

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10th November 2020

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Borough Cllrs J Cragg & R Trigg.

7.1 To receive apologies for absence: None.

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

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

7.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 13 October: Resolved: The minutes of the 13 October meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: All Cllrs attended the Remembrance Day service. Cllrs Hall & Horton attended the September market. The Clerk attended a Clerks meeting with the leader of WHBC.

7.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification from WHBC that Welwyn PC is designating their area as a Neighbourhood Plan area. Correspondence between the head teacher and County Cllr R Smith about damage to a school parking sign. Notification from HAPTC of next year's subscription. Correspondence from a resident about flooding in London Road. Correspondence between a resident and Highways about the uninstalled footpath in New Road. An enquiry from the Wickfield warden about volunteer help. Details of the public inquiry on the Stansted Airport planning application. Two residents informed the PC of near misses on the zebra crossing. A letter from a resident about his boundary fence.

7.7 Planning (*Cllr Corke & Horton*)

a) 6/2020/2218/HOUSE 11 Holly Road: Application granted.

b) 6/2020/1890/VAR Entech House: Variation of condition number 11 (off-site highway improvement works): Application granted.

c) 6/2020/1812/HOUSE 18A London Road: Application refused.

d) To discuss Local Plan Examination: The inspector has produced his interim report and advice and WHBC has until the 31 December to address the issues he has raised. The inspector considers that developing the Green Belt site (HS15) in Woolmer Green is sound.

Cllr Pinney joined the meeting.

e) To consider responding to WHBC CIL consultation: The Council decided not to respond.

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

a) To receive a report on the variation to the hall entertainment licence: The variation has been granted. Planning has advised that the PC should submit an application for a lawful development certificate in line with condition 4 of the original plans for the hall in 1988 which states "*The building hereby permitted shall not be used for any public function after the hour of 11:30pm on any day.*" **Action: Clerk**

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

c) To consider quote to replace bark surface in Garden Road playground: Deferred until February 2021.

d) To discuss coronavirus restrictions 5 November-2 December: Most activities at the hall have had to cease in line with government lockdown regulations. A few limited activities are permitted.

7.9 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: Hall bookings are £24,000 below budget but use of reserves and limited spending on essentials will cover costs this financial year. Resolved: To approve accounts for October.

c) To discuss first draft of budget 2021/22: The Council made some adjustments to the budget.

d) To consider placing staff on furlough: Resolved: To furlough staff until 2 December. **Action: Clerk.**

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

a) To consider planting a tree to mark Tree Charter Day: Highways do not have a policy in place to enable the PC to plant trees on the verge at present. An alternative suitable location will be agreed between Clls. Resolved: To plant a tree to mark Tree Charter Day. **Action: Council & Clerk.**

b) To discuss wild flower areas: WHBC is restricting mowing in some areas to encourage wild flowers to develop. Areas have been identified in Woolmer Green that would be suitable and clarification of these will be discussed with WHBC. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To discuss flooding in Woolmer Green: During recent heavy rain significant flooding has occurred in Carvers Croft, New Road and London Road which has endangered some properties. This has been reported and Highways responded by saying any blocked gullies will be cleared sometime during the next twelve months. The Council did not think this was an adequate response as further heavy rain over the winter could result in flooding to properties and dangerous road conditions if flooded surfaces become frozen. The Council agreed to highlight its concerns to County Cllr Richard Smith. **Action: Clerk.**

d) To discuss highways matters: The potholes adjacent to the Entech site have been marked so the Council hoped they will soon be repaired.

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

The market is able to take place in November but must only sell food items.

7.12 To agree the date of the next meeting: Council Meeting Tuesday 8 December at 7.30pm.

JRP 11.11.20

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____