

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 17 February 2015

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk).

9.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Lloyd due to work commitments.

9.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr Brooks-Payne declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.7c as she lives in New Road and Cllr Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.7b as she lives in Carvers Croft.

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

9.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 13 January: Resolved: The minutes of the 13 January Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Corke, Hall & White attended the Market. Cllrs Corke & Hall attended a Staffing Committee Meeting. Cllr Hall attended the Knebworth public meeting that discussed the NHDC Local Plan, a drop in event regarding the WHBC Local Plan and the Borough Cllrs surgery where the WHBC Local Plan was discussed. Cllr Gribble attended a Children's Centre Advisory Meeting.

9.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Email correspondence from a resident about the Twin Foxes gate after their neighbour seriously injured her hand on the spikes. Subsequently the spikes have been filed and Twin Foxes Management is considering replacing the railings. A letter from HCC regarding the setting up of LGPS Fund Boards. A letter from a Knebworth resident saying he is submitting comments to WHBC Local Plan consultation objecting to the development of the proposed site adjoining Knebworth. A letter from the new head of the Children's Centre introducing the team. A letter from a resident complaining that railway vehicles park on the access to his house. A copy of the reply from Highways Enforcement sent to residents in Holly Road who complained of a trip hazard at 2 Holly Road. Notification from Planning that a letter will be sent to the resident at 3 Evergreen Close to notify them that the work is not completed in accordance with the decision notice.

9.7 Planning: (Cllrs Lloyd)

- a) N6/2015/0093/FP 38 London Road, Installation of biomass boiler cabin: No objection.
- b) N6/2014/2702/FP 83 Carvers Croft, Erection of two storey rear extension following the demolition of existing conservatory and alterations and extension to front porch: No objection but the Council commented that the front alterations were not in keeping. WHBC granted the application.
- c) N6/2014/2687/TP 6 New Road, T1, reduce and shape by 2-3m overall, T2, shorten back low growth over garden by 1.5m to lessen overhang to the garden but not unbalance the trees, covered by TPO 105. (Changed from Fell One Ash tree and reduce row of Ash trees along fence line by up to 50% covered by TPO105) The application had been amended and the work agreed is more reasonable. Application granted.
- d) N6/2014/2548/FP 5 Oak Road: Application granted.
- e) N6/2014/2337/MA 59 London Road: No decision to report.
- f) 14/02153/1 Solar farm, Swangley's Lane: The application has been called in for the Secretary of State to determine.
- g) To discuss WHBC Local Plan consultation: Cllrs agreed that a public meeting should be held to determine local opinion. **Action: Clerk.**

9.8 Hall & Grounds: (Cllrs Corke & Lloyd)

- a) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspections have been carried out each weekend and are satisfactory. Cllr Corke cleared broken glass from the hall playground.
- b) To consider a quote to prune the chestnut tree: Resolved: To accept a quote for £455+vat.
- c) To consider repairs to Hall Lane: Cllr Corke offered to repair the potholes in Hall Lane. **Action Cllr Corke.**

c) To consider a quote for work in the orchard: Resolved: To accept a quote for £106+vat.

9.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

- a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for January: These had been circulated. Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for January.
- b) To approve the budget statement for publication: Hall running costs will be clarified as "maintenance & staff". Resolved: statement was approved.

9.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)

- a) To receive a report on PPP work: The grant application is ready for submission and quotes have been requested for work to footpath 26.
- b) To receive a report on trees requiring a TPO: No progress to report.
- c) To discuss transport matters: Highways have confirmed that the lighting at the zebra crossing will not be upgraded. A safety audit on the road scheme will be carried out in April/May followed by a "before & after" study to assess the impact the scheme has had on traffic speed. Awaiting a response from the contracts team on other issues.

Comment was made on the issue of vehicles parking on the verges opposite the school and in Mardleybury Road. Installing bollards was considered as a solution.

- 9.11** To receive a report on the Staffing Committee Meeting: The minutes had been circulated. It was agreed that the number of days holiday should also be stated in hours on staff contracts. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.12** To consider appointing a fourth Cllr onto the Staffing Committee: Resolved: To appoint Cllr Gribble onto the Staffing Committee.
- 9.13** To consider responding to the bus consultation: Cllrs decided not to respond.
- 9.14** To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting: The date was confirmed as 21 April at 7.30pm. Cllrs discussed arrangements.
- 9.15** To discuss preparations for Village Day: Preparations were discussed. An application will be submitted for a TEN. **Action: Cllrs Corke, Brooks-Payne & Clerk**
- 9.16** To receive announcements. *(for information only)*:
 - a) Cllrs were sorry to hear that Ken Sisseman can no longer edit the newsletter due to ill health. It was agreed to present him with a gift voucher.
 - b) It was suggested, following a request from a resident, that a third dog bin could be placed at the end of Bridge Road.
 - c) The planter from the northbound entry of the village has been moved by volunteers to the southbound end. It was suggested businesses could be asked to sponsor two new planters at the northbound entrance to the village.
 - d) A resident has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.
- 9.17** Date of next meeting Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm.

JRP 18.02.15

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____