

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 12th December 2022

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), S Hall & R Horton.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

6.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr T Dix is on holiday. Cllrs P Corke & G Pinney due to a work commitments. Borough Cllr J Cragg.

6.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Horton declared an interest on item 6.8d. Cllr Gribble declared an interest in item 6.8e.

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

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

6.5 To receive reports on meetings & events attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall & Horton attended the November market. Cllr Hall attended the Christmas market. Cllr Gribble, accompanied by the Clerk, attended a preliminary meeting with HCC Social Service & Look Ahead and a further meeting with HCC Social Services, Look Ahead and residents (item 6.11c).

6.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Saving water advice from Thames Water. An enquiry about the Welwyn boundary. A nomination by a resident for a charity to support. Information from HCC Feeling Good Week on community grants. Notification that the North Herts Local Plan 2011-2031 was adopted on 8th November. Information from Affinity Water on the draft Water Resources Management Plan. Notification of the closure of Bridge Road for electrical works. Notification from Network Rail that refurbishment of the overhead line will take place in November & January. Information from the Malvern Hills Trust. Letters from a resident about the pond. A thank you letter from the Royal British Legion for the donation. Notification that PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditor from 2022/23 to 2026/27. Details from a resident of a near miss on London Road. Statistics on the village hall from the online Bridebook site. Verbal confirmation from HCC CMS on 25 November that Defra guidance on *Crassula helmsii* management is unchanged.

6.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

- a) 6/2022/2658/HOUSE 18A London Road, Erection of first floor side extension, single story rear extension and conversion of car port into habitable space: No objection.
- b) 6/2022/2611/LAWP 43 London Road, Certificate of lawfulness for the provision of a mobile home (not operational development) within the garden of the lawful dwelling house for use as additional accommodation by a family member as part of one household (not a material change of use): No comment.
- c) 6/2022/2619/HOUSE 43 London Road, Erection of a part single storey, part two storey rear extension with Juliet balcony and rooflights, alterations to porch and existing openings, insertion of new windows in flank wall, removal of chimney, and alteration of external materials from dashed render with smooth painted render, following the demolition of the existing rear conservatory: No objection.
- d) 6/2022/1786/FULL 51-53 London Road: No decision to report.
- e) 6/2022/0787/OUTLINE Land adjacent to 52 London Road: No decision to report.
- d) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The Borough Council have written to the government "*seeking their intervention regarding the challenging position put forward by the Inspector*".

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

- a) To consider hall heating report: The Council agreed to the recommended proposed investigation.
- b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The bar on the baby swing in the hall playground is reported as faulty and will be investigated. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) To consider annual playground report issues: A local contractor will be asked to remedy the issues.
- d) To consider quote to repair hall gutter soffits: The Council agreed to the investigation of the guttering to enable a quote to be submitted. **Action: Cllr Horton.**
- e) To consider pruning work required: Quotations will be obtained for the required work. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) To receive update on use of the car park: The terms are not satisfactory to the Council which did not want a precedent to be set.

6.9 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 & bank reconciliation for November: Resolved: To approve the accounts & bank reconciliation for November.

c) To discuss 2023/24 budget: The forecast 2022/23 account balance is less than budget prediction. The Council discussed fuel costs, hall hire rates & an increase in the precept.

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

a) To discuss other highways matters: (i) A sunken drain in Carvers Croft has been repaired. (ii) An incident involving a car occurred outside Kellard House this week. (iii) There is a Safer Routes to School meeting on Friday 16 December at 1.30pm.

6.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To discuss charity for Carols round the Tree collection: The market manager nominated the Herts Charity for Deprived Children. Woolmer Green Band have already raised £160.08 at events.

b) Resolved: 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 6.11c:

c) To discuss issue raised by residents: The matter was discussed and it will be resolved in due course.

6.12 To receive announcements: Carols round the Tree will take place in the hall grounds on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm.

6.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 7.30pm.

JRP 13.12.22

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____