

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 8 December 2015

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

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). Member of the public.

7.1 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr A. Gribble due to a family commitment.

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

7.3 To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public: A resident asked the Parish Council to consider supporting the "Friends of the Pond" group as they are concerned the pond is becoming overgrown.

A resident suggested it would be a good idea to put on a vintage car show in Woolmer Green. He already organises these shows in other areas. Cllrs agreed this would be a great attraction for the community and wider area.

7.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 November: Resolved: The minutes of the 10 November Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors: Cllrs Hall, Hawkins & White attended the November Market. Cllrs Corke & Hawkins attended the Councillors' Surgery.

7.6 To receive correspondence: The Council received: A complaint to the Parish Council, Cllr Richard Smith and Head of CMS, Mr Bradford, about correspondence concerning the pond. Copies of correspondence between a resident and Monks Walk School. Notification of WHBC Enforcement Protocol for Taxi Drivers consultation. The Local Government Boundary Commission's final recommendations on the electoral review of Welwyn Hatfield.

7.7 Planning: (Cllr Corke)

a) 6/2015/2140/HOUSE Payne's Farm, Erection of single storey timber double car port: No objection.

b) 6/2015/2242/VAR The Fox 21 New Road, Variation of condition 1 (Plans) of planning permission N6/2015/0560/FP - Erection of Four semi-detached dwellings following demolition of existing public house: Objection due to insufficient parking which could compromise highway and pedestrian safety and loss of privacy to neighbouring properties.

c) 6/2015/2201/HOUSE, 20 Bridge Road, Erection of single storey front and part single/part two storey rear extensions: No objection.

d) 6/2015/1992/HOUSE, 67 London Road, Erection of single storey side and rear extension, garage conversion and first floor extension over garage: Application granted.

e) 6/2015/1751/HOUSE, 5 Barley Croft, Erection of shed in front garden: Application granted.

f) 6/2015/1868/HOUSE, 47 London Road, Replacement and extension to existing conservatory: Application granted.

g) 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. Cllrs noted that Highways refused condition 4 saying the developer has not fulfilled their commitments to the Highways Authority.

7.8 Hall & Grounds: (Cllrs Corke & Hawkins)

a) To select committee room floor: Cllrs chose "classic oak" in the wide plank design.

b) To consider quotes for new curtains: Resolved: To accept quote of £4,538.18 incl vat for new hall curtains not including new track which should cost under £1,000.

c) To consider purchasing new blinds for the hall door: Resolved: To purchase new blinds for hall door.

Action: Clerk.

d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: Inspections have been carried out each weekend in November and are satisfactory. Awaiting the annual inspection report which it likely to highlight some issues needing attention in the Garden Road playground.

e) To discuss holding a vintage car show: It was agreed to hold the show on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May.

7.9 Finance: (Cllr Hall)

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

b) To consider paying staff a Christmas bonus: Resolved: To pay staff a £25 Christmas bonus.

Action: Clerk.

c) To consider the 2016/17 budget: No changes were made to the budget.

d) To discuss & approve solicitor's letter regarding the Children's Centre Lease: Resolved: To approve solicitor's letter making an addition to the lease to include maintenance & insurance for a defibrillator. £100 solicitor's fee to be paid by the tenant.

e) To consider a donation to the Children's Centre for instillation of a defibrillator: Resolved: To donate £500 to include payment of solicitor's fees. **Action: Clerk.**

f) To consider audit arrangements for 2017/18: The Government will be abolishing the Audit Commission from 2017 and in accordance with The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Parish Councils must choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a new 'sector-led body' or they can decide to procure their own. Resolved: To have an auditor appointed by a new 'sector-led body'.

7.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble & Wilson)

a) To receive a report on PPP work for 2016: Still awaiting the grant application form. The entrance to footpath 24 has been identified as needing improvements.

b) To review progress of trees requiring a TPO: No progress to report. The tree officer has been asked to prioritise the trees at Entech.

c) To review progress of sponsor signs: No progress to report.

d) To consider quote for repositioning south end planters: Deferred until March.

e) To consider minor highways works required: Removal & replacement of dead tree in Garden Road. Trim back vegetation along the north bound carriageway from Woolmer Green to Knebworth. Work to resolve issue of puddling outside 6 New Court.

f) To discuss other highways matters: Highways are embarking on a gully cleaning programme. Cllrs agreed to identify gullies in need of cleaning.

7.11 To consider responding to The Hertfordshire Compact consultation: Deferred until next meeting.

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

a) Cllrs signed the Parish Council Christmas card. The winning artist was Sara Denham who was given some cards for her own use and awarded a £20 restaurant voucher.

b) Three new fruit trees have been planted in the orchard.

c) The chairman thanked everyone for their hard work throughout the year and wished them a happy Christmas.

7.13 The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January at 7.30pm.

JRP 9.12.15

Signed: _____
Chairman.

Date: _____