

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9th March 2021

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk), Borough Cllr R Trigg for part of the meeting, a representative from Gladman Developments.

11.1 To receive apologies for absence: Borough Cllr J Cragg.

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

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

11.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 9 February: Resolved: The minutes of the 9 February meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: None.

11.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A request to put up a banner in the hall grounds by the Head Teacher of St. Michael's school. Notification from a resident that a van had driven over and damaged the grass in the Garden Road playground (see 11.8e). A copy of correspondence between a resident and the Executive Member for Highways on the B197. An offer from eforests of 200 free trees. A copy of correspondence sent from a resident to the Parish Council's planning consultant. Notification that the Allotment rent will increase to £591.68 from October 2021. Notification from BT of price rises. A request from Knebworth FC to extend the season to the end June if required; the request had been granted. A complaint from a resident with reference to an article in the Village News. A letter from Gladman Developers Ltd. (see 11.7h). A resident notified the Council of an accident on the B197. A copy of a letter from a resident to Grant Shapps raising concerns of proposed new development.

11.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

- a) 6/2021/0547/LAWP 32 Longmead, Certificate of lawfulness for the erection of a rear dormer and rooflights to the front: No objection.
- b) 6/2021/0273/COND Kellard House, Submission of details pursuant to condition 11 (Soft Landscaping Works), on planning permission 6/2019/1382/FULL: No objection.
- c) 6/2021/0344/VAR 13 London Road, Variation removal of condition 9 on planning permission (6/2019/1382/FULL): To support the installation of a pelican crossing.
- d) 6/2021/0134/LAWP 5 Twin Foxes: No decision to report.
- e) 6/2020/3399/ADV Tesco Express Commercial Unit: Application granted.
- f) 6/2019/1219/HOUSE 59 Garden Road, Update on unauthorised works: No progress to report.
- g) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: Hearing 9 is currently underway, and issues discussed so far include the Green Belt border strategy, housing need and windfall predictions. On 10 March sites WE100 (Marshalls) and WGr3 adjoining Knebworth will be discussed.
- h) To discuss proposal by the developer of HS15: A leaflet has been sent to residents by the developer engaged to develop site HS15, the Green Belt site rear of Marshalls, outlining their proposals and inviting comment. This has prompted residents to voice their objections via social media and by writing to their MP. The Council considered that consulting on any proposals is premature as the site is still under consideration in the Local Plan currently under examination and not yet adopted. It was agreed to consult our MP.

Action: Clerk.

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

- a) To discuss re-opening the hall: The village hall will re-open on 12 April for children's activities and on 17 May for adult sports in line with government Covid-19 regulations. The cleaner will be taken off furlough in April and other staff will gradually increase worked hours as required.
- b) To discuss a resident's suggestions on use of the ball skills court: A resident has objected to dog training in the ball skills court and suggests it should be refurbished and a fee charged for access. The Council noted it is keen to refurbish the area when finances allow and agreed it should continue to be freely accessible to all.
- c) To discuss further request for use of the hall car park: The owner of Kellard House has asked the Council if parking can be provided at the village hall for shop staff. The owner was informed this had already been agreed with one tenant and it would extend the offer to all the shop tenants. The offices are not let at present.
- d) To discuss CCTV: A resident suggested CCTV should be installed in the hall grounds to identify dog owners who fail to pick up their dog waste. The Council did not consider this appropriate but agreed to

include warnings in the next newsletter and erect a sign saying that the area is used for children's football.

Action Cllr Corke & Clerk.

e) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The unevenness of the Garden Road playground was noted but it is improved as the resident responsible has levelled it as far as possible.

f) To approve quote to refurbish bark surface in Garden Road playground: Full funding has been obtained from County Cllr Smith's Locality budget. Resolved: To accept quote for £1,600.

11.9 Finance: *(Cllr Hall)*

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts for February: Losses continue to be offset by furlough payments and accounts show a £2,600 deficit for February. Resolved: To approve accounts for February.

c) To consider grant application from the church: Resolved: To award £300.

d) To receive a report on the Job Retention Scheme: The government has extended the Job Retention Scheme until September. £1,269.79 has been claimed for February.

e) To receive an update on Covid-19 grant application: No update to report. Cllr Trigg will continue to investigate.

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

To discuss highways matters: (i) The gullies in New Road are due to be cleared by the end of March. The pipes to the pond will be unblocked during April. (ii) Raw sewage has leaked into the field rear of the former car dealership. Thames Water has attended to inspect the area.

11.11 To discuss holding Annual Parish Meeting: The Council discussed the practicalities and will reconsider later in the year.

11.12 To discuss Village Day: Residents have enquired whether Village Day will be held this year but it will not be possible to hold a traditional Village Day. A smaller scale event may be possible during the summer if Covid-19 restrictions are significantly eased. The Council will reconsider in May.

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

No announcements were received.

11.14 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

JRP 10.03.21

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____