

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

**9.1 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Pinney due to work commitments. Cllr Corke will be late.

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

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

**9.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 14 January:** Resolved: The minutes of the 14 January meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**9.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllrs Hall, Horton & Pinney attended the January Market. Cllrs Hall & Horton attended the Councillors' Surgery. Cllrs Gribble, Hall, Horton & Pinney attended a meeting with our Borough Cllrs to discuss the Local Plan.

**9.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: A letter from the leader of the Borough Council on the future of Borough, Town & Parish meetings; Cllrs agreed to accept his proposal. A letter from HCC Registration Service about advertising in the wedding service brochure. A letter from a resident saying she had fractured their ankle on a pothole in Wych Elm Lane. The incident has been reported to HCC. A copy of correspondence to Cllr Richard Smith from a resident about the removal of a tree. Information about the English Regional Transport Association conference. Information from the Woodland Trust about their Emergency Tree Plan.

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

a) 6/2020/0091/HOUSE 2 Holly Road, Erection of a single storey rear extension: No objection.

b) 6/2020/1291/HOUSE 59 Garden Road, submitted to appeal: This application has been submitted to appeal but no date is set. The section of the webcast from the Development Management Committee meeting where it was refused has been removed from the Borough's website. The Borough Cllrs will be asked why this is and whether the recording is passed to the Planning Inspectorate. **Action: Clerk.**

c) 6/2019/3152/COND Kellard / Entech House, Submission of details pursuant to condition 7: No comment.

d) 6/2019/2995/COND Entech House, Submission of details pursuant to condition 1: Application refused.

e) 17/02755/1 Retrospective application for gypsy site at Danesbury: No progress to report.

f) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: Cllr Markiewicz spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at the Cabinet meeting that approved the new sites to be included in the Local Plan. The site at Heath Road and the land adjacent to Knebworth have not been included. The Marshalls site has been changed to residential with some employment/retail units. The Borough will hold a consultation on the new sites in due course.

The planning consultant will include Woolmer Green in any representations he makes at the hearings of the North Herts Local Plan which are scheduled to start on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

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

a) To discuss annual playground inspection report: The Council discussed the report and identified work required. **Action Clerk.**

*Councillor Corke arrived at the meeting*

b) To review frequency of independent playground inspection: The current inspection company is no longer offering annual inspections. RoSPA offer annual inspections at a reduced cost to Parish Councils if carried out at set dates. For Hertfordshire that is May/June. Cost is £68.50+vat for five items per playground. Additional items are £3.50+vat. Total cost to the Council would be approximately £144.

Resolved: To sign up to an annual playground inspection by RoSPA.

**Action: Clerk.**

c) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: A gate post is loose and will be repaired, otherwise all is satisfactory

**Action Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the closure of Twin Foxes gate: The Twin Foxes gate was closed for 24 hours from Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to prevent the establishment of a permanent right of way.

e) To discuss refurbishment of the ball skills court: One company has produced a design although this would be expensive and require substantial funding. Awaiting a second proposal & quote from a local company.

f) To consider quote for installing lighting in Hall Lane: One solar light has been erected and has worked well. Three further lights have been obtained for the cost of two and, once installed, their effectiveness monitored. Resolved: To pay approximately £84+vat for the four lights.

**Action: Cllrs Corke, Dix & Horton.**

**9.9 Finance:** (Cllr Hall)

- a) To receive and approve the payments for January: Resolved: To approve payments for January.
- b) To receive and approve the accounts for January: Resolved: To approve accounts for January.
- c) To consider quotations for insurance renewal: Three quotes had been obtained by brokers Came & Co. Resolved: To accept a three year long term agreement by AXA for £2,869.95 plus a £50 fee.

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

- a) To receive a report on fencing on the common land: Cllrs Dix & Horton met with the resident concerned and came to an agreement as to where the boundary should be. A letter of confirmation has been sent.
- b) To approve response to South Central & North Central GTP Consultation: Resolved: To approve the prepared response.
- c) To discuss highways matters: (i) There is a broken bollard outside of the Chequers and this will be reported. (ii) The beacon on the zebra crossing has been repaired. (iii) There is a pot hole between Entech & Monread Lodge and this will be reported. (iv) The national roll out of smart motorways has been put on hold pending a government review, therefore the A1(M) scheme will not go ahead in March.

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

- a) To receive a report on the New Year's Eve Party: No report available.
- b) To receive a report on arrangements for live music event: This will be postponed until 2021.
- c) To discuss Village Day 2020: The event will be advertised to stall holders. The Pre-school will be providing the catering. Woolmer Green Band will attend and a live music act will be booked. Cllr Corke will investigate ideas for a central attraction. **Action: Cllr Corke.**
- d) To discuss commemorating 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day: Suitable attractions to commemorate VE Day at the car show on 7<sup>th</sup> May was discussed. **Action: Cllr Pinney.**

**9.12** To consider back up of council data: No progress to report.

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

- a) There is an issue with the wheel on the chair trolley which Cllr Corke agreed to investigate.
- b) It was agreed that the dates of the Councillors' Surgeries, Parish Meetings, the Market and updates on the Local Plan should be put on the notice board.
- c) National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has offered 2% pay award from April 2020 which has been rejected by the trade unions.
- d) The diocese is considering whether they need to consult the Archdeacon or the Faculty about installing festive lighting in the church yew trees.

**9.14** To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

JRP 12.02.20

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

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