

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12th March 2024

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). County Cllr T Kingsbury, Borough Cllr. J Cragg.

10.1 To receive apologies for absence: Borough Cllrs T Mitchinson & R Trigg.

10.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared an interest in item 10.9d.

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

10.4 To approve minutes Council Meeting 13th February: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 13 February were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllrs Gribble, Corke, Hall & Horton attended the presentation on the Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Hall attended the February market. Cllrs Gribble & Hall met with Grant Shapps.

10.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification that Herts Constabulary are terminating OWL. A complaint from a resident about the noise from bird scarers which was passed to WHBC. An enquiry from a resident challenging WHBCs decision on a dormer extension, WHBC replied that remedial works were completed in accordance with the compliance requests at the time. A request from a resident to include their article in the Village News. Information from HCC on the Traffic Sensitive Street Review. An invitation from Lumo to their London & South East Reception. A letter from Datchworth PC about emergency procedure. The Chair received a phone call from the Chair of Datchworth Parish Council suggesting arranging a regular meeting of local Parish Councils.

10.7 Planning (Cllr Dix & Horton)

a) 6/2024/0288/TPO 3 Woodlands Evergreen Close, Fell 2 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 105: The Council agreed any felled trees should be replaced.

b) 6/2023/2552/OUTLINE Land off London Road: No decision to report. Knebworth are proposing that a ring road should be constructed to divert traffic from the proposed Knebworth development near Swangley's Lane to the B197 to avoid Knebworth high street. The Knebworth Clerk has been asked for details.

c) 6/2023/2433/FULL The Chequers 16 London Road: No decision to report.

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

a) To consider quote to unblock gullies along Hall Lane. Resolved: To accept quote for £480+VAT.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Three fence posts have been repaired. All else is satisfactory.

10.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To receive and approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for February: It is hoped there will be a small surplus by the end of the year. Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for February.

c) To review hire rates for regular hall users: The Council agreed a pricing strategy in order to bring all hirers in line to be implemented from April 2024 and term time bookings from September 2024. Some rates will be introduced over two years. A letter will be sent out to inform hirers. **Action: Clerk.**

d) To consider hire charge to WoollyFest organisers: Resolved: To charge normal rates less 15%. The Council has asked for copies of the Public Liability Insurance and risk assessment.

e) To receive update on One Welwyn Hatfield Community Lottery: The Council will continue to promote via social media & posters. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To consider Knebworth FC grant application: Resolved: To award £600. **Action: Clerk.**

g) To discuss Barleyfields lease: The Council devised a formula to calculate how much it should request from HCC to surrender the lease and will consult its solicitor. **Action: Clerk.**

10.10 Environment (Cllr Dix & Horton) & **Transport:** (Cllr Gribble)

a) To receive update on puffin crossing: WHBC Enforcement has advised the site owner to submit a variation of condition application. The Council will ask if there is a time limit for its submission. **Action: Clerk.**

b) To discuss other highways matters: (i) There is a pothole in Mardleybury Road that will be reported. (ii) The broken bollard at the junction with New Road has been removed. (iii) The New Road sign at the east end is broken and will be reported.

10.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

- a) To discuss Village Day 2024: Cllrs discussed arrangements. The Event is advertised on stallfinder.
- b) To consider purchasing the D-Day 80th Anniversary Lamp of Peace: It was decided not to purchase the lamp.

10.12 To approve Annual Report: Resolved: To approve the Annual Report 2023/24.

10.13 To receive announcements. (for information only).

- a) The Council noted a gate has been installed to the field adjacent to the new Taylor Wimpey estate.
- b) A fallen tree blocking Right of Way 10 has been reported.
- c) The ash trees in front of Wickfield on London Road have been pruned.
- d) The heat exchanger on the boiler has been replaced under its guarantee.

10.14 To agree date of Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm. The Council discussed arrangements.

10.15 To agree date of next meeting: Annual Meeting of the Council Tuesday 14th May at 7.30pm.

10.16 To exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under item 10.17: Approved.

10.17 To discuss confidential issue: A meeting is being arranged.

JRP 14.03.24

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____