

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12th December 2023

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

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

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

7.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Hall declared an interest in item 7.7b.

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

7.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 14th November: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 14 November were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the November market. Cllrs Corke & Hall attended the Christmas Market. Cllr Gribble was invited to switch on the lights at the Red Lion and Cllrs Corke & Hall also attended the event.

7.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A thank you to staff from a hirer of the hall. Information from HCC on the findings from a consultation on the Hertfordshire & Essex Rapid Transit (HERT). Notification from HCC of a consultation on changes to admissions rules for a number of schools.

7.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2023/2363/HOUSE 6 Broadfield Road, Erection of single storey rear extension and porch infill: No objection.

b) 6/2023/2361/HOUSE 64 Carvers Croft, External rendering of dwelling and erection of front porch with window, new front door: The Council agreed to comment that the render, which will make the terrace frontage sit proud from its neighbours, will look out of character, and detract from the appearance of the row of houses which are all red brick. It was suggested that an alternative insulation could be used such as more efficient cavity wall insulation.

c) 6/2023/2202/HOUSE 11 White Cross Drive: No decision to report.

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

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

a) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: In the hall playground three fence posts will be replaced and a fly tipped scaffold plank removed. All else is satisfactory. **Action: Clerk.**

7.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for November: Accounts are showing a small surplus. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for November.

c) To discuss budget 2024/25: Investigations indicate that HCC has limited options for negotiating out of its lease if it were to close Barleyfields Family Centre. The Council will consider raising hall rates from April at its January meeting.

d) To receive update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund: WHBC have confirmed that replacing the bark surface in the Garden Road playground would qualify for the grant. Awaiting further quote.

e) To discuss One Welwyn Hatfield Community Lottery: WHBC has confirmed that purchasing a mature Christmas tree & lighting would be permitted for lottery fundraising as would hall & grounds improvements. Resolved: To progress with joining the lottery to raise funds for a Christmas tree & lighting.

Action: Clerk.

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

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: The owners of Kellard House have informed the Council that they are in the process of obtaining tenders for competitive quotes.

c) To discuss other highways matters: (i) The owners of Kellard House informed the Council that parking enforcement was requested by tenants and the duration restriction was agreed with them. (ii) It was noted that Hall Lane floods significantly during heavy rain and that the gullies need clearing. Cllr Corke agreed to obtain a quote. **Action: Cllr Corke.**

7.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To receive update on the Mind in Mid Herts collection: £156 has been raised by Woolmer Green Band at Burnham Green and Datchworth Events. Over £100 has been raised at the Red Lion and Burnham Green light switch on events. The band will be playing & collecting at the village pubs next week.

7.12 To receive announcements: None.

7.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Council meeting Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

JRP 13.12.23

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____