

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8th September 2020

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

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

5.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Pinney due to work commitments. Borough Cllr Trigg.

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

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

5.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 11 August: Resolved: The minutes of the 11 August meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Hall & Horton attended the August market.

5.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Information from HCC that webinars will replace the annual conference. A letter from a resident about the boundary on the common land. A copy of correspondence between a resident and the leader of the Borough Council on the uncompleted footway in New Road. Information from Stop Stansted Expansion on the appeal by Manchester Airports Group against the refusal to the expansion of Stansted Airport. A letter from the owners of Swangley's Farm.

5.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) 6/2020/1890/VAR Entech House: Variation of condition number 11 (off-site highway improvement works) of planning application 6/2017/0848/MAJ (Planning Inspectorate reference APP/C1950/W/17/3190821) for erection of 72 new dwellings, retail and commercial units, with associated landscaping, parking and infrastructure, to allow for rewording of the condition: The application refers to a change of wording but the Parish Council have asked Highways to clarify what safe crossing infrastructure will be installed and agreed to request a pelican crossing. **Action: Clerk.**

b) 6/2020/1812/HOUSE 18A London Road, Erection of a single storey rear and first floor side extension following the conversion of the existing car port: No objection.

c) 17/02755/1 Retrospective application for gypsy site at Danesbury: Application granted temporarily for two years.

d) To discuss Local Plan Examination: The planning inspector is asking for representations on recently published documents, including on the matter of Objectively Assessed Need following calculations based on the 2018 based household projections. The Council agreed to ask the Council's planning consultant to respond arguing that housing numbers could be reduced based on the latest projections which would enable the Green Belt in Woolmer Green to be removed from the Local Plan. **Action: Clerk.**

e) To consider responding to the Gov. Planning for the Future consultation: The Council discussed the proposals and will prepare a response for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

a) To discuss opening the hall to events: The hall has reopened and some regular activities have resumed. A small number of permitted new bookings have also been accepted. It was agreed that any questionable request for a hall booking would be decided on a case by case basis. It is likely a change of rules for gatherings by the government is imminent.

b) To consider boiler maintenance agreement: Local company Boiler Geeks do not offer an agreement but can respond quickly to problems. The Council agreed to ask the company to service the hall boilers. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To discuss use of the car park by contractors at the Entech site: The Council agreed to the request and that invoicing should be through Taylor Wimpey and paid monthly in advance. **Action: Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory but the orchard benches are showing signs of decay. Cllr Horton will investigate. **Action: Cllr Horton.**

e) To consider quote to replace bark surface in Garden Road playground: Awaiting quote.

5.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts for August: Income is much reduced but expenditure is also lower than budgeted. Maintaining adequate reserves has helped to mitigate losses. Resolved: To approve accounts for August.

- c) To receive an update on the Job Retention Scheme: Over £8,000 has been paid to the Council through the Job Retention Scheme from March to the end of August. From 1st September all 3 hall staff returned to work.
- d) To receive a report on the NJC National Salary Award 2020/21: The pay award for all staff is between 2.65% and 3% and backdated to 1st April 2020.

5.10 Environment (Cllr Horton) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

a) To discuss the common land boundary hedge: The position of the boundary had already been agreed with the neighbouring resident but no fencing has been erected and the property is now for sale. The Council agreed that a permanent boundary should be put in place as the issue may resurface with any new owners of the property. It was agreed to obtain a quote for a cost effective boundary solution and discuss this with the resident.

Action: Cllrs Dix, Horton & Clerk.

To discuss highways matters: It was noted that flooding occurred at Carvers Croft, outside 10 London Road and in New Road during a recent period of particularly heavy rain. The flooding in New Road has been reported to Highways following a resident raising the issue with the Parish Council.

5.11 To receive a report on website accessibility: The website has been updated to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines coming into force on 23 September 2020.

5.12 To discuss format of future Parish Council meetings: the Council agreed to continue holding meetings virtually over the winter period.

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

a) The application to Cllr Smith's Locality Budget was successful and four new tables have been ordered. The License variation application will be submitted shortly.

b) Cllrs noted the hall gate remains locked on Sundays and agreed this would remain the case as the hall is rarely used on that day at present.

5.14 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 13 October at 7.30pm.

JRP 9.09.20

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____