

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9th January 2024

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

8.1 To receive apologies for absence: Borough Cllrs J Cragg, T Mitchinson & R Trigg.
County Cllr T Kingsbury.

8.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Hall declared an interest in item 8.7c.

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

8.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 12th December: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 12 December were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Dix, Hall & Pinney attended the Carols round the Tree event.

8.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Results of an Annual Survey of Local Council from HCC. The HCC 2023 Traffic & Transport Data Report. Details of the HCC draft budget survey. Details from the Pageantmaster about commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D Day on 6th June.

8.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2023/2433/FULL The Chequers 16 London Road, Erection of dining area extension to existing public house: No objection.

b) 6/2023/2363/HOUSE 6 Broadfield Road: No decision to report.

c) 6/2023/2361/HOUSE 64 Carvers Croft: No decision to report.

d) 6/2023/2202/HOUSE 11 White Cross Drive: Application granted on condition that the doors are white to match existing.

e) 6/2023/2087/HOUSE 4 Bridge Road: Application granted.

Cllr Pinney joined the meeting.

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

a) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory apart from the waste bin, which has been reported to WHBC, and the bark pit in the Garden Road playground (see item 8.9e).

8.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for December: The Council is still owed the 2023/24 portion of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £5,000. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for December.

c) To approve budget 2024/25: The budget is showing a deficit mainly due to staff pay increases over the last two years and the increase in energy costs from July 2024. It was agreed that hall rates will need to increase from April 2024 to compensate. Hall income was adjusted in the budget. Resolved: To approve budget 2024/25.

d) To receive update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund: WHBC have accepted the proposal to use the 2024/25 grant to replace the bark surface in the Garden Road Playground and an invoice for this has been submitted. The Clerk has queried why the 2023/24 payment has not been processed.

Resolved: To accept quote for £5,360.

e) To discuss One Welwyn Hatfield Community Lottery: All necessary documents have been submitted to WHBC.

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

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: No progress to report.

b) To discuss other highways matters: (i) The owners of Kellard House informed the Council that Brown & Lee manages the site on their behalf. (ii) Flooding in Hall Lane, New Road and outside Tesco continues to be an issue due to recent persistent rainfall.

8.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To receive a report on Carols round the Tree: The event was well attended and Reverend Christie Gilfeather did a great job leading the carols. £168.84 was raised for Mind in Mid Herts on the evening. Thanks were given to Woolmer Green Band which had played at several other local events and raised a further £386.94. A total of £555.78 was raised for the charity.

8.12 To receive announcements: An online meeting by HCC will be held on 5th March at 5.30pm.

8.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Council meeting Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

JRP 10.01.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____