

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 10 November 2015**

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

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

**6.1 To receive apologies for absence:** None.

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

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

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

**6.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Gribble & Hawkins attended a Highways meeting to discuss the results of the B197 road scheme. Cllr Hawkins attended a Highways Liaison Meeting and the HCC Parish & Town Council Conference. Cllrs Corke, Hall & White attended the October Market. Cllrs Hall & White attended Lessiter's open day. Cllr Hall attended the Allotment's AGM in her role as Treasurer. Cllrs Corke & Hall met with the new Landlady of the Red Lion. Cllrs Gribble, Corke & Hall attended the Remembrance Day service.

**6.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: The School's Adjudicators Report. Details of the Tesco carrier bag grant scheme. A copy of a letter from a resident to Grant Shapps about the Schools Adjudicator's decision. A copy of a letter a resident sent to planning about the 47 London Road planning application. A letter from a resident about the pond.

**6.7 Planning:** (*Cllr Corke*)

a) 6/2015/1992/HOUSE, 67 London Road, Erection of single storey side and rear extension, garage conversion and first floor extension over garage: No objection.

b) 6/2015/1751/HOUSE, 5 Barley Croft, Erection of shed in front garden: Suggested shed is screened buy trellis and/or planting.

c) 6/2015/1868/HOUSE, 47 London Road, Replacement and extension to existing conservatory: No objection.

d) 6/2015/1677/HOUSE, 2 Mardleybury Court, Erection of a part single and part two storey front extension: Application refused.

e) 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 decision to report.

f) To receive a report on the Clerks meeting with WHBC Head of Planning: The new timetable for the Local Plan aims to see it adopted by summer 2017. The Government expects Local Planning Authorities to deliver Local Plans by the end of 2017 or it will take action. Comments from the spring consultation are still being assessed and new sites that have been put forward have to be evaluated. Further new sites are not being accepted and there will be no consultation on the new sites due to time restraints however WHBC Planning would accept comments from Parish Councils. The final consultation on the draft Local Plan will take place in Summer 2016.

With regard to producing a local list for Woolmer Green, WHBC Head of Planning felt they did not carry much weight with Government Planning Inspectors.

Historic England comments were that ideally a Local Planning Authority should produce a local list of assets linked to planning policies in their Local Plan.

Resolved: To comment to WHBC that 160 new dwellings in Woolmer Green are too many for reasons stated in the PC consultation response. The preference of the PC and residents is for the Entech site to be developed and the green belt preserved.

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

a) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The basket swing will be adjusted during the annual inspection. The rotten bench in the Garden Road playground will be removed. The toadstool will be secured as soon as possible. Inspections have been carried out each weekend and are satisfactory. **Action: Cllr Corke.**

b) To consider the dance club's proposal for new floor surface in the committee room: Resolved: To contribute half the cost of the new floor; £1,100.

c) To arrange for the hall to be opened on Sunday mornings: A volunteer has come forward.

## 6.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

a) To receive and approve the payments and accounts for October: Resolved: To approve payments and accounts for October.

b) To consider items for the 2016/17 budget: Quotes will be obtained for new curtains, decorating the kitchen and installation of hand driers. Cllrs considered maintaining the current precept.

**Action: Cllr Hall & Clerk.**

c) To consider a donation to the Children's Centre for installation of a defibrillator: The grant application is requesting the full cost of the cabinet which is £1,150. Previous correspondence stated that County Cllrs may contribute £720 so this will be clarified before a decision is made. HCC property department have advised the Children's Centre that landlord permission is not required but the PC solicitor states installing a defibrillator is an alteration to the property which requires consent under the terms of the lease. HCC will be asked to consult their legal department. The PC supports the installation of a defibrillator, is prepared to cover the £100 legal costs and will reconsider grant aid once the details are clarified.

**Action: Clerk.**

## 6.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble & Wilson)

a) To receive a report on PPP work for 2016: No progress to report.

b) To review progress of trees requiring a TPO: WHBC are submitting two planning applications for groups of trees with more to follow.

c) To review progress of sponsor signs: Investigating what can be erected without the need for planning permission.

d) To consider CMS advice on the pond: CMS declined a meeting with residents and the PC to discuss the pond as information and advice provided since May 2014 remains unchanged. The PC is satisfied that national guidance is being followed and is the same where CMS are asked to give advice in similar cases across Hertfordshire. Resolved: To continue to follow the guidance of CMS.

e) To receive a report on meeting with Highways: Minutes had been circulated. It is disappointing that the speed of traffic has not reduced as much as was hoped following completion of the road scheme. However the improvements have had positive benefits to the village. A safety audit will be carried out next year and the build out by the school will be included. Work to improve the Mardleybury junction was discussed with Highways but as only three accidents have occurred in the last five years improvements cannot be justified. It was advised that all accidents, including minor ones that the police do not attend, are reported to the Traffic Management Officer as a recurrent pattern could trigger an investigation.

f) To discuss other highways matters: A meeting will be arranged with our Ringway DSA.

**6.11** To consider the school's Adjudicator's Report: The Schools' Adjudicator did not uphold the complaint about secondary school transfer rules as applied to Woolmer Green. The PC agree in principle that the rules are unfair as some children in Woolmer Green are disadvantaged by not qualifying for a school under rule 4. The PC is supportive of the local resident that is campaigning for changes to the HCC admission rules.

**6.12** To consider funding of Badminton Smash Up: Since September numbers attending has reduced with subs per session not covering coaching costs. Further advertising is underway but in the meantime the subs surplus will subsidise the sessions. The club will be advertised to year 6's at Woolmer Green School.

**Action: Cllr Corke.**

**6.13** To consider responding to HCC Hertfordshire Transport Vision 2050 Consultation: It was agreed not to respond.

**6.14** To review progress of the Christmas Card Competition: Arrangements will be made to judge the entries.

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

Cllrs Corke & Hawkins will attend the Cllrs Surgery on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**6.16** The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

JRP 11.11.15

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

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