

# **WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held 13 December 2016**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs J. Pearce (Clerk). One member of the public for the start of the meeting who is a member of the new Woolmer Green band.

**8.1 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr A Gribble who is unwell.

**8.2 To consider requests for dispensation and pecuniary & other interests on items on the agenda:** Cllr Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.9d as she is a member of the band.

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

**8.4 To approve minutes of the Council Meeting on 8 November:** Resolved: The minutes of the 8 November Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**8.5 To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllrs Hall & Hawkins attended the November Market. Cllrs Gribble, Hawkins & White attended Planning Training at the Borough Council. Cllr Hall attended the Allotments AGM in her capacity of Treasurer. Cllr Pinney attended the Councillors Surgery.

**8.6 To receive correspondence:** The Council received: A letter to say that Affinity for Business will be billing for water from 1 October 2016. A letter from a resident, referring to an article in the October November Newsletter, saying they like to see the planes flying over Woolmer Green and do not consider there to be a noise issue. A letter from Stevenage Community Trust about the grant award. Statistics from the alternative consultation about charging for brown bin collection from a protest group. A report of an incident on the zebra crossing. Notification of the closure of Mardleybury Road to replace gas mains. A letter from the Borough Council about 2017/18 Council Tax arrangements.

**8.7 Planning:** (*Cllr Corke*)

a) 6/2016/2330/HOUSE, 20 Broadfield Road, Erection of front porch and first floor side extension to two storey semidetached dwelling: No comment.

b) 16/02460/1, Land At Junction Of Pottersheath Road And, Danesbury Park Road, Welwyn, Retrospective application for change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for two gypsy families, each with two caravans including no more than one static mobile home, erection of two utility buildings, additional hardstanding, associated parking spaces, erection of timber fence and ancillary works (as amended by plan no. 3 and site layout plan received 1/11/16): Objection due to the land being Green Belt.

c) 6/2015/1972/COND, The Fox, 21 New Road, Update on 3(landscaping), condition 4 (highways report): An archaeological survey should have been carried out prior to construction but this did not occur, therefore condition 8 (archaeological scheme) was not complied with. As mitigation the developers have submitted a post investigation Heritage Statement for planning approval. No progress to report on the highways and landscape issues.

d) To receive a report on the planning training: The Cllrs that attended the training found it informative. At the training Councils were urged to contact the newly appointed s106 officer to discuss infrastructure needs from future developments. **Action: Clerk.**

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

a) To consider quote to repair hall door: No progress to report.

b) To discuss DBS checks for Badminton Smash Up personnel: If the coach completes the Badminton England online Smash Up Activator workshop a DBS check could be submitted through Badminton England costing £9.60. A check for Cllr Gribble would need to be via an umbrella organisation and would cost £56. Resolved: To carry out a DBS check for £56 for Cllr Gribble. **Action: Clerk.**

c) To consider purchasing a piano cover: Resolved: to purchase a piano cover for £69.95 **Action: Clerk.**

d) To receive a report on the weekly playground inspection: The playgrounds have been inspected each weekend and are satisfactory. The annual inspection report has just been received and highlighted some issues. As a result the isolated swings in the Garden Road playground will be decommissioned and one of the baby seats will be relocated in the main play area. The spider climbing frame will be re-painted in the spring. A quote will be obtained for replacing the deck on the whirling platform **Action: Cllr Pinney & Clerk.**

e) To review progress of installing the bench: County Councillor Richard Smith has agreed to donate £600 from his Locality Budget for the benches. **Action: Cllr Pinney & Clerk.**

**8.9 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 the 2017/18 budget: The budget has been updated to show capital spending for 2017/18 and a 1.9% increase to the precept.

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

d) To consider a donation to the new Woolmer Green band: Resolved: To donate £429 for hire of the hall for approximately 6 months. **Action: Clerk.**

e) To consider a donation to the Wickfield community: The new warden raised the issue of isolation and the Council suggested that information on activities for older people could be communicated in the newsletter. Resolved: To donate £150 for equipment. **Action: Clerk.**

**8.10 Environment (Cllr White) & Transport: (Cllr Gribble)**

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

b) To discuss highways matters: (i) At the Cllrs Surgery a resident raised the issue of flooding outside his house and in his porch. County Councillor Richard Smith is to raise the matter with Ringway which has already been notified of the problem. (ii) Cllr Smith has had discussions with an Oaklands resident who is concerned at the speed of traffic passing the school which is also relevant to Woolmer Green.

c) To receive a report on the Allotments AGM: A new Chairman and Secretary have been appointed. The Allotments have made an income surplus this year. One plot is vacant at the moment.

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

a) A £100 has been raised so far from selling the old sound equipment.

b) The school received a "good" rating in the recent Ofsted inspection and the Pre-School was rated as "outstanding".

c) The Saturday football sessions are well attended.

**8.14 The next Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.**

JRP 14.12.16

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

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