

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 14th February 2023

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllrs T Mitchinson & R Trigg.

8.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr P Corke due to work. Cllr G Pinney due to prior commitment. Borough Cllr J Cragg. 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 items 8.7b & c.

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

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

8.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllrs Horton attended the January Market.

8.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Details from the Hertfordshire Pension Fund on the 2022 Valuation. A request from the Valuation Office Agency for rent, lease or ownership details which has been responded to. Confirmation from The Pensions Regulator that the automatic enrolment re-declaration has been completed. Information from HCC on the Safer Routes to School travel project. Notification from HCC of the closure of Mardlebury Road for utility works. A letter of thanks from Reverend Gilfeather for the use of the hall as a warm space which will end on 27th March. Details from HCC of a Freedom of Information request they had received. Notification from BT of a 14.4% price increase from April. Notification from Plusnet of a £2 per month price increase from April. Notification from HCC of the closure of White Horse Lane for works. An enquiry about the faded yellow lines in New Road. A letter from Knebworth PC about the footpath from Gun Lane to Wych Elm Lane.

8.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) 6/2023/0203/HOUSE 26 New Road, Erection of ground floor infill extension and modifications to existing rear extension: No objection.

b) 6/2023/0296/LAWP 50 Carvers Croft, Certificate of lawfulness for the erection of a single storey rear extension: No comment.

c) 6/2023/0109/HOUSE 19 Hay Wains, Erection of a single storey rear extension and garage conversion: No objection.

d) 6/2023/0178/LAWP 16 Wolves Mere, Certificate of lawfulness for proposed part garage conversion to include replacement of garage door with window and alteration of opening to side elevation: No comment.

e) 6/2022/2860/HOUSE 9 New Road: Application granted.

f) 6/2022/2658/HOUSE 18A London Road: Application refused.

g) 6/2022/2611/LAWP 43 London Road: Application granted.

h) 6/2022/2619/HOUSE 43 London Road: Application refused.

i) 6/2022/0787/OUTLINE Land adjacent to 52 London Road: Application refused.

j) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: A response to the Main Modification consultation has been submitted. Our MP has invited the PC to a meeting on 24th February.

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

a) To consider hall heating quotation: It was agreed to accept the quotation for works to the main hall if the cost can be divided and covered by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2022/23 & 2023/24. The quote for the works to the Family Centre will be delayed. Resolved: To advance £5,000 to the contractor to enable funding to be secured.

b) To discuss hall lighting: From September the sale of fluorescent lighting will be discontinued. The Council agreed to consult the electrical contractor on this and introduce a gradual replacement.

Action: Clerk.

c) To consider quote to repair furniture: The quotation includes £50 for minor repairs in the hall playground and repair to 6 chairs and 1 table. Resolved: To accept quote for £215.

Action: Clerk.

d) To discuss proposal from hirer: The Council agreed it could not give them a priority Saturday morning booking in the main hall but would offer the larger meeting room if they could be flexible.

e) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The infant swing seat in the hall playground has been replaced. It was noted the rocker was squeaking and this will be investigated. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To discuss cleaning out gutters: The gutters are full of leaves again and a quote will be obtained to clear them. It was advised that the gutters should be cleaned twice a year.

Action: Cllr Horton.

g) To consider quote to repair hall gutter soffits: Deferred.

h) To note 24 hour closure of Twin Foxes gate: The gate was closed from 12.00pm on 4th February until 12.00pm on 5th February to ensure a right of way is not established.

8.9 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 & bank reconciliation for January: It was noted the accounts are £16,000 in deficit which is higher than budget. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for January.

c) To discuss UK Shared Prosperity Fund: It was agreed to enquire if the hall heating maintenance could be spread over two financial years. **Action: Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the Platinum Jubilee Fund: The Council project does not meet the criteria.

e) To consider grant application from the church: Resolved: To grant the church £750. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To discuss payment of License fee: Evening party bookings have not recovered, and use of the bar has dropped. It was agreed that the bar contractor would not be required to pay the Entertainments License in full under these circumstances. The contractor will instead pay to the Council £20 per bar booking in addition to the current fee of £35.

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

a) To discuss Safer Routes to School survey: The Council discussed and agreed its response to the survey.

b) To discuss other highways matters: (i) Highways are collecting data in New Road. (i) Highways have suggested ideas to help alleviate flooding in New Road but could not guarantee total protection.

8.11 Community *(Cllrs Corke & Pinney)*

a) To discuss Wheels on Woolmer Green: Deferred.

b) To discuss Village Day: Deferred.

c) To discuss Woollyfest: Deferred.

d) To consider arranging a litter pick: It was agreed to organise a litter pick on 26th March at 11.00am.

8.12 To set a date for the Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm.

8.13 To receive announcements: The online Highways Liaison Meeting is on 6th March at 7.00pm.

8.14 To agree the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.30pm.

JRP 15.02.23

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____