

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8th March 2022

A risk assessment has been carried out to ensure the meeting is conducted in a Covid-19 secure way.

Present: Cllrs P Corke (Vice Chairman), T Dix, S Hall, R Horton & G Pinney. Cllr Corke chaired the meeting.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). One member of the public.

10.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr A Gribble due to a prior commitment. County Cllr T Kingsbury.

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

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

10.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting 8 February: Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting of 8 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 & Hall met with Grant Shapps to discuss the Local Plan. Cllr Hall attended the February Market.

10.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A thank you from Cardiac Risk in the Young for the Christmas donation. Notification from HCC of a consultation for a puffin crossing. Two letters of complaint about work carried out on the common land in New Road; one of these residents asked for it to be recorded that the work was illegal and asked what action the PC would be taking. An enquiry was received asking about the recent work to the common land. The Welwyn Hatfield Times contacted the PC asking for a comment following information they had received from a resident about work to the common land. Notification from Wallington Farms of the allotment rent from October 2022. Notification from Castle Water of an increase to the monthly direct debit. The PC was sent an original copy of the Woodcarver of Woolmer Green booklet and some postcards. A resident sent a photo of a dead newt seen in New Road wondering if it was a Great Crested Newt (it was a smooth newt). A regular hirer informed the PC of drug smoking youths making a nuisance of themselves at the hall; the information was passed to the PCSO. The government informed the PC that it should remove the Covid-19 QR code and stop taking visitor details. Letters from a resident about maintenance of trees, grass and a hedge on the common land. A copy of a letter being sent to the Welwyn Hatfield Times. A resident raised concerns about the possible displacement of slow worms from a garden adjacent to the allotments.

10.7 Planning (Cllr Corke & Horton)

a) 6/2021/3560/HOUSE 52 London Road: Application granted.

b) To receive update on Local Plan Examination: The inspector has rejected the Borough's proposal that it would maintain its position of planning for 13,279 dwellings rather than the assessed need of 15,200. The Council must decide whether to agree to 15,200 dwellings or withdraw the Plan. The PC met with Grant Shapps MP to discuss the situation regarding Woolmer Green and the notes of the meeting had been circulated. He was due to meet with the Borough to discuss their options.

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

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

b) To discuss refurbishment of the ball skills court: It was agreed to apply for funding to the Stevenage Community Trust.

Action: Clerk.

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 for February: The accounts are showing a bigger surplus than expected. The Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had agreed new pay rates backdated to 1st April 2021. Resolved: approve the accounts for February.

c) To consider grant application by the Church: Resolved: To donate £750.

Action: Clerk.

d) To discuss caretaker vacancy: Advertising will continue.

Action: Clerk.

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

a) To discuss other highways matters: The Council noted the inconvenience and back up of traffic the current road works in London Road were causing.

10.11 Community (Cllrs Corke & Pinney)

a) To receive update on Village Day arrangements: It was decided to hold a music event on the evening of Village Day rather than later in the summer.

b) To discuss Wheels on Woolmer Green: Suggestions were put forward for which charity should benefit from the collection taken at the event.

10.12 To discuss arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting: The Council discussed speakers that could be invited.

10.13 To agree the date of the next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

JRP 09.03.22

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____