr Turner concerning the junction of Station Road, Odsey, and the A505 and that the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel be requested to discuss this further at the meeting on 20 April 2009.

RECOMMENDED TO THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP-JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

That the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel be requested to discuss the problems at the dangerous junction of Station Road, Odsey and the A505 caused by consistently speeding vehicles and the layout of the junction, and recommend ways in which this junction can be made safer for motorists and pedestrians.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians using this road junction.

74. SPOTLIGHT THEATRE ACADEMY

Following a verbal introduction to the aims and activities of the Spotlight Drama Academy by tutors Nicky Lawrence, Dean Sayer and Fran Neaby, 17 members of the Spotlight Drama Academy performed a song ("Iowa") to the Committee and those members of the public present. Nicky Lawrence explained that the children's ages ranged from 8rs to 15yrs, and that the older children helped the younger ones with drama and performing arts.

Ms Lawrence informed the Baldock and District Committee that many of the children who attended the Spotlight Theatre Academy had grown in confidence, to which their parents could testify, and found the Academy invaluable for emotional and social development.

Unfortunately, the Academy was due to close during the summer of 2009, as the older students who did a lot of the teaching and coaching were due to progress to higher education in the autumn, and nobody had come forward to take over their roles. They requested a grant from the Baldock and District Committee so that they could stage a final performance, before the Academy's closure.

The Chairman thanked Nicky, Dean and Fran for their interesting presentation, and asked them to thank the young singers for their performance. He stated that the Spotlight Theatre Academy had submitted a grant application for funds, which would be considered later in the Agenda for the Committee Meeting and passed on his and the Committee's very best wishes for the future of the Spotlight Theatre Academy and for the leaders' futures when they left to further their education..

75. BALDOCK CRICKET CLUB

Mr Andy Diplock addressed the Baldock and District Committee on behalf of the Baldock Cricket Club.

He assured them that the Club has worked hard to introduce youth cricket to the Baldock Cricket Club, and their aim was to start an Under-10s team and a free-of-charge Saturday morning club for Under-9s to bring youngsters into the Club for training and development.

However, for this they required funds for youth cricket equipment, in the sum of £1500. They also needed to fund training courses for Club members to become qualified coaches and proper advertising for all the facilities offered.

Mr Diplock explained that the Baldock Cricket Club's goal was to be self-sufficient, and this was a real possibility in the future, with the help of the parents of the members of their youth teams.

The Chairman thanked Mr Diplock for his presentation. He stated that a grant application had been received from the Baldock Cricket Club, and that this would be considered later in the Agenda for the Committee Meeting. He wished Mr Diplock and

the Baldock Cricket Club the very best for the future on behalf of himself and the Baldock and District Committee..

76. IVEL SPRINGS ALLOTMENTS – BALDOCK ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Mr Mick Camp, Chairman of the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association addressed the Baldock and District Committee. He covered the history of the Association and of the local allotments. He informed the Committee that there had been a steady increase in demand for allotments in the past five to six years, amounting to a growth in demand of 350%. Together with this increase, there had been an increase in allotment holders requesting larger plots, due in part to the healthy food for families and individuals which could be produced for very little outlay, vital in the current economic climate.

However, the allotments had suffered from vandalism and theft, amounting to several thousand pounds, which generally occurred when the nearby football ground lights were turned on, casting the allotments into deep shadow. Another severe problem and cause of irritation for the gardeners was attention from wild rabbits, who gained entrance through the fencing and destroyed a large part of the produce grown by the allotment holders.

Mr Camp stated that the allotment holders looked to North Herts District Council to provide additional rabbit-proof fencing, and would ask them to invest in bringing back further allotment land into use, to try and meet the current growing demand for allotments. Mr Camp reminded the Committee that those joining the Association of Leisure Gardeners would receive free legal advice, and that the Association was fast growing more popular – the last Annual General Meeting had seen 50% of their members in attendance. Research carried out via national surveys showed that the allotment holders paid well over the national average for their plots, and the Association proposed to aim for self-management, although to achieve this, help would be needed with the finances. At the present time, what was required was funding to: bring more plots back into use; security (rabbit-proof) fencing; the existing hedgerows being removed and replaced with two fences with hawthorn bushes in between.

Mr Camp acknowledged that the North Herts District Council had generously awarded grants in the past which had brought some plots back into use, but he stated that more financial assistance was required, as the Council should be taking the lead on the actions currently being progressed by the Association of Leisure Gardeners.

The Committee discussed Mr Camp's remarks, and one Member declared that he had been personally involved in moving matters forward with regard to grants for the allotments. He stated, however that there was a limit as to the funding that could be offered, due to the budgets available, but that discussions were currently ongoing.

The Chairman thanked Mr Camp for his presentation, and stated that a grant application had been received from the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association. This would be considered later in the Agenda for the Committee Meeting.

77. UPDATE ON THE BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT: INFORMATION NOTE

The Principal Engineer went through the work still to be done to complete the enhancement of Baldock Town Centre and assured the Committee that completion would be between the middle and end of April 2009.

He declared that the work on the A507 traffic control was running three to four days late due to a minor problem, and that commissioning of this traffic control would take place in two to three days' time. In addition, the buff coloured gravel used for crossover points would take five to 24 hours to set, depending on the weather. He was awaiting sight of the final programme, and if it satisfied these points, it would gain final approval.

The Principal Engineer informed the Committee that the Defects Period ran in parallel with this, covering rising water pipes, electric cables, access to cellars, etc. Once this was completed, the Certificate of Substantive Completion could be issued to complete the contract. The contract had to be completed 12 months from commencement, but some of the work had to be finished before the contractors left the site.

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The Principal Engineer explained that the list of defects had been compiled, and the contractor was bound to contact the North Herts District Council to state what and when reparation would be done. He explained the process, and the need for analysis of the list and transfer to the contractor for rectification. In answer to a question put to him by a Member of the Committee, the Principal Engineer declared that the contractor can be influenced as to priority in the list – they would take on board any comments made or advice given in this respect.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Engineer for both the Information Note and his comprehensive explanation of the final process of completion of the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement.

78. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER ON THE CONTROL OF PARKING WITHIN BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE

The Head of Planning and Building Control presented his report which, he stated, followed consideration of the proposed parking restrictions in Baldock Town Centre associated with the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme as presented at the last meeting of the Baldock and District Committee on 12 January 2009. Members had expressed their concerns regarding possible waiting restrictions that had been the subject of consultation. The main concern related to the inclusion of residents' permits throughout the Scheme.

He explained that consultation had taken place on revised arrangements, and that NHDC officers had considered the objections and had set out possible ways of moving forward the arrangements.

The Head of Planning and Building Control went through the options, each with its benefits and disbenefits. He stressed that the ability to manage parking in Baldock Town Centre should be a significant consideration as soon as is feasible after completion of the Scheme, as established parking habits are very difficult to change. He put forward the NHDC officers' recommendations and the Committee discussed these. The timescale and process from decision to implementation was given and clarified for the Committee, who stated that they would try and implement a scheme which would satisfy most of the residents most of the time.

On concluding the discussion, the Baldock and District Committee made the decision to recommend an alternative resolution to the one proposed by the NHDC officers, with the proviso that it is reviewed after six months to ensure that it is still working efficiently. The alternative option was to proceed with the Restriction of Waiting Order, as advertised in part, and set out under Section 5.2 of the officers' report.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Planning and Building Control for his comprehensive report and for his hard work in helping to solve the parking problems of the residents and business people of Baldock.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Baldock and District Committee:
 - 1) agrees to abandon the Control of Parking Traffic Regulation Order previously advertised;
 - 2)
 - i) recommends that the delegated officer gives the necessary approval to the Restriction of Waiting Traffic Regulation Order as advertised on 19 February 2009 in part;
 - ii) recommends that the part not proceeded with will be amended to make allowance for 25 residents' parking bays in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 5.10 of the Report of the Head of Planning and Building Control and that this amendment will be formally advertised;
2. That the new Traffic Regulation Order for the Restriction of Waiting is monitored and any amendments to be made do not occur for at least 6 months from the making of the Order to address any necessary on-street parking restriction issues.
3. That following the implementation of the Enhancement Scheme, measures be taken by North Herts District Council, starting in 2010/2011, to monitor the possible migration of long-stay business parking and town centre resident parking on surrounding residential streets and to implement necessary Traffic Regulation orders (TROs) to control on-street parking within these areas.
4. That the Consultant to North Herts District Council writes to each objector on the decision.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To ensure that the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme are implemented and that Member and public expectations are managed and met.

79. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT RADWELL TO FACILITATE A PROPOSED HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT BY NORTH HERTS HOMES LIMITED

The North Herts District Council (NHDC) Head of Financial Services (Corporate Property Officer) presented his report concerning a proposed housing redevelopment by North Herts Homes (NHH) at Radwell.

He informed the Baldock and District Committee that the site was adjacent to Radwell Parish Hall on one side and to The Piggeries and the A(1)M on another two sides and was suitable for redevelopment. There was more than enough space for the proposed two 2-bedroom 4 person houses and two 2-bedroom 3 person bungalows. However, disposal of the NHDC-owned land was subject to North Herts Homes obtaining planning permission for the proposed scheme. The land was currently an exception site, the four homes being built to serve the needs of the village only. However, the remainder of the site could also serve another 8 units in the future, subject to local need and the relevant planning permission. The redevelopment of this site would also provide Radwell Parish Hall with a proposed 15 space car park to the front of the Parish Hall, and relocation of the disabled car parking spaces closer to the Parish Hall.

The Corporate Property Officer revealed that the Piggeries had recently obtained permission to change the use of their land and change the light industrial workshop and storage buildings for a single low carbon dwelling. The owner had asked NHDC to sell to them part of their boundary for garden use, subject to prior consultation with NHH and agreement on terms

The Corporate Property Officer asked the Baldock and District Committee for their views on the disposal of this land, and after some discussion and clarification of the possible future use of the land, the Committee were unanimous in agreeing to the proposed land disposal.

RESOLVED: That as part of the consultation process, the Baldock and District Committee gives its views to Cabinet on the proposal to dispose at discount the North Herts District Council-owned land outlined on the plan appended to the report of the Head of Financial Services, together with the provision of car parking facilities for the adjoining Radwell Parish Hall.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To facilitate the provision of new social housing and community facilities through the use of North Herts District Council owned land that might otherwise remain of limited benefit to the community.

80. UPDATE ON THE 2005/2010 RURAL STRATEGY

The report by the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance had been published in the Agenda for the Committee Meeting on 30 March 2009 and studied by the Baldock and District Committee.

The Committee therefore unanimously noted the progress with the 2005-2010 Rural Strategy and the intention to revise the Rural Strategy in 2010.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Baldock and District Committee note the progress made with the 2005-2010 Rural Strategy
- 2) That the Baldock and District Committee note the intention to revise the Rural Strategy in 2010.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To allow members of the Baldock and District Committee to monitor progress against an agreed strategy.

81. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer (CDO) for Baldock and District introduced a report of activities that had taken place since the last meeting on 12 January 2009.

She had given updates in her report on the progress towards:

- a Celebration of Baldock, following the completion of the Town Centre Enhancement and the engagement of a Town Centre Manager by the Baldock Town Centre Partnership. The Celebration is planned for Saturday 13 June and a mixture of activities for young and old is planned.
- the Baldock and District Youth Council has recruited another six new members, and roles on the Youth Council have been allocated. It is hoped that another young people's music event will be organised, to be held before Christmas 2009.
- the entrance to the footpath at Old Wallington Road has been softened by the planting of trees, and this will be followed in the warmer weather by planting wild flowers. The full effect should be seen in two years.
- A seven week course of 'a cappella' singing has been organised, aimed at people aged 50 and above. This course will take place at Knights Templar School and hopefully will be followed by a group performance – perhaps at the Baldock Celebration on 13 June.
- The Community Development Officers attended a progress meeting on New Build Developments on 20 March 2009, which included Clothall Village Hall. There was a problem with the water pipe at the Hall, and this is to be re-sited. The Member for Weston and Sandon had agreed to help with the cost by donating £1,500 from his Ward Budget.
- Shortly after the closing date for formal tenders for refurbishment to the Ashwell United Reform Church Hall, notification of the appointed contractor will be announced and the programme of works and timings will be agreed.

- Community Development Officers have been assisting the Secretary of the Caldecote Church Friends group in the process of seeking funds for a small reprint and to update the History of Caldecote Church booklet. Once the planned restoration is carried out on the church, the booklet will be revised and reprinted.

The CDO informed the Baldock and District Committee that she and the Chairman had attended the last Hitchin Town Talk on 10 March 2009 to observe their community engagement. They had both been impressed at the way Hitchin ran their Town Talk, and by the general public's reaction. This may be a future option for Baldock, perhaps in an amended format, but nothing has been decided as yet.

Lastly, the CDO suggested that a link be formed between the Spotlight Drama Academy and the Baldock Town Hall Theatre Group, which, if successful, could either save the Spotlight Drama Academy from closing, or provide young performers for the Baldock Town Hall Theatre Group.

RESOLVED: That the Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and wellbeing.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To allow the Committee to enforce the actions and policies involved in the tasks and projects undertaken by the Community Development Officer.

82. BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/2009

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Baldock and District Committee through the spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2008/09 at Appendix 1 and noted the sums outstanding in the Pre-allocated Funds brought forward from the Civic Year 2007/2008. She also advised the Committee Members to consider under-spent funds to go towards community initiatives.

It was agreed that it was the turn of Baldock Town Ward to receive the Small Area Grant of £190 from the Discretionary Budget.

The Committee were reminded that the Member for Weston and Sandon had agreed to help with the cost of re-siting a water pipe by donating £1,500 from his Ward Budget.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Baldock and District Committee noted the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets 2007/2008, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Visioning Budgets;
- 2) That the sum of £190 from the Small Area Grants Budget should be awarded to Baldock Town Ward;
- 3) That the Baldock and District Committee considered the future commitment of any under-spent funds and allocated them towards community initiatives;
- 4) That the Member for Weston and Sandon had agreed to help with the cost of re-siting a water pipe by donating £1,500 from his Ward Budget to Clothall Village Hall.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community through the allocation of funds.

83. GRANT APPLICATION – SPOTLIGHT DRAMA ACADEMY

The Spotlight Drama Academy requested £800 towards a farewell theatre production, and this was agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £800 be allocated to the Spotlight Drama Academy to fund a farewell theatre production.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

84. GRANT APPLICATION - BALDOCK ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association requested £3,000 to reinstate the area of allotment land in the area of North Road to provide additional plots. After discussion, the Committee agreed to award them the sum of £1,800.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,800 be allocated to the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association to reinstate an area of allotment land on North Road to provide additional plots.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

85. GRANT APPLICATION - BALDOCK CRICKET CLUB

Cllr Young declared a personal interest in the grant application from Baldock Cricket Club, as a member of his family plays for the Club.

Baldock Cricket Club requested the sum of £390 towards the purchase of equipment and training of qualified coaches for a new Under 10s group at the Avenue Park Cricket ground and to fund further development of the Youth and Colts sections. After discussion, the Committee increased this sum to £450, and it was split between the Wards in the usual manner.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £450 be allocated to Baldock Cricket Club to fund further development of the Youth and Colts sections. This sum was to be split between the Wards in the normal manner.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

86. GRANT APPLICATION – BALDOCK AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Cllr Knighton declared a personal interest in the grant application from the Baldock and District Branch of the British Legion as he is a member. Cllr Muir also declared a personal interest in the grant application from the Baldock and District Branch of the British Legion as he is currently the Chairman.

The Baldock and District Branch of the Royal British Legion requested £250 as funding towards an event for the re-dedication of the Baldock War Memorial on 13 June 2009, following completion of the enhancement to Baldock Town Centre and the creation of a new market square. This sum was to be split between the Wards in the usual way;

RESOLVED: That the sum of £250 be allocated to the Baldock and District Branch of the Royal British Legion towards an event for the re-dedication of the Baldock War Memorial. This sum was to be split between the Wards in the normal way.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

87. GRANT APPLICATION – ASHWELL UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Ashwell United Reform Church asked for £324 towards a drop-down projector screen for the newly-refurbished Church Hall as part of the refurbishment works taking place there.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £324 be allocated to Ashwell United Reform Church to fund a drop-down projection screen for the newly-renovated Church Hall.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

88. GRANT APPLICATION – HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Hinxworth Parish Council asked for £443 for safety matting for a new play area as part of the renovation of the village play area.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £443 be allocated to Hinxworth Parish Council to fund safety matting for a new play area.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

89. GRANT APPLICATION – CALDECOTE CHURCH FRIENDS

Caldecote Church Friends requested £425.50 as a 50% contribution towards the printing costs of an updated information booklet following the renovation of St Mary's Church, Caldecote.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £425.50 be allocated to Caldecote Church Friends to reprint an updated information booklet following the renovation of St Mary's Church in Caldecote.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

90. GRANT APPLICATION – WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Weston Village Hall Management Committee requested the sum of £779 towards the cost of insulating the roof of Weston Village Hall.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £779 be allocated to Weston Village Hall to fund roof insulation for the Village Hall.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

91. GRANT APPLICATION – HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Cllr Kirkland declared a personal interest in the grant application regarding the lighting pole on Clothall Common, as this was in her Ward.

After discussion it was agreed that a 50% grant totalling £1,800 was allocated to Hertfordshire Constabulary towards the purchase and installation of a lighting pole with the facility to support a mobile CCTV camera, to be located in the play area of Bush Spring on Clothall Common.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,800 be allocated to Hertfordshire Constabulary, being 50% funding towards a lighting pole for the play area in Bush Spring, Clothall Common.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

92. GRANT APPLICATION – BALDOCK CRUSADERS NETBALL CLUB

Cllr Knighton declared a personal interest in the grant application from the Baldock Crusaders Netball Club, as a member of his family plays for the Club. Cllr Young also declared a personal interest in the grant application from Baldock Crusaders Netball Club, as he is the current Chairman of the Netball Club.

A late grant application from Baldock Crusaders Netball Club was tabled at the Committee Meeting. The Club requested £500 towards additional varied training programmes and equipment. The Committee agreed to grant this application and to split this sum between the Wards in the usual manner.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be allocated to Baldock Crusaders Netball Club to fund additional equipment and a varied training programme. This sum was to be split between the Wards in the normal manner.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

The meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

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Chairman