

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12th November 2019

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: None.

6.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared an interest in item 6.8c as he is associated with Knebworth FC.

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

6.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 8 October: Resolved: The minutes of the 8 October meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Gribble attended a Highways Liaison meeting, Cllrs Hall, Horton & Pinney attended the October Market, Cllrs Corke, Dix Hall & Horton attended the Remembrance Service where Cllr Corke laid the poppy wreath, Cllr Dix read a poem & Cllr Hall played in the band. Cllr Corke also represented the Parish Council at the Knebworth Remembrance Service and Cllr Hall played in the band and Cllr Pinney attended services at Stevenage Old Town & Hitchin.

6.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A thank you card from a volunteer. Letters from two residents about incidents on the B197. A letter from a resident in Datchworth about a dangerous junction at Baines Lane. Notification from the Head of Planning informing of the removal of permitted development rights on four employment sites in the Borough. Notification from Barclays Bank of a reduction in interest rate. Notification of the HAPTC subscription rate for 2020/21. Information from LGPS about insurance against the impact of ill health early retirement benefits. An invitation from HCC to comment on what its spending priorities should be. Details of a consultation on additional pupils at Lakeside School. A letter from a resident about the common land.

6.7 Planning (*Cllr Corke & Horton*)

a) 17/02755/1 Retrospective application for gypsy site at Danesbury: No decision to report.

b) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The planning consultant submitted the Council's response on the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment and will be representing Woolmer Green PC at the Hearing Sessions in December. The inspectors Programme Officer informed the Council that the dates of the Green Belt Hearing Sessions have not been fixed and are likely to be held in a few months' time.

6.8 Hall (*Cllr Pinney*) & **Grounds:** (*Cllr Dix*)

a) To consider quote for fitting external electrical sockets: To clarify if the quote is for one or two sockets.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: All is satisfactory.

c) To discuss refurbishment of the ball skills court: A resident has expressed an interest in setting up a netball team. Knebworth FC would like the area refurbished to facilitate training. Possible sources of funding were discussed. Quotations will be obtained.

Action: Clerk.

d) To consider lighting in Hall Lane: The Council discussed options to light the footpath from the hall to the exit gate in Hall Lane as it considered it a hazard for pedestrians during dark nights. It was agreed to investigate solar lighting and to obtain a quote to paint the kerb.

Action: Cllr Corke & Clerk.

e) To discuss uncontrolled dogs on the hall grounds: Complaints have been received about a resident who regularly exercises their dogs on the recreation ground but does not keep them under control. The PCSO will be asked to have a word with the resident. Information on control of dogs will be included in the next newsletter.

Action: Clerk.

6.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts for October: Resolved: To approve accounts for October.

c) To consider 2020/21 budget: The Council discussed adjustments to the budget and agreed to include £3,000 towards the ball skills court.

d) To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal: Resolved: To donate £50.

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

a) To consider commemorating Tree Charter Day: A montage of some of Woolmer Green's trees will be circulated on social media to commemorate Tree Charter Day on 30th November. Going forward it was proposed to include a regular article on the environment in the newsletter and to obtain support from WHBC and Highways on replacing lost trees in the village.

- b) To discuss fencing on the common land: Awaiting a copy of the commons register plan from Herts Archives.
- c) To receive a report in the Highways Liaison Meeting: The meetings in their present form are being discontinued. Borough Councillors will be invited to select topics for discussion in workshops.
- d) To discuss highways matters: A resident whose elderly mother experienced a near miss on the zebra crossing would like to raise a petition to present to Highways asking for traffic calming measures to be introduced.

6.11 Community (*Cllrs Corke & Pinney*)

- a) To discuss festive lighting: Permissions have not been obtained from the diocese to erect festive lighting in the church grounds therefore it will be postponed until 2020.
- b) To consider Carols round the Pond collection: Resolved: To donate to the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.
- c) To discuss a live music event: Discussions are being held with an experienced festival manager and a number of bands have expressed an interest in performing. The event is likely to be held during August.

6.12 To consider back up of council data: The services of the Council's current remote backup provider has come to an end. Cllr Dix will investigate an alternative. The Clerk's hard drive will be encrypted to comply with GDPR. **Action: Cllr Dix & Clerk.**

6.13 To consider responding to the London Luton Airport expansion consultation: The Council decided not to respond.

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

No announcements were submitted.

6.15 To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Meeting 10th December.

JRP 13.11.19

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____