

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 11th June 2024

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

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

2.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs A Gribble & G Pinney, Borough Cllrs J Cragg & R Trigg. County Cllr T Kingsbury

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

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

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

2.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the May market and met with officers from CMS. All Councillors attended Village Day.

2.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification from HCC of Armed Forces Day. A letter from NHC informing of an amended planning application. A query from a resident about alarms sounding during unsocial hours at Kellard House. A letter from a researcher for Lord (Dan) Foster asking for support to improve the safety of lithium batteries (see item 2.13). A letter from The Automatic Door Installation Association. Information from Affinity Water about a switch in water sources. A request for parking (see item 2.10c). A thank you to Cllr Corke for helping the church set up on Village Day. A letter from a resident about an incident in Garden Road.

2.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2024/0576 46 New Road, Amended application: The Council's objection remains valid.

b) 6/2023/2552/OUTLINE Land off London Road: No decision to report.

c) To consider a response to the Welwyn PC Neighbourhood Plan consultation: No further comments.

2.8 Hall (Cllr Corke & Pinney) & **Grounds:** (Cllr Dix)

a) To discuss Barleyfields lease: YMCA have asked for the annual invoice to be amended to cover 1st March to 31st August rather than the whole year. Resolved: The Council agreed to the request.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Garden Road playground is satisfactory. In the hall playground there are rotten bench slats, parts missing from the rocker and movement in the basket swing.

c) To receive the annual playground report: In the Garden Road playground the bark surface is inadequate. This is scheduled to be replaced with a resin surface when weather permits. It was advised that the swings should be removed due to their age. In the hall playground it was advised that the rotten seating should be repaired, and the gate be adjusted. Quotes will be obtained for these issues. The missing parts on the rocker need replacing and new fixings will be ordered. There is movement in the basket swing and one post is rotting. It was agreed to remove the basket swing seat until this can be rectified.

d) To consider car parking proposal: A company locating to Kellard House are asking to use 11 parking spaces long term on a weekly basis. Resolved: To agree to the request at £10 per car per week and to draw up a car park agreement. **Action: Clerk.**

e) To consider quote to add work to grounds contract: This was to keep the staghorn sumac under control. Following discussions with the grounds contractor the Council suggested the plant is cut down, emerging growth weed killed and then covered in a membrane. A quote will be obtained for this. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To review progress of re-attaching stop net: A quote was obtained for £200 to hire a cherry picker. Further costings will be obtained. **Action: Cllr Corke.**

g) To consider Monkey Challenge proposal: Deferred.

2.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To review budget – May 2024: Receipts are below budget due to outstanding payments from Barleyfields and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Pitch fees will be monitored. Grounds payments are over budget due to the gullies being cleared and some foliage pruning. The Village Day receipts & payments are not yet finalised.

c) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for May: Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for May.

- d) To receive internal audit report: The Council discussed the recommendations and will ensure they are implemented.
- e) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24: Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
- f) To approve the Accounting Statement 2023/24: Resolved: To approve the Accounting Statement 2023/24
- g) To approve the date of the Period of for the Exercise of Public Rights: Resolved: 17 June to 26 July 2024.
- h) To approve the date the Notice is to be published on the Councils website: Resolved: 12 June 2024.
- i) To approve new Financial Regulations: Amendments to the Financial Regulations were discussed and the final document will be presented at the July meeting for approval. **Action Cllr Hall & Clerk.**
- j) To review Financial Risk Assessment: Amendments to the Financial risk assessment were discussed and the final document will be presented at the July meeting for approval. **Action Cllr Hall & Clerk.**

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

- a) To receive update on puffin crossing: WHBC Enforcement has been asked for an update. The owner of Kellard House informed the Council it is still progressing with the tendering process which implies they will not be submitting a variation to the planning application.
- b) To discuss other highways matters: The Council noted repairs have been completed to the A1(M).
- c) To consider a request to site bee hives on Parish Council land: This has been discussed with CMS and advice has been obtained from the Council's insurance provider. The Council has reservations regarding the close proximity of the hives to the public and thought it preferable that the hives should be sited further away. The resident will be invited to the next meeting.

2.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

- a) To discuss Village Day 2024: It was a successful day and the weather was good. Some donations are outstanding.
- b) To approve Warhammer Club risk assessment: Resolved: To approve Warhammer Club risk assessment.

2.12 To Review Registers of Interest of Cllrs Corke & Pinney: Deferred.

2.13 To consider supporting Lord (Dan) Foster's campaign to improve safety of lithium batteries: The Council agreed to support Lord (Dan) Foster's campaign.

2.14 To receive announcements. (for information only).
The Council noted it was Local Council Clerk Week.

2.15 To agree date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 9th July at 7.30pm.

JRP 12.06.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____