

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Present:** Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman) P Corke (Vice Chairman), S Hall, J Hawkins, G Pinney & A White.

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

**7.1 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Corke will arrive late.

**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 November:** Resolved: The minutes of the 13 November meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**7.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllrs Gribble & Hawkins attended a meeting with Lessiters (see 7.7a). Cllrs Hall & Hawkins attended the November Market. Cllr Pinney attended the school Nativity play and switched on the Knebworth Christmas lights.

**7.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: A letter from the Council's solicitor saying he is retiring on 7<sup>th</sup> December and Stephen Stewart has been recruited to take over his clients. A letter from a resident about the biological control of crassula; CMS are in discussion with the Project Manager of the trials at CABI.

### **7.7 Planning (Cllr Corke)**

a) To receive a report on the meeting with Lessiters: Lessiters have had plans approved to extend and improve the appearance of the Lessiters factory to increase retail and café space. A condition imposed by planning consent limits times of lorry deliveries and this is a major problem for the business. Plans will be submitted to construct a turning area using grass permeable pavers on green belt land to the rear of the site which would remove the condition. The Council agreed to support this application when it comes forward.

b) To consider responding to North Herts Local Plan main modifications consultation: The Council expressed concern at the scale of development which has been accepted by the NH Local Plan inspector and are disappointed at the lack of consideration given to local people. There are insufficient facilities to support such growth. The Council also objected to the removal of an area of green belt in Danesbury Park Road to house a traveller site. The Council will respond to the consultation.

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

d) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: It is expected the Borough Council will call for new sites to be submitted in the new year. There would then need to be a public consultation which would delay Hearing 6 until the autumn. Adoption of the Local Plan is expected in the spring of 2020. The planning inspector has invited comments on concerns of inconsistencies in the Green Belt Review and the Council approved the submission of a document drawn up by its planning consultant expressing the Parish Council's view.

### **7.8 Hall (Cllr Pinney) & Grounds: (Cllr Hawkins)**

a) To consider purchasing banqueting chairs: Resolved: To purchase ten new banqueting chairs at a cost of £179.50+vat **Action: Clerk.**

b) To consider purchasing hearing loop: Resolved: To purchase cable & shotgun mic at a cost of approximately £40. **Action: Clerk.**

*Cllr Corke arrived at the meeting*

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

d) To review progress of clearing rubbish: The resident has removed the rubbish.

e) To review progress of new Children's Centre Underlease: No progress to report.

### **7.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)**

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

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

c) To discuss 2019/20 budget: The payroll budget has been increased due to the April 2019 pay award. No further changes were proposed.

### **7.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)**

a) To receive a report on the Entech transport plans: As a condition the developers of Entech are required to introduce a pedestrian safe road crossing scheme under a s278 agreement. This is in lieu of s106 contributions. County Cllr Richard Smith will investigate which form this will take.

b) To discuss highways matters: (i) Two bollards on London Road are damaged and will be reported to Highways. (ii) The gravel on the footpath outside 10 London Road continues to be a slip hazard. The nearby gully is completely blocked. Highways enforcement will be asked for an update. (iii) The repair to the sink hole outside the Chequers is beginning to sink again. (iv) The curb stones at the entrance to the Chequers are loose. (v) A sign erected by Mardleybury Gallery at the entrance to Mardleybury Road is restricting the view of London Road.

**Action: Clerk.**

**7.11** To review progress of GDPR compliance: No progress to report.

**7.12** To review progress of website & emails: The domain has been moved to Direct Path Solutions and redirected to the Wix website which is now live. Cllrs have each been issued with a new server name and password to enable them to set up their email addresses.

**7.13** To consider a response to HCC School Admissions consultation: The PC agreed to reiterate the point that rule 4 should state that places should be offered to schools within the village's priority area.

**Action Clerk.**

**7.14** To receive announcements. *(for information only):*

a) The Christmas Fair is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

b) Carols 'round the Pond will take place on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. Cllrs proposed supporting the charity CJD Support Network.

c) The photocopier contract is due for renewal but Cllrs decided against this as they are cheap to buy.

**7.15** To agree the date of the next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

JRP 14.12.18

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_