

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8th October 2019

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

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

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

5.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared an interest in item 5.7b as he is a neighbour.

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

5.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 September: Resolved: The minutes of the 10 September meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the September Market. Cllr Horton attended two HAPTC training sessions.

5.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A certificate from Balls to Cancer thanking it for its donation. Details of WHBC Remembrance Day planning. A letter from the owner of Swangley's Lane about fly tipping. A request from a resident about hedge pruning which was reported to HCC Highways. A complaint from a volunteer about grass being removed around a village planter which was passed on to Taylor Wimpey. A letter from a resident concerned that knotweed could be present on the common land; an investigation concluded it was not knotweed. A letter from HCC Countryside & Rights of Way Access Officer about their new service (see 5.10a). Changes of Terms & Conditions from Serco Commercial Waste Collections. A letter from a resident about a forthcoming variation of condition application (see 5.7a). A proposal to refurbish the tennis court. A letter from a resident in Datchworth about accidents in Baines Lane. A letter giving details of a criminal investigation.

5.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) To discuss email regarding 2 Mardleybury Court: Following the granting of permission of application 6/2019/0909/FULL the resident will be applying for a variation of condition to extend the hours and days of operation. The Council discussed the implications and will respond when the relevant application is received from WHBC Planning.

b) 6/2019/1875/LAWP 18a London Road: Application refused.

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

d) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The planning consultant will be asked to respond to the recently published Landscape Sensitivity Assessment.

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

a) To consider quote for fitting external electrical sockets: Awaiting quotation.

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

5.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

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

c) To consider items for 2020/21 budget: Suggested items included refurbishing the tennis court, replacement fire doors and new table trollies. It was agreed to consult residents on how they would like to use the tennis court. Resolved: To purchase table trollies costing £500 in the current year.

d) To consider giving a thank you gift to a volunteer: Advice had been obtained from NALC. Resolved: To pay volunteer £250 for all her hard work over the years. **Action: Clerk.**

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

a) To receive an update on PPP work: The current PPP work has been completed. Going forward the PPP grant is being discontinued. HCC volunteers will assess rights of way and identify any work required. The Parish Council can also notify HCC of any issues. All remedial work will be carried out by HCC Countryside & Rights of Way Access service which will circulate regular updates to Parishes.

b) To discuss fencing on the common land: Green mesh fencing has been erected on the common land. The Council approved a letter to be sent to a resident thought to be responsible. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To consider signing up to the Tree Charter: NALC is encouraging Parish & Town Councils to sign up to the Tree Charter which was initiated in 2015 by the Woodland Trust. The aim is to involve the community in monitoring local trees and encouraging wildlife habitats. The WHBC Tree Officer is the local co-ordinator for the Tree Council. A first step would be to appoint a tree warden for Woolmer Green.

Resolved: To sign Woolmer Green Parish Council up to the Tree Charter. **Action: Cllr Horton & Clerk.**

b) To discuss other highways matters: The bollards in Mardleybury Road have been installed by Highways. Grass seeding of the verge was included in the quotation and has not been done. This will be queried. **Action: Clerk.**

5.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To discuss festive lighting: The festive lighting company are unable to install the electrical work within the required timeframe therefore the Parish Council will contact alternative contractors. Funding opportunities were also discussed. **Action: Cllr Corke & Clerk.**

b) To receive an update on closing New Road for Carols 'round the Pond: HCC have given permission for part of New Road to be closed for the Carols round the Pond event. Ringway has agreed to supply road closure signs.

c) To discuss a live music event: Discussions are being held with an events manager to consider logistics.

5.12 To consider ideas for the Parish Council Christmas card: The Council selected an image for the Christmas card.

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

a) The first aid course was well attended.

b) The Remembrance Service is on Sunday 10th November at 9.30am.

c) Cllr Trigg invited the Council to a civic service at St. Mary's Church, Welwyn on Sunday 13th October at 3.00pm.

5.14 To agree the date of the next meeting: Parish Meeting 12th November.

JRP 9.10.19

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____