

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 16 September 2014

Present: Cllrs P Corke (Chair), A Gribble (Vice Chair), L Brooks-Payne, S Hall, A White.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk), Mr Giovanni Manuca, Director of Solstice Renewables, Members of the public.

4.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Lloyd due to family illness.

4.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Corke declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4.7b as he lives in Wolves Mere.

4.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: Several members of the public voiced their objections to the solar farm application citing the unacceptable use of green belt land, noise, loss of distinctive character & views, inappropriate road access, the future of the solar farm if it was sold and that it would not directly benefit local residents. Mr Maruca explained how the site would be screened by hedging, that covenants are in place to protect community benefits and that it was not accurate to say the energy would not be used locally as it would only be transmitted out if there was low load. He agreed that local residents' fuel bills would not reduce in the foreseeable future. A resident expressed concern at the growth of the crassula weed in the pond.

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

4.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Gribble & Hall attended the solar farm consultation event. Cllrs Corke, Gribble & Hall attended a meeting with the Chairman of WHSPAA. Cllrs Corke, Brooks-Payne, Hall, Lloyd & White attended a presentation by Solstice Renewables. Cllr Corke attended the opening of Herts Open Studios at PS Arts. Cllr Gribble attended the opening of the playground. The Clerk attended a WHALC Meeting and a Borough Meeting to discuss Special Expenses. The Clerk met with the landowner and local residents to discuss the location of the bridle path dog bin.

4.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A letter from a resident concerned that the closed Fox pub is an eyesore. Notification that the HCC Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document has been adopted. A letter from a resident about work to the pond. A letter from a resident about access to the basketball net. Eleven letters from the public objecting to the solar farm.

4.7 Planning: (*Cllrs Lloyd*)

a) 14/02153/1 Solar farm: Cllrs considered that it was inappropriate use of green belt land and that the distinctive character of the area would be lost. Cllrs agreed that roofs & brownfield sites were suitable alternatives. Resolved: To object to the application. Voted unanimously.

b) N6/2014/1748/FP 25 Wolves Mere, Erection of single storey rear extension: No objection.

4.8 Hall & Grounds: (*Cllrs Corke & Lloyd*)

a) To receive a report on the fire doors: Awaiting quotes.

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspections: Inspections have been carried out each weekend and are satisfactory.

c) To discuss stop net: Awaiting quote.

d) To discuss basketball net: Following a request from a resident, yellow markings will be painted under the basketball net to deter people from parking there when the car park is not full. **Action: Cllr Corke.**

4.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for July & August: These had been circulated.

Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for July & August.

b) To add the Clerk as a signatory to the Entertainment Fund account for online banking access: In order for the account to appear online along with the other Parish accounts the Clerk needs to be made a signatory. Resolved: To add the Clerk to the signing mandate for the Entertainment Fund.

Action: Clerk.

4.10 Environment (*Cllr White*) **& Transport:** (*Cllr Gribble*)

a) To receive a report on PPP work: The grant has been paid. The work to footpath 24 has been commissioned and due to start in October.

b) To receive a report on trees requiring a TPO: Ongoing.

c) To discuss work required to the pond: A resident has offered to organise the removal of saplings around the pond. Cllrs agreed that the resident could organise the work once they have submitted a date and a written proposal of work to be done to the Council for approval. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllrs discussed the various methods of controlling the crassulla weed but decided to accept the advice of CMS for now and will review the situation next year.

d) To receive a report on highways matters: Work on the road scheme is progressing slowly. Cllrs noted that an accident had occurred outside the school on the evening of Friday 12 September.

4.11 To set a date for Village Day 2015: Cllrs agreed Sunday 7 June 2015. They rejected a suggestion that the event could be combined with the school's fete.

4.12 To discuss participating in the "Giving Time Project": In light of feedback from other Councils Cllrs agreed not to participate.

4.13 To discuss progress of a village shop: The Brewery have refused permission for a shop at the Chequers. Cllrs discussed other possibilities.

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

a) It was suggested a sign could be erected by the pond to deter people from depositing fish & bread in it.

b) Cllr Brooks-Payne found her Councillor Training interesting.

c) A resident has suggested putting a bench by the playing field.

d) The next HCC Parish & Town Conference is on Thursday 16 October 9.30am-1pm.

e) Wild flower planting day is Sunday 21 September 11am-1pm.

f) Two dead rats have been placed in the orchard recently on separate occasions.

g) The new owner of the Fox pub said he will show plans of the site to the Parish Council shortly.

h) The Church have asked that the Council consider a donation towards hire of the hall for a fund raising event and will submit a formal application shortly. Cllrs agreed to consider an application.

4.15 Date of next meeting Tuesday 14 October at 7.30pm.

JRP 17.09.14

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____