

WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Walthamstow Academy, Billet Road, E17 5DP

On Monday 6th October 2008 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Chair:

Patrick Smith

Councillor Vice Chair

Adam Gladstone

Councillors:

Bob Carey

Sean Meiszner

John Macklin

Liaquat Ali

James O'Rourke

Peter Woolcott

Bob Wheatley

Johar Khan

Cabinet Champion:

Afzal Akram

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Community Vice-Chair:

Faisal Raja

Officers in Attendance:

Andrew Kilburn

Claire Witney

Keith Hanshaw

Nic Burton

Tony Banache

Gareth Jones

Simon Bartlett

Dawn Polis

Penny Allier

Alessandra Awolowo

Chief Executive

Head, Community Engagement

Assistant Director, Public Realm

Head, Greenspace (Environment)

Local Area Manager

Enforcement Manager, Street Services

Officer, Community Safety

Community Council Manager

Community Council Manager

Committee Manager

Also Present:

Eamonn Bolt

Representative, Ascham Homes

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Residents Present:

There were approximately 127 residents present at the meeting.

Item

1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

The Community Chair Philip Herlihy (PH) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Councillor Chair, Patrick Smith, presented ward Councillors, presenters and officers.

Action

Item	Action
<p>2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT – GUIDELINES Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Macklin.</p>	
<p>3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST The following members declared their interests:</p> <p>Cllr Peter Woolcott as Vice President of the 7th Walthamstow Scouts Group and Cllr Bob Wheatley as Chair of the 7th Walthamstow Scouts Group.</p>	
<p>4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING This standing item is intended <u>only to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting</u> and any matter arising will be discussed during the <i>Open Forum/Community Discussion</i>. The following corrections were noted:</p> <p>Page 7: A Hussain (Walthamstow West Community Council representative to the WF Community Safety Board) had sent his apologies. Page 7: Funding increase should read <i>2008/09</i>. Page 9: D Allen – stated that it was silly to close local school when two housing projects were taking place in the area. Page 10: Cllr Smith added that the answer has been determined by the <i>highest officer in the Council able to respond to the query</i> and as far he was concerned, residents were able to raise the issue through outside bodies, the media and MPs.</p>	
<p>5 2008/09 FUNDING INCREASE VOTE Claire Witney, Head of Community Engagement, gave the following guidelines regarding the allocation of the Walthamstow West Community Council funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All of the projects proposed by voluntary organisations are subject to certain conditions being met before they can be awarded the funding (e.g. Criminal Records Bureau checks, financial and budget information being available etc...).- Residents must live in the Community Council area to vote on the allocation of the whole area £5,000 fund and must live in the relevant ward area to vote on the £10,000 fund.- All community participants must declare to the meeting where they are aware that a family member, a friend or business associate may personally benefit from a proposal financially or otherwise, e.g. by receiving work or funds for an organisation.- The final decision on the funding allocation has to be undertaken by the formal committee of councillors present this evening. Residents are being asked for their views through a voting process in order to inform this. <p>The Community Chair and the Councillor Chair explained to residents how the voting would take place and gave a brief description of the projects listed in the agenda.</p> <p>Some of the comments made during this item were: P Spiro asked if there were any restriction on the bids that have been listed here at the meeting. He asked whether anybody could have suggested these</p>	

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<p>Item projects.</p> <p>PH replied that all residents have been encouraged to submit suggestions. Voluntary groups have also been encouraged to submit applications with the condition that the project they proposed would benefit the local area.</p> <p>A Hussain (Melville Road) asked what would happen if the Ward fund of £10,000 was not fully allocated.</p> <p>PH replied that the money left would be carried over to the next year.</p> <p>A resident believed that the projects listed have been subjected to undue political interference. She said that residents in the High Street ward should have had the possibility to use their funding to open the St James Street Library as a community space.</p> <p>Cllr Smith replied that he was aware of the issue. However, the suggestion raised was not part of the listed projects to which residents were asked to vote.</p> <p>PH added that the all the projects listed had to go through rigorous checks during the summer in order to understand if they were all feasible. However, the original resident's suggestion for community space in the High Street ward did not mention the possible opening of St James Street Library.</p> <p>The resident suggested whether residents of High Street ward could defer their vote to the next meeting.</p> <p>PH asked High Street ward residents to discuss the matter with their councillors.</p> <p>After discussions between councillors and residents on each ward table the Community Chair asked a councillor from each ward to tell the meeting the result for their respective ward vote:</p>	<p>Action</p>												
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Item Councillors and residents indicated they would defer their vote to another Community Council meeting.

Action

Highams Hill ward	Sum	Votes
Mornington Trust, school music project/education	£4,000	26
Play equipment for young children, Millfield Avenue	£1,600	14
Carefree Kids (CK), Mobile Play Therapy Bus	£1,752	12

The **Community Chair** and the **Councillor Chair** subsequently apologised for not expressly giving residents time for discussing the proposals.

D Allen remarked that in past years the entire Community Council meeting would have been dedicated to the allocation of the spend and residents had the possibility of asking questions to the representatives of each group.

PH apologise for the oversight, adding that it was the first time the Community Council spend has been allocated in this way. He asked residents to give feedback so that the process could be improved next year.

Cllr Meiszner pointed out that although that it was a complicated process he would not want to dedicate more meetings on the allocation of the fund. However, he said that it would have been helpful if each ward group sat in separate rooms.

Cllr Akram asked Chapel End ward councillors why they would want to defer their vote.

Cllr Belam replied that in relation to the Asianos FC, they believe the football club could use an alternative venue at a better value for money. In relation to the access path in Cheshire Close, he pointed out that some residents have raised possible legal obstacles which may occur when implementing this project. Therefore they need to seek legal advice and then would like to have a residents meeting before voting on this project. He said that the voting for Chapel End ward would take place during the meeting in January 2009.

Cllr Wheatley indicated as a point of order that if Chapel End ward wanted to defer their vote to another meeting, consequently, High Street ward and other wards should be allowed to do the same.

C Witney reassured Cllr Wheatley and the residents that ward groups were able to defer their vote to another meeting as long as a decision was reached before the end of the financial year.

P Spiro said he understood that it was the first time the Community Council team delivered this amount of funding and did not blame the Community Chair for the lack of organisation in delivering this item. However, he said that as a paid Councillor, the Chair lacked of common sense and the meeting was a farce.

PH replied that the whole team, including Cllr Smith, worked very hard in organising this meeting.

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Action

P Spiro added that he was concerned that this situation would be repeated at other Community Council meetings and urged the Chairs to share the feedback from this meeting to the other Chairs. He also pointed out that if residents in Chapel End ward wanted to defer, residents in High Street ward should be allowed to do the same.

PH replied that this decision should be taken by the High Street ward Councillors.

Following the vote on each ward area, the Councillor Chair asked residents to indicate their choice for the Walthamstow West Community Council area. The results of the vote by residents for the whole area were:

Walthamstow West Community Council Area	Sum	Votes
Liveability Waltham Forest/Shopmobility	£2,286	60
Waltham Forest Dyslexic Association (Tutoring Classes)	£2,000	31
E17 Art Trail - Local art project	£800	24
Waltham Forest Dyslexic Association (Summer school)	£850	22
WF Youth for Christ, Young people mentoring project	£3,900	22
WorkBase, employment for people with learning difficulties	£4,906.20	19
Active Environments CIC – Eco Project	£2,900	18
1000 Faces: Local Photography Project	£2,500	12

All results were ratified in Item 8.

6 NEWS REPORT

Cllr Gladstone gave a further response to Question 2 on the response sheet. It is Council policy to promote religious holidays in schools to reflect its commitment to equality and diversity. If parents were not happy with this position they should contact their respective governors and headteachers. He also stressed that these days were not additional holiday but they were deducted from the schools summer holidays.

The calendar, including religious holidays for the academic year 2009/10, was set on the 30th September 2008. However, parents could still influence the calendar for the following academic year, 2010/11.

7 COMMUNITY FORUM

The Community Chair asked residents to vote whether they preferred to listen to Councillors deliberating on the voting result or having the Community Forum. 17 Residents voted in favour of listening to ward Councillor deliberating on the spend allocation.

Reported below are transcripts of submitted Help Forms.

L and N Coulfield (Winns Terrace) submitted the following written question regarding Waltham Forest Theatre and the cultural provision in the Borough:

CCM

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Item	<p>“I was told at the last meeting that I would be able to bring up the issue at the next meeting as they will ensure it would be in (minutes of meeting held on 09.06.08, page 11). We needed to do this tonight as it may be too late by the next meeting”.</p>	Action
	<p>D Burkett (North Countess Road) submitted the following question: “I would like the new building developments, e.g. Banbury to incorporate designs for wildlife – birds especially. Developers need to involve wildlife organisations – e.g. RSPB, etc..</p> <p>The roads near the new proposed Banbury development – Ardleigh Road, Wigton Road, North Countess Road, have the old Warner flats which had nooks and crannies for birds. As they are modernised with plastic etc., the birds are losing their homes. We have already lost the House Martins that delighted us in the summer. We still have our returning Swift (from Africa each year) but we will lose them if they lose their nest sites. We still are lucky enough to have House Sparrows in the area. We need to keep nest sites for these birds. There are purpose built boxes which can be incorporated into buildings (sealed, so that birds do not get into roof spaces etc..).”</p>	Develop ment Division
	<p>D Hallsworth (Douglas Avenue) submitted this written question: “What is the Council going to do about the increasing number of people moving in to this area who constantly dump their unwanted items on the pavements outside their house?</p> <p>Recently, we had a settee dumped in Ardleigh Terrace, an old fan heater and lamp shades in Ardleigh Road, cupboard door fronts also in Ardleigh Road, and over a dozen bags of old clothing and shoes on the forecourt of Penrhyn Surgery.</p> <p>There have been many more instances, but it would take too long to mention them all.</p> <p>Whilst the Council needs to act, those offending should be made aware that these practices are both disgraceful and unacceptable. ”</p>	Environ ment
	<p>M Keegan (Pearl Road) submitted the following request: “Please confirm in the minutes that Asianos FC is open to all children, not just Asian children.”</p>	Asianos FC
	<p>E Pearle (Ruby Road) submitted the following clarification: “How was the allocation of money decided – i.e. giving £5,000 to the whole area and £10,000 to individual wards. Surely the whole area is likely to attract bigger projects as was the case, it so beneficial to have money available.</p> <p>Some individual wards had money to spare after agreeing all projects but whole area was vastly over, as money asked for £20,000 approximately when only £5,000 was available in total.”</p>	CE
	<p>A resident submitted the following comment; “This meeting was a farce and very poorly handled by the Chairs who appeared poorly briefed or prepared and unable to coordinate their ideas or respond to the voice of the people. A shocking and shameful example to young people.”</p>	CCM
8	<p>FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS</p> <p>Following the discussion by the formal committee the Councillors present at the meeting ratified the following decisions:</p>	

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Item		Action
Community Council Area funding:		
<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	
Liveability Waltham Forest/Shopmobility	£2,200	
E17 Art Trail – local art project	£800	
Waltham Forest Dyslexic Association – tutoring classes	£2,000*	
TOTAL	£5,000	
*Provided that a list of schools catered by the group within the Walthamstow West Community Council area is submitted.		
Higham Hill ward:		
<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	
Carefree Kids (CK) - mobile play therapy bus	£1,752	
Mornington Trust - school music project/education	£4,000	
Play equipment for young children, Millfield Avenue	£1,600	
TOTAL	£7,352	
William Morris ward:		
<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	
Mornington Trust - school music project/education	£2,400	
Carefree Kids (CK) - mobile play therapy bus	£60	
Worth Unlimited - mobile youth venue	£5,000	
Feasibility study/trial to reduce fly tipping and graffiti	£2,500	
TOTAL	£9,960	
Chapel End ward:		
<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	
Asianos FC - football club for youth	£5,190*	
TOTAL	£5,190	
*with the agreement that the Asianos FC would use Waltham Lodge as a better value for money.		
<i>Access and exit to Park via Cheshire Close: Deferred</i>		
The decision on this issue has been deferred to the Walthamstow West Community Council meeting on the 5 th January 2008 following a discussion with local residents.		
High Street:		
<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	
Carefree Kids (CK) - mobile play therapy bus	£60	
7th Walthamstow Scouts Group - refurbishment of Scouts' hut	£9,940	
TOTAL	£10,000	
Rejected projects:		
<i>Extra benches/seating, Walthamstow Town Centre</i> – it will go against Council's policy on street furniture.		

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	Action
<p>Item <i>Re-opening of St James's Library feasibility study</i> – The resident's suggestion submitted to the Community Council in June made no mention of a specific building. Officers therefore investigated the rationale for a feasibility study exploring the availability of community venues in the area. At their meeting on 30th September, Cabinet rejected the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee and will not be reviewing the decision to close St James' St Library.</p>	

9 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting is asked to note that the next Community council meeting will take place on:

**Monday 5th January 2009, Chapel End Junior School,
Roberts Road, E17 4LS**

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm

Chairs Signature_____

Date_____