

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 9 June 2015**

**Present:** Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), S Hall, J Hawkins, A White, D Wilson.

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

**2.1 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Corke due to work commitments.

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

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

**2.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 17 February:** Resolved: The minutes of the 12 May Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Hawkins attended Councillor training, Cllrs Hall & Hawkins attended a PS Arts private view, Cllr Corke attended the Cllrs Surgery, Cllrs Corke, Gribble, Hall & Hawkins attended and helped at Village Day.

**2.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: A letter from the Chairman of NALC. A letter from a resident offering to be involved in a litter picking group. Information from the Local Government Boundary Commission about an electoral review of Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire. A letter from CPM Playgrounds informing of the proprietor's retirement (see 2.8d). A letter from a resident about permissive paths which was forwarded to the landowner of Mardleybury Farm. A letter from the landowner of Mardleybury Farm about the pond and litter picking. A letter from SERCO on the charges for trade waste. A letter from the Children's Centre group informing of restructuring. A nomination form from HAPTC. A letter from a resident about secondary school allocations; Cllrs agreed to raise his concerns with the schools adjudicator. A letter from Cllr Charles of Datchworth proposing a meeting about the solar farm enquiry; Cllrs decided to invite him to the next PC meeting. A letter from the resident of 47 London Road about parking. A letter from a resident offering to donate wild flower seeds.

**2.7 Planning:** *(Cllr Corke)*

a) N6/2015/1078/TP 4 Evergreen Close, Fell Silver Birch tree and fell 2 metre Ash tree stump plus reduce second Ash tree by 15% and third Ash tree by up to 20% covered by TPO 105: No objection on condition that a native tree is replanted.

b) N6/2015/0939/FP 2 Broadfield Road, Erection of first floor flank extension, rear single storey extension and front porch following demolition of existing porch: No objection.

c) N6/2015/0560/FP The Fox PH: WHBC Planning have published a report by a conservation officer which states that the Fox building is an unidentified heritage asset and had the building not been completely gutted could have been listed. The conservation officer's view is that the building should be retained despite its current condition. The PC has questioned why a conservation survey was not carried out at the pre-planning stage and has submitted further comments quoting the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF. Our Borough Cllrs have been made aware of the situation and Cllr Storer will call the application into committee and consult a County Council conservation officer.

d) 14/02153/1 Solar farm, Swangley's Lane, To consider the internal review of the complaint of the Parish Council's response to the FOI request - report circulated: The PC obtained advice from the ICO before conducting a full and comprehensive internal review. Resolved: To uphold the refusal of the request as it is manifestly unreasonable (Regulation 12(4)(b)).

**2.8 Hall & Grounds:** *(Cllrs Corke & Hawkins)*

a) To consider replacing the committee room floor with hard flooring: The dance group said that it would benefit them if the committee room had a hard floor as they could hold more classes. They offered to pay the cost if affordable. Cllrs agreed as it would increase revenue of the hall and may consider contributing.

**Action: Clerk.**

b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Deferred until next meeting. It was brought to the PC's attention that one of the tyres in the Garden Road playground is damaged exposing a bolt which could cause injury. Resolved: To repair the equipment.

**Action: Clerk.**

c) To appoint company to carry out annual playground inspection: Resolved: To accept the recommendation of CPM Playgrounds and appoint Andrew Bunker.

**Action: Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the recommended maintenance of the new playground: Wicksteed advised that no maintenance is necessary as the wood is heat treated and guaranteed for 15 years. Small cracks are a normal occurrence in a natural product.

e) To consider quotes for cleaning & marking the tennis court: The work will be paid for with the remaining grant and subscriptions from badminton. Resolved: To accept quotes totalling £395.

**Action: Cllr Hawkins & Clerk**

f) To consider erecting a bench in the hall grounds: This had been discussed in December. Resolved: To install a bench in the hall grounds; estimate £450.

**Action: Clerk.**

**2.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)**

To receive and approve the payments and accounts for May: These had been circulated. Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for May.

**2.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble & Wilson)**

a) To receive a report on PPP work: The application for a £1,000 grant has been successful and work will begin soon. Cllrs were informed that Rights of Way volunteers are available to do some jobs.

b) To receive a report on trees requiring a TPO: The tree officer is proposing several individual, group and areas orders for Woolmer Green and aims to complete the paperwork for planners by the end of June.

c) To discuss a review of listed buildings: Cllrs noted which buildings/sign are listed in Woolmer Green. They discussed other buildings that should be considered. A volunteer has offered to gather historic information to apply for listing other valued buildings and a call for further volunteers will be included in the newsletter.

d) To discuss transport matters & snagging issues from the road scheme: The yellow lining has been done. Footpath weeds, repair to drains and seeding of verges will be done next week and work to resolve puddling outside New Court is scheduled. There are no plans to alter the build out near the school and there have not been any further incidents; Highways are monitoring this area.

e) To discuss the footpath beside Marshalls: The situation has improved as Marshall's are washing their cars inside the carwash rather than the parking area. The situation will be monitored.

f) To consider quote for new planters and discuss sponsorship: £600 is pledged to pay for the planters. Resolved: To purchase two planters costing approximately £600.

**Action: Cllr Hawkins & Clerk.**

g) To discuss orchard & playground signage: Previously agreed but not actioned. The wording on the signs will be confirmed by email and signs produced at reasonable cost. Resolved: To purchase & erect signage.

**Action: Cllr Hawkins.**

h) To consider setting a date for a litter pick: Deferred until next meeting.

i) To discuss unauthorised work beside 6 New Road on common land: Evidence of weed killer and new planting has occurred under the hedge by the track outside 6 New Road. The resident will be reminded this is unowned common land and cannot be cultivated.

**Action: Clerk.**

**2.11** To consider responding to WHBC validation checklist consultation: The Council will respond to say it does not have any recommendations but it would not support further relaxation

**Action: Clerk.**

**2.12** To consider responding to the HCC Traffic Sensitive Streets Review May 2015: The PC decided not to respond as the B197 is already included.

**2.13** To consider a response to the Herts Rail Strategy consultation: Deferred until the next meeting.

**2.14** To receive a report on Village Day: The preliminary accounts are indicating a profit. The event was a particular success as many more people attended. The Chairman thanked Cllr Cork and the Clerk for their hard work. It was agreed that more gazebos are needed for next year and set the date for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a call for volunteers to help organise next year's event in the newsletter.

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

a) The playground gate closer is still to be fixed.

b) Training on the new WHBC Planning online system is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm.

c) The Chairman & the Clerk will attend Chairman training.

d) It was suggested that the mile post should be re-painted.

**2.16** The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

JRP 10.06.15

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

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