

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 18th July 2023

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllr J Cragg.

3.1 To receive apologies for absence: County Cllr T Kingsbury & Borough Cllrs M Mitchinson & R Trigg.

3.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Hall declared an interest in item 3.7e. Cllr Horton declared an interest in item 3.8g.

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

3.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 13th June: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 13 June were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Hall & Horton attended the June Market.

3.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Letters from two residents about the 46 New Road planning application. An acknowledgement from a resident to the PC's letter about Village Day. A copy of a letter from Fair Play for Children to the Minister for Immigration about the treatment of lone asylum-seeking children. Confirmation of the PCs 2024 energy agreement with SSE. A Freedom of Information request about burial spaces. Details from Hertfordshire Growth Board HCC about funding for businesses from Save the High Street.

3.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

- a) 6/2022/2658/HOUSE 18a London Road update: The application has been submitted to appeal.
- b) 6/2023/1230/HOUSE 3 Barneswood, Digswell, Welwyn AL6 0EU, Erection of pitched roof canopy with size increase to replace existing flat roof canopy: No objection.
- c) 6/2023/1153/HOUSE 6 Broadfield Road: No decision to report.
- d) 6/2023/0980/HOUSE 46 New Road: No decision to report.
- e) 6/2023/0109/HOUSE 19 Hay Wains: Application granted.
- f) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The Council has repeatedly raised its concerns about housing numbers and site allocations for Woolmer Green in the Local Plan and responded to the Main Modifications consultation in January. It agreed not to repeat its concerns by commenting on the Further Modifications currently under consultation as the inspector has stated he will only consider comments on changes contained in the Schedule of Main Modifications and there are no changes proposed for Woolmer Green.

3.8 Hall (Cllr Corke & Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Dix)

- a) To consider purchasing new tables: Resolved: To purchase 7 trestle tables and small storage trolley at a cost of £947.41 **Action: Clerk.**
- b) To discuss replacement fire doors: Due to the bespoke colour and rising price of materials the cost of the doors have increased to £6,800. A deposit of £2,400 has already been paid. Resolved: To accept the revised quote of £6,800. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) To receive update on hall heating: The heating upgrade is completed. The invoice has been sent to WHBC to enable the second £5,000 UK Shared Prosperity Grant to be handed over.
- d) To consider quotes for rubbish collection: Cllr Pinney will remove the waste. **Action: Cllr Pinney.**
- e) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Deferred.
- f) To receive the Annual Playground inspection report: Three issues were highlighted as a moderate risk; a swing support post and the wood around the tennis court fencing needs replacing. The pin securing the basket swing was loose and the weekly playground inspector has been asked to monitor this. **Action: Clerk.**
- g) To consider quote to repair hall gutter soffits: Deferred.
- h) To consider erecting height barrier sign: Resolved: To purchase height warning sign and replace warning tape at a cost of up to £50. **Action: Clerk.**

3.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

- a) To receive and approve the payments for June: Resolved: To approve payments for June.
- b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for June: Profits were made from Village Day & Woolyfest and hall income is good. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for June.
- c) To receive an update on 2024 fuel contracts: The fuel costs have been fixed with supplier SSE from July 2024 to September 2026.

3.10 Environment (Cllr Dix & Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

To discuss highways matters: (i) The Council asked HCC & the owner of Kellard House for an update on when the puffin crossing will be installed but has received no reply so far. It was agreed to ask County Cllr Tony Kingsbury to investigate. **Action: Clerk.**

b) To consider HCC green space audit: The Council is planning where new trees could be planted and will submit this as a proposal along with improvements to the Jolly Garden. **Action: Cllr Horton.**

3.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To receive update on setting up a children’s Warhammer Club: The Parish Council’s application to Games Workshop has been accepted and a starter pack has been received with a further pack to arrive in September. These will provide materials and help plan the sessions. The club for 10 to 14 year olds will start on Wednesday 20th September and information will be included in the next newsletter and on social media. **Action: Cllr Pinney.**

b) To set dates for events 2024: Wheels on Woolmer Green Monday Bank Holiday 6th May 2024. Village Day Sunday 2nd June 2024. Villagers will be asked via the newsletter if they would like the Council to organise a community New Years Eve party. **Action: Clerk.**

3.12 To receive announcements: The anomaly in the Local Government Acts of 1894 & 1972 that causes ambiguity on whether the Council can grant aid that benefits church property may be resolved by an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill that would repeal the offending sections of the 1894 Act.

3.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Council meeting Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7.30pm.

JRP 19.07.23

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____