

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 15 September 2015

Present: Cllrs A Gribble (Chairman), P Corke (Vice Chairman) S Hall, J Hawkins, A White.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk), Borough Cllr Julie Cragg, members of the public.

4.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Wilson due to work commitments. Cllr Gribble had a prior engagement and informed the Council that he would be late arriving.
Cllr Corke chaired the start of the meeting.

4.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda: Cllr White declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4.7a as 40 Twin Foxes is his neighbour

4.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: A resident expressed his concern at the closure of the Red Lion and asked if the building could be listed to ensure its conservation citing the circumstances regarding the Fox pub. The Council informed him that an application had been submitted to Historic England to ask that the Red Lion be statutory listed. Head of WHBC Planning will be informed of the application and of the present situation regarding the Red Lion.

4.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 13 July: Resolved: The minutes of the 13 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, Hall & Hawkins attended the July Market. Cllr Hawkins attended the Cllrs Surgery & the Open Studios reception at Mardleybury Gallery.

4.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: An exchange of correspondence from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator on school admissions. Draft recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission. Notification that the mobile library service is to be withdrawn from 30 October. Various correspondences regarding flooding in New Road and Carvers Croft. A complaint from a hirer of the hall regarding dogs on the playing field upsetting children attending a party and a letter from the owner of one of the dogs explaining her version of events. Notification from Nationwide that FSCS protection is being reduced to £75,000. Notification from WHBC that the Council Tax Support Grant will be reduced by 16% for 2016/17. Confirmation from the Licensing Officer that all documents inspected on his recent visit to the hall were satisfactory. A letter from a resident relating information obtained from the Environment Agency on how to eliminate crassula. The Council informed two residents, who attended the meeting to hear the Council's response to the supplied information that CMS advice is to leave the crassula for the moment as there is still a wide variety of plants and wildlife thriving in the pond. Crassula is a serious problem and when it overtakes the pond to the detriment of native species then it will have to be dealt with. This will be costly and funding will be required and it was agreed it would be prudent to get an idea of the cost involved. In the meantime the spread of the weed will be monitored.

Cllr Gribble arrived and took over chairing the meeting.

4.7 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

a) 6/2015/1640/HOUSE 40 Twin Foxes, Erection of single storey side extension and alteration to front elevation to two storey end of terrace dwelling house: No objection.

b) N6/2015/1167/FP 32 London Road: Application refused.

c) N6/2015/1273/TP 5 Evergreen Close: Application granted. The case officer advised the resident that the work was not necessary.

d) N6/2015/1078/TP 4 Evergreen Close: The resident agreed that the silver birch would be pruned by 20% rather than felled therefore the application was granted.

e) N6/2015/0939/FP 2 Broadfield Road: Application granted.

f) N6/2015/0560/FP The Fox PH: Application granted. The PC sent a letter of complaint to WHBC Head of Planning saying that pre planning advice given to the developers of the Fox was not carried out diligently and that the report contained errors. The PC urged WHBC to compile a local list of historic buildings in the Borough in order to conserve them.

g) 14/02153/1 Solar farm, Swangley's Lane: The application has been withdrawn by the developer.

4.8 Hall & Grounds: (Cllrs Corke & Hawkins)

a) To receive a report on the annual electrical inspection: The inspection was satisfactory but the following observations were highlighted; some light diffusers are damaged, the distribution board is showing signs of age and there is no RCD protection to circuits. Cllrs noted that there was RCD protection to the sockets by the stage.

- b) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspections have been carried out each weekend up until the end of August and are satisfactory.
- c) To consider quotes for new floor surface in the committee room: Resolved: Accept quote of £2,240+vat to be paid by the dance company. The PC agreed to contribute up to 25% if required.
- d) To consider purchasing hall floor cleaner: To accept quote for £1,595+vat.

4.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

To receive and approve the payments and accounts for July & August: It was noted that some car parking invoices are overdue and that a contribution to the solar farm inquiry is no longer required.
Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for July & August.

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

a) To receive a report on PPP work: The work to resurface footpath 26 is complete. The Rights of Way Officer is contributing £350.

b) To review progress of trees requiring a TPO: Progress has been held up due to the bedding in of WHBC's new planning system. In the meantime tree officers have conducted a thorough survey of the trees in Woolmer Green to ensure all significant trees are included in the TPO application.

c) To receive a report on listing buildings: An application to list the Red Lion has been submitted to Historic England. Cllrs agreed that the PC should compile a list of historic buildings in Woolmer Green in anticipation of WHBC producing a local list for the Borough. **Action: Clerk.**

d) To discuss the footpath beside Marshalls: Marshalls have a new General Manager. The Chairman & Clerk will arrange a meeting with him to discuss the footpath and ensure he is aware of other issues. **Action: Clerk.**

e) To review progress of planning permission for sponsor signs: Advice will be obtained as to the type & size of signs that would be suitable and where they should be positioned. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To discuss results of road scheme study: The results of the road scheme study show that traffic has not slowed down sufficiently to enable a 30mph to be implemented. A meeting will be arranged with highways to discuss the results. **Action: Clerk.**

4.11 To discuss the vacant shop at 11 London Road: The vacant premises could provide an opportunity to set up a convenience store. Various local shopkeepers have been contacted but, although helpful, none are interested in expanding into Woolmer Green. Cllrs discussed possibilities that could involve Parish Council funding to make a convenience store viable. Community support would be essential. The PC decided to investigate costs and management solutions. **Action: Cllrs Gribble & Clerk.**

4.12 To consider responding to Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan, Initial Consultation Document: Deferred until next meeting.

4.13 To set a date for the staff review: Staff will be contacted to arrange a date. **Action: Clerk.**

4.14 To consider booking new Cllrs onto Cllr Training part 2: Cllr Hawkins agreed to attend the training. Resolved: To pay £35 for the session.

4.15 To discuss appointment of Sergeant Hynes: Cllrs agreed to invite Sergeant Haynes to the next PC Meeting.

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

a) Cllr Hawkins will attend the Cllrs Surgery on 3rd October.

b) The Allotment AGM will be held in October.

c) The issues brought up at the last meeting by Longmead residents have been dealt with apart from the resurfacing of the path which Cllr Cragg agreed to chase up.

4.17 The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm.

JRP 16.09.15

Signed: _____
 Chairman.

Date: _____