

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8th December 2020

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

8.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr G Pinney due to work commitments. Borough Cllr J Cragg.

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

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

8.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 November: Resolved: The minutes of the 10 November meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Hall, Horton & Pinney attended the November market. The Clerk attended a Highways Liaison Meeting (see 8.10c).

8.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A letter from a resident concerned at dogs being exercised on the tennis court. A letter from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy about new rules following the UK leaving the EU. A letter from a resident about a near miss on the zebra crossing. A letter from a resident about vehicles parking on the vacant Marshall's site; the Entech site manager had been informed. Information from WHBC about a "Your Welwyn Hatfield" questionnaire. A letter from Mardleybury Gallery asking advice on where to relocate two large sculptures; it was suggested they ask Hertfordshire University which has a sculpture park. Information from campaign group 20sPlenty for Hertfordshire. A letter from a resident concerned at dust created on current and future development sites. A letter from Grant Shapps saying he "*shares your concerns about the risk of overdevelopment*" in Woolmer Green and will raise it with the Borough Council.

8.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) To discuss Local Plan Examination: No progress to report.

8.8 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)

a) To consider applying for certificate of lawfulness re. licence variation: Clarification required from Planning as New Year Eve parties have taken place beyond 11.30pm intermittently for more than ten years.

Action: Clerk.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory. The Garden Road roundabout has been soiled and needs cleaning.

Action: Clerk.

c) To discuss reopening of the hall: The hall reopened on 2nd December and staff have been taken off furlough.

8.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

a) To receive and approve the payments for November: Resolved: To approve payments for November.

b) To receive and approve the accounts for November: Resolved: To approve accounts for November.

c) To discuss first draft of budget 2021/22: The budget currently shows a deficit of over £12,000 for the next financial year.

d) To receive a report on the Job Retention Scheme: The Council has applied for £1,134 for November.

e) To consider paying staff a Christmas bonus: Resolved: To pay hall staff £25 and the Clerk £50.

Action: Clerk.

f) To discuss Knebworth FC hire fee: Resolved: To deduct 11 weeks pitch hire from the annual fee for the weeks they were not permitted to play due to Covid-19.

g) To consider purchasing backup laptop: This was considered as the Clerk was without her computer while it was repaired. The Council agreed that significant purchases should not be undertaken at present.

8.10 Environment (Cllr Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

a) To discuss wildflower areas: Three areas are under consideration by WHBC.

b) To consider participating in the Greening Campaign: As there are costs involved to join and doubts about residents partaking in the scheme, the Council decided against participating.

c) To receive a report on the Highways Liaison Meeting: The meeting discussed cycle lanes, the Speed Management Strategy and flooding. With regard to flooding; Highways reported that wet weather is becoming more prevalent and gave details of its gully cleaning programme. Highways are working to display a map on the HCC website that gives details on the maintenance of each gully.

d) To discuss highways matters: (i) Gully cleaning operators had been seen outside 10 London Road.

(ii) The potholes near the Entech site in London Road have been repaired. (iii) Cllrs noted that Knebworth

have a second vehicle operated sign (VAS).

8.11 To receive announcements. (*for information only*).

a) The Christmas Market is being held on Sunday 13 December.

b) The Chequers are organising an event in the Chequers car park on 19th December.

8.12 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.30pm.

JRP 09.12.20

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____