

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE
(Cadwell, Codicote, Graveley & Wymondley, Hitchwood, Hoo, Kimpton, Knebworth and Offa Wards)

Minutes of the meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Thursday 1 February 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillor D.J. Barnard (Chairman), Tom Brindley (Vice-Chairman), A. Bardett, Tricia Gibbs, J. Gray, David Miller and Mrs C.P.A. Strong.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *John Chapman - Area Planning Officer,
Garry Gover - Community Development Officer,
Roger Harrison - Head of Communications,
Ros Allwood - Cultural Services Manager
David Miley - Democratic Services Manager
Tim Hobman - Committee and Member Services Officer.*

Two Members of the Public

86. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the agreement of the Committee the Chairman moved Item 9 – Planning Applications and Item 10 – Planning Appeals to the first two items of the agenda, followed by the agenda as listed.

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J. Bishop and Sal Jarvis

88. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2006 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments to **Minute 80**:

•□□□□□□□ That recommendations to Cabinet (3) and (4) be amended to read the following:

(3) That planning issues dealt with by Area Committees could be taken into consideration by a newly formed Central Development Planning Control Committee;

(4) That the improving links provided by Area Committees between the community and the District Council be taken into account when making any changes.

•□□□□□□□ That Reason for Decision (2) be removed

89. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

90. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Tom Brindley declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 – Planning Application 1 – Taveta, Cowards Lane, Codicote, SG4 8UN – in view of the fact that he was the applicant. Councillor Brindley left the meeting for the duration of this item.

91. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Jeff Patterson had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting regarding planning application 06/02413/1HH – 6 Swangleys Lane, Knebworth SG3 6AA.

92. AN ARTS, MUSEUMS & HERITAGE STRATEGY FOR NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

The Cultural Services Manager presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, which advised them on the development of an Arts, Museums & Heritage Strategy for North Hertfordshire. She also invited the Committee to comment on the Draft Strategy prior to final consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 27 March 2007 and then Council on 29 March 2007.

The presentation outlined the reasons why North Hertfordshire District Council needed an Arts, Museums & Heritage Strategy; what the Strategy consisted of; the background and context of developing a Strategy; current provisions for Arts, Museums and Heritage in North Hertfordshire; the consultation process; and the timescale for the Strategy.

The Southern Rural Area Committee made the following comments to be considered and included by the Cultural Services Manger in the final reports to Cabinet and Council:

- That any Strategy should include provision for the villages of North Hertfordshire; in particular mobile activities for schools and those residents in North Hertfordshire less able to visit Arts, Museum and Heritage sites;
- That any Strategy should include the provision of theatre and drama groups within North Hertfordshire, especially within the rural areas as many villages halls were used for the performance of such activities;
- That any new Museum building constructed in North Hertfordshire as a result of the strategy be a multi-functional facility;
- That the Cultural Services Manager be requested to use *Outlook* Magazine in order to publicise facilities and services that are available to the residents of North Hertfordshire.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the draft Arts, Museums & Heritage Strategy be noted.
- (2) That comments made by the Committee be incorporated into the final report for approval by Cabinet and Council at their respective meetings in March 2007.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that a wide consultation is undertaken on the Arts, Museums & Heritage Strategy.

93. POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer, which assisted the Committee to consider revisions to the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the area of Southern Rural Committee.

The Democratic Services Manager made particular reference to the definitions of Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station set out in section 3.4 of the report. He also welcomed Members' views in writing as to suitable locations for Polling Stations.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Polling Districts be established as described in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) That all polling places within the Area of the Committee be defined in such a way that they are co-terminous with the Polling Districts.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To enable the Council to review the Authority's polling districts in light of the District of North Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2006.

94. DISTRIBUTION OF OUTLOOK MAGAZINE IN THE SOUTHERN RURAL AREA

The Head of Communications presented a report, which advised Members of the current position regarding the distribution of the Council's quarterly residents' magazine 'Outlook' and reviewed the issues affecting the Southern Rural Area.

Members suggested that the Head of Communications investigate the possible use of Parish Magazines to distribute Outlook in the Southern Rural Area

RESOLVED: That the Head of Communications should continue to pursue effective methods of distributing *Outlook* with a view to maximising coverage, particularly in the Southern Rural Area.

REASON FOR DECISION: To improve the circulation of *Outlook* which created a better informed community and helped the Council to meet its strategic objective in regard to satisfied communities.

95. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr Jeff Patterson had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting regarding planning application 06/02413/1HH – 6 Swangleys Lane, Knebworth SG3 6AA.

RESOLVED: To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Planning and Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
1. 06/02573/1	Taveta, Cowards Lane, Codicote, SG4 8UN Erection of two 4-bedroom detached dwellings with garage provision for both dwellings attached to Plot 1, following demolition of existing dwelling (variation to Planning application no 06/00538/1 granted 17 July 2006 by the addition of a rear conservatory, first floor obscure window to west elevation, amendment to roof design of single storey rear extension and rear roof of main dwelling).	GRANTED As per report
2. 06/02413/1HH	6 Swangleys Lane, Knebworth, SG3 6AA Two storey rear extension. Single storey rear extension. Bay window to front elevation. Two pitched roof rear dormer windows (as amended by drawing received 12.1.07).	GRANTED As per report

96. PLANNING APPEALS

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following one planning appeal had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 21 December 2006:

Appellant	Mrs A Connors
Address	Land at 2 Pulmore Water, St. Albans Road, Codicote
Description	Conversion of part of unauthorised building to amenity block to include toilet, shower and laundry facilities following demolition of part of building. Ref. 06/00330/1
Procedure	Public Inquiry

97. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area since the meeting of the Committee held on 21 December 2006, and brought to their attention the important community based activities that would take place during the next few months.

These activities *inter alia* included:

- Cockernhoe Village Hall Management Committee – A meeting took place on 24 January 2007 with the Community Development Officer and an officer from the NHDC Building Control Department to provide support and advice. At the meeting it was anticipated that the cost of works to bring the Village Hall up to current health and safety standards would be approximately £5,000. It was hoped that the Hall would reopen soon.
- Lilley Young People – It was reported that the Youth Club would hopefully be going live on 1st May 2007, but that this must be with the support of local volunteer young people & adults.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area communities be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Southern Rural Area.

98. DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2006/2007

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with 20 additional grant applications received by the due deadline. Unfortunately a further 4 were submitted but were not criteria compliant.

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area confirmed that one application for Kings Walden Parish Council was originally submitted for consideration under Parish Enhancement and Cleansing Fund grant criteria, but was not criteria compliant, so had been resubmitted for Area Discretionary Grant consideration.

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area also stated that the unallocated Members Ward Discretionary budget must be allocated by 1st March 2007 and that all unallocated funds from the Committee Discretionary Budget must be pre-allocated to specific projects at the meeting of the Southern Rural Area Committee to be held on the 15 March 2007.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current expenditure, balances and carry forwards of the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets be noted;
- (2) That the Community Development Officer consult with Members ahead of presenting a report for consideration at the Southern Rural Area Committee meeting to be held on 15 March 2007, which would detail any funds remaining unallocated

from the Committee Discretionary Budget and from Ward Member Budgets after the 1 February 2007 meeting.

REASONS FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

99. **GRANT APPLICATION – HITCHIN HELPING HANDS**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to Hitchin Helping Hands as a financial contribution toward the support of transport costs for the elderly in the Southern Rural Area.
100. **GRANT APPLICATION – ICKLEFORD CRICKET CLUB**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to Ickleford Cricket Club as a financial contribution toward additional coaching courses & equipment on a 50% matched funded basis.
101. **GRANT APPLICATION – ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £447 be awarded to Ickleford Parish Council as a financial contribution toward purchase of a new mower.
102. **GRANT APPLICATION – ST. KATHERINE’S CHURCH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to St. Katherine’s Church Parochial Church Council as a financial contribution toward Churchyard Tree Maintenance.
103. **GRANT APPLICATION – CODI-FEST**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to Codi-Fest as a financial contribution to support the costs of a one day music festival.
104. **GRANT APPLICATION – CODICOTE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to Codicote Lawn Tennis Club as a financial contribution toward increasing the provision of junior tennis and coaching.
105. **GRANT APPLICATION – GREAT ASHBY COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to Great Ashby Community Management Association as a financial contribution toward new IT equipment.
106. **GRANT APPLICATION – WYMONDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £576 be awarded to Wymondley Baptist Church as a financial contribution toward a One Week Holiday Club.
107. **GRANT APPLICATION – WYMONDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to Wymondley Parish Council as a financial contribution toward the installation of an irrigation system to flower beds.
108. **GRANT APPLICATION – ST IPPOLYTS PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to St Ippolyts Parish Hall Management Committee as a financial contribution toward the purchase of a new ‘combi-boiler’ to provide instant water heating.
109. **GRANT APPLICATION – ST PAUL’S WALDEN PRE-SCHOOL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to St Paul’s Walden Pre-School as a financial contribution toward purchasing of a new store shed.
110. **GRANT APPLICATION – KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £299 be awarded to Kings Walden Parish Council as a financial contribution toward replacement of two benches on the recreation ground.

- 111. GRANT APPLICATION – LILLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £444 be awarded to Lilley Parish Council as a financial contribution toward purchase of a new dog bin and willow gathering shelter.
- 112. GRANT APPLICATION – PRESTON CRICKET CLUB**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £700 be awarded to Preston Cricket Club as a financial contribution toward purchase of a new sight screen.
- It should be noted that the recommended grant amount was £794, but the club had already been awarded a grant in the first round of 2006/7 grant-aid.
- 113. GRANT APPLICATION – PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to Preston Parish Council as a financial contribution toward the creation of a woodland path.
- 114. GRANT APPLICATION – KIMPTON HORSE SHOW AND GYMKHANA**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £250 be awarded to Kimpton Horse Show and Gymkhana as a financial contribution toward the replacement of three old and/or unsafe jumps for use in future shows.
- It should be noted that the £250 granted reflects the sum requested, but the amount recommended was £500.
- 115. GRANT APPLICATION – KIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to Kimpton Parish Council as a financial contribution toward the replacement of a Notice Board and Litter Bin.
- 116. GRANT APPLICATION – THE KIMPTON PLAYERS**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £420 be awarded to The Kimpton Players as a financial contribution toward urgent repairs to soffits and facias at the Playhouse, Kimpton.
- 117. GRANT APPLICATION – KNEBORTH PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £400 be awarded to Knebworth Parish Council as a financial contribution toward repairs to chain link fencing in the three recreation grounds.
- It should be noted that the £400 granted reflects the sum recommended, but the amount requested was £1,250.
- 118. GRANT APPLICATION – OFFLEY AND COCKERNHOE PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £75 be awarded to Offley and Cockernhoe Parish Council as a financial contribution toward the provision of three floodlights at the Village Hall, Offley.
- 119. GRANT APPLICATION – PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to Pirton Parish Council as a financial contribution toward purchase of a bench made of recycled materials.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

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Chairman