

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 13 October 2015

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

5.1 To receive apologies for absence: None.

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

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

5.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 15 September: Resolved: The minutes of the 15 September Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Hall attended the September Market and a charity event at Mardleybury Gallery. Cllrs Hall & Hawkins attended the Wild Flower Planting Day in the community orchard. Cllr Hawkins attended part 2 of Cllr Training. Cllrs Gribble & Hawkins attended the Highways Together risk assessment briefing.

5.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: Notification from Gamma Communications that they are introducing a £20 minimum charge for use of the Council's telephone number. A copy of a letter to Monks Walk School from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. A letter from WHBC Head of Planning acknowledging the Council's concern that the Red Lion is closed and would like to know the outcome of the listing application to Historic England. Communication from the Chocolate Factory to say it is rebranding and planning an open day on 7th November. A detailed reply from WHBC Planning following the PC's complaint about the handling of the Fox PH application. A letter from a resident concerning the pond (see 5.10f). Notification of the closure of Mardleybury Road in October. Communication from a representative of the Children's Centre group about installing a defibrillator at the hall.

5.7 Planning: (*Cllr Corke*)

a) 6/2015/1677/HOUSE, 2 Mardleybury Court, Erection of a part single and part two storey front extension: No objection.

b) 6/2015/1972/COND, The Fox, 21 New Road, Approval of details reserved by condition 2 (materials), condition 3 (landscaping), condition 4 (highways report), condition 5 (construction method statement), condition 6, 7 and 8 (archaeological scheme) on planning permission N6/2015/0560/FP: No objection but suggest dwarf fruit trees should be used.

c) 6/2015/1640/HOUSE 40 Twin Foxes: Application granted.

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

a) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The basket swing is twisted which could be rectified at the annual inspection. One of the toadstools is loose and Wickfield will be notified. Apart from these two minor issues inspections have been carried out each weekend and are satisfactory.

b) To consider the dance club's proposal for new floor surface in the committee room: The dance group have suggested that the PC and themselves pay half the cost each and that they have 4 hours per week free of charge in the committee room for twelve months. Cllrs rejected the request for free use of the room as they already pay a discounted price. A third quote will be obtained before a decision is made.

Action: Cllr Corke.

5.9 Finance: (*Cllr Hall*)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for September: Cllrs noted that the accounts are generally in line with the projected budget. Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for September.

b) To consider items for the 2016/17 budget: Suggestions included new curtains, electric hand driers, new distribution board, kitchen decoration and canopy above tea urn.

c) To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion. Resolved: To donate £40 to the Royal British Legion.

Action: Clerk.

d) To consider a grant donation to the Church: The Church requested £1000 towards maintenance of the churchyard. Resolved: To grant £500 to be paid immediately and consider a further grant in January.

Action: Clerk.

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

a) To receive a report on PPP work for 2016: The grant application form for 2016 is not yet available. An assessment of work required will be undertaken.

Action: Cllr White.

b) To review progress of trees requiring a TPO: No progress to report.

c) To receive a report on listing buildings: Historic England maintains strict criteria in that only buildings at risk can be considered for listing. They would need to be under threat due to a submitted planning

application or included in a Local Plan. Therefore the listing of the Red Lion cannot be progressed. Historic England recognises that the PC would not be party to pre planning discussions that could threaten an undesignated heritage asset and advised the PC to compile a local list for consideration by WHBC.

A member of the school governors has asked if the old school building could be listed as they are concerned that the feature south facing lattice window could be replaced by an uPVC window as the smaller front windows have been. As the school is not at risk it would not be considered for listing however the PC recognises that the building should be included in the local list and therefore maintained sensitively as befitting a landmark historic building.

d) To discuss the war memorial: A church working party has cleaned the war memorial. Historic England are encouraging the listing of war memorials and the church has agreed that an application should be submitted. **Action: Clerk.**

e) To review progress of sponsor signs: Highways say their policy is to allow sponsor signs on roundabouts only. It was noted that the planters in Watton Road, Knebworth have sponsor signs attached. Further enquiries will be made. **Action: Clerk.**

The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

The resident related some history regarding the pond and said there are worries that the crassula weed present in the pond may compromise drainage and pose a flooding risk. The resident has contacted a contractor who could treat the crassula with herbicide during the winter months. The resident said that the advice given by the head of CMS is wrong and a meeting should be called with him, the PC, the contractor and the concerned residents to discuss the issue and reach a satisfactory conclusion. If a suitable solution could not be agreed the resident proposed contacting the Government Ombudsman.

f) To consider residents' concerns with regard to the pond: The PC noted that the head of CMS had met with residents to discuss the pond in May 2014 and that a resident had a telephone conversation with him recently. The PC also stated that using herbicide would not eliminate the crassula. The PC agreed to ask the head of CMS if he would consider meeting with the PC and residents again to discuss the issue but thought the contractor need not be invited.

g) To consider possible Highways Together projects: Refurbishing the milestone had been previously discussed. Residents will be asked for ideas in the next newsletter. A meeting will be arranged with the District Service Agent. **Action: Clerk.**

h) To discuss highways matters: A meeting is arranged with Highways to discuss the results of the B197 road scheme survey on Thursday 15 October at 3pm.

5.11 To discuss the vacant shop at 11 London Road: It was agreed to include information in the next newsletter asking residents if they would consider being involved in setting up a community shop and if they are willing to pay increased Council Tax to pay for the facility. The landlord of the Chequers has expressed an interest in helping. This is subject to the owner of the shop being in agreement. The Plunket Foundation representative has been contacted but is not available until 21st October.

Action: Clerk.

5.12 To consider responding to Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan, Initial Consultation Document: The PC had no comments.

5.13 To consider responding to HCC Hertfordshire Transport Vision 2050 Consultation: Deferred until next meeting.

5.14 To review progress of the Christmas Card Competition: There are entries under production.

5.15 To discuss the Carols 'round the Pond event: The Church has made some suggestions and the PC agreed to leave them to make the arrangements.

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

a) It was highlighted that an extension lead is required to connect the sound system to the RCD sockets.

b) Cllr Hawkins is looking into repositioning the north planters.

c) The Allotments AGM is on Tuesday 20th October.

d) Cllr Hawkins will attend the HCC Conference on Thursday 5th November.

e) The Highways Liaison Meeting is on Monday 19th October.

f) There are Local Plan drop ins on Tuesday 20th Oct. in Hatfield & Wednesday 11th Nov in WGC.

g) The Remembrance Service is on Sunday 8th November at 9.30am.

h) Cllrs were sad to hear that Ken Sisseman had passed away who regularly attended PC meetings in the past and for many years edited the newsletter.

5.17 The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm.

JRP 14.10.15

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____