

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), P Corke (Vice Chairman), T Dix, S Hall, R Horton & G Pinney.

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Reverend C Gilfeather & a member of the church for part of the meeting.

**4.1 To receive apologies for absence:** None.

**4.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda:** None.

**4.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public:** None.

**4.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting 12 July:** Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 12 July were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors:** Cllr Gribble, accompanied by the Clerk, met with a group of residents and had a further meeting with residents and representatives from Look Ahead & HCC Social Services. Cllr Hall & Horton attended the July & August markets and Cllr Horton attended the September market.

**4.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: Notification from National Highways of the closure of the A1(M). Details of the HCC Minerals & Waste Local Plan consultation. A letter from a resident about bindweed and another about possible Japanese Knotweed (It was determined not to be Knotweed.) A letter from a resident enquiring about ownership of a verge. Notification from Network Rail of scheduled works. Details of the SAAA central auditor appointment scheme (see 4.10d). A complaint from a potential hirer about a failure to secure a booking. Notification from HCC of the closure of Bridge Road. Notification from a member of the public of graffiti on speed signs. A complaint from a resident that the footpath across the field had not been reinstated after ploughing. A response from the Minister of State for Housing about the Local Plan. A proposal from Rev'd Gilfeather about using the hall as a warm space (see 4.7). A response from Look Ahead to issue raised by residents (see 4.12d). A letter from a resident about the Christmas carols event.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

The new curate introduced herself and said the church is responding to concerns that some people may not be able to look after themselves this winter. She proposed that the village hall be used one afternoon per week, free of charge, to offer a warm space for anyone that needed it; the church is not suitable. The church has sufficient volunteers would organise refreshments and activities. It would initially be for a trial period to assess need.

*Standing Orders resumed.*

**4.7 To discuss using the village hall as a warm space:** The Council agreed that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to support local residents and agreed to Rev'd Gilfeather's proposal.

**4.8 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)**

a) 6/2022/1822/HOUSE 51 Garden Road, Conversion of garage to form habitable space and replacement of existing outbuilding: No objection.

b) 6/2022/1557/TPO 8 Twin Foxes, T1- Sycamore tree - Thin and reduction back to previous reduction points approx 30% / 40% or 4 meters. Reasons are for excessive shading and growth approaching buildings and over hanging pathway: An amended application has been granted.

c) 6/2022/0787/OUTLINE Land adjacent to 52 London Road: No decision to report.

d) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: Following a series of meetings WHBC concluded that since 2017 circumstances have changed which has seen a loss of employment land in the borough and a change in working patterns. WHBC considered that population growth had been significantly overestimated and amended its plan accordingly. It wrote to the inspector proposing sites that will accommodate 12,775 homes. This is less than the 13,279 homes proposed by the Council earlier this year, and below the 15,200 sought by the planning inspector. The inspector has rejected this saying housing requirements cannot be reassessed part way through the examination process.

**4.9 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)**

a) To consider quote to replace hall timber beam: Resolved: To accept quote for £490.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: A fence post in the hall playground will have been repaired today. A volunteer has offered to repair the NW hall gate. The playground inspector reported that a post on the basket swing had some movement. This will be investigated.

**Action: Cllr Corke.**

- c) To receive update on annual playground inspection report issues: Awaiting response from Wicksteed.
- d) To discuss Knebworth FC storage: Knebworth FC have proposed installing a shipping container on the hardstanding at the rear of the hall which could store all their equipment.

**4.10 Finance:** *(Cllr Hall)*

- a) To receive and approve the payments for July/August: Resolved: To approve payments for July/August.
- b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for July/August: Hall receipts are down by £5,500 so spending will be cut back where possible. Resolved: To approve the accounts for July/August.
- c) To approve conclusion of external audit: No issues were raised. Resolved: To approve conclusion of external audit.
- d) To consider continuing in the SAAA central external auditor arrangements: Resolved: To continue in SAAA central external auditor arrangements.
- e) To consider reinvestment of reserves: Resolved: To invest in Nationwide fixed one year saver account.

**Action: Clerk.**

**4.11 Environment** *(Cllr Horton)* & **Transport:** *(Cllr Gribble)*

- a) To consider quote to refurbish noticeboard: Resolved: To accept quote for £690.
- b) To discuss delivery lorries accessing the Red Lion: WHBC were asked if the yellow lines in Wolves Mere could be extended. It replied that there was no budget available until 2024-26 but the request could be added to the investigation list, although all requests are not fulfilled. The PC decided not to pursue the matter.
- c) To discuss other highways matters: (i) Mardleybury Road will be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> October. (ii) A resident has reported that there had been a smell of sewage in Mardleybury Road. (iii) A resident has informed the PC of a pot hole in New Road; this will be reported to Highways. (iv) County Cllr Kingsbury was waiting for information as to whether changes made at the Chequers could allow for a new kerb to be installed across the closed off entrance.

**Action: Clerk.**

**4.12 Community** *(Cllrs Corke & Pinney)*

- a) To discuss Carols round the Tree Event: The event will be held in the hall grounds or inside the hall if wet weather. The PC considered possible charities that could be supported but residents will be asked for suggestions in the next newsletter.
- b) To discuss events for 2023: Arrangements were discussed.
- c) Resolved: To exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under item 4.12d.
- d) To discuss issue raised by residents: Information had been circulated. The matter was discussed.

**Action: Clerk.**

**4.13 To receive announcements:**

- a) Remembrance Sunday will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am.

**4.14 To agree the date of the next meeting:** Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

JRP 28.09.22

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_